



Arundel House of Hope

Helping the Homeless Since 1992

April 2006

Arundel House of Hope Spring 2006 Newsletter

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Join our mailing list!

Greetings!

Spring is in the air and we are excited about all our growth and new programs . We recently received a grant for \$8,000 from the McCormick Tribune Foundation (Baltimore Sun) that will support the new Resource and Day Center. We also have numerous other grants that we have applied for that we expect to hear about in the coming months. The Resource and Day Center completed its first full week and we had 37 people participate in the program. This number will only grow as we expand and market our services. If you know of anyone who would like a copy of this newsletter please forward a copy to them or sign them up below. I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter holiday. Thanks for your continued support. Regards, Mario Berninzoni, Executive Director

**Winter Relief
Receives
Award from
Anne Arundel
Leadership
Phil Bailey
Accepts
Outstanding
Service Award**

Join



On April 5th, Winter Relief was awarded the first annual Leadership Anne Arundel Organizational Trustee Award. Phil Bailey accepted the award on behalf of Arundel House

of Hope at the event. Winter Relief received this award for its commitment to serve the community and make a difference. Congratulations to everyone that helps make Winter Relief a great success each year.

[Find out more....](#)

Robbie Miller from Holy Trinity received an award from a Cardinal

by Mario Berninzoni

Long time volunteer and Board member Robbie Miller from Holy Trinity Catholic Church received an award at the 27th annual Social Ministry Convocation at Seton Keough High School in Baltimore, which featured Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He received this award for his community service and commitment to social justice issues. The event was held on March 4th, congratulations to Robbie, you deserve it!

[Find out more....](#)

Winter Relief Update

by Phil Bailey

The 14th year of Winter Relief came to a close the morning of April 3. Year end closings are met with a simultaneous sigh of relief and a sense of sadness. It's been a long season and many are tired. It will be nice to rest. We are thankful for, and proud of, the service we have been able to provide as the hands of God. A job well done. In our hearts and souls however, we know that much still needs to be done, the job is not finished by a long shot. Not all is well with the people we have served this winter and our prayers and

thoughts go with them. We can be joyful that something is very different this year. Our relationship, the community we have strived to create will not be put on hold until next November. We have been faithful to our ministry and are empowering a new ministry. The AHOH Resource and Day Center will continue to build on the community started by Winter Relief. The ministry of Winter Relief is a blessing from God to both the serving and the served. We are 14 years old and getting stronger every year. Who da thunk it and what do you know! God is great!

Resource and Day Center Update

by Phil Bailey (Doug Meyers with the Day Center's first Client)



The Resource and Day Center opened for business on Monday April 3. Very exciting is the way I would describe the day. We have known for years of the need for this type of facility

and now it is a reality. The first week was a learning experience and a preview of the good we will be able to do through this Center. The Center is dependant on the commitment of our volunteer staff. We currently have enough volunteers to open on a limited schedule. Our hours of operation are Monday and Friday 8:30 to 5 and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 to Noon. As the volunteer hours increase we will increase the hours we are open. The first week of operation provided 37 people with services by volunteers who worked 105 hours. Visitors to the Center are struck by the size of the facility and scope of the services we are offering. All the churches and people who are the Arundel House of Hope should be proud of the fruits of their labors. The Anne Arundel Food Bank donated a Van to the Day Center. The Van, along with transportation volunteers will help meet a need much larger then we first thought. Any one interested in driving this Van please give us a call. It drives like a dream; it won't cost you a penny for gas and it has a top notch sound system complete with a tape player. Tape Player? Well maybe not quite "top notch". Additional volunteer activities are available and I ask you to "try it

you'll like it" Just ask some of the people who have signed on as volunteers. **Joe Gatto, Larry Hagwood, Ed Stoops, Alex Lopata, Terry Anderson, Ted Vaughters, Johanna Parker, Dave Luddy, Mikki Carpenter, Pam Shears, Doug Meyers, Gaye Baker, Tom Powers, Frederick Hamlin, Ray Bernard, Dale Townsend**

"YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT AWAY TO KEEP IT"- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE GRATEFUL?

by Ainhua Torrado and Freddie H.



Freddie has been a resident at The Fouse Center since May 9th, 2005. Shortly after he came in the program it became apparent he was a motivated, organized, and

spiritual people person. Freddie quickly met his requirements and stepped up to help in other areas. He then became a Resident Assistant (RA). Throughout his stay in the program he also decided to go back to school to become a phlebotomist and completed that schooling. He has been looking for employment in phlebotomy since, but nothing has materialized yet. While still searching for employment an opportunity to volunteer in helping Katrina victims in Mississippi arose, and being the type of person he is, Freddie quickly volunteered to help. Besides, he was not tied down by the constrictions of a F/T job yet. After he came back from his one week in Mississippi he was eager to share his experience. Freddie described what the place looked like, what work he was involved in doing, his interactions with the people there, and his feelings with the whole experience. Freddie described it as follows: "There was nothing but desolation. Everything had been destroyed. People were left without homes, belongings, security, or hope. It was so sad and depressing! It all made me think about how fortunate I am and even in my current situation being homeless I have so much to be thankful for, so much I've been taking for granted. Then when I started interacting with the people I realized the power of the human spirit. I realized how rich these people really are. They have been able to all pull thru a natural disaster and reevaluate what is really important

and what makes someone rich. They have something we forget about too often: each other and a spiritual connection, a sense of belonging, a desire to help each other and work as a team. I am so thankful for having had the opportunity to be a part of this. It truly has given me a new way of looking at my life." Freddie's experience is a remainder to us all that, even experiencing homeless and other catastrophes; we all have many things to be grateful for. Getting caught up in the everyday fast pace of responsibilities we sometimes forget what is really important. We also forget how important and helpful it is to us and others having those interpersonal relationships to support us thru the tough times. Maybe this can remind us to extend a helping hand to those who may need it, starting with family, neighbors, and even volunteering some of our time in our communities. Not only does it help those less fortunate, but like with Freddie, it also helps us feel that human connection making us even more fortunate.

[Find out more....](#)

Day and Resource Center Featured in Maryland Gazette

By Mario Berninzoni



Arundel House of Hope's new Resource and Day Center for the Homeless was featured in the front page of the Maryland

Gazette on Wednesday, April 12, 2006. The article details the need of the new Center and how its helping those that utilized it. If you can please check out the article and share it with your friends. Copies will be available at the Day and Resource Center as well as at next weeks meeting.

[For the full article click here....](#)

Anne Arundel County Food Bank Donates a Van to Day Center

On Friday, April 7th Bruce Michalec from the Anne Arundel County Food and Resource Bank presented and donated a minivan to the new Day and Resource Center. The Day and Resource Center will use the van to assist the program in transporting clients to appointments. The Foodbank also provided much of the furniture and supplies for the Center as well. We would like to thank Bruce for all his efforts and

support. Our thanks go out to him!

[Find out more....](#)

I hope to see everyone at the next AHOH meeting on April 18th at 7:00pm at St. Christopher's in Linthicum. We will be celebrating another successful Winter Relief season and we will be voting on our new updated bylaws and installing our new Board of Directors. We will also be scheduling our Board of Directors meetings, Winter Relief Meetings and other committees, please attend as much as you can. This coming year will be very exciting and we have a lot of new exciting things happening. We will be continuing to build on our past success.

Sincerely,

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