

HAVEN NEWS

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Haven's employment focus helps clients earn a key to independence: a good job

"Why doesn't she just get a job?" This is a common sentiment about people who become homeless.

Finding employment in today's market is challenging for even experienced professionals, and it's an especially daunting challenge for many clients of The Lake County Haven for a variety of reasons. Clients' work histories are often a barrier to getting hired. Often the women have never worked, or have only worked at low-skill positions. Sometimes abusers will not allow their wife or girlfriend to work outside the home. In other cases, the lack of life skills or lack of education inhibit the woman's ability to work.

One of the main components of the program at The Lake County Haven is for clients to find gainful employment. Haven clients are required to complete a minimum of 5-10 job applications daily until they find a job. Most women go door-to-door at the different retailers and restaurants in the

area as part of their job search.

Thanks to a new grant from the North Suburban United Way Financial Stability initiative, The Lake County Haven has been able to add the expertise of an

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employment specialist to its staff, with the goal of helping teach clients important job searching and career management skills that will help them for life.

"I help our clients learn how to utilize online job search tools, and set up career profiles on key employment websites," said Carolyn Brodnicki, Employment Specialist for The Haven. Clients learn

interviewing skills through a series of mock interviews and role-playing activities, she said. And the learning doesn't stop when the job is secured, according to Carolyn.

"Once the clients are employed, I help them plan their next steps, recommending strategies that will help them move upward in their current company, gain more training through specialty programs, or search for more profitable long-term employment," she said.

"Our goal is to help women find job stability. Once they achieve this, they gain financial security and are well positioned to become independent," she said. "More importantly, the women gain self-confidence in their ability to provide for themselves." And self-confidence is an important foundation for building an independent life. ♥

If you know of job opportunities, please contact Carolyn at Carolyn.brodnicki@lakecountyhaven.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- We're Off to the Races for This Year's Havenly Night ... 1-2
- From the Director & President ... 2
- One Woman at a Time 3
- Shelter Renovation: Before.... 4
- Shelter Renovation: After..... 5
- Haven Happenings 6
- Donor Recognition 7
- Haven Wish List 8

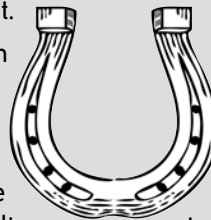
We're Off to the Races for This Year's "Havenly Night"

Ladies, get your best Derby Hat ready because at this year's gala, we're heading to the Kentucky Derby! Join us **Saturday, April 24, 2010**, at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove for this year's Gala event.

The personal story of a Haven graduate will inspire. Back by popular demand, "The Moods" will give us reason to dance. And three hundred of The Haven's friends will enjoy a live and silent auction, dinner and dancing, and

the excitement of a fabulous raffle.

Event co-chairs **Susan Lazzaretto** and **Jenn Hart**, Gala Committee members, and The Haven Board of Directors are excited to be in the "starting gate" and ready to race to the finish line in preparation for this year's festivities. This is The Haven's single biggest fundraiser, and as we've done in years past, we're looking to top last year's fundraising effort.



(continued on page 2)

From the Director & Board President:

Consider the youngest victims of homelessness

Picture a homeless person. Do you envision the stereotypical “bum?” Do you think of an older man, sitting on a street corner, asking for money?

Actually, the typical homeless person today is a child, and children are also the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

“...children are also the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.”

This has been proven repeatedly in studies done throughout the country; it is true in the cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

Homelessness affects children in striking ways. In a study of how children respond to homelessness, the Ford Foundation found that 59% of mothers surveyed noticed a definite change in their children’s behavior after

homelessness occurred. 44% of moms noted that their kids were more emotional, cried more often and were angry and confused.

While homeless, children tend to miss school and to change schools often. Besides experiencing the stress of dealing with

a strange, new environment, and having to make new friends, children also suffer academically. It is estimated that each time a child changes schools it takes 4-6 months for that child to recover academically. Repeatedly changing schools exacerbates this problem.

