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Twenty Years of Milestones Celebrated at Anniversary Event



"Twenty for Twenty" individuals, organizations and groups were honored for their contributions over the last twenty years.



Ike and Catherine Leggett make welcoming remarks to the attendees.

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

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www.mcch.net
mcch@mcch.net

We participate in the following campaigns:



United Way of the National Capital Area:
MCCH #8569



Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area:
MCCH #40234

Maryland Charity
Campaign Code: 7185

On March 3, 2010, almost 300 people commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) during Celebrating Partnerships 2010 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. The annual event recognizes the work of our partners. We looked back over twenty years to our "roots" and honored twenty individuals and organizations who dedicated themselves to ensuring that everyone in our community has the dignity of a home.

During the evening, five clients shared their stories in short videos. We thank Tina, Barbara, Loretta, Virginia and Anthony for expressing their gratitude for MCCH's programs. Their stories started with emergency assistance and transitional housing which led to permanent supportive housing through our programs. Loretta summed up her appreciation best when she recounted her experience with the CHIPP program, "After being turned down, neglected, being told no, no, no, no, doors shut in your face. It was a dream come true. ... Whoever thought of the program, whoever gave the money to fund the program, whoever started the program. I thank them. I honor them." Special thanks to Austin Curtis for producing these videos.

Ralph Boyd, President and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation, our Underwriting Sponsor for Celebrating Partnerships, enthusiastically proclaimed our gathering a true example of "community collaboration." From his perspective as a community investor, he classified MCCH as a standout nonprofit. Mr. Boyd concluded that seeing and hearing from the people that are affected by our work "brings it all home for us."

We were delighted to have Ike and Catherine Leggett graciously serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for the event. Mr. Leggett welcomed everyone and emphasized his belief that if we can't help those most in need in

continued on page 3

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Volunteer Opportunities

We thank all of our wonderful volunteers for showing such generous support for MCCH during this past holiday season, as well as through this long, cold, snowy winter. Our volunteer program continues to grow and there are many ways to help.

- **HBCAC Meal Program** - This continues to be the program with the greatest need for volunteers, as shelter meals consist almost entirely of food prepared and delivered by volunteers. Please contact Jacqueline Havens (jhavens@mcch.net) or Amanda Lewis (amlewis@mcch.net) for our guidelines and more information.
- **Four Wheel Drive Volunteers** - When we experience weather related closings, we can use drivers who have four wheel drive capability to help get essential staffers to work at our various sites around the county. To be added to our list of emergency drivers, please contact Teri Brenits (teri@mcch.net or 301-917-6654) or Amanda Lewis for details.
- **HBCAC Back to Work Program** - Volunteers with professional experience are needed to assist clients at our men's shelter with all aspects of preparing themselves to go back to work. Please contact Teri Brenits for more details.
- **Spring Cleanup Projects** - Well-organized groups who can provide tools, labor, and ideally, mulch and planting materials, are needed to help us with yard maintenance at sites around the county. Please contact Teri Brenits to arrange your project.
- **ShelterWalk 'n Roll Volunteers** - Come work with us at our annual family fun event on Sunday, May 2. This is a great activity for students! Contact Amanda Lewis to sign up.
- **Projects Related to Your Special Events** - Are you getting ready for a B'nai Mitzvah, confirmation or other special event to which you would like to add a community service component? Contact Teri Brenits for information.

Again, we appreciate your time and effort and hope to work with you in the near future. And remember, SSL credit can be awarded for all pre-approved activities!

Help the Homeless Mini-Walks!

It is not too early to start planning a Help the Homeless mini-walk for MCCH this fall. These are fun ways to raise awareness and funds for MCCH as part of the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities for your school or community organization, please contact Cindy at cindy@mcch.net.

Branching out. Cultivating change. Growing community.

During this anniversary year, each newsletter will include a brief summary of our work over the years. What cannot be reflected is the pure human spirit and commitment and countless hours behind each achievement, the selflessness of volunteers and generosity of donors, and the driving knowledge that we each have a responsibility to ensure that everyone in our community has a home.

1980s – The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless was created by a group of engaged community members in the mid-1980s as a response to the growing number of people experiencing homelessness in our community. The founders established an informal network of homeless service providers including shelters, soup kitchens, government officials and congregations. The initial functions of MCCH included organized advocacy, education, networking, identification of needs, and development of vital services for people experiencing homelessness.

1990s – In 1990, the leadership of the group decided to officially incorporate allowing the organization to professionalize, raise funds, hire staff and operate its own programs. During this period, emergency shelters were operated throughout the county in various public facilities. In 1993, MCCH opened Laytonsville Safe Haven to address the need for a low-demand transitional housing program for mentally ill women and was very successful in serving this population. MCCH received its first grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to open three more Safe Havens in the community.

