

HOUSING TRANSITIONS, INC.

NEWS

Summer 2010



Housing Transitions
PO Box 1391
217 E. Nittany Ave.
State College, PA
16804

Capital Campaign Goes Public

Benson Lichtig, Board President, announced early in June that we have raised 40 percent of our \$250,000 campaign goal for *Raising More Than Money, The Campaign for Centre House*.

"*Raising More Than Money* is our largest ever fundraising effort. It will enable us to renovate our existing emergency shelter, Centre House, to improve safety, security, and privacy for our clients. It will also fund the building of an addition to expand our continuum of housing services to a segment of the population in great need of affordable housing--homeless



The original Centre House building, left, will undergo a renovation while a new addition, right, is constructed.

persons with mental and physical disabilities. It will ensure that the best supportive services possible are available to persons with the greatest need, twenty-four hours a day," said Ron Quinn, HTI's Executive Director.

Our campaign name, *Raising More Than Money*, emphasizes that HTI hopes to raise not only the financial support of individual community members, businesses, and area foundations, but also awareness of homeless issues in Centre County, the spirits of its clients, and the families that use its services. One hundred percent of HTI's Board of Directors and staff members have pledged their support to the campaign. Individuals and organizations that have made commitments to the campaign to date will be honored at our public Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 19, 2010 at 12:00 P.M. The new addition and renovation is slated for completion by fall 2011.

Centre County residents are often surprised to learn that there is a Centre County homeless shelter in State College. Lichtig noted, "We do not see many people obviously living on the streets resembling homeless problems in more urban environments, but due to various reasons, individuals and families find themselves without a roof over their heads here in Centre County, too."

To learn more about the campaign or how you, too, can make a gift, visit HTI's website at www.housingtransitions.com. Please specify that you would like your gift to support the campaign.

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It's Getting Tight in Centre House

Centre House is the emergency shelter program of HTI. While slightly fewer people have been staying at the shelter this year, their stays have been longer; this highlights Centre House's need for more space to accommodate individuals and families as they transition from homelessness to a stable housing situation. This is due in part to the tight rental market in Centre County, along with many other contributing factors that may have caused a person's homelessness. These include family conflict, mental health issues and abuse.

Consider the following information provided by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIC): in order to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent (\$836/month) in Centre County, a single parent would have to work a 72-hour week at the prevailing wage of \$8.98/hour to make ends meet.* According to the last census, 40 percent of Centre County residents were renters. How many do you imagine felt the pinch of stretching their paycheck to pay the rent and to pay for other necessities? HTI is seeing more families who are struggling to meet these demands.

Centre House is getting crowded in other ways as well. Since its doors opened at 217 E. Nittany Avenue in 1987, HTI has expanded its services to include an impressive continuum of housing services to fulfill its mission. The staff has expanded in tandem, and Centre House no longer has the capacity to accommodate its entire full- and part-time staff, now 16 employees.

Development and Community Relations Coordinator Erica Anderson can often be seen haunting local coffee shops, typing away on her laptop – her only office a borrowed chair. Board and committee meetings are held off-site for lack of space. And Executive Director Ron Quinn has fashioned his office from a former walk-in closet. But most important, of course, are the residents, whose needs have grown beyond the confines of the current structure.

**Note: According to NLIC and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an apartment is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income.*

What is Fair Market Rent (FMR)?

Fair Market Rents for Centre County 2007-2010					
Year	Efficiency	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
2007	\$565	\$630	\$742	\$887	\$914
2008	\$600	\$669	\$967	\$942	\$971
2009	\$616	\$687	\$809	\$967	\$997
2010	\$637	\$710	\$836	\$999	\$1030

Fair Market Rents (FMR) are gross rent estimates; they include shelter rent and the cost of utilities, except telephone. HUD sets FMRs to assure that a sufficient supply of rental housing is available to program participants. To accomplish this objective, FMRs must be both high enough to permit a selection of units and neighborhoods and low enough to serve as many families as possible.



Zion Lutheran Church of Boalsburg named Centre House the benefactor of their annual bingo event held on March 1st. Proceeds from the event were matched by the Centre County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. A huge thank you goes out to them for their efforts!

Appreciation Page



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Caring on January 18th brought eighteen teachers from **Corl Street Elementary** to Centre House to paint the transitional housing apartment. As a result of their enthusiasm and suggestions, HTI volunteer John Janik solicited flooring donations to complete the project. **Georgetown Carpets** donated carpeting, padding and installation for most of the apartment. **America's Carpet Outlet** also donated carpeting. **JR's Quality Tile and Hardwoods** donated and installed tile in the bathroom. We wish to thank everyone who worked together to help complete this project.



We would like to thank the **Centre County Association of REALTORS** for their support and gift from their second annual American Dream Housing Fund Auction held on February 26, 2010. As a result of the auction, CCAR representatives presented a check for \$2,000 to HTI for *Raising More Than Money: The Campaign for Centre House*. Thank you to all CCAR members that support affordable housing in Centre County.



M&T Bank presented HTI with \$5,000 in December 2009 to support our Home Buyers Education Program.



In April, Northwest Savings Bank presented HTI with a check for \$2,500 for Raising More Than Money: The Campaign for Centre House.



Citizen's Bank presented us with a check for \$4,405 in February to support our Annual Fund from their annual sales of Nittany Lion's Football buttons.

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Centre County United Way
United Way

CBICC CHAMBER OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CENTRE COUNTY
Success stories start here.

HTI/THF Board of Directors:

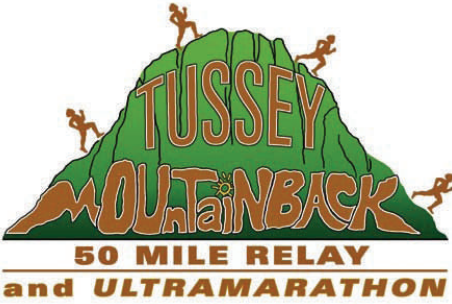
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Case Manager: Dawn Maguire
Case Manager: Colby Woodring
Project Facilitator: Bobbi Bronstein
Development & Community Relations Coordinator: Erica Anderson
Shelter Supervisors: Tricia Reed, Bobbi Sheaffer, Tracy Morgan, Katie Roth, Danyel Woodring, Faith Ryan, Ainsley Rager

The 11th Annual
Tussey mOUntaiNBACK 50 Mile Relay and Ultramarathon
will benefit **Centre House!**



50 MILE RELAY and ULTRAMARATHON

Have a blast and volunteer on October 16, 2010 to help Centre House!

For more information about the race, visit the Tussey Mountainback website at www.tusseymountainback.com.
For volunteer information, visit www.tusseymountainback.com/volunteer.html.