Living a transitory life takes a special toll on children. Homeless children have delayed growth and development, develop learning disorders, often have to repeat a grade, exhibit behavioral problems, and score lower on educational achievement tests than other children.

At The Lake County Haven, we work hard to provide safety and stability to all of our littlest residents. These children need our best efforts: our support, comfort, guidance and services. We can only provide this with your help. Please send in a donation today so that we can continue to provide shelter and services to the most innocent victims of homelessness.

*Laura Sabino, Executive Director
Ken Neumann, President, Board of Directors*

THE HAVEN NEWS



A newsletter highlighting the work of The Lake County Haven

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We're Off to the Races for This Year's "Havenly Night"

(cont. from page 1) The Gala committee members began working on the event last summer and are busy soliciting and gathering tempting auction items. Tickets to sporting events, plays or concerts, weekend getaways, state-of-the-art electronic devices, one-of-a-kind artwork, signed sports memorabilia... the list of amazing auction items will be sure to impress.

Auction co-chairs **Sandy Joyce** and **Kim Holmes** welcome your contributions.

Gift certificates to your favorite restaurants, hotels and theaters, and theme parties with special attractions like guest chefs are big ticket items. Contact Sandy and Kim at Sandyjoyce@discover.com and Kimholmes@discover.com.

Raffle chair **Diane Sullivan** has compiled some fantastic raffle prizes, so be prepared to “Win, Place or Show” with your ticket purchase. This year’s grand prize is an LCD flat screen TV and home theater system, second prize is a \$1000 Discover gift certificate, and third place is a Chicago getaway. The tickets are \$20 or 3 for \$50, and ticket sales events will be held at various local spots during March and April. Tickets may also be purchased through the Haven administrative office, so call (847) 680-1703 to reserve yours now.

The Decoration committee headed by **Janet Cooper** will turn this year’s Derby-themed party into a “Run for the Roses” spectacular. Keep an eye on your mail for the beautiful invitation designed by Haven artist-in-residence **Stephanie Toral**.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event or receiving an invitation, please contact (847) 680-1870 or e-mail volunteer@lakecountyhaven.org. See you at the Races! ♥



One Woman at a Time

This feature highlights the stories of people who are improving their lives with help from The Haven. Names may have been changed to protect client anonymity.

Patrice Work is an important part of Patrice's life, and always has been. Raised in Lake County, her profession out of high school was nursing and care of special needs children. She went on to work as a childcare provider, retail clerk, data entry specialist, claims resolver, credit manager, and other corporate jobs. "I have worked in the corporate world, making a decent income. But I never had a penny of savings. I spent all the money I had," Patrice said. "I realize now I didn't have coping skills. I didn't understand consequences."

"In the past, I looked for fix-it jobs. Fix-it relationships. I was always looking for something to fix," she said. Stress in her life would often lead her to another kind of fix—going out to bars and clubs on weekends, using drugs to escape the realities of her life.

Patrice's life began to unravel in 2006 when she was fired from her job. "I left there, drove right to a crack house, and didn't emerge for two solid weeks. I give everything 150%, and drugs were no exception," Patrice said.

Harrowing experiences such as eviction from her home, run-ins with drug dealers, and emotional and physical traumas brought

Patrice to the realization that she needed help. An arrest led her to the treatment she desperately needed. After completing an inpatient treatment for her drug problem, she knew she needed more



"My view of what's important has really changed. I was raised, for better or for worse, to think that other people's view of you is important. I no longer feel that way."

structure than many shelters could offer, and The Haven was the right answer.

"I was a typical case—I became the company I kept. Whatever the crowd was doing, I wanted to do," Patrice said. "I was trying to fill a huge hole inside myself. Today that hole is God-shaped. And filled!" she said.