In 1998, the Men's Emergency Shelter began operating year-round providing safe and secure shelter to approximately 50 men every night and up to 80 men during the winter season and offering supportive services. Intensive advocacy efforts spearheaded by MCCH led to the construction of a state-of-the-art shelter facility, built in partnership with the County government and the Home Builders Care Foundation and opened in 2000.

The summer newsletter will continue the retrospective with the accomplishments of the 2000s.

“Twenty for Twenty” Supporters

In the beginning, planting the seeds...
Adrienne Carr

Strengthening our roots over the years...
Priscilla Fox-Morrill
John Eckenrode
Don Torr
Blair Ewing and Martha Brockway

*Developing and strengthening our branches,
the programs of MCCH...*

Verizon Telecom Pioneers AGB15
First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Gaithersburg
Islamic Center of Maryland
Montgomery County Public Schools
Nathaniel “Tad” Baldwin
Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Freddie Mac Foundation
Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation
Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)

Through it all, strengthening our tree trunk...

Montgomery County Government
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
National Alliance to End Homelessness
William S. Abell Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville
Guy and Laura Cecala

This year we are using the imagery of a tree to show how we have cultivated change over the years. Above is a list of 20 partners who received awards for their contributions toward improving the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

“Anniversary Event” continued from page 1

such a prosperous County as our own, then no one can. Mrs. Leggett brought one of the trees adorning the tables to the podium to remind everyone of MCCH's growth over the years and our ability to branch out into the community. We thank Mark Emmell of Greensmiths, Inc. for donating the holly trees for the centerpieces.

The Jack Romm Trio from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School serenaded guests during the reception. Thanks to Jake Romm on sax, Justin Esposito on bass, and Max Levine on Drums. And finally, we thank our event committee, co-chaired by Laura Cecala and Chuck Covell. We are gratified by the show of support from our sponsors, which are listed on page 5.

Good News, Generous Community

Holiday & Winter Donations

This past holiday season we received donations from over 60 organizations and individuals for clients in all eight of our programs, including new items such as toys, books, games, hand knitted hats, bedding, toiletries, gift cards, and even two brand new Wii gaming systems. This year, for the first time ever, the lists for all 46 clients in the Safe Havens programs were completely filled by generous donors.

The severe weather of this past winter did not diminish the enthusiasm of our donors! Groups that had signed up for Sunday meals brought them in early on Friday and many other groups made special arrangements to deliver their food and hot meals. One donor and her family made a spaghetti dinner for all 200 men at the emergency shelter upon hearing that the scheduled donors could not make it due to the weather.

Thank you to all of our holiday and winter donors!

Doing Good at “the Hop”

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties held a “Holiday Sock Hop” party where they collected socks for the homeless as admission to the event. The nearly 700 employees collected over 3,000 pairs of socks that were donated to the men, women, and children in our programs. Thank you, M-NCPPC!

Radio Public Service Announcements Raise Awareness

A big thank you goes out to Clear Channel Radio for playing PSAs for MCCH on all five of their radio stations during the winter. Information on the number of people experiencing homelessness and ways to help was heard by thousands in the metropolitan area.

Men at Emergency Shelter Receive Medical Care and Shoes

On the day before Thanksgiving, volunteers held a foot clinic at the Home Builders Care Assessment Center that included foot screenings by doctors from Georgetown University Hospital. The project was sponsored by “Our Hearts to Your Soles” and was one of 40 such events across the country. Special thanks to Dr. Paul Cooper, Orthopedic Surgeon and Medical Director of the Foot and Ankle Center at Georgetown University Hospital, plus his

team of foot specialists and his family; Red Wing Shoe Company which donated 100 pairs of shoes; Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics; Richey Shoes; and other professionals. Volunteers of all ages helped to distribute brand-new shoes to men experiencing homelessness.

Got Your Back...Pack!

In January, the HBCAC received 75 new backpacks filled with winter essentials such as blankets, hats, gloves, and other personal care items. The donations came from “Got Your Back...Pack,” a charity led by Register of Wills, Joseph Griffin. Four years ago, Mr. Griffin met a homeless man on the street who was forced to keep all of his possessions in a plastic bag. This experience inspired Mr. Griffin to collect backpacks to restore a sense of dignity to someone experiencing homelessness. Thank you to Mr. Griffin and his entire team!



Investor Spotlight: World Bank Community Connections Fund

Last summer a current employee at the World Bank nominated our organization to receive a grant from the Community Connections Fund. This is an independent organization set up to oversee the allocation of charitable donations raised from the Bank’s annual workplace giving program, known as the Community Connections Campaign. Employees contribute via payroll deductions or cash, as well as organizing special events such as proceeds from holiday parties.

