

# HOMELESS TIMES



*A publication of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless*

*600-B East Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850*

*www.mcch.net*

*(301) 217-0314*

*Fall 2004*

## Work of Community Members Highlighted at Annual Breakfast



*Executive Director Sharan London and County Council President Steve Silverman with Bannockburn ES award recipients Elizabeth Whiting, Kimberly Bosnic and Sheryl Israel*

On September 8, MCCH celebrated our many community partners at the annual “Celebrating Partnerships” breakfast at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville. County Council President Steve Silverman keynoted the event, praising MCCH and its partners for the successful opening of Seneca Heights Apartments. He also discussed how much work there is yet for us to do as a community on the housing front. Executive Director Sharan London gave an overview of the organization’s accomplishments over the past year before honoring a number of people and organizations for their work on behalf of people experiencing homelessness.

**Bannockburn Elementary School** was honored for our continuing partnership in youth engagement around the issue of homelessness (Kimberly Bosnic, Principal, Heidi Bumpers & Sheryl Israel, Parents, and Elizabeth Whiting, Guidance Counselor). Honoree **O’Brien’s Pit Barbeque** offers generous in-kind support of the Men’s Emergency Shelter (Ken O’Brien, Jr.). **Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** sponsored a series of radio spots for our public education campaign (Debra

Kaufmann). WGMS/WTOP employee **Melissa Addams** was honored for her work on our public education committee, especially on the radio campaign. Honoree **Westmoreland Congregational UCC** supported the Partnership for Permanent Housing program through a series of arts events (Rich Smith, Pastor, and Alex von Streeruwitz). The **Co-occurring Disorders Subcommittee** of MCCH was recognized for its work raising awareness among providers (Lisa Wallace Annulis, Co-chair, Pat Crist, Co-chair, Kim Ball, Co-chair, Darrell Butler, Lester Chavez, Barbara Fielding, Alice Forcier, Ron Hall, Tanya Jones, Rebecca Katz, Pamalee Owens, and Kyoko Queen). Finally, several former members of the MCCH Board of Directors, **John Eckenrode, Candy Graves, Marilyn Kresky-Wolff, Brenda Pascal, and Judy Tarr** were honored for their service over the years.

Special thanks to Caribou Coffee on Norbeck Road and Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for their donation of coffee and water, respectively, for the event.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Alice Forcier**, Director of Housing Solutions  
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**Jim Russ**, House Manager, **Carlos Paiva**, Case Manager, **Alexander Perry, David Roberts, Phil Porzel**  
*Laytonsville Havens:*  
**Anne Chapin, Mandy David, Pat Ellsbury**  
*Gaithersburg Havens:*  
**Neema Sitta**, House Manager, **Jean Ekpenyong**, Case Manager, **Stephanie Adams, Cynthia Burley, Rosa Sorrell, Sharon Taylor, Sandra Wallace, Rose White, Lisa Wood**  
*Takoma Park Havens:*  
**Carolyn Amspaugh**, Case Manager, **Noeline Baird-Lewis, Juanita Barnes, Chriss Collins, Lisa Cook, Juanita Reed, Merchell Reedy**  
*Seneca Heights Apartments:*  
**Lauran Harvey, Elaine Sands & Allison Suarez-Charles**, Case Managers, **Archie Ashton, Kevin Beverly, Raymond Griffin, Yolanda Hilliard-Cuadra, Nora Lee Parker,**

## WAYS TO HELP

Contact Sarah Mahin at 301/217-0314 with any questions regarding these activities. Please see page 6 for special holiday needs and projects.

### SENECA HEIGHTS APARTMENTS VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Evening tutors for GED candidates

Computer Literacy Classes

Multicultural cooking lessons

Beautification Committees that would plant flowers, decorate for the holidays

Drivers needed for weekly, scheduled one hour outings for clients to the grocery store, shopping mall, or library

Facilitator for film and book club

### ADOPT-A-SHELTER!

The Men's Emergency Shelter is open all day on Saturdays and Sundays. We have a need for all meals on those days. Please consider if you or your organization could prepare/bring food for at least one day a month. This is a great regular activity for faith-based groups or youth groups.

### MEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER "WISH LIST"

Men's toiletries - toilet paper - lotion - towels - underwear - socks - laundry detergent - cereal - milk - bag lunches - canned goods - paper goods

### BECOME A MEMBER

Becoming a member of MCCH is a unique way to show support for the Coalition and its programs. By becoming a member, you are not only showing your support for the organization, but you are also sending a strong message to funders and policymakers that you are behind us in our efforts to end homelessness. If you are interested in becoming a member of MCCH, please call the office at 301-217-0314.