She arrived at The Haven in January 2008, eager for structure and a positive environment. Patrice followed the rules and programs faithfully, and the required "homework" changed how she looks at the world. "My view of what's important has really changed," she said. "I was raised, for better or for worse, to think that other people's view of you is important. I no longer feel that way," she said.

"I've been humbled when it comes to work and income—God bless those Jewel baggers. You don't know how hard that work is until you do it," she said.

Patrice says her experiences at The Haven taught her to save her money, and how to live on a budget. She received a donated bicycle, which she rode to and from her job. Eventually she received a car donated through The Haven, which she drives today.

Patrice successfully completed her cosmetology board exams in February 2010, and is only steps away from a new, creative career to go along with her hard-won independence.

"After 35 years of 'poor me,' I finally don't have to be hurt by the past any more. I'm a whole new person. The Haven has helped me take charge of my life," Patrice said. "I can't imagine where I'd be without this experience." ♥

HAVEN RENOVATION: BEFORE



*The Lake County Haven would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who came together in order to update and beautify our clients' home. Through their generous donations of time, talent and treasure, we were able to make dramatic improvements throughout our shelter. **We thank you most sincerely!** ♥*

Julane & Gerald Alt • Jim Ambrose • Ansley & Marco Amidei • Cindy & Mark Anderson • Jay Applehans • Applehans Inc • Artichokes & Ephemera • Cathy Aubin • Dennis Aubin • Jeff Aubin • Mary Billish • Sue Blocker • Brook Furniture Rental • Builder's Cabinet Supply • Teresa Burgess • Lori & Kevin Burns • Ed & Barb Bush • Rick & Julie Cannon • Belmonti Carpet • Kristine & David Cauble • CCR Top Inc • Cenni & Ambrose • Leslie & Rich Chapman • Angela & Tom Chen • Janelle Christensen • Twig Cirulis • Janet Cooper • Tim Cotter • Custom Sewing Innovations • Pam & Joseph Damico • Dan the Key Man • Liz Davalos • Chris DeBoo • Mary Jane & Tom Dee • Sheila & Meade Detweiler • Nancy Doherty • Dan Dretske • Wendy Eckrote • Sarah & John Eichmann • Dretske Electric • Kim Emmet • Abbie & Jack Fassnacht • Melisa Feeley • James Fehling • Discover Financial • Jill Finley • Finley Design Services • Nora Flaherty • Bob Flaherty • Annette & Tom Freyman • Angela & Thomas Fusco • Linda Gaska • Andrew Gebhardt • Michael Grant • Larry Greenfield • Vanessa & Chris Griffin • Groot • Lena & Rick Hall • Brad Hall • Russell Hall • Dave Hammerl • Kitty & Tim Hayford • Elaine & Todd Hepler • Home Depot • Inside Out Home Staging Inc • Lynn Jachec • James Kalgren Decorating • Linda & Bill Johnson • K&E Solutions Ltd • Jim Kalgren • Judy & Mike Karner • Nanette & Russell Kelley • Fran Kemerling • Dan Koetz • Koetz Plumbing • Colleen & Larry Kramer • Michelle & Bill Krumm • Joy & Matt Kruyswyk • Lake Mountain Feng Shui • Dave Lambert • Linda Lanci • Lanci Family • Charles Laughlin • Suzanne & David Lingard • Lowe's • M&L Flooring America • Ajay Madhani • Sheri Maki • John Mannion • Kate McNulty • Gina Metzger • Mary Meyn • Cynthia Mottram • Dave Mottram • My Family Furniture and Bedding • Julie & Ken Neumann • Order In The House • Panera • Susan & Elliot Pinsel • Pizza Italia • Quality Leather Restoration • Refreshing Space • Debbie & Ryan Rodbro • Steve & Karen Sawyer • Pam & Bill Saxelby • Shake's Roofing • Beth & Bob Shea • Sherwin Williams • Simply Staging • Benjamin Smock • Kerry Spera • Staged by Cathy • Jennifer Steen • Stonecrafters, Inc • Studio 41 • Lauri Sudol • Sharon & Barry Taylor • Karin Tenuta • Ann Teuthorn • Natale & Bill Teuthorn • The Lone Arranger • Mary & John Thomas • Pam Thomas • Timberline • Two Men and a Truck • Mary Ann & Ken Urbasewski • Lisa Vaisvila • W&W Painting/Remodeling • Jane & Mike Waller • Marcia Webb • Kim Welch • Debra & Tom Werner • Brenda Wilhelm • Sherie Wilks • Joanne & Lance Williams • Williamson Family • Kathy & Jim Young • Your Limosine



