



Newsletter

SPRING 2003

Message from the Executive Director



Sister Norberta Hunnewinkel,
Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hoboken Shelter is a place of refuge for men and women and is owned and operated by The Communities of Faith for Housing, Inc., a nonprofit housing corporation. Membership includes ministers and laity from houses of worship, as well as several Hoboken community leaders, including All Saints, St. Matthew Trinity, St. John Lutheran, Sts. Peter and Paul, United Synagogue of Hoboken, Our Lady of Grace, and Community Church of Hoboken. If you are part of a religious organization in town and want to get involved, please contact Sister Norberta at 201-656-5069.

Established in 1982, the shelter provides accommodations for up to 30 adults and feeds 60 to 90 every evening. The shelter also offers workshops in the arts, as well as classes for developing life and job skills.

Dear Friends,

Are you sure we have not been transferred to the Arctic? The winter seems to be lasting forever—to say that it has been a hard one would be an understatement. The homeless are particularly vulnerable.

Since October we have noticed a sharp increase in the number of people eating at the shelter. Each month from October to January, we have been feeding more than 2,000 people for the evening meal. With our expansion into St. John's upstairs, we are at capacity for sheltering. Through the efforts of Mayor Roberts, city officials, United Way and supplies from the Red Cross, we are able to use the Multi-Service Center for the overflow folks, when the weather is below freezing. Last night we sheltered 79 people.

So far most of our government funding has been slightly cut. When we already have insufficient funds even a little decrease means a lot. We have planned to meet with Senator Robert Menendez, regarding these cuts. Please pray that we can persuade him to advocate for more funding for Hudson County.

The staff has been especially understanding and caring throughout this stressful time. We are so grateful to have such wonderful women and men! We are grateful to all of you for your donations and time volunteering. Not only does it "take a village to raise a child," it is also true that it takes a village of caring people who give of their time and talents to address the needs of the poor and homeless. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sister Norberta

To save on administrative costs, we have decided to cut down our newsletter mailings to once a year. Instead, we'll send out periodic one-page updates. Want to help us out even more by requesting these newsletters by email or fax? If so, please email us at getinvolved@hobokenshelter.org or call 201-656-5069. All newsletters are available on our Web site, www.hobokenshelter.org, as well.

See inside for more on how you can help support the shelter!



Special Thanks

this event, and **Jill Singleton and family for donating toiletries**, which were made into personal care packages for our guests. That night the families provided food and served supper to our guests as well.

Thank you to **Mayor David Roberts and the City of Hoboken**, for spearheading the opening of an emergency shelter at the **Multi-Service Center**.

Thank you to **The Hoboken Cigar Club and Helmers' Restaurant**, for sponsoring a Charity Dinner on December 11. **\$1,000** (70 percent of ticket sales) went directly to the shelter!

On the Sunday before Martin Luther King Day, families marched from Church Square Park to City Hall, with banners in hand. **David Roberts, Robert Menendez, Bernie Kenney**, and other city and state officials also marched, and spoke to the crowd, challenging them to live up to the dreams of Martin Luther King. Afterwards the families participated in various community projects. Thank you to The Hoboken Charter School for sponsoring

We have been utilizing the gym at the Multi-Service Center on 2nd and Grand Sts. as an emergency center, for days when the temperature drops below 32 degrees and there isn't enough room here at The Hoboken Shelter. **Thank you to The Red Cross for providing cots, blankets, and toiletries, and United Way for donating \$20,000 to cover the costs of staff and guests.** A thank you also to **Daniel Altilio, president and CPO, United Way of Hudson County**—we are grateful for his outreach, work and contributions, which helped the homeless during the extreme cold we faced this year.



Volunteer of the Month

(L to R): **Mo Lynch, Willow Stelzer, Jeff Kilmer, Brett Kurzman, Nick Vitiello, Bill Cunnane, Nancy Green, Rick Palin**

For the last 2½ years, **The Green Burritos**, a group of friends led by **Nancy Green**, have made a festive Mexican dinner for shelter guests the first Thursday of each month.

Burritoville (the location once in Hoboken, then the 39th St. location in Manhattan) donates enough tortillas, salsa, sour cream, jack cheese and beans to feed every guest. Nancy takes care of the beef and tomato paste. Just like dining in a restaurant, she serves chips and salsa to each table first, as an appetizer. Thank you to Nancy Green and her group—**Nick Vitiello, Jeff Kilmer, Martha Griffin, Sally Narkis, Seth Hulling, and Rick Palin**, among others. And much thanks to Wayne of Burritoville for his generosity all these years. Another thanks to **Qdoba Mexican Grill**, at 400 Washington St., for starting to donate, taking over where Burritoville left off.

