

# The Shelter

NEWSLETTER Fall 2004



*"Dedicated to helping homeless individuals and families work toward permanent stability"*

## SUCCESS STORIES

### *From Homeless to Home Owner*

Maxine entered Shelter of Flint, Inc.'s Transitional Housing program in March of 2002. Before that time she had lost her job at GM due to substance abuse and, subsequently, had no income. She ended up homeless and had been staying at the Homeless Outreach Center through Community Mental Health. Her time had run out at CMH and she had overwhelming issues that could only be addressed by living in a supportive, structured, intensive environment.

Upon gaining entrance into the Transitional Housing program, Maxine began the slow, often painful, process of rebuilding her life from the ground up. She worked with Sharon James, SOF's Transitional Housing Specialist, on substance abuse recovery, and clearing her \$2,500 worth of debt to Consumer's Energy and the Water Dept. Maxine also worked with her EAP representative to regain her job at GM. She had to overcome many hurdles to prove that she could hold her old job. She submitted to regular drug screens, retained consistent employment, attended extensive substance abuse classes, and met regularly with a counselor. During this time she also suffered through the untimely loss of her mother. Maxine used her emotional support system at the Shelter to help get her through the seemingly endless upsets she was experiencing.

Eventually, Maxine proved herself to GM and reclaimed her former position there. She also paid off her debt and saved \$10,000 towards a down payment on her first house. Maxine moved into that house on September 5, 2004. She has chosen to remain on the Eastside of Flint, close to the Shelter and her friends here. She is proud to have been a part of Shelter of Flint, Inc.'s programs and she gives SOF much of the credit for her newfound success even though she is the one who had to do the real work.

We at Shelter of Flint are very excited for Maxine and wish her much success in her new home. We look forward to our continued relationship with her and hope that she will continue to be a role model for other women who are in the beginning stages of rebuilding their lives.

#### Page 2

- Helping Homeless Children
- S.O.F. Takes Gold
- A New Dining Experience

#### Page 3

- Thank You Donors

#### Page 4

- Surprise Benefit
- Honors and Memories

#### Page 5

- Pasta Party Follow-up
- Bloomideals
- Special Thank You

### *Save the Date:*

- 2005 Affordable Housing Conference May 16-18, 2005

<http://www.shelterofflint.com>

*Think Christmas. Think birthdays. Think books and music.*

## **THINK HELPING HOMELESS CHILDREN.**

Now you may be wondering how can I think about the first three things and have any money left to help the children? Well you can! During Border's Books, Music and Cafe's Benefit Days, a portion of what you spend at the Flint store will be donated back to Shelter of Flint, Inc. You will be helping "homeless individuals and families work toward permanent stability" and it won't cost you an extra dime.

This is a good way for you "deer hunters' widows" to get that book you have been dying to read and be able to help out a great cause at the same time.

Border's Books, located at G-4135 Miller Rd., will be hosting this event. On November 12, 13 and 14, 2004 just take the voucher included in this newsletter to the store and 15% of your total purchase (before taxes) will be donated back to Shelter of Flint. The staff at Border's will keep your voucher, so if you think you will be going to the store more than once during those three days, let us know and we can provide you with additional vouchers. Please call us at (810) 238-4711 if you have any questions, and remember if you can't use the coupon yourself during these three days, pass the coupon to a friend.



## *Shelter of Flint Takes Gold!*

Everyone is aware that several Americans took Gold at the summer Olympics in Greece. However, did you also know that Shelter of Flint's own Sweet Peas took Gold at the recent United Way 2004 Campaign Kick-off? The team consisted of Kelli Adams, Jody Church, Jane O'Dell and Shelly Siple. Teams made up of people working in the for-profit and non-profit community from all around the county participated in ten events that focused on teamwork, problem solving and having fun. While not being the youngest or strongest team, SOF's Sweet Peas pulled together to complete the Lilly Pad Relay course in the shortest time. The event required that in the quickest

time each team member had to successfully traverse the course and at no time during the race could you lose physical contact with the lily pads (carpet squares). Each one of us had a great time and each team member left with a renewed confidence in their abilities to work together for a common goal. The teamwork events can only help staff in their work at Shelter of Flint. It was a great kick-off for the 2004 United Way Campaign.