HAVEN RENOVATION: AFTER



HAVEN HAPPENINGS

The holiday season brought out the true spirit of giving, and The Lake County Haven was the beneficiary of an overwhelming show of generosity from members of the community, houses of worship, schools, businesses and groups. We are grateful to all those who focused on the problem of homelessness and directed their energy and efforts to supporting the mission of the Haven. By providing items on our wish list, these people help in keeping down expenses at the shelter and providing the residents of The Haven with the household items that make the shelter a home.

A big thank you to **Dance Academy of Libertyville**, the congregation of **St. Joe's in Libertyville**, **Edie Ceisel** and **Harris Bank in Libertyville**, employees of **Baxter**, **Mara Battaglia** at **Highland Middle School**, our friends at the **Hawthorn Woods Women's Club**, and **Betsy Kim** for collecting and delivering the much-needed items such as paper towels, tissue, soap, and frozen meat.

Welcome baskets containing personal care items for new residents of The Haven are a great way to make a client feel comfortable and at home upon their arrival. Thanks to **Westmoreland ObGyn Associates** in Lake Forest, **Susan Star** of Long Grove, and **Lori Meadows** and her colleagues at **WW Grainger** for compiling the baskets for the Haven staff to keep on hand and present to each new resident upon their arrival.

Our new friends at **MakeitBetter.net** provided 28 brand new winter coats, hats and gloves to all of our shelter and Stage II residents and children. We're touched by the extent of their generosity!

The **Northwest Suburban Ministry Center of the Chicago Church of Christ** in conjunction with **HOPE Worldwide** once again provided Thanksgiving baskets for the shelter residents. The residents were then able to prepare a special holiday meal in the beautiful new kitchen.

We were fortunate to be the beneficiary of a grocery store gift card drive by the members of the **Grand Dominion Community Association** in Mundelein. These cards help us tremendously in keeping the pantry stocked!

The creative and talented members of the **Vernon Hills High School Knitting Club** provided beautiful hand-knit scarves for the residents—thank you for sharing warmth this season.

Thank you to the **Vernon Area Library** for collecting infant and children's pajamas, and toothbrushes.

The members of the **Ivanhoe Country Club** held a non-perishable food drive to benefit the Haven and filled three golf carts! This is another generous effort that will go a long way in keeping our grocery bills down and the new kitchen cabinets full.

We are continually grateful to our staunch supporters at the **Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Junior Women's Club**. This year, The Lake County Haven was the happy recipient of the proceeds from both their Scavenger Hunt and Christmas Times events. Their unflagging support is greatly appreciated by everyone connected to the Haven!

A big thank you to **JoAnne Mayfield** and **Mary Anne Urbanewski** for cleaning and preparing a Stage II residence for a new family.

The shelter residents have been enjoying farm-fresh eggs courtesy of the **Rev. Barbara Peter** and her flock of chickens. What a treat!

Once again, our amazing Auxiliary members made the holiday season special for the Haven residents. **Donna Barnett** hosted the client holiday party at the shelter, serving a delicious meal and hosting a cookie exchange. Her co-hosts were **Karin Tenuta**, **Janet Plumeri** and **Karla Pease**. Thanks, too, to all the members who provided cookies for the party: **Mary Peplinski**, **Wendy Turner**, **Kim Krauss**, **Debby Rizzol**, **Nikki Amato**, members of **Mothers4Others**, and everyone else who took the time to bake.

