

Helping Hands of Springfield

January-March 2006

Volume 2, Issue 1

Shelter News

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Welcome Brenda Johnson, New Executive Director



Brenda Johnson comes to Helping Hand from Catholic Charities, where she was the supervisor of the Crisis Office. Brenda has been working with the homeless in Springfield for over 7 years and is excited about the opportunity to continue her work here at Helping Hands. Brenda has a Bachelor's in Social Work from the University of Illinois @ Springfield and is in the final phase of completing her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. Brenda is excited about the challenge of working in a shelter environment and is excited about coming onboard as the Executive Director of Helping Hands.

Happy Holidays from the Staff, Board of Directors and Clients of Helping Hands!

As we look back at 2005, I cannot express how grateful we are for everyone who remembered us with donations of meals, food, supplies and monetary donations to support our programs. As I begin to get acquainted with the day to day operations of the shelter, it is obvious that this agency relies heavily upon the kindness and generosity of our loyal donors. Without these donations we would not be able to fulfill our mission and maintain the programs and services we offer to our clients. Our agency is only as strong as our community support and without that support, we cannot meet the increasing needs of those we serve. Each night we are forced to turn people away from the shelter because our beds are full. Unfortunately, as the homeless population grows, we too must expand to assist those individuals who are unable to maintain self sufficiency. Our success hinges on our donors' commitment to our agency and our commitment to serving those less fortunate. My hope for 2006 is that our donors will continue to give to those less fortunate in our community through our agency and as always, to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.. Brenda

Support our 8th Annual Soup Supper!

Helping Hands is pleased to announce the 8th Annual Soup Supper is scheduled for Sunday, March 19, 2006 from 11:00—2:00. In addition to our traditional menu of soup and sandwiches, this year we are adding an "Irish Flair" to the event with the addition of

corned beef and cabbage. Entertainment will include a performance by the St. Andrew's Society Celtic Dancers and children's activities sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 61 will round out the day. Advance tickets are available for sale at the shelter or by

calling Brenda Johnson at 522-0048. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids or \$20 for a Family Pass. Come support the shelter and enjoy an afternoon of Irish fun!



Helping Hands Unveils Tiered Giving Program

To thank the faithful donors who make Helping Hands' work possible, the new donor recognition program will honor givers in the newsletter at the end of each fiscal year.

Donor Recognition Program

Helping Hands of Springfield relies on your generous annual donations, along with local and federal grants, to achieve its mission: "shelter the homeless, provide support, promote independence and work with others in the prevention of homelessness in the community."

You may give as an individual, as a family, or in honor of a loved one. Gifts of stock, property and life insurance are accepted, as well as cash.

Bricklayer: \$20,000 and above

The Bricklayer makes a major contribution to Helping Hands, by funding priority projects such as a new building, or a van to transport clients. Bricklayers also support day-to-day operations, ensuring that Helping Hands can continue to shelter individuals in need. Your donations allow Helping Hands to create or expand ongoing programs.

Legacy: \$10,000 and above

The Legacy contribution would largely be used to help us maintain our daily activities, and would also assist with making special purchases, such as a copy machine or a telephone system. This donation supports our mission, while allowing Helping Hands the flexibility to determine which programs your funds would benefit the most.

Sustainer: \$5000 and above

As a Sustainer, your gift ensures that Helping Hands' successful programs, including its 33-bed shelter and 16-bed transitional housing apartment complex, can continue.

Examples of what donations at the Sustainer level can do:

\$9700: One year of shelter utilities
 \$7800: One year shelter lease
 \$7500: One year apartment complex administration
 \$5700: One month shelter for ten people

Patron: \$500 and above

As a Patron donor, your investment helps clients make lasting improvements to their lives.

Helping Hands not only assists homeless individuals with their basic needs of food, shelter, and emergency assistance, but also teaches them the life and job skills necessary for independence.

Examples of what donations at the patron level can do:

\$621: Counseling and case management for one week

\$532: Shelter for two people for two weeks.

Donor: \$50 and above

As a 365-day a year, seven days a week facility, Helping Hands of Springfield needs funds to house Springfield's homeless every day.

