

Shelter Wish List

Quarters for Laundry	Pillows
Gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target	Toilet Paper
Gas Cards	Coffee
Bus Tokens	Paper Towels
Hand Soap	Bath Towels
Light Bulbs	Toothpaste
Air Freshener	Tissues
Ziploc Bags (all sizes)	Tampons
D batteries	Kitchen Garbage Bags
Flashlights	Hand Sanitizer
Lysol wipes	Condiments (ketchup, sugar, spices, mayo, etc.)
Household Cleaners	Copy Paper
Dishwasher Detergent	Whiteout
Disposable Gloves	Pens

Park Forest Elementary Students Brighten Centre House



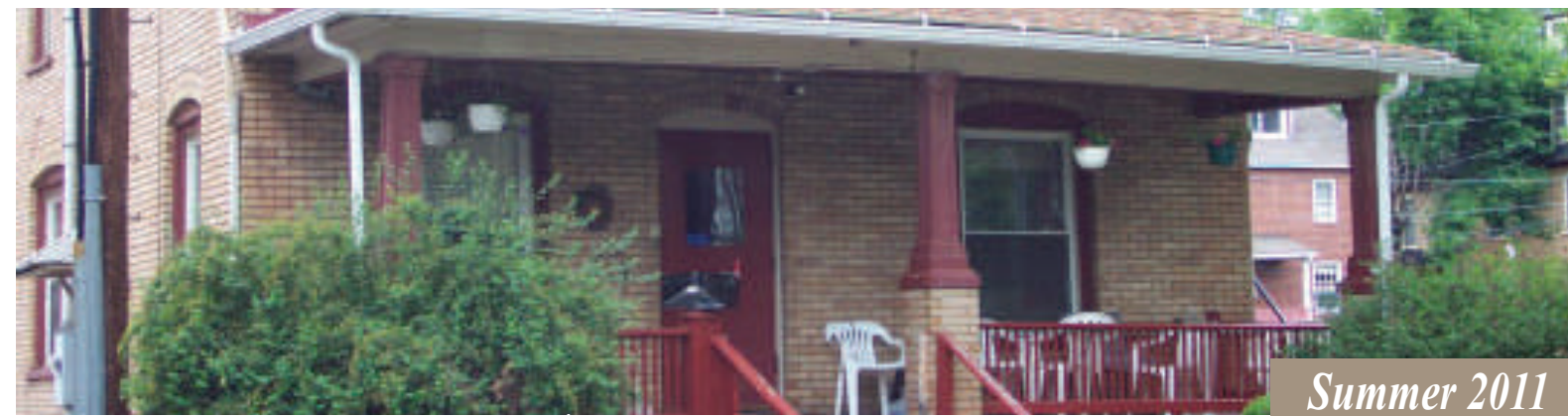
The Centre House front porch is alive with seasonal beauty thanks to students from the Park Forest Elementary School. Students painted and decorated planters, filled them with annuals, and delivered them to the shelter early this summer. Special thanks to teachers Brenda Khayat (second from left) and Jennifer Cody (second from right).



Housing Transitions, Inc.
PO Box 1391
217 E. Nittany Ave.
State College, PA 16804
www.housingtransitions.com

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State College,
PA
Permit No. 203

Office: (814) 237-4863
Centre House Shelter: (814) 237-5508
Fax: (814) 237-7480
Email: myhouse@housingtransitions.com



Summer 2011

This issue of open house is sponsored by Kissinger, Bigatel and Brower, REALTORS. Thank you, KBB!

openhouse

A Newsletter of Housing Transitions, Inc.

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Colby Woodring - Housing Case Manager
Jan Reasinger - Adult Svcs. Case Manager
Ainsley Rager - Case Manager
Dawn Maquire - Case Manager
Bobbi Bronstein - Project Facilitator
Erica Anderson - Development & Community Relations
Shelter Supervisors - Tricia Reed, Bobbi Sheaffer, Tracy Morgan, Katie Roth, Danyel Woodring, Faith Ryan, Karen Ebeling

New Look for Our Newsletter

The new title and look of Housing Transitions' newsletter is the beginning of a change we hope will create a more unified, consistent image for the organization. *Open House* will continue to bring you organizational updates, stories of renewal and success, and thank yous for our many contributors—just like Housing Transitions' News did, but with an eye towards keeping things clean, simple, and efficient. In coming months we plan to bring this new look to our brochure, our website—even our letterhead. A special thank you goes out to Jackie Sheader, who volunteered the design work. We hope you, too, like the change. We always enjoy your feedback, so e-mail us at myhouse@housingtransitions.com with any comments or suggestions.



