



Homespace News

Summer 2010

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Thoughts From Our Executive Director...



One of my favorite parts of my role as Executive Director is the

quality time I get to spend with our families. We recently celebrated National Foster Care Month this past May with a picnic and flower planting. It is times like these that remind me that what we do at Homespace has such an ever reaching impact on the lives of these families. Being able to provide healthy, happy memories for the mothers and their children is just as important as assisting them in their times of need. By providing a stable, active presence in their lives we find that they are better able to

adapt to the ups and downs that life throws their way. We find that they slowly build trust where there was none. Most important, they start to not only realize that their goals are attainable, they actually achieve those goals one step at a time.

With the close of the 2009-10 school year I would like to congratulate one of our young ladies who is graduating from high school. She is applying to local colleges this summer and has a bright future ahead of her. Two of our other young ladies are attending high school, four are attending a GED program, and five are employed locally. We also welcomed two new healthy, beautiful babies into the program! The young ladies continue to work hard to secure a better future, while also supporting their young children. Good job!

With over 463,000 children in foster care throughout the country, 988 within Erie County alone, it is imperative that we continue to make strides to expand our program and provide useful services. We have begun to further reach out into the community of Buffalo to spread awareness about the services we offer. If you are able to assist us in any way, even if just by spreading the word, please do so. Have a safe and restful summer.

Best,
Kim Morris
Executive Director

Backyard Barbeque Benefit

On July 27th, 2010, we will be holding a joint benefit at Fat Bob's Smokehouse for both Homespace Corporation and Compass House. Compass House has been serving the Buffalo community since 1972. They offer housing and shelter to runaway youths ages 12-20. We are excited to come together with another local organization that cares for a similar population of youth. Both organizations were founded by Trinity Episcopal Church. The benefit will feature an open bar, BBQ foods prepared by Fat Bob's Smokehouse, and auctions/raffles. We hope to see you there!

When: Tuesday, July 27th, 2010 at 5:30-7:30 pm

Where: Fat Bob's Smokehouse located at 41 Virginia Place, Buffalo, NY 14202

Tickets: \$30.00 advance purchase or \$35.00 at the door. Visit our website to purchase tickets at www.homespacecorp.com or you can call Homespace at 881-4600 to order tickets.

Program Update: Molly McFarland, Program Director

As 2009 was coming to an end, a new group of committed, compassionate people were beginning their work at Second Chance Home. The Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is an international gathering of mothers that offer support, friendship, community and the sharing of wisdom to other mothers experiencing the rewards and challenges of parenthood. MOPS is driven by a set of ministry values, including maintaining a mother's dignity, embracing lifestyle evangelism, leadership development, and the empowerment of women and mothers on a personal and spiritual level. The MOPS organization bestow these values in many different realms, including education, volunteer work, and community building.

There are more than 3,900 MOPS groups established in the United States; at least eleven of these groups are right here in Buffalo. Our connection with the MOPS organization began shortly after Katie McClain-Meeder, Independent Living Coordinator with Homespace, started her position with us. Katie's personal relationship with Becky Ventre, the Coordinator of the particular MOPS group that worked with our youth, allowed for conversations about our families' needs for positive connections. These conversa-

tions built the foundation of a partnership and within only a matter of weeks, the MOPS group from Hamburg Wesleyan Church Group began their relationship with our young mothers at Second Chance Home. With Becky serving as the group's leader, along with five other members, Sarah Vabnick, Gabby Scott, Carrie Musielak, Karen Henderson, and Laura Urmsom, they reached out to our families.

During their 8 months with our residents, this MOPS group developed fun, creative, and self reflective exercises to complete with our residents, including the making of journals, flower planting, a bib-making activity, a relaxing spa night, and an exciting game night! Due to their focus on the mothering relationship, it was only fitting that they brought beautiful gifts to our residents on Mother's Day to celebrate our youth's commitment to motherhood and their growing families. To end their work together, the MOPS group treated our residents to a very yummy and enjoyable dinner at Pano's Restaurant in the Elmwood Village. In addition to giving our new friends flowers as a token of appreciation, our residents also wrote personal thank you cards. One of our residents wrote "I never had somebody

that paid a lot of attention to me but you guys did. You made sure you remembered all of our names-it wasn't just work you made it your life". Another resident expressed her thanks by saying, "I want to thank you for all the times you came to Second Chance and for the recipes you sent to me. And a very big thank you for the dinner at Pano's, it was delicious. Let's keep in touch!"

