

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR DAY CARE

Many of the women who come to the shelter are actively seeking employment or are in training for jobs. While they go to job interviews or classes, their children must be taken care of. The shelter does not have on-site day care facilities or staff and so we must make arrangements for the children to be cared for at local day care centers. This is expensive. It costs \$255 per week *per child* plus a \$125 registration fee each. While this is expensive, it is also an important part of helping moms get jobs and/or education to help them succeed at independent living. Won't you please consider helping us with a gift to this important part of our service to families here at the shelter?

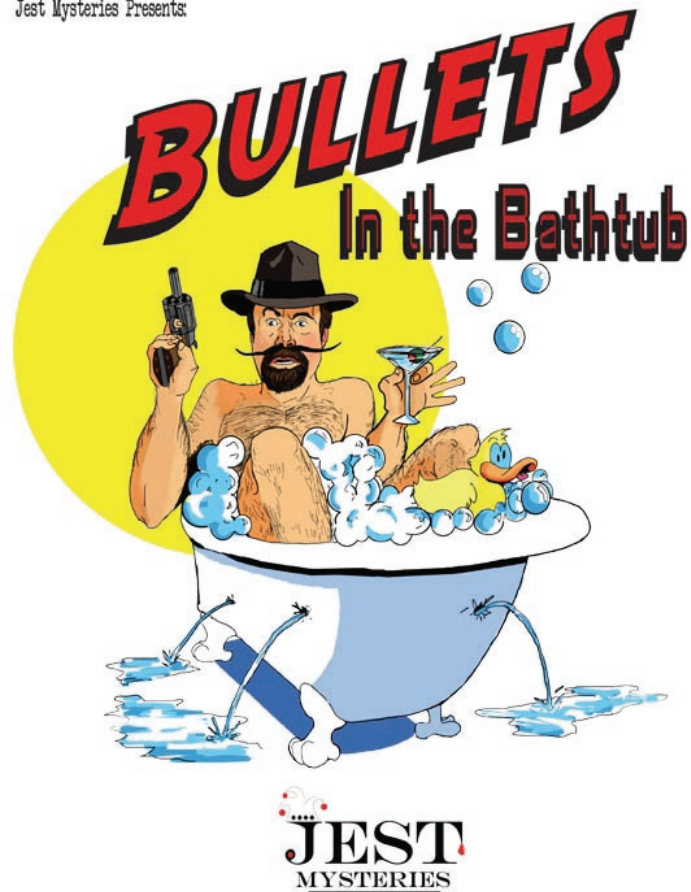
THANKS MIDTOWN TAP and TEA ROOM

It is with great thanks that we recognize Nancy Kupiec, owner of the Midtown Tap and Tea Room, who so graciously and generously helped us with our "Taste-Full Evening" fundraiser in May. In addition to a beautiful facility and friendly service, Nancy serves delectable food, fine wine and spirits. The ambiance and the delicious hors d'oeuvres made our fundraiser a great success.

You may find it interesting that in addition to this venture, Nancy is the owner of the construction company that renovated the church that now serves as our shelter. She's been involved with St. Paul's Center since its inception and is a long-time supporter of homeless housing projects in the Capital District. We thank you, Nancy, for all your help for the homeless.

If you have a chance to patronize her establishment, you will not be disappointed. She is located at 289 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, just west of St. Peter's Hospital.

Randy Manning and
Jest Mysteries Presents:



November 2, 2011 – Election Day
6 PM at Franklin Terrace, Troy
Tickets \$50 for dinner and the show

St. Paul's Center Resident Wish List

The needs of the families we serve go beyond the shelter walls. Through the generosity of the community, the Center strives to help mothers set up their new apartments. New or gently used items on the following list are always appreciated. Please call the shelter at 518-434-2910 if you would like to bring or drop off a donation.

Kitchen

Household Kitchen Supplies - Pots & Pans, Dishes, Silverware, etc. and Small Kitchen Appliances

Bedroom

Dressers, Bed Frames

Bathroom

New towels, toiletries, Shower curtain, rod and rings

Living Room

Couches, Chairs, Coffee Tables, End Tables and Lamps

For Babies - Diapers and Wipes

and Household Cleaning Supplies

Cash/Gift Cards (Walmart/Target etc..)



St. Paul's Center
BUILDING BRIDGES TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

PO Box 589 Rensselaer NY 12144
www.stpaulscenter.com

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Executive Director

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St. Paul's Center
BUILDING BRIDGES TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

transforming transitions

FALL 2011

The newsletter of the St. Paul's Center for homeless mothers and their children in Rensselaer County
PO Box 589 • Rensselaer, New York 12144 • 518.434.2910 • www.stpaulscenter.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTS

ST. PAUL'S CENTER CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

As I sit at 947 Third Street Rensselaer New York in the building that for 100 years served the community as a place of worship for the Lutheran Church, I feel a range of emotions as I reflect over the last five years. I remember the excitement about setting up of the offices, bedrooms, kitchen etc....and, oh yes, the frustration of putting up beds incorrectly and having to take them down; the enthusiasm and positive energy during staff training and orientation and, of course, feeling nervous that something was forgotten.

