

August 2010

Summer

Mission Secures \$400,000 HUD Grant for Supportive Housing Project

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced that the Rescue Mission of Trenton was awarded a \$400,000 competitive grant to create 15 studio apartments for the homeless at the site of a long-vacant building located at 501-507 Perry Street. The existing building will be demolished and a new four-story 15,700-square-foot building constructed. The grant was awarded under HUD's Continuum of Care programs.

Each of the apartments will be approximately 500 square feet and ADA compliant. The first floor will be 4,527 square feet and will consist of a manager's office, laundry room, restroom, community room and commercial space. Each of the remaining three floors will consist of five studio apartments and small sitting area.

The project site is adjacent to the Perry Street on and off ramps to Route 1. It is located at one of the key entryways to the City of Trenton.

The building was acquired a few years ago by the Rescue Mission with the help of Hutchinson Industries, a long-time corporate supporter of the Mission. The lot adjacent to the building (lots 505-507) was conveyed to the Mission by Princeton Holdings, LLC for one dollar in 2003. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$3,000,000.

The Mission has received a \$50,000 pre-development loan from the Corporation for Supportive Housing for the project. Additional funding requests will be made to the New Jersey Housing Mortgage Finance Agency and to the City of Trenton and to area corporations and foundations for this project. It is anticipated that the remainder of the project cost will come from funding streams that are linked to project participants.

"The project is a logical next step in our attempt to provide a continuum of housing options to our clients. It begins with basic shelter and the Homeless Assessment and Referral Program that is available in the shelter. It moves on to Vince's Place, our residential and halfway house addiction program which includes a job development component. Our services also include an Outpatient Addictions Treatment Unit, Transitional Housing for those who are working to transition from institutions to independent housing, Robinson Program, a license Rooming and Boarding program for supportive housing, and Brimmer House, a Permanent Supportive Housing Program, with a landlord structure for clients while they go to school and/or work.

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is the agency in the City of Trenton that serves the truly needy men and women who have no place to turn for shelter, food, and clothing. The Mission provides a safe, clean, warm refuge for the homeless, the hungry, the transient, the addicted. The Mission provides services and counseling to encourage individuals to reach their greatest potential. The Mission creates an environment where one can live with dignity, build self-esteem, experience love, responsibility and hope.

Services include:

Vince's Place: Licensed by the State of NJ, Department of Human Services, as a Residential Addictions Treatment Facility (75 beds).

Outpatient Program: Substance abuse care for men and women providing counseling sessions, group counseling sessions, and addiction education. Referral for medical, behavioral health care, and other services as appropriate.

Robinson Program: Licensed by the State of NJ, Department of Community Affairs, Class C Rooming & Boarding House (50 beds).

Weekend Soup Kitchen

Emergency clothing and furniture

Emergency Shelter: Shelter for single men and women. Licensed by the State of NJ, Department of Community Affairs.

TEACH Program: Individuals are provided training in GED preparation, basic literacy, reading/writing skills, job seeking skills and computer and word processing skills.

Industrial Salvage: Donated materials are collected by route trucks and processed and sold through the Carroll Street Store and warehouse. The Mission depends on Industrial Salvage for 40% of its operating budget.

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Project Homeless Connect Service Fair Held Across From the Mission

On July 8th, the Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care (COC) conducted its third annual Summer Project Homeless Connect. The one-day event is designed to provide linkage to services and hospitality in a convenient, single location for people experiencing homelessness. The empty lot located at 88-100 Ewing Street was transformed into a cookout site where a hot picnic lunch with all the trimmings was served and helpful items distributed. The Mission representative to the COC is Joyce Williams, Emergency Services Manager. The Mission was one of the many service agencies, both private and non-profit, who were on hand to provide information and giveaways during the event.



So Many Ways to Help

Annually, more than 1,300 individuals, organizations, religious institutions and companies support the work of the Mission. Our supporters provide treasure, time, and talent to the Mission. The most frequent manner of support is through financial donations. Hundreds of others support our efforts to rebuild lives by donating their time and talent. This support takes many different forms. The following are some ways that organizations have supported us.

