

Fall 2011



Friends to friends

Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children

Is there a Nurse in the House?

This December Sharon will stand proudly in front of her graduating class with a document in hand stating she has successfully completed her clinical and classroom work to become a Certified Nurses Assistant.



Sharon has overcome many challenges to attain this outstanding achievement.

“I spent two years in college floundering while in an abusive relationship and while caring for my child,” says Sharon. “When homelessness hit, I was at rock bottom and no place to go with my son. My family was not supportive; my financial situation was gloomy; and worst of all, my only option for housing was to share an overcrowded apartment.”

“I knew all I needed was a safe place to live and some support and guidance to help me achieve my goals.” Uncertain of where she might find a place that could meet her needs, Sharon was referred to Friends’ Emergency Family Shelter. “I found my roadmap the first few days after entering Friends Shelter. I was armed with support, a wonderful place to live, guidance

and a plan. My compass was now pointed in the direction of my goals.”

Within a short period of time, Sharon arranged for childcare, accessed healthcare, secured full-time employment, located housing and enrolled in a Certified Nurses Program. She currently works more than 20 hours a week in retail sales, attends school full-time, and dedicates her early evenings to reading and playing with her son. “Late evenings are reserved for schoolwork and studying for tests,” said Sharon.

Sharon’s goals are to become a Registered Nurse, find a permanent place for her and her son to live, and save enough money to purchase a more reliable automobile. If the drive and motivation Sharon has exhibited in past months serve as an indicator of future accomplishments, we foresee Sharon becoming an independent woman, working in the health care profession, and enjoying a stable living environment with her young son. It is our privilege to accompany Sharon on her path to success. ☀

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- Glenda Brion**, *Development Coordinator*

Follow us on Facebook

Friends Association is now on Facebook. Please go to our page and become a fan. This is a great way to stay connected and up-to-date on all that is happening with our organization. We share success stories, notices about upcoming events, and items of interest.



After you become a fan, please repost our Facebook message to your friends and family. That way even more people will know about Friends Association and the value we provide to the community. ☀



You can help homeless families

By making a donation online at www.friendsassoc.org.

- or -

Sending a donation in the enclosed envelope.

THANK YOU



Harmony House

A Community Partnership to Benefit the Homeless



- ▶ At the end of the project the house will be sold on the open market and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to Friends Association and Safe Harbor.
- ▶ The funds raised will support the shelter and homeless prevention programs for families at Friends Association and the programs for homeless single men and women at Safe Harbor.

Have you ever asked yourself, “How can I help end homelessness?”

A very exciting community project has begun!

Developers, Eli Kahn, Jack Loew and Gary Toll would like to help end homelessness in Chester County and this is their plan:

- ▶ The developers own a residential building lot at the corner of Harmony and Potter Alleys in West Chester.
- ▶ They intend to construct a three bedroom single family home on the property.
- ▶ The home will be designed to look like a brick carriage house with modern HVAC, kitchen, 2½ baths, basement and two car parking.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- ▶ Offer your homebuilding talents and services.
- ▶ Donate needed building materials: windows, carpeting, paint, plumbing supplies, landscaping materials, etc.
- ▶ Make a financial donation to help pay for supplies and materials.

Harmony House is expected to receive great publicity! A project sign and news release will give credit to all donors who participate.

For more information, contact Glenda Brion at 610-431-3598, ext. 219 or g.brion@friendsassoc.org. ☀

ROTARY FRUIT SALE BOOSTS HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM



The Rotary Club of West Chester organized a Fruit Sale to support our efforts to help end family homelessness. Co-Chairs Cristina Combe and Elizabeth Guman, along with Rotary Club President Bill Ronayne, proudly presented a check in the amount of \$12,500 to Glenda Brion from Friends Association.

