

The Shelter

NEWSLETTER Fall 2004



"Dedicated to helping homeless individuals and families work toward permanent stability"

SUCCESS STORIES

From Homeless to Home Owner

Maxine entered Shelter of Flint, Inc.'s Transitional Housing program in March of 2002. Before that time she had lost her job at GM due to substance abuse and, subsequently, had no income. She ended up homeless and had been staying at the Homeless Outreach Center through Community Mental Health. Her time had run out at CMH and she had overwhelming issues that could only be addressed by living in a supportive, structured, intensive environment.

Upon gaining entrance into the Transitional Housing program, Maxine began the slow, often painful, process of rebuilding her life from the ground up. She worked with Sharon James, SOF's Transitional Housing Specialist, on substance abuse recovery, and clearing her \$2,500 worth of debt to Consumer's Energy and the Water Dept. Maxine also worked with her EAP representative to regain her job at GM. She had to overcome many hurdles to prove that she could hold her old job. She submitted to regular drug screens, retained consistent employment, attended extensive substance abuse classes, and met regularly with a counselor. During this time she also suffered through the untimely loss of her mother. Maxine used her emotional support system at the Shelter to help get her through the seemingly endless upsets she was experiencing.

Eventually, Maxine proved herself to GM and reclaimed her former position there. She also paid off her debt and saved \$10,000 towards a down payment on her first house. Maxine moved into that house on September 5, 2004. She has chosen to remain on the Eastside of Flint, close to the Shelter and her friends here. She is proud to have been a part of Shelter of Flint, Inc.'s programs and she gives SOF much of the credit for her newfound success even though she is the one who had to do the real work.

We at Shelter of Flint are very excited for Maxine and wish her much success in her new home. We look forward to our continued relationship with her and hope that she will continue to be a role model for other women who are in the beginning stages of rebuilding their lives.

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Save the Date:

- 2005 Affordable Housing Conference May 16-18, 2005

<http://www.shelterofflint.com>

Think Christmas. Think birthdays. Think books and music.

THINK HELPING HOMELESS CHILDREN.

Now you may be wondering how can I think about the first three things and have any money left to help the children? Well you can! During Border's Books, Music and Cafe's Benefit Days, a portion of what you spend at the Flint store will be donated back to Shelter of Flint, Inc. You will be helping "homeless individuals and families work toward permanent stability" and it won't cost you an extra dime.

This is a good way for you "deer hunters' widows" to get that book you have been dying to read and be able to help out a great cause at the same time.

Border's Books, located at G-4135 Miller Rd., will be hosting this event. On November 12, 13 and 14, 2004 just take the voucher included in this newsletter to the store and 15% of your total purchase (before taxes) will be donated back to Shelter of Flint. The staff at Border's will keep your voucher, so if you think you will be going to the store more than once during those three days, let us know and we can provide you with additional vouchers. Please call us at (810) 238-4711 if you have any questions, and remember if you can't use the coupon yourself during these three days, pass the coupon to a friend.



Shelter of Flint Takes Gold!

Everyone is aware that several Americans took Gold at the summer Olympics in Greece. However, did you also know that Shelter of Flint's own Sweet Peas took Gold at the recent United Way 2004 Campaign Kick-off? The team consisted of Kelli Adams, Jody Church, Jane O'Dell and Shelly Siple. Teams made up of people working in the for-profit and non-profit community from all around the county participated in ten events that focused on teamwork, problem solving and having fun. While not being the youngest or strongest team, SOF's Sweet Peas pulled together to complete the Lilly Pad Relay course in the shortest time. The event required that in the quickest

time each team member had to successfully traverse the course and at no time during the race could you lose physical contact with the lily pads (carpet squares). Each one of us had a great time and each team member left with a renewed confidence in their abilities to work together for a common goal. The teamwork events can only help staff in their work at Shelter of Flint. It was a great kick-off for the 2004 United Way Campaign.

A New Dining Experience

By Thanksgiving due in part to the award of two grants, the dining experience at Shelter of Flint will be much more pleasant. With the help of a grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation we have been able to hire Cleo Jenkins to provide more nutritional and more appetizing meals for the residents of SOF. In addition a grant from MSHDA is permitting the complete renovation of the kitchen and dining room of the shelter. The kitchen, which has served us well over the years, is truly in need of the update. The hope in remodeling the dining room is to improve the overall eating experience.



Talking with our past residents we came to understand that eating has been one of the least pleasant parts of staying at SOF. With this insight and the knowledge that there is high correlation between obesity and homelessness we set out to improve this situation. Cleo is working to maximize the dollars spent on food, while improving not only the quality but also the presentation of meals served. It is expected that this will lessen the waste at the same time that we address the issue of helping to educate our clients in ways to prepare healthy, well-balanced and economical meals. Renovations are already underway and staff and residents alike are looking forward to the completed project. We appreciate the awarding of these grants that will help us address a critical need for the well being of our clients.