## *A New Dining Experience*

By Thanksgiving due in part to the award of two grants, the dining experience at Shelter of Flint will be much more pleasant. With the help of a grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation we have been able to hire Cleo Jenkins to provide more nutritional and more appetizing meals for the residents of SOF. In addition a grant from MSHDA is permitting the complete renovation of the kitchen and dining room of the shelter. The kitchen, which has served us well over the years, is truly in need of the update. The hope in remodeling the dining room is to improve the overall eating experience.



Talking with our past residents we came to understand that eating has been one of the least pleasant parts of staying at SOF. With this insight and the knowledge that there is high correlation between obesity and homelessness we set out to improve this situation. Cleo is working to maximize the dollars spent on food, while improving not only the quality but also the presentation of meals served. It is expected that this will lessen the waste at the same time that we address the issue of helping to educate our clients in ways to prepare healthy, well-balanced and economical meals. Renovations are already underway and staff and residents alike are looking forward to the completed project. We appreciate the awarding of these grants that will help us address a critical need for the well being of our clients.

# We Thank Our Donors

Our sincere thanks to those who so generously  
gave to Shelter of Flint.

Don Adams  
Franklin and Agnes Adkins  
Karen Alexander  
Adrienne Allen  
Peter & Alice Anastor  
Kelly Atherton  
B95  
James & Margaret Bacon  
Norbert Badar  
Rita Ball  
Luann Bancroft  
Robert Barnes  
Kenyatta Bates  
Robert and Carrie Bellairs  
Sharon Bellinger  
Christina Bellows  
Roberta Black  
Luella Bleicher  
Bernard Borden  
Don & Helen Boyd  
Lorraine Boynton  
Pat & Jim Brasseur  
Bridget Brown  
Sheila Bruce  
Kenneth Burch  
Arlene Burgdick  
Jean Carl  
Carole Carpenter  
John & Laura Carpenter & Family  
Carole Carrington  
Michael & Janet Cassidy  
Teresa Childers  
Arden Childress Jr.  
Doug Ciak  
Diana & Hershel Clark  
Cody Station Post Office  
Marianne Coleman  
Mark Colvin  
Margaret Curlin  
Karen Curtiss  
Robert & Jacqueline Czerniak  
Dailey Elementary PTO  
William & Marilyn Daniels  
Davison United Methodist  
Church  
James & Linda Delaney  
Frank Delorenzo  
Marvin Dewitt  
Tim & Karen Dillingham  
Sue & Larry Dishaw  
Beverly Ann Dodge  
Laurie Doyle  
Dennis and Julie Dudzik

Janeen Dvorak  
Eastwood United Methodist  
Karen Eaton  
Susan Elder  
Dawn Elford  
Emmanuel Prayer Group  
Harry & Sue Erickson  
Jerome & Agnes Essinger  
Mary Edwards Flint Farmers  
Market  
Flushing Presbyterian Church  
Flushing United Methodist  
Church  
Donald and Dorothy Flynn  
Richard & Sue Fox  
Chuck & Donna Freeman  
Falding Gadola  
Elizabeth Gage  
Max & Sarah Galanter  
Rani & Peter Garcia  
Margery Garrison  
Lynda Gibson  
Carolyn Gist  
Mary Golden  
Erica Harrison Goldmine  
Joseph and Dorothy Goodman  
Mary Elizabeth Green-Nesby  
Gary and Kathy Haggart  
Rob & Karen Hall  
John Hamby  
Walter & Diana Harsch  
Neal & Amanda Hegarty  
Eva Hempel  
Anne Hester  
Fran & Hugh Hinde  
Diane Hohn  
Dick & Judy Horning  
Richard Hurd  
Iota Zeta Chapter  
Olive & Garland Jackson  
Syvette Jenkins  
Barbara Jennings  
Bernetta Jobin  
Brian Johnson  
Lynda Johnson  
Ronald & Carole Jozwick  
D. Kalush  
John & Kathleen Karkheck  
Robert & Charmaine Kerchner  
Burgan Kerry  
Jim & Ellen Klobuchar  
John Knickerbocker  
Jerry Koontz

