Marc’s Message

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Thank you for your continued partnership!

Marc Craig
President

Marc's Message

CHN mobilizes to assist residents in condemned motel

“How do you dismantle four years of your life in 24 hours?” Linda Fitzpatrick asked, tears streaming, as she struggled to push the grocery cart of her clothing through the doorway of the Royal Inn.

She had no idea where to go with her adult son who has special needs. Linda was one of the approximately 160 residents forced to move October 3 after being given a 24-hour notice that their home had been condemned by the Royal Oak Township inspector.

As Linda moved into the lobby, members of our PATH team (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) team, which mobilized for assistance, were there to offer housing referrals and resources. We were joined by community collaborators Common Ground, The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), Michigan DHS and TTI.

“There was a need for help, so we went,” said Mellena Martinez, our Community Programs manager. “This is what we do.”

Every day, members of CHN’s PATH team conduct street outreach for those in a housing crisis. This work is in addition to the thousands of people we assist with each year who call our Housing Resource Center.

As the 11 a.m. move-out deadline approached, throngs of residents moved out through the lobby. Chuck Bratton, our Housing Resource Center manager, referred residents to Allison Radtke, our Oakland University intern, who was offering housing information and resources.

Well after 11 a.m., the owners were granted a reprieve and some who had stayed on the grounds moved back in. Many still wanted to leave and many others relocated with assistance.

Within a week, we were able to assist a father and his grown son in securing an apartment. We are continuing to work with more than 20 former residents of the Royal Inn.
Bring It Home 2014

Your help allows more to say ‘Welcome to my home’

Thank you to all involved with Bring it Home 2014, helping us raise more than $100,000 to be used in our work providing people with a place to call home! This year’s theme, “Welcome to my home,” highlighted the varying obstacles people may face in getting or keeping their home. There is no one-size-fits-all solution and our work is done one front door at a time. The short video shown at the event is available on the video page of our website www.communityhousingnetwork.org.

The event included the inaugural presentation of the James C. Merritt Volunteer Service Award, given to James C. Merritt, who has shown an extraordinary commitment and dedication to the mission of CHN and served on our board of directors for more than a dozen years.

One of the highlights of the evening was Tanya Williams explaining the difference that being a part of Adopt A Family meant to her and her two children last year. She received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Standing ovation. Funds raised that evening included more than $20,000 to helpfund Adopt A Family this year.

Thank you to our generous sponsors this year, including our Leadership Sponsors: West Construction Services; this year’s $5,000 President’s Circle sponsors: Flagstar Bank, Maplewood Development, and O’Brien Construction Co., Inc.; and this year’s $2,500 Benefactor sponsors: Community Living Services, Perfect Floors, and Royal Park Hotel.

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors, donors and all who attended! Thank you!

Adopt A Family marks a decade of helping at the holidays

“My sons will always grow up knowing the kindness you extended to our family,” one of the more than 700 program participants wrote in a thank you note after last year’s Adopt A Family.

This year, our 10th for Adopt A Family, we hope to be able to help even more people in our housing programs. Volunteers and donors are crucial to making this a success.

Many of the Adopt A Family recipients were recently homeless. Participant wish lists include basic items such as warm coats, boots, hats, gloves—and a special wish or two. Donors are asked to shop for items from the list, spending no more than $100 per recipient, and return the new and unused gifts wrapped and labeled by December 8.

James Finley receives the Emmett Jones Memorial Award

“Without CHN I would probably still been in my car,” said James Finely, this year’s recipient of the Emmett Jones Memorial Award. The award is presented each year at Bring it Home to recognize the hard work, perseverance and accomplishments of the participants in Community Housing Network’s programs.

James, who was formerly homeless, found help through CHN’s programs. He is now a housing specialist in our Housing Resource Center providing information, resources, connections, and when appropriate, the hope of his own story.

A committee, comprised primarily of community partners, selected James from all those who were nominated saying he exemplifies the success possible through our programs.

Congratulations, James!

CHN assists residents

The recipients are so humble and grateful when they receive their gifts” said Lisa Fuhr, our special events and volunteer coordinator. “It’s a truly heart-warming event.”

To adopt a family or individual, or donate general items, please contact Lisa Fuhr at LFuhr@chninc.net or 248-824-7316. More information is available at www.communityhousingnetwork.org/adoptafamily. Donations can be made by clicking on the dropdown tab in the donation section of our website.

James Finley receives the 2014 Emmett Jones Memorial award from Audra Westberg of West Construction.

Acquiring the first month’s rent is a constant dilemma since it is not a traditional provision of housing programs. Unrestricted donations are always greatly appreciated as many of those we assist face unforeseen crises.
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Let us know what you want!

Do you prefer to receive this newsletter (Network News) and our e-newsletter (e-Network News)? Or just one or the other? Email Marylynn G. Hewitt: mghewitt@chninc.net and let her know! We want to meet your needs.

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