Examples of what donations at the donor level can do:

Did you know?

\$96: One month general supplies for the shelter (i.e. paper goods, cleaning supplies)

\$58: One month office supplies for the shelter

\$57: Three nights of shelter for one person

Is Your Church or Work Group Looking for a Project To Sponsor?

Maybe you could consider sponsoring a BIG TICKET PURCHASE for the Shelter?

After 17 years in business, the shelter is in need of replacing some antiquated equipment, but our budget simply will not allow it. Below is a list of some items/projects your family, work or church group might consider sponsoring!

Office Copier & Monthly Maintenance Contract (\$4000)

Painting, New Flooring & General Remodeling of the Shelter (\$3500.00)

6' Tables & Chairs for Social Lounge (\$900.00)

Miscellaneous Office Equipment & Furniture (\$600)

Security Cameras for Shelter (\$600)

Lori Skufca , Shelter Case Manager

Lori came to Helping Hands from a part-time position with Fifth Street Renaissance. She had been case managing clients as their Housing Specialist. She has an extensive experience working in social services, specifically with the homeless and at-risk populations. Lori is a Springfield native, and a single mother of 3. Lori has a Bachelor’s Degree in Child Family & Community Service from Sangamon State University (UIS). Lori welcome’s the challenge of working in a program with diverse populations and is excited to be a member of the staff of Helping Hands. Lori will serve in the Case Management position at the Shelter.



Lori Skufca and Apple Glover

Apple Glover, Shelter Administrator

Apple returns to social services after taking a sabbatical to work in the “For Profit” world. Apple is the former Administrative Assistant of Fifth Street Renaissance and has worked closely with many of the same clients that are provided services in the shelter each day. Apple is a Chicago native, and a single mother of 3. Apple is currently enrolled in school at Lincoln Land Community college and is pursuing a degree in social and criminal justice. Apple is excited about being back in social services and is working hard to get the shelter back into shape.

If anyone is interested in donating a meal to the shelter, please feel free to contact Apple at 522-0048 and she can schedule your group.

A Special Thank You to Buraski Builders for donating their time, staff and the materials to refurbish our showers.

AGENCY WISH LIST

Plates, cups, napkins, toilet paper, towels, tissues

COFFEE!

Deodorant, Shampoo, Shaving Cream, Razors, Non-alcoholic Mouth Wash, Feminine Hygiene Products, Hand Lotion, Toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs & brushes

Did I mention Coffee?

Bleach, Laundry Soap (Powder), Lysol Spray, Dish Detergent , Garbage bags (all sizes), Clorox cleaner.

Hats, gloves & socks for both men and women, twin bed sheets, blankets, pillowcases, pillows, towels, washcloths, kitchen towels

Did I mention Creamer & Sugar too!

White or colored Xerox/Copy Paper, Stamps, Scotch Tape, White Business Size Envelopes & Bus Tokens.

Oh Yeah, I forgot Coffee!

(we really use a lot of coffee)

Shelter News

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Donor Recognition Party Reception and Father's Day Event ~ A Success!

On June 30, 2005, Helping Hands of Springfield Inc. held a Donor Recognition Reception at Maldaner's Restaurant. The reception was designed to recognize the donors we have, to educate individuals about the mission of the shelter and to encourage others to consider donating to Helping Hands of Springfield. We had over thirty people in attendance, many of whom enjoyed the presentations and the opportunity to interact with staff and board members of the shelter.

Helping Hands of Springfield would like to thank the following businesses/organizations who contributed to the event: Robbies, Feed Store, Augie's Front Burner, Incredibly Delicious, Coco-Bon Gourmet Chocolate, and GFS. We would especially like to thank Maldaner's for all their help and contribution to this event.

Watch for announcements of the next Donor Recognition Reception in late Spring of 2006!

During the month of June several area businesses assisted with our Father's Day House Event in which customers donated a dollar and paper houses with their father's (or other honoree's) name was displayed in the store.

Helping Hands would like to thank the following businesses who assisted with this event: Garden of Eatin', Cardologist, Andiamo's, Illinois Department of Public Aid and CVS.