The **Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless**, a nonprofit organization, provides shelter, supportive services and advocacy for the homeless in our community. Through **Safe Havens**, the Coalition provides shelter and rehabilitative programs year-round for forty homeless, mentally ill adults. The Coalition also operates the **Men's Emergency Shelter**, which offers overnight refuge to homeless men. **The Partnership for Permanent Housing** is a collaborative initiative managed by the Coalition that provides permanent housing for families using project-based housing vouchers and intensive case management. **Seneca Heights Apartments**, the first Personal Living Quarters in Montgomery County, houses 40 single adults and



## A NOTE FROM THE NEW BOARD CHAIR



Autumn greetings to all members and supporters,

As the days get shorter and the temperature drops, we are all reminded of those who are most vulnerable in our community and their needs. In my many years of working for Montgomery County in homeless services, I always counted on the strength of MCCH and its membership to be on the forefront to provide effective service to the homeless in our community. Since retiring from the county, I'm proud and honored to serve on the Board of the Coalition and to assume "Chairpersonship" for the next year, following in the very able footsteps of my predecessor, Kathy Mitchell. I'm excited to be part of this organization and look forward to working with all of you over the upcoming year.

It has been an exciting year of accomplishments for the Coalition! Some of the highlights include:

- Seneca Heights Apartments opened this summer and are fully occupied at this writing. SHA has already held activities for families and single adults and a real community is evolving there.
- The Partnership for Permanent Housing gave more families places to call home, close to their children's school and their places of work.
- The Men's Emergency Shelter served approximately 800 men in the last fiscal year. We are adding another bilingual case manager this winter.
- Safe Havens continued to provide quality services to men and women with mental illness who had been living on the streets.
- In recent months, we have formed new partnerships with private funders like the Meyer Foundation and the Graham Fund. We continue to reach out to new partners to better serve the homeless in our community.

I hope that you and your family will join us on the National Mall for the 17th Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon on Saturday, November 20th. The Walkathon program is the largest annual fundraiser for MCCH. Public education is a big part of the county's ten-year plan to end homelessness and your participation and sponsorships of the mini-walks demonstrate that ending homelessness is possible and a priority. See page 4 for information on how you can help with the Walkathon.

There are so many ways you can contribute to our efforts to end homelessness, either through volunteering your time or by participating in our many community fundraisers! And to those of you who have given so generously over the year, we thank you and deeply appreciate your incredible support.

*Carol Pearson*

### MCCH ADVOCATES AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS FOR SECTION 8

There are serious issues surrounding funding for the Section 8 voucher program across the country, including in Montgomery County. MCCH participated in a "Save Section 8" rally at the Capitol on September 8. MCCH staff were quoted in two Washington Post articles about cuts to the program in Montgomery County and the impact on people experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless. For more information on the Section 8 program and our advocacy efforts, check out our website at [www.mcch.net](http://www.mcch.net).

# Support MCCH in the 17th Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon

It's that time again! Join us for the *Help the Homeless* Walkathon on Saturday, November 20, 2004 on the National Mall. The Coalition is already busy during this successful *Help the Homeless* season. At press time, 12 schools held mini-walks for MCCH and we've delivered many interactive educational presentations on homelessness to students. HTH has grown into the largest funding collaborative focused on homelessness in the greater Washington area- and it is the largest annual fundraiser for MCCH.

The Coalition is proud to be a beneficiary agency in this important program, and hopes that you will participate on our behalf. Last year, over **1,250** people walked in *Help the Homeless* events in support of MCCH, raising a record amount of dollars to help prevent and end homelessness in Montgomery County. This year, we hope to surpass these numbers, and we need your help to achieve our goals.



The walker registration fee is \$25 for adults and

\$15 for youth (under age 25). All walkers will receive a HTH T-shirt. The Coalition will receive the ENTIRE registration fee, any pledges that you

collect, as well as a walker incentive from Fannie Mae based on the number of people who walk on our behalf. So recruit your family, friends and co-workers, put on your walking shoes, and join us! If you can't walk, why not consider volunteering for one of the events? You'll count toward our walker incentive (if you pay the registration fee), and it's a great way to be involved. **Please email**

**sarah@mcch.net** or call **(301) 217-0314** for a **HTH Walker Registration Form**. You can also register online at [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org) or on-site the day of the walk- don't forget



Montgomery County  
Coalition For The Homeless



## Ways to Spread Holiday Cheer

### Safe Havens

Safe Havens serve single adults with mental illness who have been living on the street. MCCH can provide you with lists of items that Safe Havens clients both want and need. If your company or family would like to buy holiday gifts for Safe Haven clients, please contact Sarah Mahin in the MCCH office.

### Partnership for Permanent Housing & Seneca Heights Apartments (families with children)

MCCH believes strongly that parents should be active participants in making the holidays special for their children. To that end, we've developed two great ways for individuals, groups and companies to make this possible.

