

# Letter

## From the Friends of the Hoboken Shelter

The Hoboken Shelter - Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc.

Dear Friends,

### Letter from Sister Norberta

Well, summer is definitely over. Our fall days have been so great, hopefully you have been able to take advantage of our bright sun and golden colors!

The shelter was busy throughout the summer. Our guests continued to work hard at getting their lives back together. The Integrated Living Program, a four-week course for improving the participant's job and life skills, continued. Three of our graduates were able to secure employment that paid enough for them to move to an independent lifestyle. Though they have moved into their own place, they do continue to keep in touch.

Sometimes our guests come to the shelter after experiencing some very tough emotional crises. Two of our guests have made wonderful progress. They attend programs designed to address issues regarding their mental health. In

the past few months, while they continue to work on these issues, they have also begun to engage in part-time work! We are delighted to witness their progress. Their self-esteem is soaring, and their feelings of productivity have encouraged all of us. Please join us in celebrating their courage and success.

I'd also like to note the efforts of some of our volunteers. Theo Olivieri, the son of Tom Olivieri, tenant advocate for the Campaign for Housing Justice, designed our new logo. He is a young artist making his way in a very competitive industry. The Communications Committee, along with their friends, designed and printed our new brochures. We also began working on a Web site, [www.hobokenshelter.org](http://www.hobokenshelter.org)—see what we've got there so far!

By the time you receive this, our first big fundraiser will be over. Together with  
(Continued on last page)

### Mission Statement

The Hoboken Homeless Shelter is a place of refuge for men and women. The shelter is owned and operated by The Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation. Membership includes ministers and laity from houses of worship, as well as several Hoboken community leaders.

The Hoboken Shelter was established in 1982. The shelter provides accommodations for 30 adults and feeds 70 to 100 friends every evening. The shelter also offers evening workshops in the arts, as well as classes in life and job skills.

Your tax-free contribution will help us in our continuing efforts to provide the necessary training and services that allow our friends to become independent and contributing members of our community. People are astounded when they hear that we have more than 350 volunteers come throughout the month to help provide the

evening meal. Truly it is a blessing! When the shelter began, there were several groups that began with us, providing the evening meal. These groups have been with us since that time. Over the years we have witnessed their marvelous commitment. I would like to acknowledge their growth and dedication:

- All Saints Episcopal Church
- Hoboken United Synagogue
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Englewood
- Community Church of Hoboken
- The group, "The Chicken People"
- St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Hoboken
- St. Matthew-Trinity & Saint John's Lutheran Church, Hoboken
- The Bread and Justice Community

*Creating Community*

*Holiday Needs:*

*In Hoboken*

We're planning for Thanksgiving, and worry about storing the turkeys we usually receive, as we are down one freezer. We need to buy a new one, as the old one can't be repaired anymore. Any donations for a new freezer would be so much appreciated!

Want to do something special this Christmas?  
Give a gift to our guests, maybe even a gift certificate to a local eatery, so they can enjoy the holiday while getting out of the cold.

**Please call 201-656-5069 to drop off your donations.**

Also, visit us at our BRAND NEW Web site, [www.hobokenshelter.org](http://www.hobokenshelter.org)!



# Hoboken Shelter



## **JAMESHIPMAN, Shelter Counselor**

Interview by Michael Lamarti

Around 4 p.m. one Sunday afternoon, nine homeless guests watched a movie together about the dangers of cocaine addiction. James talked to them about some of the perils.

Some of the issues he posed were the high costs involved in supporting a habit, and how some choose drugs over rent. He tells them, "If you have not used it, don't try it!" and informs them why counseling is important. James encourages them to interact with each other, to share stories.

Shortly after, I sat with James in his office and started asking him questions. In the hour that we spent together, people are asking him for anything from towels to locker keys. Throughout all of the distractions, James keeps a real relaxed demeanor. He is their friend, he knows how to relate to them—you can tell that the guests feel comfortable communicating with him.

But, while James is pleasant to be around and has a great sense of humor, you can see that he is determined and serious about how the shelter is run, serious about guests respecting each other and the staff.

