

Arundel House of Hope Newsletter

Spring 2014



Arundel House of Hope provides emergency, transitional, and permanent Housing for the homeless and support services including Healthcare and employment services in professional, compassionate and dignified way.

Arundel House of Hope Help those Survive the Bitter Winter

This past winter has been a challenge for everyone but being homeless through this difficult and very cold and bitter winter was downright dangerous. We always say that the Winter Relief Emergency Shelter program saves lives, but I have no doubt we helped people survive this year through the winter months. Helping people service the winter is our main goal, but we want to do more and with the help of over 75 churches we were able to do that and provide a some

“Hope” to everyone we served. Many of the participants we served throughout the winter have been able to find housing and access other much needed support services. All of the Arundel House of Hope dedicated staff and volunteers have worked hard to assist all those in need to make this one of our most successful seasons yet.

This past year we also opened the new Community Recovery Center (CRC) to help those

suffering from addictions a safe place to access services and get the support they need to maintain their recovery. We also have plans to develop a new housing program for homeless families through partnerships with our faith based members we will provided housing and support services for those families in need.

I would like to thank everyone that supports Arundel House of Hope and its programs throughout the year and continues to make a difference in our community and improve the lives of those that need it most.

~By Mario Berninzoni

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Spring is Here!

With the cold weather and snow behind us, (we hope) residents of our housing programs are emerging from their “cocoon” and looking forward to the warmth of spring and summer and all that the seasons hold in store for us. Cleaning up yards and planting square foot gardens are already in the plans for many of our houses. Last year eight houses planted and maintained fifteen gardens of various sizes and shapes. Can we do more this year – SURE – anything is possible with determination and help. With that being said we are creating a “wish list” of items that can be donated to help our residents with their gardening and outdoor activities.

Garden tools (shovels, hoes, rakes), small hand held garden tools, leaf rakes, seeds, vegetable plants, hoses, watering cans, outdoor furniture.

If anyone knows of an Eagle Scout looking for a project, we have one at one of the men’s houses. We are looking to put a small wooden porch with a few steps opening onto small patio (also to be constructed).

If anyone has a truck and would like to help us clean up some yards, that would be wonderful and that project comes with lunch included!! ~Marsha

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Winter Relief 2013-2014: A Season of Compassion & Love

The compassion and love that was shown during 2013-2014 Winter Relief Season was nothing less than miraculous! Despite polar freezes, temperatures reaching the single digits, and a winter refusing to end, the Sheltering Sites and thousands of volunteers proved God’s loving warmth always prevails! I would like to share a few success stories with you, please keep in mind that while I am mentioning “huge” successes, they’re many others that are equally as important. Charles, for example, usually Charles will stay with us for a few weeks, this year he was able to stay for 20 weeks consecutively. Harold, who has

been struggling with alcoholism for many years, was able to come into WR during March and was able to obtain housing at the end of Winter Relief in a half way home. Kelly, Michael and Woodrow are all currently in housing with a program for single men called Mi Casa Su Casa.

A family reunited: Sarah and Elizabeth came to AHOH during the 2012-2013 season together with a developmentally delayed family member. After a year of homelessness, Sarah and Elizabeth obtained a housing voucher and moved into a new 3 bedroom apartment that was handicapped accessible and their loved one, Suzie, was able to move into the home with them. And, then there is Tom. Tom came to us for the first time in October 2013. During the

week of January 13, 2014, he gained an interview with the County Executive's Office. The good folks at Severna Park United Methodist provided a beautiful suit and tie for his interview. Tom is now employed as a consultant with Anne Arundel County and is currently living in Mt. Vernon, Baltimore.

No matter how large or small the success is for each individual person we shelter and minister to, the volunteers throughout the 25 weeks of the sheltering

season are the key for each of our guests to live successfully throughout the harsh winter months. Thank you for kindness, generosity, and your unwavering love for God and His people.

~By Karen Biagiotti

If your group or Church would like to participate Winter Relief next year please e-mail Karen at kbiagiotti@arundelhoh.org.



The Doughy Dog season is now!

This year, the hot dog Food Truck will be mobile, making routine stops at a location near you. On Monday's and Wednesday's, visit The Doughy Dog at the Glen Burnie Court House; Tuesday's at Arundel Christian Church; and on select weekdays and every weekend, visit The Doughy Dog at a partner sponsored event for family fun and singles festivities.

The Doughy Dog Food Truck serves classic and gourmet style hot dogs while reinvesting its profits in training and supportive services for its workers, who are formerly homeless individuals. Workers of The Doughy Dog receive supportive services to maintain stable housing, to pursue active recovery from drugs and alcohol, to engage in job skills training critical to success in the job market, and to earn income through transitional employment.

Visit *The Doughy Dog* online for an updated menu and schedule of events: www.doughy-dog.com

~By Terri Alexander

A Birthday to benefit others!

On Feb. 21, Kate Smith celebrated her birthday at the Community Recovery Center. Who, you may ask, is Kate Smith? That was our question when she contacted us with her "birthday party" project. Kate wanted to give her birthday special meaning by giving back to those in need. Along with family and friends, she arranged a dinner and rather than receive gifts for herself, she asked for donations of food and supplies for the residents of our housing programs. Thirty three of our residents attended this very special party and were treated to a delicious Italian dinner! It was a wonderful opportunity for all our residents to come together as a community and enjoy fun and fellowship. Each house went home with two bags of essential foodstuffs and a cookbook of *1001 Short, Easy, Inexpensive Recipes*. We presented Kate with birthday cards and Arundel House of Hope items. A fantastic time was had by all!! Thank you and Happy Birthday, Kate.

~By Marsha Urban