The Campaign benefits over 250 local organizations. We submitted a proposal for our Partnership for Permanent Housing program, which provides permanent supportive housing to single adults and families, and were thrilled to receive a \$50,000 grant. As a recipient, we were invited to participate in their annual fall campaign giving fair. It was a great opportunity to showcase our important work and interact with employees who demonstrated a keen desire to learn about the groups who are supported by the Campaign. Thank you to the employees of the World Bank!



Join MCCH and Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary



Sunday, May 2, 2010
Rockville Town Center Plaza
Registration and Festivities begin at 1:00 pm

Join our 14th annual ShelterWalk 'n Roll. Walk with your family and friends to raise awareness about homelessness and support the programs of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. Come out to show you care while enjoying live music by a local band and fun activities for the entire family! We'll have a fun, energy-filled afternoon!

Registration Fees

You can register for the event online, by mail or on the day of the event:

\$25 for Adults (includes a T-shirt)

\$15 for Children under 18 and students with college I.D. (includes a T-shirt)

Free for children under 5

Register online at www.mcch.net. Click on the "Donate" tab and complete the donation form. Indicate "ShelterWalk" in the "Gift Designation" section and list the names and ages of the walkers you are registering.

Take the **20th Anniversary Challenge** and solicit \$20 or more in pledges from your friends and family! Bring the contributions with you for a special recognition.

Event Schedule

1:00 p.m. – Registration and festivities begin

2:00 p.m. – 1 mile walkathon around Town Center commences, rain or shine

Music and festivities will continue after the walk.

Sponsorships are available for ShelterWalk 'n Roll 2010.

Please consider donating gift cards, movie tickets, craft kits, bus passes, toiletries, new sports equipment and cultural event tickets to our program participants. We'll have a big box for your donations at the event.

Additional Information: Email cindy@mcch.net or call 301.217.0314 x118

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MCCH thanks the following donors for their generous contributions.

MCCH is only able to include donations of \$100 or more made between October 16, 2009 and January 31, 2010.
All donors are truly appreciated, and each gift makes a real difference in lives of people experiencing homelessness.
We apologize for any omissions, and ask that you contact us with corrections.

Community Groups Organizations

Interfaith Committee for the Homeless
United Way of the National Capital Area
Verizon TelecomPioneers, AGB15 Chapter
World Bank Community Connections Fund

Congregations

Ashton United Methodist Church
Bethesda Jewish Congregation
Damascus United Methodist Women
Geneva Presbyterian Church
Global Mission Church
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Our Lady of Grace Church
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Note: Celebrating Partnership Sponsors are listed on page 3
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Montgomery County Dept. of Economic Development

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by Randi Levy
My wonderful Westat colleagues
by Terry L. Savage
Debbie and Rob Wilcox
by Bena Siegel
Candy Wildberger's speedy recovery
by Howard and Sharan London
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Wilson
by Phyllis Kaplan
Renee Worthington
by Barbara Varangis

In Memory of

Dorothy R. Avery
by George Avery
Robert W. Bender
by John Disalvatore and Sandra
Schaller

James Brenits
by Cheryl Morris
Jennifer Burns
by James and Patrice Datovech
Ina Carr
by James and Helen Goebel
Dr. Fei Fei Chao
by Dynaxys IT Department
Scott Deitchman
by Linda and Roy Deitchman
Blair Ewing
by Martha Brockway
Lillian Rubin Fertik
by Robert and Marian Fertik Richter
Rudd Fleming (1908 – 1991)
by Mary Wight Fleming
Robert Louis Gant
by Ruthanne G. Neely
Charles and Ruth Goldman
by Jay Goldman and Rebecca
Salon
Joel Hoffman
by Judith F. Karo
Gus Holzmann
by Joan Henry
Bernard Johnson
by Todd and Elizabeth Harrison
Jeffrey Kay
by Florence Brody
Frank La Ruffa
by Sister Grace Shonk
Clyde D. Messerly
by Blanche P. Messerly
Timothy J. McCabe
by Thomas and Linda McCabe
Matthew James Murad
by Ronald Murad
Michael Paul Murad
by Ronald Murad
My Mother
by Tamara Diernan
Our Parents
by Anonymous
E.R. Pemsel
by Pamela Klickna
Patricia Ryan
by Patrick Ryan
Wendy Shore's father
by Howard and Sharan London
Sol Silverman
by Carol S. Silverman
Greyson Tolson
by Phyllis Colbeth
Robert Watkins
by Randi Levy
Alan Wiesenthal
by Daniel Silver

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Save the Date for ShelterWalk 'n Roll



Sunday, May 2, 2010

**Join us for this fun, family-friendly event
to raise funds for our programs
and celebrate our anniversary together!**

See page 5 for more information.