### **Q: What's your background?**

**A:** I worked in a post office and wanted to make a change, and a difference. This was also a spiritual move for me. I have been a certified substance counselor for more than 12 years. I've found out that I love motivating people, and helping them move on with their lives.

### **Q: What kind of programs are the guests part of?**

**A:** They are involved in all sorts of programs such drug counseling, and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

### **Q: How do you know if a guest has a drug or alcohol problem when they first come here?**

**A:** When a guest first comes here, we sit down with them and ask them. If they say they have an addiction problem, they are then assigned to

work with me. Sometimes you can just tell.

### **Q: What happens if a guest is found to be under the influence of a substance?**

**A:** If one of the guests is a substance abuser, they must be here every night. We test randomly (James goes on to pull out testing devices for different drugs and alcohol.) If he/she is under the influence, we ask them to leave for the night. If they break the rules again, they face the possibility of being thrown out.

### **Q: How do you see yourself?**

**A:** I am firm but compassionate, I care about every person in here. I see people as people, some just fell on bad times.

### **Q: How do you feel about the community?**

**A:** The community is excellent. I do not have many complaints. I'm not really sure how much support the local government helps us, but local businesses, including many restaurants and residents, have been very helpful. I just wish that we had more funding available.

# INTERVIEW

*Shelter Dance Teacher: Margo Hammond*

### **Q: How long have you been teaching?**

**A:** I've taught dance for the last three years at the Monroe St. Movement Space. I am also involved with Arts Genesis, an arts and education organization based in New York. We visit public schools in different neighborhoods in the New York and New Jersey area.

### **Q: How did you get involved with the shelter?**

**A:** Over the summer, Doris China, another teacher at

the Movement Space that also volunteers at the shelter, told me of this opportunity, and it's exactly what I wanted to try!

### **Q: How has the class been received?**

**A:** Some weeks there is a bunch of people, sometimes only two or three. One student really likes latin music. In fact, he taught me how to salsa! The dance class is good because it integrates them socially, it's good exercise, and it perks the guests up.

### **Of Note...**

One of Margo's Movement Space students, 10-year-old Orlando Hernandez from Hoboken, is an award-winning dancer who's performed at NJPAC in Newark. He recently performed for the shelter dance class, and NJN filmed him there!

Margo is also hopeful to find tap shoe manufacturers to donate shoes for the class—keep your fingers crossed!



# C L A S S I F I E D S

## Goods Needed:

Men's clothing (season appropriate)  
Underwear, socks  
Spray deodorant, razors  
Travel size toiletries  
Bed sheets, bath-size towels  
Two computer monitors  
Educational CD-Roms, books  
Movies, videos  
Knife sharpener  
Comprehensive cookbooks such as

*"The Joy of Cooking"*

## Services Needed:

Part-Time Job Developer: We are looking for a person who is a self-starter, with a will to build bridges with the business community. 20 hours a week flex hours, \$12 per hour.

Web Designer for our new Web site, [www.HobokenShelter.org](http://www.HobokenShelter.org)

Grant Writer for many projects we have in the works!

Volunteer for Integrated Living Program

To come in during the day and talk to guests about how to land a job, how to interview, how to handle conflict, etc.

Evening volunteers to teach English as a second language and to tutor for GED.

*We would like to recognize the generous donations from the following:*

- Andrea Stetson
- Howard & Marianna Mitnick
- All Saints Altar Guild
- Florence McLaughlin
- Mr. & Mrs. Demma
- Bethimana Norman Roberts Foundation & Co.
- Community of Bread and Justice
- Laurie Wurm
- United Way
- B. Melvin Kiernan
- Alice Vanderheyden
- Alan Axelrod

Also thanks to the Hoboken Post Office for their recent car wash fundraiser!

