

The Navigator



Helping People Find Direction

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March 2008

Dear Mario,

With every season we continue to grow and evolve to further meet our mission of providing housing and support services to men and women experiencing homelessness in our county! 2007 was a year of growth and development for Arundel House of Hope with new programs, staff, and board members, and changes to already existing programs. The Safe Haven Supportive Housing program launched at the beginning of 2007 and successfully provided housing and support for chronically homeless men. The Resource and Day Center continued to grow in its capacity to assist those in need by providing a safe place during the day for refuge, support, and comfort. With these expanding initiatives came new staff including Mary Alexander Page, Director of Development, Marsha Urban, Case Manager, and the hiring of Charles Edwards, a participant in the Fouse Center program, as a program aide. We were also fortunate to secure local business leaders as new Board members! Most importantly though over the course of the year we were able to serve over 400 homeless and poor individuals, providing support and comfort in their time of need.

It seems hard to believe that 2008 is already upon us. With the new year have come many wonderful and exciting changes for Arundel House of Hope. Through these first two months we have already seen the opening of a new housing program, the success of yet another year of Winter Relief, the hiring of new talented staff, the completion of a vigorous training program through the University of Baltimore's Social Enterprise Development Initiative, and the success of the second annual Bid for Hope Mardi Gras Extravaganza!

Needless to say we have been busy however none of these wonderful developments would be possible without the dedication and support of our member churches, our volunteers, and the community. Please read on to learn more about the early successes of 2008 and the exciting events yet to come - especially the county's Homeless Resource Day to be held March 29th!!!

Sincerely,

Mario Berninzoni
Executive Director



HOMELESS RESOURCE DAY

County Service Providers Partner to Help the Homeless

Anne Arundel County's service organizations have decided to host an event to help the homeless. The first Homeless Resource Day will be held Saturday March 29th from 9am-4pm at Glen Burnie High School. This event will provide food, personal needs services, support services, giveaways, and entertainment for the county's homeless residents and those at risk of being homeless. At risk adults and their families are invited to attend! So that we may serve you better please bring all identification including ID, birth certificate, social security card, pay stubs etc. or any of these that you have available. This is a wonderful opportunity for those in need to receive: Haircuts, ID's, Healthcare assistance, dental and eyecare assistance, housing assistance, social security benefits, credit counseling, and DSS benefits. Transportation will be provided from:



- The Stanton Center
- The Arundel House of Hope Resource and Day Center
- Nichols Bethel UM Church
- South County Senior Center

For more information please contact Arundel House of Hope's Resource and Day Center at 410-863-4888. To volunteer please contact Marsha Urban at 410-863-4888 or murban@arundelhoh.org.

When you WISH upon a star...

AHOH Opens new WISH housing program!

For single homeless women in Anne Arundel County there are limited options for affordable housing. Unable to make ends meet for a variety of reasons, these individuals often find themselves with literally nowhere to go.



AHOH saw a need for programs to support single homeless women and in 2007 put the steps in place to initiate a solution.

Through support from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Arundel House of Hope received a grant to open the first permanent housing program for single homeless women in AA County. Through 2007 we worked with the Foundation at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Linthicum and Rev. Lura Kaval to identify the perfect location for our clients. We eventually settled upon a single family home in Brooklyn Park that houses five residents and a resident manager!! In addition, we worked with the New Annapolitans group in Annapolis and HOPE in the North County area to secure all of the needed furniture, through the generosity of donations, for the house and its residents!!

Through the dedication of our case manager and Executive Director we identified an excellent resident manager who moved in at the end of 2007 and are happy to say that our first residents officially moved into the home in the beginning of 2008!! This is a wonderful opportunity for those in need to have not only a home to call their own but also the support of a case manager, resident manager, and part-time substance abuse and mental health counselor!!! We are truly thrilled at the early success of this initiative and look forward to keeping you all updated on the developments and growth of our clients in the coming months. In addition please stay tuned for information on an upcoming open house to celebrate this success!!

To learn more about the WISH program, to donate items, or volunteer please contact Mary Alexander Page at malexander@arundelhoh.org.

A WINNING BID!

Second Annual Bid for Hope Mardi Gras Extravaganza goes off with a BANG!

The second annual Bid for Hope Mardi Gras Extravaganza and Auction event at the La Fontaine Bleu was held Sunday February 10th with 100% of the proceeds directed toward Arundel



House of Hope's housing and supportive programs! This wonderful event was again a great success attracting over

320 people and raising approximately \$30,000 to support our work in the community!! We want to thank our sponsors including the Baltimore Examiner (our Media Sponsor), First Mariner Bank, Sam's Club, The Bank of Glen Burnie, Susquehanna Bank, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church. A special thank you goes out to the volunteer members of our planning committee who spent countless hours coordinating and organizing to assure that the event was a success! In addition we are thankful for the support from the community who so generously donated auction items bringing this years total to over 150 items up for grabs! We look forward to putting the proceeds of this wonderful event to great use by providing much needed services to our clients.

