

May 2008

Spring

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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Expanding the Continuum of Services

The Clients' Perspective - Part 2

Phil and the Robinson Program: the Robinson Program is a licensed supportive housing unit for single men in which clients receive wrap-around services to assist them in maintaining independent living.

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Phil, who was raised in Brick, New Jersey, came to the Rescue Mission in December 2005 and has been here since that time. Phil saw a lot of alcoholism in his family, but didn't begin drinking until age 35 when he lost his parents, grandmother and brother in the space of a single year, most of whom he was caring for during their illnesses. Despite experiencing the death of a brother due to alcoholism, Phil turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism and rationalized that he could handle it. He discovered that he was wrong pretty quickly.

He soon found himself living in motels in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, and knew he needed help. Phil said he knew he wasn't safe and he was extremely stressed. Providence intervened in the form of his brother-in-law, a policeman, who knew a former resident (Bob) of the Rescue Mission. Phil's brother-in-law related what Bob told him about the Mission's residential treatment program to Phil. That's when Phil decided to pursue recovery.

Phil, who is single and 46, completed his residential treatment program in February of 2007 when he transferred to the Robinson Program, an independent living unit for single, adult men. He now does facilities maintenance work for the Mission, and is content with his lifestyle.

"The Robinson Program is more independent; there's less structured group treatment, although I do go to the Outpatient Program," Phil said. "You have your own room, rather than living dormitory style. What I like best is the quiet. I also like the guys in there. We all get along. There's no fighting. No drama."

According to Phil, you really do have an opportunity to rebuild your life here. "My overall experience at the Mission has been very good," he said. "It's given me a chance to get strong again. I was a wreck mentally and physically. I had anxiety and panic attacks. That's been resolved over the past 1½ years." As for his plans, Phil said, "I'm happy here for the time being."

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FOCUS ON

...Fran Willever



Fran Willever is a newcomer to the Mission of Trenton's Board of Directors, but not a newcomer to Trenton. Fran is a Trenton woman. She was born and raised in New Jersey's capital city and continues to make it her home and the home of her 5-year old son, Jayson.

Fran's roots go very deep in Trenton. Her great grandparents were the proprietors of a bakery store on the corner of Emory and Whitaker Streets in Trenton's Chambersburg neighborhood and her grandparents later ran the business. Fran's mom still resides in the City.

Fran was educated in Trenton's Washington Elementary School, Dunn Junior High School and McCorriston High School. She secured her B.A. Degree in Sociology from Rutgers University and her Media Specialist Certificate from Rowan University. In about 2 months, she will complete all of her requirements for an M.A. degree in Education and Reading from Grand Canyon University in Arizona. Securing her latest degree over the last two years was not an easy task for a single mom raising a 5 year old while holding a demanding full-time job, especially when the requirements included preparing eighty graduate level research papers of 15+ pages each. Since 2000, Fran has been employed as a Librarian/Media Specialist at the Stokes School in Trenton. Prior to that she was a first grade teacher for five years in various Trenton schools and before that a 5th and 6th grade teacher in the Marian Morris School on South Broad Street.

Fran's mom steered her away from a career in social work towards education because she felt she was an "emotional person" and would suffer from over identifying with her clients. She seems to have known her daughter. As much as Fran liked teaching she really found her niche as a librarian, where there are fewer constraints on what you can and can not do. "Being a librarian provides me with the opportunity to fulfill all of my dreams and aspirations. From a very early age I wanted to work with children and instill in them knowledge and self-esteem. I've always wanted to help children recognize that no matter what their situation or circumstances are they can rise above it if they work at it," said Fran. As a librarian, I've had the opportunity to affect the lives of children by improving literacy skills, picking books and developing programs that deal with a variety of issues that children grapple with. Fran is especially proud of the reading programs she implemented during the holidays and the 2-month programs she implemented to combat bullying and to develop character education.

Making a 7:30 am meeting at the Rescue Mission board is not an easy task when you have to get a 5-year old to day care and get to work on time. Fran does it for a very special reason – for her brother Joe Lucas, who is no longer with us. Joe was a resident of the Rescue Mission of Trenton. Upon leaving the Mission, Joe had two years of sobriety before succumbing to his disease. "There have been a couple of cold and dark wintry mornings when I've asked myself why am I pushing myself and I think of Joe – who told me on a number of occasions that he adored the Mission and that he would be eternally grateful for what it did for him. It is the least I can do in his memory," said Fran.

Fran, who has only served on the Board of nine months, is a member of the Social Service Committee that is currently involved in planning the Mission's new Permanent Supportive Housing Unit. She indicates that she is acutely aware of the importance of providing on-going supervision and support for individuals in recovery and looks forward to working in these areas in the future. Robert Lewis, Ph.D., the Board's President, indicates that he is "very pleased that Fran has agreed to add serving on the Mission Board to her hectic schedule. Relatives of our residents have unique insight regarding the nature and scope of services the Mission needs to provide. Further, Fran's broad education and reading background are important assets to us as we look to expand the educational and job training opportunities we offer to our clients." Mary Gay-Abbott Young, the Board's CEO, who got to know Joe Lucas well during his six-month stay at the Mission, believes he would be extremely proud that Fran has agreed to serve in his memory. It is a very fitting tribute to Red."