In-kind donation of goods:

Action Realty holiday turkeys and hams;
Aztec Software Inc. computer software for our TEACH Program;
Marriott Lafayette Hotel holiday turkeys and other food stuff;
Pennington-Ewing Athletic Club towels for the emergency shelter;
Princeton Corridor Rotary Club gifts for residents' children at holidays;
Princeton Junior School 1st and 4th graders bag lunches for clients;
TYCO International holiday stocking stuffers.

In-kind donation of services:

New Jersey Sanitary Supply Association cleaning services;
Paul Trosko advice and counsel regarding eBay listings;
Princeton Alliance Church sorts and hangs clothes for the Mission store;
Princeton Garden Statesmen holiday performances;
Pro Bono Inc. provides legal services;
Dozens of groups annually assemble hygiene packages for distribution to residents;
A variety of individuals serve as guest speakers at the Mission each year;

Several individuals provided training courses for employees and residents;

Placement of Mission Clothing Collection Boxes:

Mountain View Gas Station, Ewing;
Educational Testing Service, Lawrenceville;
Freddie's Tavern, West Trenton;
Lutheran Church of God's Love, Newtown, Pennsylvania;
Our Lady of Good Counsel, West Trenton;
Princeton University.

Providing On-Site Work Opportunities for Residents:

Hutchinson Industries;
TerraCycle Inc.

Conduct Clothing Drives:

"More than one-hundred area churches, synagogues, clubs and businesses conduct on-site drives for the Mission."

The Mission is constantly on the look out for individuals and entities that will provide on-site work to be performed by our residents, host clothing drives, serve as a location for a clothing collection box, or donate goods (excess product can be sold in our retail store) or services.

In these very difficult times, we desperately need the help of the community to continue to remake and reshape lives. There are so many ways you can help the Mission – give Doug Liebau, our Director of Entrepreneurial & Training, a call today at 609-815-3976.

Lab on Wheels Comes To the Mission

Mission employees and residents participating in the Mission's Job Readiness Program will be receiving extensive training over the next several months from The Center for Training and Development (CTD) Mercer County Community College. Funding for the training program came from a grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor Workforce Development Grant.

The CTD recently entered into a contract with the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) to provide training designed to upgrade current and new employee with skills for today's rapidly changing workplace environment

John Harmon, President/CEO of AACCNJ, reached out to the Mission to ascertain whether this kind of job-readiness training would be helpful to our residents seeking to enter the workforce or to Mission employees seeking to upgrade their employment skills. The answer was a resounding yes. According to Harmon "the AACCNJ is committed to leveraging public and private sector resources to increase the competitiveness of employers in New Jersey while strengthening their workforce." "Moreover, there are still resources available through the state of New Jersey to improve the sustainability of Trenton businesses even in these tough economic times," said Harmon.

On July 28th the CTC mobile training bus provided training to Mission residents and employees on Outlook/Email. There are 4 additional classes scheduled from August to November. The classes will cover Microsoft Word and Excel and two courses will provide a 3-day training session on written and verbal communications.



HUD Grant for Supportive Housing Project

(Continued from page 1)

According to Bonnier Baker, President of the Mission Board of Director's, "The project is a logical next step in our attempt to provide a continuum of housing options to our clients." At the beginning of this continuum, clients receive basic Emergency Shelter and can participate in the Homeless Assessment and Referral Program. Further along the continuum are the residential addictions treatment programs (Vince's Place) with long-term, halfway and extended levels of care including a Job Development component. Services also include an Outpatient addictions treatment unit and Transitional Housing for those transitioning to independent living. And at the end of the continuum are our Rooming and Boarding (Robinson Program) supportive housing, and permanent supportive housing (Brimmer House) units.

According to Mary Gay Abbott-Young, the Mission's CEO, "the project to date has been an extraordinary triumph of community. We have received extraordinary cooperation from the City of Trenton. I want to especially thank Andrew Cartin, Jerome Harris, Harrietta Owusu, Cleophis Roper and Carolyn Lewis-Spruill for their patience and support. The staff of the Housing Mortgage Finance Agency including Pam McCrory, who have been very helpful. Finally, the community for being so receptive to the project (it will require final Planning Board approval)."