Your Monetary Donations Will Be Used For:

New Kitchen Freezer  
Art Supplies  
Chairs for TV room

Please send checks to:

The Hoboken Shelter  
300 Bloomfield Street  
Hoboken, NJ 07030

*If interested in helping with any of these needed services, please call the shelter at:  
201-656-5069*

*"Cooking Community"*  
**Special**

*Thanks To:*

*In Hoboken*

The **Hoboken Ski Club** and **The Liberty Bar and Grill** for sponsoring a highly successful fundraiser on **Monday, Oct. 23**. Ski club members and others from the community enjoyed an open bar and raffle prizes, while watching the Jets vs. Miami football game.

*More than \$1,000 was raised!*

We'd like to also thank the following local businesses for donating raffle prizes:

- **Anthony David's**
- **Black Bear**
- **City Bistro**
- **Down to Earth**
- **HouseWear**
- **Kings**
- **Madison Bar & Grill**
- **Pashyn's**
- **The Secret Ingredient**
- **Sparrow Liquors**
- **Ted and Joe's**
- **Zach's**

# P R O J E C T S

## Our Mission:

The mission of The Hoboken Shelter is to assist homeless adult men and women develop the skills needed to gain employment, achieve independence and re-integrate into the community. Owned and operated by The Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation made up of ministers and laity from houses of worship, as well as several Hoboken community leaders, the shelter helps guests achieve these goals through its many programs, detailed here. **For more information on how you can get involved in these programs, call (201) 656-5069.**

## *The Soup Kitchen:*

### The Soup Kitchen:

Dinner is prepared and served to 50-80 guests nightly, by 150 volunteers each month. We always welcome new faces! We know you have lots of other obligations, so just give us a call when you have an evening free. We'll let you know if there are volunteers needed for that particular night.

## *The Shelter:*

### The Shelter:

We're always in need of items to make the shelter guests' stay comfortable, such as toiletries (preferably travel size), beds, sheets, and bath-size towels. For entertainment, books, movies, and videos are welcomed, as well as chairs for the TV room. Men's clothing is always in need, especially season-appropriate clothing. Please call ahead if you want to drop off large items, such as beds.

### Integrated Living Program:

A four-week job and life-skills educational program allows five to 10 participants to develop or polish skills that will enhance their ability to become gainfully employed. Through an annual appeal, we plan to offer scholarship opportunities for those who wish to improve their skill level. Guest speakers, motivational videos, a computer basics course and exercise classes are a few opportunities available to the guests. Graduates are encouraged to join an alumni group, led by a certified social worker, who encourages networking and offers support to those entering the workforce or education system. Also, volunteers are needed during the day to talk to guests about how to land a job, how to interview, how to handle conflict, and other issues related to the work world.

### Music:

A trained music educator conducts a weekly workshop in music and rhythm. Participants are introduced to various cultural expressions using a variety of simple instruments.

### Creative Writing:

With grants from Hudson County Cultural Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a yearly production of the participants' writings is offered to the community, as well as quarterly booklets containing their writings and sketches. Volunteers for the creative writing program can help by typing up ideas generated from the creative writing class.

### Sketching:

Once a week a local artist encourages the participants to sketch using a variety of mediums. Art supplies are always in need. Feel free to stop by the shelter to drop off any donation you might have.

### Prayer:

Each week we have a non-denominational morning prayer session.

### Computer:

Each week a workshop leader provides hands-on computer basics teaching. The participants are also introduced to the Internet, where they are exposed to employment Web sites. Those who consistently participate are provided with their own e-mail address. We are also in need of computer monitors and educational CD-Roms.

## Addiction Counseling:

### Addiction Counseling:

Those with issues of addiction are required to attend meetings on a daily basis conducted by our two certified addiction counselors. There are meetings and support groups held weekly at the shelter.

### Dance:

Each week, a program instructor teaches rhythms, motions and dance that exemplifies different modes of music and culture.

*We always welcome!*

*We're always in need of*  
**Volunteers!**  
*Hoboken*  
*Shelter*

# SNAPSHOT!

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SHELTER

## Hoboken Shelter

Voices Poetry Reading, Oct. 20, All Saints Episcopal Church:

A creative writing sample from the guests of the shelter...

### Mugged but Not Murdered

By R.G.

