



Centre House News

Housing Transitions, Inc.

HTI FALL CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF!

Sept/Oct 2007

Volume 8, Issue 3

Housing Transitions is thrilled to announce that we have been given a generous donation from an anonymous donor. We challenge our supporters to not only match it –but surpass it!

We know that you are well aware of the need for emergency shelter, transitional housing, and affordable housing. This is an opportunity to provide some concrete solutions to some of those needs. Where will your funds go?

- Towards increasing first-time home buying opportunities within Centre County;
- Expanding our educational and outreach efforts;
- Creating more affordable rental opportunities with the State College Borough.

We will be mailing out a letter detailing these exciting developments at the end of the month. We can't do it without you!

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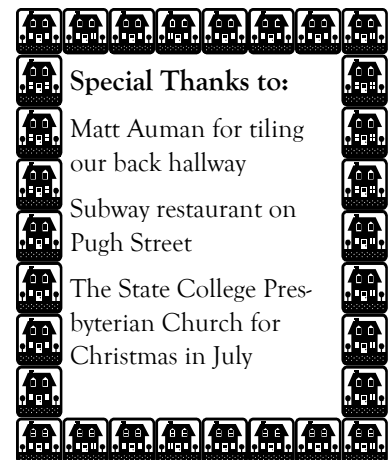
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SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 12, 2008

Sixth Annual Concert With Richard Wylie and Friends and Meet & Greet Afterwards with Refreshments!

8 PM At the State Theatre! Details to follow!



The Housing Academy

This summer, Housing Transitions has begun the Housing Academy, an educational series open to the public; particularly for those who are interested in buying their own home. The purpose of the program is to develop new approaches that will assist people to become more competitive and self-sufficient regardless of their circumstances. The topics run the gamut from learning about credit, to what is a mortgage, to home maintenance. This program was developed by Dawn McGuire, the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) coordinator for Housing Transitions.

The classes are offered at various locations around the Centre region. Here is a list of upcoming topics:

Talk to a Realtor: Understanding the Local Housing Market

Monday, Sept 17, 6:30-8:30 pm, College Municipal Bldg, State College

The Agreement of Sale & Other Legal Issues for Homebuyers

Wednesday, Sept 26, 6:30-8:30 pm, Beaver Farms Conference Room, Bellefonte

Thursday, Oct 18, 6:30-8:30 pm, State College Municipal Building, State College

Creating a Budget You Can Live With

Monday, Oct 8, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pleasant Hills Apts, Community Ctr, 155 N. Danielle Dr, Pleasant Gap

Househunting: Determining Needs vs. Wants

Tuesday, Oct 30, 6:30-8:30 pm, Beaver Farms Conference Room, Bellefonte

Focus Centre County Update: Last Meeting to be Held on September 10th - Please attend!

The sixth—and last— Focus Centre County group meeting will be held on September 10th at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology. If you have not attended the previous meetings, this is your last chance to take part in this important discussion, which determines the key issue around which future planning and initiatives should be focused.

The Centre County Community Foundation (CCCF) has put together this county-wide effort to gather community input regarding the most critical issues facing the county. It is designed to provide all Centre County residents an opportunity to contribute ideas and insights for addressing key issues. Key issues

CCCF considers three factors in formulating a decision on a key issue: 1) Does it impact the entire county; 2) Can it be realistically and practically implemented within the Foundation's perimeters; and 3) Will it have a long term impact on the county?

Like the previous meetings, the September 10th meeting is open to the public and the CCCF is hoping for a big turnout. **It does not matter if you have participated in a previous meeting or not!** This is a true community effort that welcomes a wide range of opinions and perspectives to address the county's most pressing problems.

Meet The HTI Staff

We thought you might enjoy reading about what our staff members do. In this issue, we interview Thelma Walters, one of our Housing Case Managers.

Q: How long have you worked at Housing Transitions?