The "NEW" Mission Store

The Mission currently derives approximately one-quarter of its annual operating revenue from the salvage and resale of clothing, furniture and household items donated by the public. The bulk of the inventory of used items sold at the Mission Store, located at 98 Carroll Street across from *The Times*, comes from donations from the public. At the present time the mix between old items and new items sold in the store is 60% vs. 40%.

On May 19th, the MISSION STORE re-opened with a dramatic new look. Instead of the ubiquitous tables piled high with donated clothing, rack after rack of clothing organized by gender, type and color line the floor. The racks are filled with more than 5,000 articles of clothing and changed on a daily basis as the merchandise is sold.

The Mission is constantly seeking to increase the revenue generated from its industrial salvage operation. Over the last few months, various members of the Mission staff and volunteers, with many years of retail clothing sales experience, have been studying the operation of the 98 Carroll Street store and analyzing the store's sales. After careful consideration of a multitude of factors, the Mission decided to fundamentally revamp the way used clothing was being sold. Instead of selling by the pound off the tables, all clothing in our Carroll Street store is displayed and sold by the item – a more traditional fashion. We continue offering the lowest prices on high-quality used clothing in the area.

For more than seven decades "industrial salvage" has been an integral part of our operation and key component of our fundraising efforts. One of the linchpins of our industrial salvage operation is the Mission's work therapy programs. All residents of the Mission who are physically and mentally capable must participate in work therapy, which is incorporated into all of the Mission's programs and gives our clients a sense of responsibility and belonging. Through their efforts, residents keep the more than 200,000 square feet of the Mission complex clean, serve more than 1,500 daily meals, and staff our Carroll Street retail store/industrial salvage operation.



Miracle Castro, organizing one of the many racks of clothing for placement in the store



Years ago, residents would repair non-working electrical appliances donated to the Mission for resale in our stores. Today, resident's work therapy assignments include staffing E-Initiative, the Mission's eBay business which was started in May of 2005 and seeks to maximize the amount of funds derived from the sale of items donated to the Mission. E-Initiative work therapy assignments include research on the Internet, digital photography, word processing, data base management and packaging of fragile items.

It is our intention to rely largely on the Mission's residents to sort through the clothing that is donated to us and decide what should be discarded and what should be displayed. However, we are seeking volunteers to supplement and assist our residents. If you've got some extra time we could use your help sorting clothing. Please call MaryAnn Rexrode at 609-695-1436 ext.102 or email her at mar@rescuemissionoftrenton.org. We are especially interested in organizations and/or religious congregations who can assist us with sorting for a few hours each week on a regular basis. We are prepared to provide lunch for groups whose stay extends before and after lunch hour.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MEET ESCALATING GASOLINE COSTS

The record setting gasoline prices are really hurting the Mission. They have dramatically cut into the profits generated by our industrial salvage operation which generates a substantial portion of our operating revenue. Not only are our costs going up, but we are seeing a reduction in store sales. This is, no doubt, a direct result of the loss of disposable income of our customers, caused by an increase in their groceries and gasoline bills. Please help by making a special donation.

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$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





Expanding the Continuum of Services

(continued from pg. 1)

Charles C/Outpatient Clinic

Charles C came to the Rescue Mission's Outpatient Clinic some time before the 2007 holiday season. "I needed help for my alcohol problem," he said. "I had 13 sober years one time, but I was spiraling downward into depression. I knew if I didn't get help I'd end up where I was at the beginning and I didn't want to go back there."

Since enrolling at the clinic, Charles has missed only 2 days, both times due to holiday transportation limitations. "I live in the area now, so it's usually no problem," he said. "I attend group on Wednesday and a speaker meeting on Monday – they cover all kinds of topics, even tobacco addiction. I go once a week for that and I've cut way down on smoking. They use the 12 steps too."

Charles, who is the oldest of 7, has 5 brothers and 1 sister. He was born in Salem, New Jersey, and grew up in Burlington, New Jersey. When he grew up he wanted to go "someplace different. This [Trenton] is where I ended up," he said. Recalling the rough times, Charles said that years ago he woke up near a Presbyterian Church with a cracked head. A man from the church sent him to the hospital, and subsequently visited him there. When Charles recovered, the

man offered him a job remodeling a house, with the condition that he could live in the house while working on it for 1½ months – "a house with heat and electricity," noted Charles. He also gave Charles enough money for a meal. The situation wasn't easy, however, and Charles stood at the crossroads for quite some time. "Right across the street was a Wawa where you could buy a hoagie and a soda. Next to that was a liquor store. I stood there for 30 minutes trying to decide ... Boy, was I sick."