Abbott-Young also praised the project team composed of: Rhonda Coe of RB Coe Consulting, LLC, the project's consultant; Steve Cohen, AIA, the project's architect; and Bruce Sattin, Esq., of Szaferman Lakind, the project's attorney.

FOCUS ON

...Karla Tillman Pollack

For years before she joined the Rescue Mission Board of Directors, Karla Tillman Pollack was well acquainted with the Mission's programs, thanks to her father, a former Director and President of the Board, Kenneth G. Tillman.

"I feel like I've been connected even though my official role began this year," she said, recounting tours of the Mission with her dad and shopping trips there. "I purchased my first dresser at the store," she said.

Her father has been involved in a variety of volunteer roles over the years, she said, but the Mission board and the Trenton Rotary Club were constants in his life. She is involved in both, and it was through Trenton Rotary that she came to become a member of the Board of Directors. She received a personal invitation from Matthew J. Graglia, Treasurer, to join the board. "I've seen the great work that the Mission does," she said, "and I was honored to be asked." Her father is pleased, she said, about her appointment, and so is she. "I'm able to share both experiences with him."

Since joining the board in December she has been working on the Marketing and Public Relations Committee and recently volunteered for the Venture Committee. The posts allow her to utilize some of the same skills she brings to her work every day at Association Business Solutions, Inc. in Trenton, where she provides management and marketing services for organizations and nonprofit groups.

ABS clients include the 200 Club of Mercer County, the Hispanic Education Resource Alliance, the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce and the Mercer Regional Chamber of

Commerce, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, New Jersey Retail Merchants Association, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Trenton Housing Authority and the U.S. Green Building Council – New Jersey Chapter. Her connection to Trenton includes her business; four years ago she came back to the city and set up offices in the Historic Mill Hill District. "We love being down here," she said of her location in the heart of the city. Serving on the Board of Directors is a continuation of her lifetime interest in nonprofits, she said. "You always want to be involved in a group that has a good leader and is run well. I found both at the Mission."

Despite the hard work of the staff and the board in recent years, the need for the Mission's services is not decreasing, she said. "With the current economy and issues in the community, I think the Mission plays an important role. Their approach is very entrepreneurial, finding creative ways to raise money and deliver services." She sees a need to continue to educate the public about the Mission and its work and with that to help increase public support. "If we get out the word even further, we can get a larger sustainable base of local residents and companies involved," she said.

Karla lives in Lawrenceville with her husband Scott. For recreation she enjoys golf, tennis, and dining out with friends.



THE MISSION CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR SUPPORT

If you did not respond to our annual appeal please do so at this time.

We cannot serve those most in need in our community without your continued support.

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please send check and coupon to: **Rescue Mission of Trenton**, P.O. Box 790, Trenton, NJ 08605-0790

Downturn in Economy Affecting Clothing Donations



In the back of your closet you probably have a shirt or a pair of pants, maybe a coat or a sweater that you no longer wear or need. For you, it represents a chore, something to get rid of when you have time. But for the residents and clients of the Rescue Mission at the Rescue Mission of Trenton, it represents hope.

Those residents came into the Mission with substance abuse problems. Programs that have evolved to meet the need over the Mission's 95-year history have helped them to make huge strides toward addressing their addictions and finding work. It's your old shirts, sweaters and other reusable goods that help make that happen.

Recycling, reusing and rebuilding lives have been at the core of the Mission since its founding in 1915. For most of the last century the Mission has generated a substantial portion of the funds needed to reshape and remake lives from the resale of items collected or donated to the Mission. Last year, the industrial salvage and store sales generated approximately 24% of total income, down from more than 40% of total revenue at certain points in the Mission's history. This represents a huge loss for the programs the residents depend on.

