



Homespace News

Winter 2011

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Thoughts From Our Executive Director...



We have had such an exciting and upbeat year that I am almost sad

to say goodbye to 2010. The year brought us new employees, new programs to enrich the lives of our families, countless celebrations and successful life transitions, and events that brought an increased awareness of our goals and mission to the community. We have had many donors, old and new, who have helped our organization to thrive. We have watched residents from Second Chance Home transition to the Homespace SILP where they are taking on more responsibilities and learning to live independently. We have also had the opportunity to maintain relationships with families who have left our program and are now continuing to build their lives in the community with the skills they obtained while living with us. It has been a busy year, but one that I am proud of.

As always, the new year brings new goals and plans. We are excited to implement new programs for 2011 that will expand the services we offer our families. We are adding two new positions to help enrich the residents' lives and to provide them

with more hands-on life experiences in the areas of parenting and independent living. Our hope is to create a program where each and every youth can reach their goals and feel supported while doing so.

2011 is also going to bring a new approach to our team in the way that care is delivered. We have begun to educate our staff about the Trauma Informed Care Model, but 2011 is going to bring more in-depth training for our staff in hopes to better understand and assist our youth. Many of our residents come to us with years of abuse and trauma that has led to destructive patterns of behavior, fear, powerlessness, shame, and rage. The Trauma Informed Care approach will help our staff to recognize signs and symptoms of trauma, as well as to help our staff recognize why a youth is exhibiting a certain behavior and how the trauma has affected their lives. Our goal is to increase staff knowledge base, while also wrapping each young lady and family in services and approaches specific to their needs based on previous trauma and experiences. It is hoped that through this process the agency will see more connections and bonding between parent and child, an increase in internal awareness, and successful learning opportunities for each family in the future.

2011 also marks the 5th anniversary of Second Chance Home. It was back in March 2006 that

Second Chance Home opened its doors, successfully filling a gap in care that the community lacked; housing and services for foster care youth who were pregnant or parenting. On average we serve 15 families per year. Please be on the lookout for upcoming information as we celebrate this event.

I want to thank every person who has donated their time, their talents, and their gifts to help Homespace during 2010. Our families are directly affected by your generous support. We continue the agency's dedication to increasing only those positions directly impacting the youth rather than increasing management positions. We look forward to a wonderful 2011 and hope that it brings you and your family many blessings as well!

Kim Morris

Meet Our Residents

Ebony and her son Jermaine have been a part of the Homespace Corp. family since December 2007. Throughout the years we have not only seen them grow, but we have also seen Ebony become empowered with knowledge here at Homespace. At this time we would love to introduce her to all of our supporters that help us prepare her to achieve independence in the future. During the interview we were also to get to know a little bit more about her ourselves.

What is the best thing you like about Homespace?

I love the fact that it provides a safe place for my son and I to live; you don't get this amount of safety in the community. Ebony added that a huge advantage is how quick the maintenance at Homespace responds to her needs; "it's a big plus!"

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I love that Jermaine is so smart and that he is very cooperative. The most difficult part is that I don't get to spend a lot of time with him. I am not able to give him the time and attention that he deserves because I'm busy with work and school. It's hard to balance all three things.

What would you like to see changed in Buffalo?

The Violence; Buffalo has seen an increase in violence and that's scary being a single mom. I want to keep me and my son safe! It's definitely a reason I would leave Buffalo, whether that be to the suburbs or out of

state.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? What are your goals?

I would love to be out of Buffalo and move to Texas. I would love to see myself graduated from college and own my own house. I think that if I can focus on my goals I can accomplish anything.

Tell us some positives about yourself.

I am a good student, a great mom, and a good cook. Jermaine is good at smiling, being silly, dancing, singing, and spelling.

While the interview wrapped up Jermaine showed off his spelling skills. He was even able to spell his full name as well as print it. Clearly this young man and his amazing mother are not limited in what they are able to accomplish in the future.

Upcoming Event: "Goals, Dreams, and Aspirations"

In the winter of 2011 Homespace Corp. will be collaborating once again with the Guerilla Gallery to create an art show entitled "Goals, Dreams, and Aspirations". Over the next few months, several young ladies of Homespace will be attending art therapy workshops at the unique art gallery all to create original artwork that will later be auctioned off at an unveiling charity event. The workshops will encourage the ladies to express and understand their emotions through artistic expression and through the creative process it requires. Guerilla Gallery co-owner, Mark Madden, will also cover the basics of art appreciation, as well as the fundamentals of graphic design in the class. The Guerilla Gallery at 1109 Elmwood Ave. will host the "Goals, Dreams, and Aspirations" art show in April 2011. Be on the lookout for further details pertaining to this exciting event at www.homespacecorp.com or Facebook.

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Thank You!