Ultimately, Charles bought the food and started up the long road to recovery. He worked at a Christian retirement center as a groundskeeper for 10 years and eventually as Plant Operations Supervisor. "I worked hard," he said. "Today, I go 'round to meetings. I'm still alive. I'm doing good," Charles said. "And this place [the Mission's Outpatient Clinic] has been great. There's camaraderie. Cy and Matt out there help me, and once a month I meet with Rich."

"Lots of the clients don't want to be here but after a while their attitude changes," Charles commented. "They're learning. They get their children back. You feel good when you leave. Since I've been here I've established residency, seen doctors, gotten eyeglasses and orthopedic shoes, and I'm taking care of myself. And I have a cell phone! I'm really proud of that. I call my Mom every night."

Charles is a current client at the Outpatient Clinic and is availing himself of all available resources to maintain his recovery. He attends various support groups and is planning to return to school in June.

[Editor's Note: Cy Jones is the Manager of Clinical Outpatient Treatment. Matt Hill is the Outpatient Services Clerk. Rich Rodd is the Outpatient Clinical Counselor.]

Part 3 next issue



William S. Stanley, M.D., Mission Medical Director was awarded the 2008 Black Executive Awards from the Metropolitan Trenton African-American Chamber of Commerce on February 28th. Left to right: Furnie Gaines, Thomasina Gaines, and Dr. William S. Stanley.



Employees from HarrisInteractive collected over 30 gifts during the holiday season for the residents of the Rescue Mission

Furnie Gaines receives first "Present Day Hero" award presented to him by the students of Antheil School



4th Annual Adam Shanks Memorial Miniature Golf Masters Tournament Best Yet

The 4th Annual Adam Shanks Memorial Golf Miniature Golf Masters Tournament was held on Friday, February 29th and set the bar much higher for the 2009 Tournament. A brand new course was added and it took players through the wetlands of Florida, the jungles of Africa, the Indianapolis 500 race track and the pyramids of Egypt.

This year's event was co-hosted by Jessica Shanks, The Penguin Group, Bind-Rite Robbinsville, Hutchinson Industries, Borden Perlman Agency, Wachovia Bank, and Wilmington Trust. Over 80 golfers enjoyed a round of golf on either the south course or our new north course, a great barbecue lunch, a golf enhanced silent auction, and a great awards ceremony was highlighted by a "putt-off" for first place.

The event, with the help and hard work of Jessica Shanks and Ruth Shanks, generated over \$40,000 in funds which helps the Mission to continue *Working Together to Rebuild Lives*.

**Mark Your
Calendar
Feb. 27, 2009**



Watch for Our Traveling Truck Bank Coming to a location near you!

May 1st Wachovia Bank 359 Pennington Ave. Trenton

May 27th Wachovia Bank 891 Brunswick Ave. Trenton

June 17th Wachovia Bank 1 West State St. Trenton

July 8th Wachovia Bank 1300 Hamilton Ave. Trenton

July 29th Wachovia Bank 1121 S. Broad/Liberty St. Trenton

Special Appearance at "Event Under The Tent"

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 5 – 7 p.m.

Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce

1A Quakerbridge Plaza Drive, Mercerville, NJ 08619

Come take the Flog Challenge and win Door Prizes by sinking a "HOLE IN ONE." Provided by The Rescue Mission of Trenton's infamous golf course designers! (June 10th event only)



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

Former Resident Rodney Hargis Wins Scholarship



In the March 2006 issue of this newsletter, we featured a song written by then Mission client Rodney Hargis. The song entitled "Talkin' The Rescue Mission Blues #7" talked about Rodney's life on the streets:

*"I woke up one morning under a blanket of snow
And realized that I didn't have nowhere to go."*

His days at the Mission:

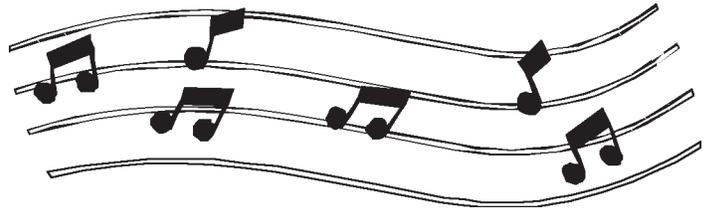
*"I was dreaming of spending my days lying in bed
But they went and put my butt to workin' instead"*

And his start towards recovery:

*"One day at a time and it felt kinda strange
I could look in the mirror and not hate what I see
And I started to learn how it feels to be me"*

Rodney arrived at the Mission in January of 2005 and left in June of 2006. Upon leaving, he enrolled at Mercer County Community College in their Information Technology Program. Rodney was one of three applicants selected from approximately 1,000 applicants for a prestigious \$5,000 national scholarship sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College and the Microsoft Corporation. The Committee cited his "determination and passion for IT" as one of the reasons he was awarded the scholarship. In addition to the scholarship, Rodney received a variety of software products from Microsoft.

We congratulate Rodney on his scholarship and being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honors Society of Community Colleges, and wish him continued success.



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.

RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON

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Lowest Fees Around
No Sale No Fee*
Sell Overstocked Items

*offer applies to standard listing only

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Working Together To Rebuild Lives