The Great Depression of 1929 put huge demands on the Mission. To meet the growing need for its services the Mission purchased 98 Carroll Street, the site it has occupied ever since. The increased demand on services and the rising cost of maintaining an enlarged facility and paying off the mortgage put great financial pressure on the Mission. To help defray the increased cost, the head of the Mission at the time, Joseph Keating, Jr., decided that men staying at the Mission should be engaged in some work that would help offset the cost of their food and shelter and provide them with a sense of belonging and responsibility. In 1931 he secured a contract with local property owners to demolish a vacant building.

Over the next few years the Mission salvage operation expanded to include sending out trucks throughout the City to pick up paper, used furniture and clothing. The furniture and clothing were resold in the Mission while the paper was sold to commercial recycling companies. The list of items collected expanded to include electrical appliances, lamps, radios, televisions and bicycles which were repaired by Mission clients and sold in our store.

Over the next six decades the various aspects of industrial salvage changed with the times. The Mission no longer collects firewood, and no longer maintains repair shops as it is not economically viable to repair most electrical products. In addition to the changes in industrial salvage, the Mission's clients have changed over time. The population today is composed of younger clients with co-occurring disorders, and criminal justice clients who come to the Mission's treatment programs. Our goal is to assist these clients with their recovery by providing ongoing treatment, training opportunities, and assistance in obtaining employment and housing.

Today the Mission maintains a fleet of six trucks that pick up bric-a-brac, clothing, computers, household items, sports equipment and tools which are sold in the Mission's Carroll Street store, through eBay sales, antique auctions, and commercial sales. Unfortunately, the last year has seen a dramatic fall-off in donations of clothing and furniture to the Mission. According to Doug Liebau, Director of Entrepreneurial and Training, "the fall-off in donations and store sales is, no doubt, a direct result of the severe downturn of the economy. It began with a significant reduction in donations of men's clothing, but now extends across the board. We really need to spur all donations, but especially clothing donations. Clothing sold at the Mission store is offered at an extremely low price in recognition of the lack of resources of most of our customers."

If you are sitting on a stash of clothing, linens, blankets, sheets or towels, give us a call today. We are especially interested in group pick-ups at area companies, religious institutions, fairs/farmers markets, and community and family gatherings. Let us know and we will have a truck(s) at your event. All donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be provided that day. To arrange a pick-up call 1-800-528-8825 or go to www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org.

RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON

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Parbattie Persaud Harris, Thomasine and Brandon Gaines, and Gilbert Harris joining us at the 2010 National Night Out

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is not affiliated with any other organization in the U.S. listed as Rescue Mission. It is a private non-profit organization.

Did You Know... Did You Know ...

- ✓ **Rescue Mission Welcomes New Staff:** Joining our growing staff are Leah Rogers, Outpatient Treatment Services Manager; Sandra Opoku, Counselor; Jennifer Sandersan, Outpatient Counselor Intern; Thora Faigle, Support Services Program Manager; Ida B. Malloy, Recruitment Specialist.
- ✓ **3rd Helping Hands Awards:** On March 25th, Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO was guest of honor at Antheil School for the 2010 Present-Day Hero Ceremony representing the Mission's beloved co-worker and friend, Furnie Gaines. Furnie was the proud recipient of the 1st Present-Day Hero award in 2007.
- ✓ **Volunteer Opportunities:** The first Saturday of each month is open for individuals and/or corporations wishing to volunteer their time to support the Mission. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Joanna Weill at 609-695-1436 ext. 177. The next scheduled date is September 4, 2010.
- ✓ **Founders Day:** 95 years of service for the Rescue Mission was celebrated on May 17th with a special dinner. More than 50 residents, volunteers, employees, and friends of the Mission were in attendance and eager to share their Mission memories.
- ✓ **First Steps to Rebuilding Lives:** Since April of this year, our new Job Development Program has assisted 9 residents in securing entry-level employment.
- ✓ **National Night Out:** For the 7th year, the Rescue Mission celebrated National Night Out with many residents, staff, friends, and community neighbors in attendance. There were plenty of hamburgers and hot dogs to go around, games, prizes, and good natured fun (see photo above).