I guess the scariest time of my life was when I got mugged in the hallway of my run-down rooming house on Garden Street back in '81. I wasn't working then and had time to go walking around in the wee hours of the morning. On my way home walking down First Street I stopped to look across the street at an open store and considered if I should get a cold drink that warm night. Just then, some guy walks past me and stops, turns around and asks for the time. Something primitive in me responded, something irrational but felt in all animals when they know they're in danger. The hairs stood up on my neck but I responded coolly, 'No, I don't know. I got no watch.'

He continued walking down First Street. Now, I said to myself, if he goes past Garden Street I'll be okay. Until the middle of that intersection he gets into a conversation with another guy. I walked along Garden until I got to 128. I turned to close the gate behind me and there was with a big grin on his face like the cat who's about to eat the canary. I went in my house and up the stairs to the 2nd floor when I felt something in my back. "Hey man, We need all your money," he said. I threw myself on the floor outside Walter's room and started screaming. Walter closed his door on me.

As I lay there kicking up at my attacker while he made feeble grabs for my wallet, actually he was more nervous than me. Maybe the drug was wearing off. Just then Walter came out with a beer bottle raised to smash over the guy's head and he ran like hell down the stairs. Next month, August, a resident of 126 came home, found a burglar in his room and was shot dead. The cops remembered me and left their calling card on my door.

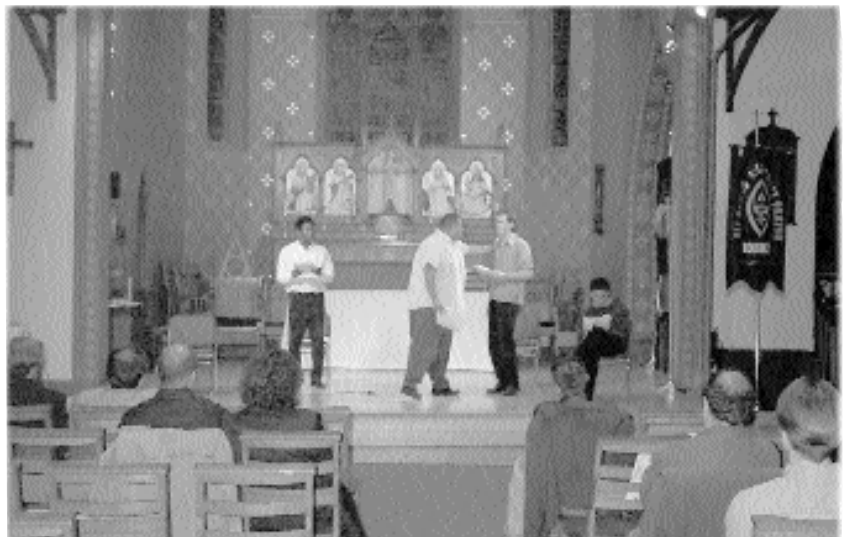
### Pickle

By Richard Kay

Powerful aromas come to mind  
In every bite of this one of a kind  
Crunchy and crisp are good words  
to define

Kosher seasoning and salty brine  
Lucky is the person who gets to  
eat

Every last morsel of this deli treat



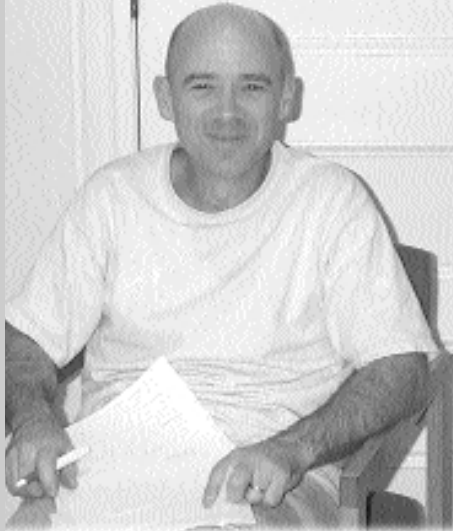
Professional actors and Hoboken shelter guests performed their works on stage at The Voices Poetry Reading at All Saints Episcopal Church on Friday evening, Oct. 20. The event was very well-received—people really seemed to connect with the performers.