Is Your Company Hiring?

These guests are looking for employment in the following industries:

- Patricia Payne** - homemaker and housekeeping
- John Lotito** - sheet metal worker, shop or field
- Robert Zimmerman** - shipping/receiving clerk, maintenance work
- David Wright** - warehouse worker, customer service

- Patreka Smith** - warehouse worker, fast-food server
- Michele Miller** - home health aide
- David Martinez** - security guard

Please call **201-656-5069** or email **getinvolved@hobokenshelter.org** with any opportunities.

The New Daytime Drop-In Center

On Dec 11, 2002, The Hoboken Shelter was featured in a news conference on News Channel 12. We would like to thank the **Moffetta family for their \$1,000 donation** and **Mayor Roberts and family for their \$5,000 contribution at the conference.** This money has allowed us to open the shelter from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. five

days a week, with volunteers running educational workshops. Thank you to **St. Matthew Trinity Church's Lunch-Time Ministry for providing lunch four days a week.** We hope to continue with the Daytime Drop-In Center, if we can secure the funding to keep the shelter open during the day.

Educational and Life-Skills Program Update

- The mission of the **visual arts workshop** is to help our clients create and sell art objects, from prints and paintings, to collages and drawings. During the October 2002 Hoboken Artists' Studio Tour, \$409 was raised. Our clients receive 60% of the sale and the other 40% goes towards the purchase of art supplies. In December \$98 worth of their work was sold at the Hoboken Holiday Craft Show, and now the Hoboken Historical Museum has added an ongoing display of their work for sale. **Goods needed:** acrylic paint, paper, printing ink, brushes, free-standing display units, silkscreen frames (*any size*), and picture frames (*11x14, 16x20, 18x24 only*). If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact workshop leader Raymond Smith at **201-653-6638** or **email him at: ray.smith@hobokenshelter.org.**
- **With the help of Mayor Roberts, six graduates of our Integrated Living Program (ILP) have been hired for city jobs, sweeping and cleaning the streets of Hoboken.** ILP is a four-week job and life-skills educational program, led by a social worker, which helps 5-10 participants develop skills to assist them in securing employment. In our annual appeal, we offer donors the opportunity to help our clients secure scholarships to further their education.
- **Thanks you Hugh Dwyer, for teaching our new drumming class!**
- We offer other programs, including music, dance, creative writing, computer skills, tutoring and mentoring. For more information on this and other educational and life-skills programs we offer, visit **www.hobokenshelter.org.**

Upcoming Events

Note: All events will take place at The Hoboken Shelter, 300 Bloomfield St.

Fourth Annual NJ Empty Bowls Supper

Sat., April 12—meals at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m.

\$7 suggested donation

Hoboken Charter School students, Pre-K through 12th grade, make soup, cornbread, placemats, informational displays related to hunger and homelessness, and souvenir bowls for you to take home as a reminder that "someone's bowl is always empty." The students also create an art exhibit, which includes painted tiles for a citywide Peace Park. Music, dance and other dramatics will be performed.

Annual Donor Appreciation Week and Benefit Dinner

Mon, April 28—6:30-7:30 pm

Interfaith Service honoring supporting churches and longtime benefactors of the shelter.

Tues, April 29—12 pm-2 pm

Luncheon honoring local business and community leaders. (special invitations to follow)

Thurs, May 1—6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Benefit Dinner honoring longtime benefactors and volunteers. We welcome new faces too! Learn how you can get involved in your community. Food donated by local businesses. Raffle prizes and entertainment included.

*For more information on these events,
call us at 201-656-5069 or email getinvolved@hobokenshelter.org.*

How You Can Help



Goods and Services Needed:

- **Volunteers** to do reporting, accounting and clerical work 2-3 days a week. Excel, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Access experience preferred, not required.
- **Large TV**
- **Men and women's underwear and socks**
- **Men's work boots, size 8 and larger**
- **Coffee, hot chocolate, sugar**

If interested, please call **201-656-5069** or email getinvolved@hobokenshelter.org.

Pledge Form

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

The Hoboken Shelter • 300 Bloomfield St., Hoboken, NJ 07030 • fax: 201-656-2400

• **e-mail: getinvolved@hobokenshelter.org**

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$50 \$40 \$25 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 _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

For more information on volunteer and donor opportunities, call 201-656-5069, e-mail getinvolved@hobokenshelter.org or visit www.hobokenshelter.org

The Hoboken Shelter
300 Bloomfield Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030-4809

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