A special thanks to everyone who participated in the sorting and distribution of the Holiday Wish List gift items. **Lena Hall**, **JoAnne Mayfield**, **Denise Kirchoff**, **Kathleen Christie-Jaroch** and her daughters **Mackenzie** and **Natalie**, and **Susie Roeber** dedicated so much time and effort in making sure every client and child received the gifts they were hoping for. Thanks, too, to **Dale and John List** for the use of their beautiful home for the sorting process.

You've seen the beautiful results of the kitchen remodel in this issue of the newsletter. It is truly the heart of The Haven, but the remodel process didn't happen overnight. While the full kitchen was out of commission, several generous individuals provided home-cooked meals for the residents. Thank you to the following people for their generous contribution to the shelter: **Judy Leroux**, **Mickey Jones**, **Mary Russert**, **Gail Hagen**, **Lori Burns**, **JoAnne Mayfield**, **Lorraine Pritchard**, **Diane Sullivan**, **Craig Raddatz**, **Karin Tenuta**, **Jill Hollister**, **Karen Carter**, **Denise Kirchoff**, **Mary Peplinski**, **Sharon Popielewski**, **Shannon Akin**, **Jennifer Gould**, members of **Mothers4Others**, **Jeanine Kiley**, and **Ilene Witucki**.

If you are interested in learning about new and different ways to help at The Haven, please call (847) 680-1870 or check our web site at www.lakecountyhaven.org. ♥



THANK YOU FOR THE MANY WAYS YOU GIVE!

The Lake County Haven appreciates all of the individuals and organizations who have contributed to our work. This list recognizes donations received during the Winter of 2009 and reflects only a fraction of those who contribute during the year. If we have somehow failed to acknowledge your gift or donation, please accept our apology and contact us so we may thank you properly (847-680-1703). Your generosity is greatly appreciated! ♥

INDIVIDUALS

Lori & Marc Abel
Heather Achtemeier
Barbara & Karl Agre
Patricia Albano
Jennifer & Richard Alexander
Wendy Alling & Steve Lundy
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Libertyville Rotary Foundation
Mayflie Collection
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Network for Good
North Shore Unitarian Church
Olive Garden
Ombudsman Educational Services
Omron Healthcare, Inc.
Reichert Foundation
Round Lake Community Church / Lydia's Circle
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
St. Peter United Church of Christ
State of Illinois Emergency Food & Shelter Service
Style Shack, Inc.
The Church of the Holy Spirit
The Grandy Fund
The Joseph & Catherine Johnson Family Foundation
Trustmark Foundation
US Department of Housing and Urban Development/Lake County Community Development Division
United Protestant Church - Circle 7
United Way of Lake County
Women's Business Network
WW Grainger Inc.
YWCA of Lake Forest

WISH LIST*

General products: Paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, freezer bags, tall garbage bags, aluminum foil, sponges, plastic wrap

Office supplies: Postage stamps, fax machine, copier, reams of paper for printer & copier, pads of paper, invisible tape

Foods: Frozen meats including chicken breasts, ground turkey & beef, frozen fish, dry and canned goods

Cleaning products (eco-friendly if possible!): Powdered laundry detergent, bleach, softener sheets, dishwasher detergent, Pledge-type dusting products, lint traps for washing machines

Gently used items: Vacuum cleaners, automobiles, towels, alarm clocks, laundry baskets, umbrellas, twin bedding sets, twin quilts, twin blankets women & children's seasonal clothing

Gift Cards: Sunset, Jewel, Home Depot, Lowes, Target, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, gas, phone

**Please call Liz Pleines at (847) 680-1703 to hear our most up-to-date wish list and to schedule a drop-off time.*



The Lake County Haven empowers homeless women and their children to achieve permanent independent living.

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