

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

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

November 13-19 is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. You can show that you care about these important issues by wearing a house pin, available on those dates at the following locations:

- Northwest Savings Bank
- Clothes Mentor
- The State High Roar Store

Each beautiful, one-of-a-kind pin costs \$15, with the proceeds benefiting Centre House.

HTI thanks the local businesses that are selling the pins, as well as The Corner Room, for allowing us to sell the pins in front of the restaurant during the Penn State v. Nebraska game on Saturday, November 12.

To learn the inspiring story behind the company that is "changing the world, one pin at a time," visit www.lucinda.com.



One of the lovely house pins



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Fall 2011

openhouse

A Newsletter of Housing Transitions, Inc.

This issue of open house is sponsored by Northwest Savings Bank. Thank you, Northwest Savings!

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Susanna Jech Paul - Development & Community Relations
Shelter Supervisors - Tricia Reed, Bobbi Sheaffer, Tracy Morgan, Katie Roth, Danyel Woodring, Faith Ryan, Karen Ebeling

HPRP's Positive Impact on Centre County

The Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) began in February 2010 as a two-year collaborative partnership between Housing Transitions, Interfaith Human Services, and the Centre County Women's Resource Center, and is administered by Centre County Adult Services. HPRP's mission is to support local families and individuals who are homeless, or imminently at risk of losing their rental housing, usually because illness or injury has prevented them from working.

HPRP, unlike other rental assistance programs in the area, can adjust the amount of funding according to the needs and situation of the household, with the goal of establishing a more stable, sustainable living environment than a 'one time only' payment can provide. To qualify for HPRP, a household must be behind on their rent and have a documented, realistic plan for how they will afford their housing independent of HPRP within 3-4 months. Additionally, the rental must pass a HUD housing quality inspection and meet HUD guidelines for affordability.

For each household, HPRP prevents eviction by paying rent owed to the landlord, and subsidizes their rent for two more months until the wage earner is able to return to work. The clients must also pay a portion of the monthly rent at a rate that they can afford until they can get back on track. Throughout, HPRP case managers keep in close contact with the household to support the family and assist with any issues that may arise.

The typical Housing Transitions HPRP household is a single-parent family with two or more children. Their household income is extremely low (30% or below of area median income) and they are living paycheck-to-paycheck, even before the temporary loss of income. They are returning to their job in a few weeks and will go back to paying their rent on their own.

Since February 2010, HTI's HPRP has helped 121 men, women, and children avert homelessness and secure stable, affordable rentals. Housing Transitions is sorry to see this highly effective program close its doors as its two-year funding ends.

Dawn Maguire, HTI Case Manager

Letter from the President

Housing Transitions offers a spectrum of programs that include providing an emergency shelter (Centre House), assisting the near homeless to find affordable and accessible housing, providing budget counseling, and maintaining an emergency food pantry. Last year, we served 2,600 individuals. A truly amazing statistic given the size of our staff.

All of these programs rely on funding from a variety of sources. Our staff has historically been very successful in securing grants and contracts from federal, state and county governments and the United Way. However, because most of these are program-specific, they do not provide adequate resources to support Centre House.

Our annual operating budget is \$574,772. Approximately 76% of our program expenses are covered by grants and contracts. The balance comes from individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations and other groups in our community who believe in Housing Transitions' mission. Without your support, we would not be able to provide shelter, food and other assistance for the less fortunate in our community.

Please give prayerful consideration to your financial gift to Housing Transitions this fall. We appreciate and thank you for your support and pledge to you that it will be used judiciously to help the less fortunate in our communities achieve a stable and affordable home.

Lam Hood, President

Transitions at Housing Transitions

Development and Community Relations

On November 1st, Erica Anderson stepped down as Development and Community Relations Coordinator after three years of dedicated service to Housing Transitions. During her time at HTI, Erica helped raise awareness about homelessness and the need for affordable housing in Centre County.

HTI will miss Erica's innovative ideas, perseverance, and warm smile. Good luck, Erica!

Filling Erica's shoes will be Susanna Jech Paul, a former HTI board member and native of State College. After living elsewhere for twenty years, she returned to Happy Valley in 2009 to raise her children in her hometown. At that time, she joined HTI's Board of Directors. She thoroughly enjoyed her work as a board member, and is excited to serve HTI in a new capacity. Welcome, Susanna!

Volunteer Coordinator

HTI is pleased to welcome Kendra Gettig as our new volunteer Volunteer Coordinator! Kendra has cheerfully taken on the task of organizing, orienting, and managing our volunteers.

Interested in volunteering your time and talents for HTI?
You can contact Kendra at kgettig@housingtransitions.com.



Kendra Gettig

Housing Transitions Thanks...

...Nittany Bank

In September, Nittany Bank made a \$2,000 donation to Housing Transitions. We are grateful to Nittany Bank for their ongoing support of the continuum of services provided by Housing Transitions.

...The M&T Bank Charitable Foundation

At right, Erica Anderson receives a check for \$5,000 from the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation. M&T Bank Assistant Vice President Mike Owens came to Housing Transitions to deliver this generous gift.



...The Rotary Club of State College, Downtown

HTI appreciates the continued support of the Rotary Club of State College, Downtown. In June, the organization presented Housing Transitions with a \$500 donation.

...Soroptimist International of Centre County



At left, HTI Board member Kathy Harford receives a \$1,000 check from Chairwoman of the Soroptimist Service Committee, Fiona Adams. The funds were used to buy new, sturdy dining room chairs for Centre House.

...The Centre County Realtors Association

In May, the Centre County Realtors Association presented HTI with a \$3,000 donation to help fund the renovation of the Centre House shelter. Thank you, CCRA, for showing your commitment to affordable housing in Centre County!

...Village Acres Farm

Thanks to a weekly gift of vegetables, Centre House residents are able to nourish themselves with organic produce from Village Acres Farm in Mifflintown.

...Kids Who Care

The Children of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

The children of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in State College held a fundraiser luncheon for HTI. Below, the kids, along with Deacon Mark Oleynik, present their check to Ron Quinn.



The Hickner Family

In August, the Hickner family of State College donated to HTI the proceeds of their yard sale, which included toys the Hickner boys had outgrown. We admire the boys' generosity in sharing their good fortune with others.