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Gary & Roxanne Lake  
Rodney Laurin  
Joseph & Dana Lawrence  
Kristen Le Palm  
Mary Jane Lee  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Lynch  
Anita Lenora Marion  
Michael & Kim Martin  
Kathy Masserang  
Janet Matsko  
Barbara McCartin  
Erica McDonald  
Sharon McDonald  
Ann Mckay  
Madeline Meriwether  
Marvin Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Miller  
Richard & Carol Mitsdarfer  
Karen Murphy  
Margaret Murphy  
Rose Murphy  
Denise Musselman  
Saad Naaman  
New Beginnings Ministries  
Therese Nichols  
Nick & Sherry Ochoa  
Peggy Parker  
Vicki Paton  
Ray and Marge Paul  
Randall & Elizabeth Petrides  
Susan Phillips  
Cheryl Pierson  
Toby & Russ Pintacura  
Mr. & Mrs. Pope  
Jill Powell  
Jan Praefke  
Presbyterian Church of Lake  
Huron  
Jean Proctor  
Project Linus  
Quota International Club of Flint  
Tonya Rak  
Brian and June Ricketts  
Georgeann Ricketts  
Robert & Mary Rider  
Dolores Roat

Judge Ramona Roberts  
Cathy & Jeff Rouse  
Gilbert Rubenstein  
Richard & Rita Russ  
Lillie Russell  
Hedi Russell-Berry  
Mecca Sadler  
Tamara Savage  
Marsha Schmidt  
Schools of Choice  
Alice Schwartz  
Jeremy and Sherry Schwartz  
Select Hospital  
Linda & Edward Sherwood  
Carol Siple  
Mike and Venera Slattery  
Gerri Smith  
Tammy Smith  
Ben Sorscher  
St. Bartholomew's Anglican  
Church  
St. John Vianney Parish Church  
St. Mary's School  
Mike Lord Steddy Eddie's  
M. Evelyn Stephens  
Lori Stuenkel  
Swartz Creek United Methodist  
Church  
Roberta Sweetman  
Annette Tingey-Jones  
Gerald Tomczak  
Judith Tosto  
Kathy Troyer  
Pat Tynes  
Doyle Van Norman  
Teresa Villarreal  
Cyndi Vizcarra  
Suzanne Webb  
Colette & Taylor Marie Weier  
Jean & James Whiting  
Helen Wison  
Roshanda Womack  
Erin Woodruff  
Liz Wright  
Thomas & Magdalene Yeotis  
Robert Zerull  
Leonard & Kathy Zielinski  
Shirley Zielinski  
Stan Zielinski

# Surprise Benefit

Michelob Ultra became sponsors of the Crim Festival of Races this year. Part of the sponsorship was the award of \$500 to the charity of choice for the winning corporate team. Team "GM-A", one of seven teams from General Motors and one of the seventeen corporate teams to participate, won and designated Shelter of Flint as their charity. Team "GM-A" was made up of

Don Balkwell  
Kenneth DuBois  
Gordie Gibson  
Rojelio Lara  
John Niven

Terry Castor  
John Fallot  
John Kolmetz  
Patrick Lencioni

Congratulations to Team "GM-A" and many thanks to them and to Michelob Ultra for the award. It was an unexpected and exciting gift that will help the programming for Shelter of Flint.



*A special thank you to the following for donations to Shelter of Flint, Inc. in memory of family, friends and others.*

## Honors and Memories

### In Memory of Royce Zimmer

Pat & Jim Brasseur  
Robert & Jacqueline Czerniak  
Fran & Hugh Hinde  
Diana Hohn  
Jerry Koontz  
Michael & Kim Martin  
Janet Matsko  
Saad Naaman

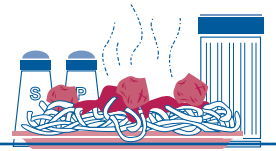
Therese Nichols  
Lillie Russell  
Tammy Smith  
Teresa Villarreal  
Jean & James Whiting  
Thomas Yeotis  
Leonard & Kathy Zielinski  
Shirley Zielinski

### In Memory of Fay Marsh

Gary & Kathy Haggart  
Robert & Eileen Hocken



# Pasta Party



A large thank you goes out to the volunteers that joined our staff in making this year's Pasta Party a success. Approximately 450 people loaded up on the "carbs" in preparation for the next day's big race. Although rain was predicted for Friday evening it held off until well after the dinner was complete. As part of their "Comcast Cares" program we were fortunate to have eleven volunteers from Comcast. Their help was greatly appreciated. All of our volunteers go a long way in helping us complete our mission.