THANK YOU for a wonderful 2010 holiday!

We appreciate your generosity this holiday season and offer our sincere thanks!

Thoughts from the residents. . .

I am thankful for Homespace because I like the staff and they are like family to me.

Homespace provides me and my family a safe and warm home.

I like that I get to meet new people at Homespace.

I appreciate Second Chance Home for making me independent.

I like living at Homespace because it is a safe place for me and my son to live.

Homespace staff are kind, supportive, and helpful.

The thing I like most about Second Chance is that I am able to talk to staff about how I am feeling.

Homespace was there for me when I had nowhere else to go and provided a safe and encouraging place for my family.

I appreciate Homespace for everything they have helped me accomplish.

Thank you to all who supported the 2010 Holiday Season at Homespace and Second Chance Home. As one of our youth said "Thank you to all for giving me a Christmas-- I haven't had one in a long time."

Meet Our Staff

Cassidy Barbalato-Honan, RN Consultant

Cassidy Barbalato-Honan, RN, has been with the agency since May 2007 and has supported the agency in many aspects. Cassidy came to the agency from Women and Children's Hospital where she worked as a nurse in their maternity units. She enjoyed her work there but she found her passion to be focused on not the medical aspects, but rather on the teaching, leading, and guiding of the parents with their children's care and parenting styles. Cassidy was a perfect

fit for Homespace, working hand in hand with each young parent to increase their parenting skills, to advocate for their needs, and to assist them in the "growing up" process; her knowledge base of nursing also helped to assist each pregnant young lady through their birthing experience. Cassidy also maintained the role as our Second Chance Home Nurse reviewing medications and meeting the young parents to discuss their needs regarding pregnancy, their child's care, and their personal needs. When Cassidy began her own family not only was the staff thrilled, but the

young ladies were so excited they even offered her their advice! Cassidy has since moved on from her position as Case Manager to be a primarily stay at home mother. She works hard as the Nurse for Second Chance Home as well as our Newsletter Editor and Coordinator. In addition to working with Homespace she has followed her passion of photography and started her own business: lifeloveartphotography.com. Check out her amazing work!

Toys For Tats 2010

On Friday, December 17th, 2010 the Guerilla Gallery kicked off their annual TOYS for TATS Charity Event for the holiday season. At 1109 Elmwood Avenue, where you can find the surreal art of local artists showcased, a beautiful tree stood where people were able to make donations of toys for children in need. This year the young families of Homespace Corporation received all of the gifts collected by the Guerilla Gallery during the weeklong event. In return for every \$5 toy donation, Maddtat2 gave a \$20 gift certificate for a tattoo or piercing at their 1115 Elmwood Avenue shop.

Shaone Morrison of the Buffalo Sabres also jumped into the gift giving spirit by donating a toy at the Guerilla Gallery. The #27 defenseman donated an autographed, Buffalo Sabres toy truck to the Toys for Tats Charity Event. The Guerilla Gallery is definitely showing the true heart of holiday giving, as they are the only business to host the Toys for Tats Promotional Campaign in the WNY area. Thank you for all your donations!



Fundraising News

In 2010 Homespace premiered its "A Toast to Homespace" fundraising series, which included five events that took place throughout the year. We had a wide range of themed events including wine tasting at the Wine Thief, food tasting at Prime 490, a golf event at the Pad-dock Golf Dome, a backyard BBQ at Fat Bob's Smokehouse, and an Oktoberfest event at the new Blue Monk!

Each event not only raised funds for several activities for our young families throughout 2010, but also successfully created community awareness for our great cause by increasing attention to

Homespace and our values and needs. An enormous thank you to our sponsors: Freed Maxick Battaglia, Collins Advisors LLC, UBS, First Niagara Bank, Hodgson Russ LLC, GMR of Western New York, and KeyBank, as well as our donors, and supporters throughout 2010. We could not have achieved this level of success without any of you.

The "A Toast to Homespace" event series will be continued into 2011 with several exciting fundraisers already in the works. Our first event of the year will be a Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras themed event. You can look forward to great food, drinks, and

many exciting raffles and auctions all to support our young families of Homespace Corp., primarily our mentoring program. On March 8th 5:30-7:30 pm at Encore Restaurant; come and enjoy this exciting event with Homespace. Tickets are \$40 in advance only for two hours open bar and specialty appetizers. You can also now visit us on Facebook. We hope to see you there!

If you wish to sponsor or donate for the event please contact Melissa Uku at MelissaUku@yahoo.com



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Upcoming Events

March 8, 2011– Homespace will be celebrating the 1st “A Toast to Homespace” for 2011 at Encore restaurant. This will be a Mardi Gras themed event for Fat Tuesday to support the mentoring programs of Homespace and Second Chance Home. Please see www.Homespacecorp.com for more details.



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