Five years later I still have all those feelings but now they are for different reasons. St. Paul's Center continues, in my opinion, to be a place where mothers and their children are afforded the opportunity for a fresh start and, with our support and cheering them along, a chance for each mother to reach the goals she has set for herself. Over the last five years, the shelter staff has been able to offer this opportunity to 325 mothers and 653 children. WOW! We have been busy.

How do we do it?? Well, first I would like to say that we do it only with the support of each of you! Through your donations we can furnish an apartment for a family, provide household items for the family to use on their first night at the dinner table. You provide us with funds that allow us to assist families with basic items and to support the overall operation of St. Paul's Center. I would be remiss if I did not mention the wonderful quilts that continue to be placed on each bed for the families when they arrive – those quilts which are then taken to provide warmth and security in a new home, wrapping mothers and children with love.

Back in 2006 when St. Paul's Center first opened, Commissioner John Beaudoin of Rensselaer County Department of Social Services, was front and center in supporting the role this shelter would play in the community. Upon his retirement, County Executive Kathy Jimino selected Randy Hall to fill the large shoes of Commissioner of Social Services. Through his leadership, Commissioner Hall continues to support the mission and work of St. Paul's Center. We could not do our work without the support we have received from these dedicated public servants who, along with all the staff at the Department of Social Services, make our services possible. There are so many people, organizations, communities, and public officials that I would like to thank....but I fear you would stop reading, so I am going to mention just a few as I reflect on the past five years.



St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, what can I say? Thank you does not even begin to express what is in my heart for the gift you gave to the homeless community when you decided to donate and renovate St. Paul's Lutheran Church into a homeless shelter for mothers with children....and you did not stop there....you continue to support our mission with donations during our appeals...your attendance to our fundraisers...and just your overall kindness, love and support. THANK YOU!

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTS

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As you know, not-for-profit organizations are run under the direction of a Board of Directors. St. Paul's Center has been blessed with board members who are driven, dedicated, fearless, compassionate, and smart. Please understand - they are a tough group to work for - but at the end of the day their tenacity is for the mothers and children we serve. The difference in St. Paul's Center Board is their concern doesn't stop with the mothers and the children. They care about each other and the staff as well looking for ways to uplift and support one another in their individual callings. THANK YOU!

Keeping the residents and staff safe on a daily basis can be tricky at times. St. Paul's Center is lucky to have a caring and responsive Fire Department and local Police Department which are always helpful when need arises. Being in the City of Rensselaer, I have had the pleasure to interact with our Mayor and the Chair of the Planning Department. THANK YOU!

I also want to mention the good people at NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance who funded our renovation and have given much guidance; the Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation which helped us start our very successful Bridges Program which follows up with families to prevent a reoccurrence of homelessness; the Daughters of Charity and especially our dear Sister Mary Rose McGeedy who offered such invaluable insights on the Board in the early years of the shelter; and those organizations which have supported us financially throughout the years: the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Hudson-Mohawk Conference of the Upstate NY Synod of the ELCA, Stewarts, Shops; and to our friends at Franklin Terrace and O'Connor's Murder by Design who have been so supportive of fundraising efforts. (Have we left anyone out???) THANK YOU!

When I look back on the successes in my life, I also look at those who helped make them so. Since the shelter opened on October 2, 2006, it is MOST important that I highlight that none of the shelter's success could have happened without its dedicated staff. It is true that some staff members have come and gone. The true heroes of the daily work we accomplish at St. Paul's Center are those who are still here. I thank you all. THANK YOU!

And so you will all know what a difference your contributions have made in allowing St. Paul's Center to serve, here are some statistics which reflect the diversity of the families who come to us for help. Since we opened our 19 bed shelter has served:

Families: 321

Children: 653

Boys: 342

Girls: 311

Education:

High school graduates/GED: 139

Did not complete High school: 182

Marital Status:

Single: 251

Married: 32

Separated: 19

Divorced: 17

Widowed: 2

Monthly Income:

No Income: 188

Under \$500: 84

\$500-\$1000: 39

\$1000 to \$2438: 10

Pregnant:

Yes: 47 No: 268

Don't Know: 1

No data: 5

Race:

American Indian/Alaskan Native: 7

Black or African American: 165

Don't know: 7

Multi Racial: 9

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 14

White: 119

Ethnicity of Mother:

Hispanic/Latino: 68

Non Hispanic/Non Latino: 253

Of the 321 mothers served in our five years of operations, we have had only 44 incidents of a mother returning to the shelter.