## **BLOOMINDEALS IS LOOKING FOR FALL FASHIONS!**

If you have items of clothing that you would like to either sell on consignment or just donate to SOF please contact Vanessa at (810) 230-9176 to schedule an appointment to drop items off. Remember whether you donate or sell your items on consignment you are helping those staying at SOF. Women's dress clothes and items for children are especially needed.



## *Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

A special thank you goes out to Mike Lord from Steady Eddy's at the Farmer's Market for providing food for a recent Shelter of Flint board meeting. If you haven't tried Steady Eddy's you should, everything was great. They are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. After you get a bit to eat stop down and see what is new at Bloomindeals! They have their fall fashion out and there are some wonderful bargains. Steady Eddy's is also open on Fridays through lunch (1:00pm), although the rest of the market is closed.

We would also like to make a special acknowledgment to the Dena Bancroft Foundation, which has been very generous in their support of Shelter of Flint, Inc. Luann Bancroft set up this foundation in memory of her daughter, and since 2002 SOF has been the recipient of many gifts that have made a large impact on our ability to help women and children meet their housing needs.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Only 5K Run & Walk was held on September 25, 2004. Shelter of Flint, Inc. wishes to express their gratitude to all of the participants and a special thank you to Hillary Hobel and the planning committee. The sponsors helped to make the day fun for all. Home Depot of Burton, donated a prize for the special drawing that those who donated an item or cash directly to the shelter were eligible to win and Carol Mitsdarfer won this prize. The weather was great and we were especially fortunate this year that the Mott Estate was opened for the event. All of the runners and walkers received a flower at the finish line. The event will continue to be held on the last Saturday of September so we look forward to seeing you all September 24, 2005. We would like to acknowledge all of the sponsors of the event:

Mueller's Orchard  
H & D Tuxedo  
Fuddrucker's of Flint  
Panera Breads  
The Flint Journal  
Genesee County Parks  
Old Country Buffet  
U of M- Flint Rec Center  
Hurley Health & Fitness  
Genesys Athletic Club  
Crim Festival of Races  
Flint Youth Theatre  
Greater Flint Art Council  
Urban Walkers  
Coca Cola  
Rachel's Hallmark

Purple Frog Gifts  
Fazoli's  
Country Fresh Dairy  
Baker College  
Karr's Nuts  
Arbonne International  
Flint Institute of Arts  
CS Mott Community College  
The Body Shop at Home  
Famous Dave's  
Longway Planetarium  
Bauman's Running & Fitness Shop  
Good Bean's Cafe  
Kettering University  
Great Lakes Organization of Walkers  
U of M - Flint Bookstore

Health Touch Therapeutic Massage  
Riverbend Striders  
The Whiting  
Red Lobster  
Pappa Johns  
Shapes & Shades  
Flint City T-Shirts  
Economy Print & Graphics  
Big Apple Bagels  
Park Avenue Cheesecake Co  
YWCA of Greater Flint  
Pottery by Pam  
GLOW  
McDonalds Corporation  
WFUM - TV 28  
Oliver T's

# DID YOU KNOW?

*Did you know.....*

- The average age of a homeless person is 9.

*Did you know.....*

- More than 25% of the homeless are working

*Did you know.....*

- Children are the fastest growing group of homeless

*Did you know.....*

- Nationally children make up 39% of the homeless

*Did you know.....*

- 1/2 of the children in homeless shelters are under the age of 5

*Did you know.....*

- 40% of homeless men are veterans

*Did you know.....*

- Homeless awareness week is November 14-20, 2004

*Did you know.....*

- Overall, 14.4 million families in the United States have “critical” housing needs

*Did you know.....*

- Over 250,000 units of Affordable housing would have to be built each year for 20 years to meet the need

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