# SNAPSHOT!

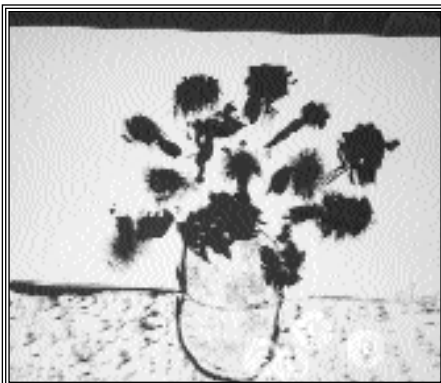
SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SHELTER  
 (Continued from page

Art by Doug Lindsay:

The Homeless Shelter art class, led by artist and teacher Doug Lindsay (below), displayed their work at the Artist Studio Tour, Sunday, Oct. 15 at St. Peter's Church on 3rd and Bloomfield Street in Hoboken.



**HOBOKEN SHELTER ART CLASS DISPLAY  
 AT THE ARTISTS STUDIO TOUR, OCT. 15**



*Hoboken*

# PLEDGE FORM

*Thank you for your support!*

## PLEDGE FORM

There are many ways in which you can help out the Hoboken community. Please fill out the form below, and send it to:

### *The Hoboken Shelter*

300 Bloomfield Ave.  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
or fax: 201-656-2400

*Yes! I want to be a part of the caring community in Hoboken!*

*Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:*

\$25 \_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:*  
Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc.

I am interested in volunteering at the shelter.  
(Serving supper, volunteering at local events, tutoring, fundraising, and more)

I would like to receive the Hoboken Shelter quarterly newsletter!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to drop by the shelter with any clothing, food or other donations you may have.*

*We appreciate all you do to help!*

For more information please call:

**201-656-5069**



*Hoboken Shelter*

**Creating Community in Hoboken**

*The Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation*

*We're always in need of volunteers • We always welcome new faces! • We thank you for your support!!*

*From the Friends of the Hoboken Homeless Shelter*

# Letter

*From the Friends of the Hoboken Shelter*

## Hoboken Shelter

(continued from page 1)

the Hoboken Ski Club, we held a Monday Night Football happy hour at the Liberty Bar and Grill on 14th Street between Washington and Hudson! The Communications Committee buzzed around town getting great raffle prizes donated by local vendors. All proceeds went to the shelter, and more than \$1,000 was raised!

As we begin again with our fall schedule, I am grateful for both the "old-timers" and the new groups. All Saints Episcopal Church continues their monthly service of the evening meal as they have since the beginning, in 1984.

Besides the evening meal they have been generous supporters of a whole host of endeavors. One of our new groups is Redeemer Church, who conducts their services at Saint Matthew-Trinity Lutheran Church. They have begun to help on Friday. We welcome them to our wonderful group of evening volunteers.

We continue to be awed and grateful for the many dona-

tions we receive. ARF, a production company, has been supplying us with great things like chicken patties, French fries, and just recently, coffee.

Two very generous local residents, who we've come to call our "Wednesday Angels," continue to supply us with wonderful surprises—one makes extra special sandwiches and our other "angel" brings special pastries, and hot dogs, with all the works.

Today, the second and third graders from the Hoboken Charter School, along with their teachers, decorated the shelter for Halloween! They have transformed our dining room into a special place filled with pumpkins, pretty leaves and lots of bats! To all of our wonderful volunteers, we give you a big three cheers! HIP - HIP- HORAY! HIP-HIP-HORAY! HIP-Hip-HORAY!

God bless you,  
*Sister Norberta*

*This Thanksgiving 2000 newsletter was created by volunteers of the Hoboken Shelter, with the help of Sister Norberta, shelter guests and shelter employ-*

Thank you for your support!

**Want to help?** *Have questions? - The Hoboken Shelter -*  
300 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030

Tel: **201-656-5069** [www.hobokenshelter.org](http://www.hobokenshelter.org)

*From:*

The Hoboken Shelter  
Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc.  
300 Bloomfield Street  
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Place  
Stamp  
Here

*To:*