We Thank Our Donors

Our sincere thanks to those who so generously
gave to Shelter of Flint.

Don Adams
Franklin and Agnes Adkins
Karen Alexander
Adrienne Allen
Peter & Alice Anastor
Kelly Atherton
B95
James & Margaret Bacon
Norbert Badar
Rita Ball
Luann Bancroft
Robert Barnes
Kenyatta Bates
Robert and Carrie Bellairs
Sharon Bellinger
Christina Bellows
Roberta Black
Luella Bleicher
Bernard Borden
Don & Helen Boyd
Lorraine Boynton
Pat & Jim Brasseur
Bridget Brown
Sheila Bruce
Kenneth Burch
Arlene Burgdick
Jean Carl
Carole Carpenter
John & Laura Carpenter & Family
Carole Carrington
Michael & Janet Cassidy
Teresa Childers
Arden Childress Jr.
Doug Ciak
Diana & Hershel Clark
Cody Station Post Office
Marianne Coleman
Mark Colvin
Margaret Curlin
Karen Curtiss
Robert & Jacqueline Czerniak
Dailey Elementary PTO
William & Marilyn Daniels
Davison United Methodist
Church
James & Linda Delaney
Frank Delorenzo
Marvin Dewitt
Tim & Karen Dillingham
Sue & Larry Dishaw
Beverly Ann Dodge
Laurie Doyle
Dennis and Julie Dudzik

Janeen Dvorak
Eastwood United Methodist
Karen Eaton
Susan Elder
Dawn Elford
Emmanuel Prayer Group
Harry & Sue Erickson
Jerome & Agnes Essinger
Mary Edwards Flint Farmers
Market
Flushing Presbyterian Church
Flushing United Methodist
Church
Donald and Dorothy Flynn
Richard & Sue Fox
Chuck & Donna Freeman
Falding Gadola
Elizabeth Gage
Max & Sarah Galanter
Rani & Peter Garcia
Margery Garrison
Lynda Gibson
Carolyn Gist
Mary Golden
Erica Harrison Goldmine
Joseph and Dorothy Goodman
Mary Elizabeth Green-Nesby
Gary and Kathy Haggart
Rob & Karen Hall
John Hamby
Walter & Diana Harsch
Neal & Amanda Hegarty
Eva Hempel
Anne Hester
Fran & Hugh Hinde
Diane Hohn
Dick & Judy Horning
Richard Hurd
Iota Zeta Chapter
Olive & Garland Jackson
Syvette Jenkins
Barbara Jennings
Bernetta Jobin
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Lynda Johnson
Ronald & Carole Jozwick
D. Kalush
John & Kathleen Karkheck
Robert & Charmaine Kerchner
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Therese Nichols
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Vicki Paton
Ray and Marge Paul
Randall & Elizabeth Petrides
Susan Phillips
Cheryl Pierson
Toby & Russ Pintacura
Mr. & Mrs. Pope
Jill Powell
Jan Praefke
Presbyterian Church of Lake
Huron
Jean Proctor
Project Linus
Quota International Club of Flint
Tonya Rak
Brian and June Ricketts
Georgeann Ricketts
Robert & Mary Rider
Dolores Roat

Judge Ramona Roberts
Cathy & Jeff Rouse
Gilbert Rubenstein
Richard & Rita Russ
Lillie Russell
Hedi Russell-Berry
Mecca Sadler
Tamara Savage
Marsha Schmidt
Schools of Choice
Alice Schwartz
Jeremy and Sherry Schwartz
Select Hospital
Linda & Edward Sherwood
Carol Siple
Mike and Venera Slattery
Gerri Smith
Tammy Smith
Ben Sorscher
St. Bartholomew's Anglican
Church
St. John Vianney Parish Church
St. Mary's School
Mike Lord Steddy Eddie's
M. Evelyn Stephens
Lori Stuenkel
Swartz Creek United Methodist
Church
Roberta Sweetman
Annette Tingey-Jones
Gerald Tomczak
Judith Tosto
Kathy Troyer
Pat Tynes
Doyle Van Norman
Teresa Villarreal
Cyndi Vizcarra
Suzanne Webb
Colette & Taylor Marie Weier
Jean & James Whiting
Helen Wison
Roshanda Womack
Erin Woodruff
Liz Wright
Thomas & Magdalene Yeotis
Robert Zerull
Leonard & Kathy Zielinski
Shirley Zielinski
Stan Zielinski

Surprise Benefit

Michelob Ultra became sponsors of the Crim Festival of Races this year. Part of the sponsorship was the award of \$500 to the charity of choice for the winning corporate team. Team "GM-A", one of seven teams from General Motors and one of the seventeen corporate teams to participate, won and designated Shelter of Flint as their charity. Team "GM-A" was made up of

Don Balkwell
Kenneth DuBois
Gordie Gibson
Rojelio Lara
John Niven

Terry Castor
John Fallot
John Kolmetz
Patrick Lencioni

Congratulations to Team "GM-A" and many thanks to them and to Michelob Ultra for the award. It was an unexpected and exciting gift that will help the programming for Shelter of Flint.