These thoughts really touch on the purpose of the collaboration and the mission of the MOPS organization. Our resident's simple, yet very meaningful gratitude reflects so clearly the basic needs of our residents that can often be overlooked; love, support, and a feeling of being valued by others.

We extend heartfelt thanks to Becky, Sarah, Gabby, Carrie, Karen, and Laura for the compassion and dedication they showed to our youth and program. Women working to support, influence, and guide other women are so powerful and we are all blessed to have had the experience of working with this dedicated group of mothers.

Fundraising News

On Tuesday, May 25th 2010 Homespace Corp. held their latest installment in the "A Toast to Homespace" event series at The Grill @ the Dome located in the Paddock Golf Dome. The attendees enjoyed an exciting evening full of golf, batting cages, phenomenal food and drinks all to raise funds for our summer activities that increase positive parent/child bonding, as well as our 3rd Annual Kid's Day! We would love to thank all of those that came out and helped us successfully create community awareness through your show of support for our great cause. We could not have done it without you!

Our next fundraising event will be at Fat Bob's Smokehouse on Tuesday, July 27th 2010. Homespace Corp. will be partnering with Compass House for this extraordinary Backyard BBQ benefit! It will include open bar throughout the event, a buffet full of Fat Bob's specialty BBQ foods, and several exciting raffles and auctions. Tickets are \$30 for advance purchase and \$35 at the door. This will definitely be a unique and exciting summer event that you do not want to miss. Gather all of your friends and let's enjoy the beautiful Buffalo weather while raising funds for two phenomenal causes!

Refer to our website for more information or to purchase tickets, or call Barb or Lindsey at 881-4600. You can also now visit us on Facebook!



Meet Our Staff

Brittany Pryor, Senior Child Care Worker, SILP

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Brittany Pryor who has begun working as a Senior Child Care Worker at our SILP location. Already Brittany has brought her experience as a Track and Field Coach to her work with our young mothers. Since

beginning her position with us in March, she has shown her natural ability to coach, motivate, and applaud successes along the way. Brittany has already begun our first ever "Homespace Fit Club" with our residents and we are so excited to see this new program take off! Also, Brittany has facilitated community dinners at the SILP and she has worked one-

on-one with youth on healthy cooking practices.

Our staff and residents are all excited to have Brittany with us and we are excited to watch her grow into her position over the next months.

LaDoris Burton, Child Care Worker, SCH

In April we were given the wonderful opportunity to welcome LaDoris Burton to our team! LaDoris works as a relief Child Care Specialist at Second Chance Home and her presence in the program can already be felt.

LaDoris currently works at the Buffalo Urban League as a Case Worker and her passion for working with families in the Child Welfare System is evident.

LaDoris is a natural caretaker and her calm, patient demeanor is one that is so valuable in the field of social work. In addition to her work in the human service field, LaDoris is a very talented and

experienced seamstress. We hope that she will be able to use her passion and expertise with our residents!

Welcome LaDoris, we are so happy to have you with us!

2010 Annual GMR Golf Outing

**Join us for an enjoyable day
of golf, fellowship and business
networking . . . all for a great cause!**

Where: Lancaster Country Club 6061 Broadway • Lancaster, New York 14086

When: Monday August 9, 2010

Check-In: 9:00am Lunch on the course

Shotgun-Start: 11:00am Dinner 5:30pm

Start Early - End Early!

**The only golf tournament
where you can honestly tell
the family you will be "Home Early"**

Included in event...

18 holes of golf with cart fun contests
Barbecue lunch and steak dinner
Snacks & beverages on course driving range
Raffles/Auctions

Jerry Sullivan will be our guest speaker and will be available to answer questions.

Over \$20,000 In Donations
to Local Charities!

WIN PRIZES!!
Chinese Auction, Silent Auction,
Raffles and More!

Contact Homespace Corporation at 716-881-4600 for registration flyers.

For more information about foster care, visit <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us>



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Upcoming Events

July 27, 2010– Backyard BBQ Benefit for Homespace Corporation and Compass House. Event starts at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$30.00 advance purchase or \$35.00 at the door.

August 9, 2010-GMR Golf Outing to benefit Homespace Corporation. Call 716-881-4600 for a registration flyer.



Our Mission...

Homespace provides a safe and nurturing transitional living environment with supportive services for single parent families that prepares them to achieve and maintain their independence.

Family

Integrity

Security

Empowerment

Collaboration