



# Centre House News

Housing Transitions, Inc.

Fall-Winter 2006  
Volume 7, Issue 3

*Beyond words, "Thank You" to Centre House. When I was "down & out" Centre House provided shelter & food for me.*

*At a very difficult time, the employees were very supportive & caring (and continue to be!)*

*I doubt that ANYTHING can replace this service to the community - thank you, again.*

We share this letter, written by a former shelter resident, that reaffirms the positive effects we can all have when we reach out to help others.

With the festivities of the season and the passing of another year, it is often helpful to take a moment to reflect on the good things in our lives; those things that keep us going when it seems there is just too much to do.

We wish everyone the best of times this holiday season, with health and happiness in the New Year!



Special Thanks:

Our Donors

The State Theatre

Centre County Community Foundation

Centre Daily Times

The Ulster Project

UW Day of Caring Volunteers

Mitte Scholars

Scott Dainty

Raytheon Luni-Mart

State College Presbyterian Church

Our Service Partners

Borough of State College

Centre County Housing Authority



# NEWS

## Foreclosure Prevention Services

Within the past two years, we have received approximately seventy-five requests for assistance with foreclosure prevention. Of these requests, almost fifty percent were facing foreclosure due to circumstances beyond the control of the family, with the illness of a family member the most prevalent factor leading to the foreclosure action. We did not have the resources nor capacity to meet the demand.

**The Centre County Community Foundation** recently awarded us a grant that will help us expand our ability to provide foreclosure prevention services.

We aspire to open participation to selected families and individuals based on unmet need, rather than income guidelines. Eligible households will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and participant selection will be based on the circumstances that lead to the financial crisis and the ability of the participant(s) to remain financially stable following successful foreclosure intervention. Referrals for the program will come from direct contact with the Housing Case Manager and from the local human service network. Each participant will be provided with quarterly post-counseling contacts, which will continue for a twelve-month period.

We thank the Centre County Community Foundation, the Herschel W. & Eileen Wirtshafter Leibowitz Family Fund, and the Joy Hartstock Wallace Fund for their valued support.

## Fifth Annual Evening of Music with Richard Wylie & Friends April 13, 2007 at the State Theatre

**Announcing the date and new location of our annual concert!**

Please join us as we expand and improve our annual event, which supports Centre House Shelter. The details are coming together, so **check our website for updates** as they become available. Appropriate for all ages, this is an excellent opportunity to support two valuable community resources! Save the date!

## Looking Back and Looking Toward The Future

Affordable housing is a basic need. Achieving personal success is almost impossible without a stable living environment, particularly for those with children. Working with us, many people were able to avoid the need for emergency shelter, and over the years, we have helped save 50 homes from foreclosure. We offer the tools, commitment, and experience that enable our program participants to secure suitable housing with services tailored to their individual needs. Examples of some of our services and statistics from fiscal year 2005-2006:

Centre House Shelter, established in 1984, is open 24/7 and provides families and individuals who experience housing emergencies a safe, service-intensive living arrangement, lasting up to 30 days. Participants work with a case manager to set objectives, obtain referrals, and review progress while working toward more permanent housing solutions that fit their needs. **We provided a total of 2678 nights of shelter to 121 individuals.**

Our Emergency Food Pantry is able to provide basic emergency food supplies during weekend and non-traditional working hours. **Food supplies were provided to 57 people last year, and 210 meals were provided outside shelter.**

Housing Case Management Programs are designed to proactively prevent and/or manage housing-related emergencies, and to resolve housing crises. Services include budget counseling, advocacy, and referrals, providing assistance to those who are near-homeless and homeless. **Services were provided to 365 adults and 256 children, with 36 new cases opened for intensive housing case management services. A total of twenty-seven people received supportive services, designed to obtain/maintain permanent housing and increase independent living skills.**

Bridge and Supportive Housing Programs provide an affordable and service enriched housing opportunity to program participants and can last up to two years. Residents pay 30% of their income toward housing costs. **There were six new intakes, and a total of 20 people resided in our temporary housing programs last fiscal year.**

Adult Services Case Management is a program for those aged 18-59, designed to help participants stay in their homes and remain independent through a network of service providers and agencies. **72 were served last year.**

Our First-Time Homebuyer Program, working in conjunction with the Borough of State College, has recently expanded to meet the continuously increasing community need through new partnerships and programs. **Thirty people received education and counseling, six received post-purchase counseling, and thirty people received default mortgage counseling.**

Recent news has brought the lack of stable, affordable housing to the forefront, sharing the issue with the broader community, and some who may have been previously unaware of its magnitude.

As active members of the Affordable Housing Taskforce, the Community Safety Net, and a recognized leader in local housing issues, we are hopeful this new awareness will continue to expand, leading to increased community involvement, and ultimately resolving this crisis.

Progressive initiatives are being discussed and some are now pilot projects. As informed citizens, we have the ability to participate in the creation of policies and strategies that are inclusive, effective, and workable for our communities, and neighborhoods. Working together, we can do it.

“ Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself. “ – Jane Addams



Housing Transitions, Inc. is a proud member of these local organizations.





It 's amazing what a fresh coat of paint can do...



**Above:** Community volunteers paint the front porch of our building during the United Way Day of Caring. **Right:** Students from the Ulster Project paint the fence surrounding our play area.

The Ulster Project brings students from Ireland to the United States each year to help them learn about different cultures. Sponsored by churches and local families, community service is part of their learning experience. We enjoyed meeting and talking with this enthusiastic group of young people, and they did a great job working together and painting our fence ~ and later, themselves!!



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## Check out our *new and improved* website!

Many improvements have been made to our website and we invite you to take a look!

Learn about the services and programs we provide to the community...read more about our organization...stay up-to-date by visiting the News & Info section...find out how you can help. Have a question? Send an email. There are links for those who may be seeking help, and also for those who would like to learn more about issues and initiatives related to affordable housing locally, in Pennsylvania, and across the nation.

To conserve resources, future enhancements may include online newsletters, email alerts, and the capability to make online donations. Our website is still a "work in progress", but much progress has been made! We greatly appreciate the expertise and support Mr. Scott Dainty brought to this endeavor... thank you Scott!

If you have a suggestion for something we should include, please share it. Your idea could be helpful to many people and we welcome your input. Let us know what you think!

[www.housingtransitions.com](http://www.housingtransitions.com)



*We Want To Hear From You!*

What would you like to see in our Newsletter?

Are there corrections to your contact information?

Questions or Comments?

Have an idea?

Share a story! Refer a friend! Get Involved!

**We invite your input.**

Please address your correspondence to Susan,  
using any contact method shown on Page 6. Thank You!

**Shelter Wish List:**

Gift Cards for Target or Wal-Mart, or Grocery Stores

OTC cough, cold, allergy or pain medications (unopened, valid date please)

Batteries, Size D & AA

Laundry Soap

Paper Products

Cleaning Supplies

Bus Tokens

Quarters for Laundry

Plastic food storage bags or containers

Zippered, waterproof mattress covers (we need 24!)

Small Desks

Bedroom Dressers

Alarm Clocks

Lamps

Exiting residents often need clean, functional, used household items for their new homes.

**Please call Kendra or Delight at 814-237-4863, if you have something to donate.**

Help us continue our work. Please consider making a donation today.



Every gift makes a difference.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Housing Transitions, Inc.  
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 State College, PA 16804

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Office: 814-237-4863  
 Shelter: 814-237-5508  
 Fax: 814-237-7480

Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 State College, PA  
 Permit No. 203

Web:  
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