TW: I've worked at HTI for a total of three years; one year in the shelter and two as Housing Case Manager. Before that I worked in the Women's Resource Center Shelter. I've been working with the homeless or the near-homeless for a total of eight years.



Thelma Walters

Q: How did you get into this line of work?

TW: After my home was flooded in January of 1996, I realized how vital it was to have resources, support, and accurate information to overcome a crisis. I enrolled at Pennsylvania College of Technology in the fall of 1996 and majored in human services.

Q: What part do you play in HTI's continuum of housing services?

TW: As Housing Case Manager, I work with the near-homeless and homeless population, assessing household resources and needs to assist them in securing affordable housing in Centre County. I develop relationships with landlords and stay up-to-date on housing availability, which is essential to effectively assist with referrals. Since November of last year, I have been working with the residents being evicted from the Mellot Mobile Home Park, exploring their housing options and assisting with their relocation efforts. I also manage the Supportive Housing Project, one of our transitional housing programs. I'm an active member of the following Centre County organizations: Affordable Housing Coalition, Counsel of Human Services Executive Board, Heating Assistance Task Force, Homeless Advisory Committee and the Disaster Recovery Task Force when activated.

Q: Did you always know you wanted to work in a helping profession?

TW: Yes, I always wanted to work in the helping profession, but in high school I didn't follow my heart. I explored my creative side, majoring in floriculture at Williamsport Area Community College. I worked as a floral designer for 15 years before returning to college as an adult majoring in human services.

Q: What do you like best about your work?

TW: Being able to be a support for people who are in a crisis is what I find most gratifying. When someone is in urgent need of housing, they must have the best information about community resources and how to access them.

Shelter Wish List

Dressers Alarm Clocks Small Clocks Bus Tokens Silverware
 Lamps Quarters for Laundry Electric Griddle Non-Stick Frying Pans
 Plastic Food Storage Bags And/Or Containers Pillows Twin Blankets/Twin Sheets

Cleaning? Moving?

We are often in need of household items and seek clean, useable donations.

If you can help, please call Kendra or Roz at:

814-237-4863

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?

Share a story! Refer a friend! Get Involved!

We welcome your input. We are a community organization and rely on your continued support.



Help us continue our work. Please consider making a donation today. Every gift makes a difference.

Name(s):

Address:

Statewide Housing News:

The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania and Homes for Working Families commissioned a survey among Pennsylvanians by Peter D. Hart Research Associates on Pennsylvanians' Attitudes Toward Home Affordability. The survey was conducted last year and here are the key findings:

- **Many Pennsylvania voters see the lack of affordable homes as a big problem for those making \$20,000 to \$40,000.** It trails only a lack of affordable health care options for working families among the problems listed. The lack of affordable homes for those making \$20,000 to \$40,000 a year (38% very/fairly big problem) is seen as a greater problem than other serious statewide issues such as traffic congestion (29%), job layoffs and unemployment (27%), and public schools that are too crowded or are of a poor quality (23%).
- While voters express widescale satisfaction with their current housing situation, many worry about home affordability in the future, **especially for their children or other family members.** Overall, 89% of voters are very (72%) or fairly (17%) satisfied with their current housing situation. However, 21% worry about their being able to buy or rent a decent and safe home in the future themselves, while two in five (40%) voters worry about their children or other family members being able to afford a home.
- **A majority of voters believe that much can be done to solve the problem of home affordability.** Fully 55% of voters believe a great deal or a fair amount can be done to solve the problem of home affordability. And while voters are divided on whether this problem requires government intervention or should be left to market forces, a majority believes that the government at all levels (local, state, and federal) should be doing more to address the problem.
- **Pennsylvania voters are largely comfortable with creating more affordable homes for working families in their own communities.** Overall, a majority (55%) says that they are comfortable with creating more affordable homes for working families, while only 15% are uneasy (28% are neutral to the idea). Overall, voters' support remains steady when they hear that the homes would be for renters (55% comfortable, 17% uneasy), and increases when they learn that the homes would be available for purchase (68% comfortable, 7% uneasy).

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