- You may want to purchase **gift cards** so that parents can purchase clothing and toys that they know their children need and want. Using gift cards is also a great exercise in holiday budgeting for our clients. Gift cards from the following stores (accessible to our clients) are welcomed:

Target  
Kmart

Toys R Us  
Hechts

- You may purchase and put together **holiday cookie baking kits** for PPH and SHA families. This is a great way to help children and families experience a holiday ritual together that they might not be able to do otherwise. The kits should include everything to make cookies from scratch- including baking sheets, cooking spray, sprinkles, batter ingredients, cookie cutters, colorful holiday cookies tins-and you may want to include your favorite family recipe!
- Help SHA and PPH families save all their precious memories through another holiday family ritual, give a **family photo kit!** These kits can include: a photo album, disposable cameras, gift card to a photo processing shop, and scrapbook materials.

### Seneca Heights Apartments (single adults)

SHA clients could use gift cards from grocery stores and Kmart or Target to help pay for their holiday and everyday needs.

### Men's Emergency Shelter

The MES provides overnight shelter to vulnerable men. The needs of the MES increase in the winter, and we welcome gifts of new toiletries (especially disposable razors, shaving cream, soap) and washcloths. There are also opportunities to prepare and serve meals around the holidays for the Shelter. If you have any questions about holiday ideas or to schedule meal provision for MES clients, please contact the office.

### Help the Homeless with your Kids!

During this holiday season, work to instill a year-round sense of caring for the homeless. Start off by walking in the Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall on Saturday, November 20th. Before and after the walk, talk with your kids about the causes of homelessness and how you can help people experiencing homelessness. For age-appropriate educational tools for children, see the National Alliance to End Homelessness' website at [www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org). You can also choose "ways to help" listed on page 2 of this newsletter and do the activity with your children.

If you have questions regarding any of these programs, please contact Sarah Mahin at 301/217-0314 or [sarah@mcch.net](mailto:sarah@mcch.net).

## Save the Date for Freddie Mac's *Hoops for the Homeless 2005*

The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless was recently chosen to be one of the beneficiaries for the annual Freddie Mac *Hoops for the Homeless* tournament. The tournament will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2005. A charitable one-day 3-on-3 tournament for all skill levels, this event features round robin play in different divisions based on experience. More details will be available on our website in mid-November, but visit [www.hoopsforthehomeless.org](http://www.hoopsforthehomeless.org) for more information on the event in the meantime. We thank Freddie Mac for this wonderful opportunity and look forward to a great event.



## THANK YOU

**To those who have given \$100 or more since our last newsletter.**

*MCCH is only able to print donations of \$100 or more. This reflects the incredible growth in support from people since MCCH's inception. All donors are appreciated - and each gift makes a real difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness.*

### INDIVIDUALS

Lahouaria Berrabah  
Robin Block  
Catherine Bowe  
Maria Del Carpio  
Anthony Chite  
Verrick and Patricia French  
Michael and Sybil Greenhut  
Stephen and Miranda Herm/The Washington Post  
Dr. Toshio Kubo  
Donald and Carol Lipton  
Albin and Hermina Pfeifer  
Michael and Ann Pupjak  
Rocky Hoopengardner and Catharine Smith  
Clifford and Deborah White

### ORGANIZATIONS

Bethesda United Church of Christ  
Church of the Resurrection  
The Harwood House at Damascus United Methodist Church  
Holy Redeemer Church  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
New Hope Presbyterian Church  
Salem United Methodist Church Men's Group  
St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church

### IN HONOR OF

Thomas VanderMale by Karen Wassman  
Joan and Ronnie Delovitch by the Cwerner Family  
The Marriage of Bill Atwell and Rachel London by Michael and Sybil Greenhut

### IN MEMORY OF

Dorothy Cohen by Renee Belisle, Cindy Breslau, Milton and Dorothy London, Jonathan and Julie Maltzman, Jacky and Dan McGroarty, and Bob Atlas and Gloria Paul.

Catherine Forman by W. Leslie Allison, Kamala Anandam, John Bender, Patricia Caja, Eileen Cooper, Burnice Dove, Richard and Edna Forman, William and Elizabeth Hayden, Susan Ingraham, Paul and Beatrice March, Michael and Martha Najata, Bradford and Agnes Nusbaum, Frederick Rabel, Grace Slatter, Dr. Anne Stearns, Robert and

# Save The Date!



Saturday,  
November 20, 2004  
Downtown, D.C.  
Designate "MCCHI!"

inside...  
Ways to Help During  
the Holiday Season  
- Page 6  
Letter from the New  
Board Chair  
- Page 3

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