The Rotary Club of West Chester sold many cases of Florida oranges and grapefruits to their neighbors, friends and family to raise these funds for the Homeless Prevention Program at Friends Association. We say *Thank You* to all the Rotary members and all of their generous friends and family who participated in this year’s fruit sale. We are so very grateful for this amazing community project! ☀

Christmas In July

Eagles Home Association

On Saturday, July 30, 2011 the Eagles Home Association hosted a charitable motorcycle ride to benefit the families we serve. The event was organized by Michele and Joe Tigie who asked participants to donate gift cards for area grocery and general merchandise stores. The riders contributed 45 gift cards (\$25 each) and over \$200 in donations. Because of their generosity



our families have been able to purchase food, back to school items and household supplies. Thank you, Beth Morris, owner of the West Bradford Grill, for providing lunch to all of the riders. We are extremely grateful to West Chester Eagles Home Association for organizing this yearly event to benefit our shelter and homeless prevention programs. ☀

working to end family homelessness

The West Chester Charity Ball 2011

A Friends Celebration

The West Chester Charity Ball is one of the most anticipated events of the holiday season and is always held on the first Saturday in December in conjunction with Old Fashioned Christmas in West Chester. On December 3, 2011 this festive occasion will bring together over 250 caring individuals who are committed to ending homelessness in our community. The proceeds from this event will support Friends Association's Emergency Family Shelter and Homeless Prevention programs.

Whether you enjoy the innovative menu, cocktails with old and new friends, or showing off your

new dance moves, this event kicks off the holiday season in a memorable way. The mood of the evening is celebratory and spirited, and benefits local families who are facing eviction or are already homeless.

Please plan to join us for a very special evening! Visit our website, www.friendsassoc.org, to purchase tickets or become a sponsor of this important fundraiser. Or contact Glenda Brion at g.brion@friendsassoc.org or 610-431-3598 ext. 219. ☀



CRAFT NIGHT FOR MOMS AND KIDS

PeaceWork, Ltd. was founded in 1995 by Barbara DesJardins and a dedicated group of volunteers. They have been working with the families at our Emergency Family Shelter for many years. Once a month PeaceWork volunteers provide an arts and crafts program for the children and an adult program for their

mothers. Craft Night is a wonderful outing for everyone allowing artistic ideas and skills to shine. Shown in the photo to the right, Board member Serita Spadoni explains, "I very much appreciate being able to interact with the families that Friends Association serves, especially the wonderful children."

Magic City

A Collaborative Work of Art

Longtime Friends Association supporter, artist Adrian Martinez, was joined by artists Jeff Schaller, Rhoda Kahler and Jamie Paxson in providing children from our program with an opportunity to experience art in a very personal way.

After receiving a guided tour of the artists' exhibit at West Chester University, the group collaborated to create a mural that is displayed in our front office. The children enthusiastically shared their vision for the colorful canvas before

getting to work with paintbrushes, wax and clay. Buildings are prominently featured in the finished work, symbolizing the importance of having a solid place to live. Also featured are road signs which characterize the children finding their way to a stable home.

This activity served several purposes: the children had a chance to express themselves; learn new art techniques; and explore their interest in a future career in art.

If you are in the neighborhood, stop by to see this wonderful creation! ☀





Working to End Family Homelessness

Wish List

Gift Cards to

- Giant
- Kmart
- Target
- Walmart

Twin Mattresses & Box Springs

Umbrellas

Flashlights & Batteries

Washable Crayons & Doodle Pads

Kitchen Pots & Pans

THANKS SO MUCH!

Friends Association's Housing Programs

EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER

We provide shelter to families with children for 60-90 days while helping them to connect to community resources and get back on their feet financially and emotionally. Our goal is to move families to stable housing when they leave.

HOMELESS PREVENTION

We provide rental assistance and case management for families who are coming from a shelter or have been evicted. We also prevent homelessness whenever possible by working with landlords to prevent eviction.



Thank You for Helping Us Exceed Our Goals in 2010-11

Between July 2010 and June 2011 Friends Association served 52 families, including 94 children and 55 adults, in our Shelter and Homeless Prevention Programs. Your donations and support helped make this possible.