For more information on the Bid for Hope or how to get involved in Arundel House of Hope please contact Mary Alexander Page at

malexander@arundelhoh.org.

SWEET RELIEF

Winter Relief 2008 shelters more than ever!

Each year Winter Relief grows leaps and bounds. From 12 churches in 1992 the program, which provides emergency shelter for homeless men and women from October to April every year, has grown to over 40 churches in 2008, welcoming



4 new shelters this year alone!!! As of March 5th Winter Relief has already housed 186 different individuals, providing them with warmth, nourishment, support, and spiritual guidance. Having increased shelter weeks this year to 24 in total, three of our participating churches very graciously offered their facilities and volunteers for two weeks as opposed to the traditional one week period of time to assure that our men and women had housing throughout the coldest months of the year.

In addition to increased churches, weeks, and participants, Winter Relief this year has seen an increase in female clients with the total number of women being sheltered reaching 1/3 of the total shelter population. As the program comes to an end on April 13th we will have effectively helped more clients than ever before in this program!!

Thank you to our church members, volunteers, and the Anne Arundel County community for their continued support with this initiative. We couldn't do it without you! We continue to look for additional churches who might lend their services through volunteering and/or providing facilities for the years to come. If you or your church are interested please contact

Phil Bailey at 410-863-4888 or pbailey@arundelhoh.org.

ITS ALL ABOUT THE TALENT

New staff members bring experience and energy to AHOH!

Since December of 2008 Arundel House of Hope has had the pleasure of welcoming two new staff members to our team. Brianne Adams began working with us in August of 2008 as an intern. Working towards the completion of her Human Services Degree with a focus on Addictions Counseling at Anne Arundel Community College, Brianne came to us eager to learn about the issue of homelessness. Through her work with case manager Marsha Urban she began assisting clients at the Day Center. We were so impressed with her immediate adaptation to the organization that we asked her to come work with us in December. Since then she has been working at the Resource and Day Center on Mondays providing case management for both Day Center clients and WISH program residents. In addition to her work with AHOH, Brianne has been employed part time for 14 months with ADI as an addictions counselor. Throughout this time she obtained her CSC/ADT counseling license. Previously she interned with the Mental Health Agency helping clients with housing and co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues. Please join us in welcoming Brianne to our team!!



Debbie Everett joined Arundel House of Hope in December of 2007 as the resident manager for the WISH Program. With experience as a teaching assistant and past exposure to homelessness, Debbie was referred to us through Sarah's House where she was living and had become a well respected member of the community! We were very pleased to have Debbie come on board to assist WISH residents with their transition from homelessness to independence. As resident manager she is responsible for daily management of the house, cleaning schedules, monitoring resident behavior, and reporting to the WISH case manager when issues arise. We are very excited to have her on our team!!! Please join us in welcoming her to Arundel House of Hope!!!

A NEW KIND OF ENTERPRISE.....

University of Baltimore training program helps AHOH plan exciting new business!

From August to December of 2007 Arundel House of Hope participated in the Social Enterprise Program at the University of Baltimore. Out of over 40 applications, only 6 organizations were accepted to this



program which paired non-profit organizations with students to develop an actionable business plan to launch a new profit and job generating business! Arundel House of Hope team members Mary Alexander Page and Mario Berninzoni lead the development of a business plan to design a coffee drive through with the assistance and input of a student team of three. This opportunity will provide job training with the potential for management and steady income for select AHOH's clients! In addition we hope that it will become an additional income source, allowing the social enterprise to become self sufficient without the need for additional grant support. We received a \$4,000 grant from the Anne Arundel Community Foundation and we are currently working towards securing the additional funding needed to start this business. If your church or organization is interested in getting involved or has materials that could assist in the start up of this wonderful opportunity please contact Mary Alexander Page at malexander@arundelhoh.org

Employment Opportunity

Part-Time Bookkeeper or Accountant Needed

As our organization grows, we currently have a need for a person with an accounting or bookkeeping background. Candidates must have experience with Quickbooks or other advanced accounting software. If you or you know of someone that may be interested in a part-time (10-15 hrs per week) accounting or bookkeeping position please contact Mario Berninzoni at 410-863-4888 or mberninzoni@arundelhoh.org.

Though early in the year, 2008 promises to be more wonderful and eventful than years past. With new programs, staff, and events to come we are sure to assist more individuals facing homelessness in Anne Arundel County than ever before. Thank you to all those who support our efforts in so many ways! We could not continue our mission of eliminating homelessness in Anne Arundel County without you! Please stay tuned in the upcoming months for updates, success stories, and fun events!!

Sincerely,

Mario Berninzoni
Arundel House of Hope