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Happenings

On Her Way Home

“Lack of money is no obstacle; Lack of an idea is an obstacle.” When television personality Ken Hakuta uttered these words, he must have had Jessica in mind!

Jessica had been struggling for two years to make ends meet while also trying to pay off her debts. Past account problems with her bank left her without a banking option, and the check cashing fees she endured made it next to impossible to save. Faced with limited financial resources and a low credit score, Jessica’s options were slight, but her ideas were multiple.

Already a tenant in Good Shepherd’s housing program, she took advantage of the budget classes, and with slow and consistent effort, she paid off her credit cards and eventually her bank debt.

Armed with a renewed credit score and a little more financial freedom, Jessica began the implementation of her dream. She reopened a savings account, utilized her budgeting skills, and remained focused.

A little over two weeks ago, Jessica received the phone call she had long awaited. Once not able to open a bank account, she now had been approved for a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home!

As we bid farewell to Jessica and wish her well, we open another door closed by financial strife and welcome in a new set of fresh ideas. There are no obstacles here at Good Shepherd Housing, just opportunities.

Mortgage Club

Did you know that Good Shepherd Housing has a generous group of monthly donors called The Mortgage Club? This group of donors contributes monthly either automatically by credit card or by mailing in a check. We have donors who give anywhere from \$20 to \$400 dollars a month. Any amount helps. When budgeting for the year, it is a great benefit to know that we can count on these funds.

Barbara Cotter, a mortgage club donor, remembers when Good Shepherd Housing was just an idea. She watched it grow over the years through donors large and small who saw the need and wanted to make this possibility a reality. “Today,” she says “Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services is a presence that speaks loudly to the mission of serving the neediest in our community. I volunteer at GSHFS and know that the ‘Emergency Services’ needs are escalating every month, convincing me that monthly donations that can be counted on are vital to their projected immediate as well as long-term goals.”

To join the mortgage club, call Karen Jupiter at 703-768-9404 x15 or kjupiter@goodhousing.org.

Upcoming Events

Charity Golf outing
Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 1:00PM
at The Ospreys Golf Club at Belmont Bay in Woodbridge, VA.

Endless Summer
Saturday, October 4 from 7:00 - 11:00PM. Dance the night away to the tunes of Still Surfin’, a Beach Boys Tribute Band. Dinner from Outback Steakhouse will also be provided.

There are many options available for sponsorship of these events. To make reservations or for more information, please contact us as 703-768-9404 or kjupiter@goodhousing.org.

Check out our blog at <http://goodhousing.blogspot.com>



Mount Vernon Kiwanis members help paint an apartment unit for a new Good Shepherd Housing Family.

April in Paris Gala

Our supporters were decked out in their finest for GSH's "April in Paris" Gala at the Belle Haven Country Club. Donors rubbed elbows, peaked their appetite on hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, and browsed the array of items available in the Silent Auction - from fine dining and sporting events to artwork and vacation packages - all in the name of working families.

As guests dined, the GSH Board President Rosemary Murray welcomed them and presented the Joseph J. Adinaro Humanitarian Award to two prominent GSH supporters - Kay Boatner and John Mulholland.

Thanks to auctioneer John Murray's quick wit, the Live Auction quickly became a lively and successful event, raising over \$70,000 for the mission of GSH.

Mark your calenders for next year's Gala on March 14, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Old Town Alexandria.

CONTENTS

FRONT: Client Story • Mortgage Club LEFT PANEL: Children's Resource • Our Board
Graduations • By the Numbers • BACK: Help the Homeless Walkathon INSIDE RIGHT PANEL: In Memory

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For the Kids

Every afternoon, Tommy returned from school at 2:30. His mother worked until 5:00, spending those last two and a half hours of the day worrying about her son. Could she rely on his 10 year old sister to take care of him and keep him out of trouble? She knew that without constructive after-school activities, Tommy was more likely to turn to negative and even dangerous outlets. But what could she do? It costs an average of \$391 a month to send a child to the after-school day care program in Fairfax County. Just paying the rent and utilities was difficult.

This is where the Children's Resource Program came in, paying for after-school care and providing safety for children and peace-of-mind for parents. And this year, Good Shepherd Housing expects to pay for 35 children just like Tommy to attend after-school activities and/or summer camps through our Children's Resource programs.

Our goal this year is to have 50% of the children in our Housing programs involved in the educational and recreational activities that their parents otherwise could not afford. We all know that structured programs encourage healthy development and improved academic performance, and without donor support combined with partial scholarships from Fairfax County, so many children like Tommy would go without.

All of the children in our programs live in housing units rented from GSH and 95% of these families can barely pay for their food and shelter. The proceeds from our fund raising events throughout the year determine how much we can contribute to lessen the burden on our client families. There is a great need in our community, and these children depend on all of us to meet that need. It really does take a village to raise a child.



Board President and Legacy Society Member, Rosemary Murray.



Leaving a Legacy

Rosemary Murray has been on the board of directors for Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services for three years, bringing structure and long-term planning to the organization. Her involvement coincided with her retirement and desire to give back to the community. Over the years, she says, her involvement has demonstrated to her and her husband, Bob, the importance of the organization to their community and its citizens.

Although they had prepared their estate plan years ago, they realized they needed to revisit it and make provisions that would reflect ways in which they had changed their lives since that time. By doing so they were comforted knowing they had provided for the organization to which they had given their hearts. "While most of us remember to include our relatives, our university, and our church or synagogue, we most frequently are unaware of the charities that will come to soften our hearts and to which we will give our time and open our checkbooks during our lives." It was very important to Rosemary and Bob that their final assets reflected the love they had shown to others through their charitable work and acknowledged the love they in turn had received from Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services.

A fundraising discussion at a Board of Directors meeting gave Rosemary the final push she needed to make the necessary changes to her estate plan. Rosemary learned that the Legacy Fund provided several ways to make a planned gift in a way that would complement her and her husband's financial goals. The simplest, she found, would be to designate a percentage of assets or a specific dollar amount to be given to GSH. But she also learned that they could establish a charitable remainder trust, donate their home while retaining the right to live in it for life, or even make GSH the beneficiary of that paid up life insurance policy. "What terrific ways of ensuring you are leaving a legacy that will carry on the charitable work you have done in your lifetime and continue to help people who have been less fortunate than you," Rosemary said.

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