A special thank you to the following for donations to Shelter of Flint, Inc. in memory of family, friends and others.

Honors and Memories

In Memory of Royce Zimmer

Pat & Jim Brasseur
Robert & Jacqueline Czerniak
Fran & Hugh Hinde
Diana Hohn
Jerry Koontz
Michael & Kim Martin
Janet Matsko
Saad Naaman

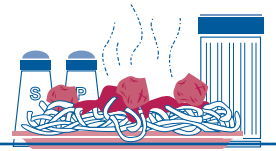
Therese Nichols
Lillie Russell
Tammy Smith
Teresa Villarreal
Jean & James Whiting
Thomas Yeotis
Leonard & Kathy Zielinski
Shirley Zielinski

In Memory of Fay Marsh

Gary & Kathy Haggart
Robert & Eileen Hocken



Pasta Party



A large thank you goes out to the volunteers that joined our staff in making this year's Pasta Party a success. Approximately 450 people loaded up on the "carbs" in preparation for the next day's big race. Although rain was predicted for Friday evening it held off until well after the dinner was complete. As part of their "Comcast Cares" program we were fortunate to have eleven volunteers from Comcast. Their help was greatly appreciated. All of our volunteers go a long way in helping us complete our mission.

BLOOMINDEALS IS LOOKING FOR FALL FASHIONS!

If you have items of clothing that you would like to either sell on consignment or just donate to SOF please contact Vanessa at (810) 230-9176 to schedule an appointment to drop items off. Remember whether you donate or sell your items on consignment you are helping those staying at SOF. Women's dress clothes and items for children are especially needed.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A special thank you goes out to Mike Lord from Steady Eddy's at the Farmer's Market for providing food for a recent Shelter of Flint board meeting. If you haven't tried Steady Eddy's you should, everything was great. They are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. After you get a bit to eat stop down and see what is new at Bloomindeals! They have their fall fashion out and there are some wonderful bargains. Steady Eddy's is also open on Fridays through lunch (1:00pm), although the rest of the market is closed.

We would also like to make a special acknowledgment to the Dena Bancroft Foundation, which has been very generous in their support of Shelter of Flint, Inc. Luann Bancroft set up this foundation in memory of her daughter, and since 2002 SOF has been the recipient of many gifts that have made a large impact on our ability to help women and children meet their housing needs.

The 17th Annual Women Only 5K Run & Walk was held on September 25, 2004. Shelter of Flint, Inc. wishes to express their gratitude to all of the participants and a special thank you to Hillary Hobel and the planning committee. The sponsors helped to make the day fun for all. Home Depot of Burton, donated a prize for the special drawing that those who donated an item or cash directly to the shelter were eligible to win and Carol Mitsdarfer won this prize. The weather was great and we were especially fortunate this year that the Mott Estate was opened for the event. All of the runners and walkers received a flower at the finish line. The event will continue to be held on the last Saturday of September so we look forward to seeing you all September 24, 2005. We would like to acknowledge all of the sponsors of the event:

Mueller's Orchard
H & D Tuxedo
Fuddrucker's of Flint
Panera Breads
The Flint Journal
Genesee County Parks
Old Country Buffet
U of M- Flint Rec Center
Hurley Health & Fitness
Genesys Athletic Club
Crim Festival of Races
Flint Youth Theatre
Greater Flint Art Council
Urban Walkers
Coca Cola
Rachel's Hallmark

Purple Frog Gifts
Fazoli's
Country Fresh Dairy
Baker College
Karr's Nuts
Arbonne International
Flint Institute of Arts
CS Mott Community College
The Body Shop at Home
Famous Dave's
Longway Planetarium
Bauman's Running & Fitness Shop
Good Bean's Cafe
Kettering University
Great Lakes Organization of Walkers
U of M - Flint Bookstore

Health Touch Therapeutic Massage
Riverbend Striders
The Whiting
Red Lobster
Pappa Johns
Shapes & Shades
Flint City T-Shirts
Economy Print & Graphics
Big Apple Bagels
Park Avenue Cheesecake Co
YWCA of Greater Flint
Pottery by Pam
GLOW
McDonalds Corporation
WFUM - TV 28
Oliver T's

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know.....

- The average age of a homeless person is 9.

Did you know.....

- More than 25% of the homeless are working

Did you know.....

- Children are the fastest growing group of homeless

Did you know.....

- Nationally children make up 39% of the homeless

Did you know.....

- 1/2 of the children in homeless shelters are under the age of 5

Did you know.....

- 40% of homeless men are veterans

Did you know.....

- Homeless awareness week is November 14-20, 2004

Did you know.....

- Overall, 14.4 million families in the United States have “critical” housing needs

Did you know.....

- Over 250,000 units of Affordable housing would have to be built each year for 20 years to meet the need

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