Renovations Begin

On June 29, the Centre House renovation project began with the dismantling of the deteriorated stairwell wall. Here a crew determines the best way to rebuild the wall and properly support the fire escape

Letter from the President

As the new HTI Board President, I've been contemplating the myriad of challenges facing this essential and valuable community resource. My sense as a four-year Board member is that we are indeed blessed to have an outstanding staff dedicated to fulfilling HTI's mission. But as in any organization, there are always opportunities and unmet needs.

The diversity of our many tasks and programs is somewhat masked by a simple and straightforward mission statement: "to assist families and individuals to achieve a more independent lifestyle by providing a continuum of effective and well managed services". The continuum ranges from providing emergency shelter at Centre House to transitional housing at several scattered sites. Along the way, we work with our clients on issues related to job searches and independent living skills. WOW, talk about a full plate of services! But our amazing staff gets it done with a positive attitude and a smile.

Our programs are funded by a plethora of grants and contracts, and contributions from our many supporters. The current and projected strains on government budgets coupled with the uncertainties of the economy are impacting our ability to continue all of the services we have provided in the past. Your Board is developing contingency plans that will enable HTI to continue to serve our diverse clientele.

We face an ongoing challenge of communicating the diversity and criticality of our services. Unlike several other local human service organizations, our many roles are not generally well understood by the community. The Board is wrestling with this challenge.

Thanks for your support and encouragement. As always we welcome your observations and suggestions.

Lam Hood, President

Staff Profile: Ainsley Rager



Ainsley Rager was drawn to the human service field since she started college at Penn State where she studied Psychology and Crime, Law, and Justice. Today, Ainsley is a Shelter Case Manager for HTI's emergency shelter program, Centre House.

"I case manage the shelter residents by helping them to set housing and employment goals," Ainsley explains. "I assist them in accessing whatever county services they need, in addition to helping them set up counseling, find a doctor, provide budget counseling etc. Centre House is also an Emergency Food Pantry. I am responsible for maintaining the pantry as well as purchasing food for the shelter."

Having worked for another shelter before coming to Centre House, Ainsley knew she wanted to continue in this line of work. Her greatest accomplishment while here was helping a large family secure an apartment they could afford, something that is hard to find here in the Centre Region.

"I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most amazing people in this job. I have been touched by every person who has stayed at Centre House. My co-workers are so amazing! Words cannot describe how hard they work and how dedicated they are to the cause."

Director Thanks Benson Lichtig

I vividly remember the first time I met Benson Lichtig. It was during my initial interview for the Executive Director position with Housing Transitions (then known as Temporary Housing, Inc.) in 1988. Following my acceptance of the position, I was introduced to the recently purchased (and vacant) facility at 217 East Nittany Avenue that was to be the future home of the Centre House emergency shelter and offices of HTI. I remember sitting alone in my soon-to-be "office" about two weeks into the job looking at the budget projections and realizing that we basically had six months of funding remaining. I clearly remember thinking, "What have I gotten myself into?" Benson happened to stop by that day to see how things were going, and I expressed my rather dim outlook. To paraphrase Benson during this brief encounter: (1) The people we serve depend on us to make this work; (2) If we handle ourselves responsibly the community and local government will support our ef-

forts; (3) I personally guarantee my support and resources to make this successful; (4) we (the Board) will make this work.

What struck me the most in this brief encounter is that of Benson's commitment to those we serve as his first concern. And to this day Benson has always put an unmet client need ahead of all else. During the past 23 years, Benson and I have had numerous conversations concerning ongoing challenges. His response has always been the same as it was during that initial meeting. Benson has always lead the charge in the creation of responsive services and has never blinked when his leadership was needed most. He has inspired our organization to move forward in spite of obstacles. I consider Benson a leader, a mentor, and a friend.

Ron Quinn, Executive Director



Thank You Holy Trinity

Members of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church built a gift card "house" as a way of reaching out to Centre House residents. The collection and donation of gift cards is a big help to shelter residents as they get back on their feet.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church members also help Centre House and its residents by collecting quarters to be used for laundry, bus fair, and parking for shelter residents.

Volunteer of the Year



Harry Miller and Cathy Quick attend the Rose Cologne Dinner on April 28, 2011.

Harry Miller was named the 2011 HTI Volunteer of the Year at the Annual Rose Cologne Volunteer Recognition Dinner sponsored by the Centre County Council for Human Services. In addition to his full time job as a lead engineer at Raytheon, Harry is the front man for the tremendous mission efforts of Calvary Baptist Church.

Harry has been volunteering for HTI for three years. He and his crew help move families and individuals into their new homes, giving them the best possible start. He takes care of all of the details of the move, from the moving truck to organizing additional volunteers.

Moving can be a very stressful time in people's lives, and Harry helps to make it easier for all involved. If he sees something that needs to be done, he does it—even if it means extending his own day. Harry is always willing to go the extra mile to make sure our clients have what they need in their new home.