MEET THE BOARD

St Paul's Center is very fortunate to have a wide range of expertise in its Board of Directors. As you will see from the information below, we have a diverse, caring, multi-talented and committed Board working to insure that the Center continues to live out its mission statement to empower the women and children in our care, to advocate for all homeless persons, and to manage the resources of the Center so that it will be able to serve well into the future.

Dianne Ewashko, President, is a social worker by background. Two years ago, she retired from a career at the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and now has an independent consulting business. She travels extensively assisting children and family services departments in other states and municipalities with their programs. Dianne has been with St. Paul's since it opened in 2005..



Dolores Mascolo, Vice President, has a background as a controller and senior financial manager, and is now the Office Manager for St. Joseph's Provincial House in Latham. She is the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and joined the board in 2009.



Tim Pierce, Treasurer, is a certified public accountant with the firm of Stulmaker Kohn & Richardson LLP. Tim is a member of our Finance and Audit Committee and helps make sure we get excellent reviews from our auditors each year. He is in his second term with the board.



Marilyn Dyer, Secretary, was part of the development and founding board and has served since the Center's inception in 2000. She works as the Executive Assistant to a New York State Senator and is well-versed in the legislative process. She is the chair of the Publications Sub-Committee of Resource Development.



Susanne Alterio is serving her first term with the St. Paul's Board. With a Master's Degree in Public Administration, Susanne served as a senior policy analyst and program manager with the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform, and later worked as the Deputy Inspector General in the NYS Office of the Medical Inspector General. Presently, she is the Program Coordinator for the Schodack Castleton Community Partnership (SCCP) where she administers the Drug Free Communities Grant they were awarded 5 years ago. Susanne serves on the board's Strategies and Advocacy Committee.



Crystal Brandow is the Program Development Coordinator at the Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Great Capital Region. Her work there naturally translates

to great insights on the St. Paul's board. She has also done beautiful graphic design work for some of our event invitations. Crystal is serving her second term and is Chair of the Strategies and Advocacy Committee.



Melissa Currado comes to us from her work as the Executive Assistant to the CEO of the New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. She has expertise as a membership and events coordinator and is Chair of the Resource Development Committee. She helps the board keep up to date on social media networking. Melissa has been with us since 2009.



Corinne Davis has her Master's in Social Work employed by Albany County as a Re-entry Case Manager for formerly incarcerated persons. She has extensive experience in case management, school and community advocacy and outreach and has worked in the areas of foster care, children's mental health, domestic



MEET THE BOARD

violence and substance abuse. She brings her gifts to the Advocacy and Resource Development committees for the Center.

Sharon DeMartini: With expertise in business and program management, Sharon is the Program Manager for the Certificate in Nursing Management Program at Excelsior College. Sharon was part of the founding board and served as President of the Board for two terms. She is presently Chair of the Governance Committee which deals with internal policies and procedures for the board and shelter.



Debra Frenn has been with St. Paul's Board since 2010. She received her Doctorate in Nursing Science, Leadership and Education in 2010 and is the Senior Vice President



for Patient Services at Seton Health. Debra is a member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Shirley Leahy is a lifelong resident of Rensselaer County whose family has been in business in the county for over 100 years. Shirley is retired from a 35 year career at Hudson Valley Community College where in addition to being the Executive Assistant in the Engineering division, she helped young students with housing, social services and emotional support. She serves on our Governance Committee and has been on the Board since 2008.



Sister Mary Anne Rodgers, CSJ, is the Provincial Director for the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet. The order is based in St. Louis but she has her office at the Provincial



House in Latham. We met Sister when she was the Vice President for Mission Integration at Seton Health and knew she would be a wonderful addition to our board. Sister Mary Anne serves on both the Property and Finance committees. She has been on the board since 2006.

Michelle Sandoz-Dennis is our newest board member and comes to us as the Project Associate, Technical Assistance Unit, at CARES, Inc., a not-for-profit agency which works in partnership with persons living with HIV/AIDS and other disabilities. CARES manages the Homeless Management Information System for the tri-city area which tracks the demographics of homeless persons and their unmet needs for shelter or housing. She is part of our Resource Development Committee.



UPCOMING EVENTS TO BENEFIT ST. PAUL'S CENTER

Car Wash– Hoffmans Tickets are available through St. Paul's web site 8.00 per wash and St. Paul's receives 4.00 per ticket sold.

November 2, 2011 – Murder Mystery – BULLETS IN THE BATHTUB

Join a zany cast of characters as we laugh at a murderously funny show with a nod to Election Day. 6 PM at Franklin Terrace, Troy. Tickets \$50 for dinner and the show.

November 10, 2011 – Annual Concert to Benefit the Homeless – Troy Savings Bank Music Hall

Come listen to the Benny Goodman Big Band. Order tickets direct from TSB Music Hall ticket office that they are to support St. Paul's Center. Prices vary by seating.