



Homespace News

Winter 2009

2008/2009 Board of Directors

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Thoughts From Our Executive Director...



The cold, long winters of Buffalo are upon us, yet we at Homespace Corporation are

enjoying the season that brings friends and families together. We kicked off the season with our Thanksgiving dinner in which staff and residents came together to celebrate. We realized that here at Homespace we have much to be thankful for. Not only do we have a caring, talented staff, we also have the support of so many people and agencies in the community. We are thankful for every person that demonstrates to our young families that through difficult times we do have people to lean on, even if that person is a stranger. This teaches our families, and reminds all of us, that kindness and sharing are the ultimate gifts.

To continue the spirit of kind-

ness, Students at West Seneca East Senior High School were inspired by the movie "Pay It Forward" and decided to donate their time and efforts to putting on a toddler fashion show for Homespace. The event was fun for all and included dinner and a donation of the modeled clothes. In a time of so many frustrations in the world it is refreshing to see that people are inspired by kind actions. We hope that our families will spread the kindness that we received in order to continue the cycle of generosity.

With a new year brings new hopes and excitements, as well as possible resolutions! During the month of December we held the first Homespace Staff Retreat in which we came together as a team to discuss agency strengths and challenges, as well as plan goals for 2009. We came away from the retreat with a greater sense of the agency needs and a determination to make Homespace an even stronger, more viable presence in the community. We will meet again in June to evaluate our progress.

One of the questions I posed during the retreat was, "Why do you come to work?" As the Executive Director I was proud and moved to see the top four reasons why: 1.) the girls (families) 2.) to see the families succeed 3.) to help just one person 4.)Homespace is a supportive place to work. I feel that we will continue to make great strides, both within the agency and in the community, due to the compassionate, positive team I have standing beside me. We are excited and blessed to be entering this new year together and look forward to continuing the support we offer to young families in need.

Best,
 Kim Morris
 Executive Director

Thank You!

We would like to thank all of the generous donors who made the holiday season so wonderful for all of our Homespace families. The generosity of those in the community is amazing and helps to make Homespace feel more like "home." We would like to extend a special thanks to Rich Products, SEFCU, Moog, Trinity Church, Phillips Lytle LLC, Western New York FCU, Gibson, McAskill, and Crosby, and North Presbyterian Church.



Holiday Fun at Homespace. Our visit from Santa!



Thoughts From Our Board President



As we welcome in the New Year I would also like to welcome our

new board members Tafadzwa Chieza, Sean Howard, Kelly Kudla, Jane Stoyle and Marianne Kelly. These individuals bring with them the kind of passion and creativity that is crucial to guiding the work of our organization.

Throughout the course of the next several months the board of directors will be

working along with the staff at Homespace on many projects including fundraising, public awareness and education. As always we are very proud of the residents at Homespace and Second Chance as they continue to grow to become independent and caring individuals.

A Place To Grow and Learn

Samara entered foster care at the age of seventeen during the summer of 2008. It was a difficult time for her and her ten month old daughter but she found hope in Second Chance Home. She entered the program with a positive attitude and found not only shelter, but also a place to grow and learn.

Samara entered foster care due to her lack of attendance in high school. She had no childcare and nowhere to turn for support to help her graduate. During her stay at Second Chance Home she has been able to complete her GED and is even taking

college classes at Erie Community College. She hopes to one day become a pediatrician so that she can make a difference in children's lives. In order to help her achieve her goal of independence she works two part time jobs. She has learned how to juggle all of her responsibilities with the assistance of a supportive staff and a comfortable environment.

Samara knows that Second Chance Home has high expectations of her. She finds it difficult at times, though understands that in the end they have her best interest in mind. "The staff members here know that I am

motivated so they put a lot of responsibility on me" she says. She feels that the encouragement and motivation have helped her with her educational goals.

Samara enjoys the environment at Second Chance in which everyone cares about each other. She states, "It is a good support system here and it is very loving." With the support and guidance that Second Chance offers and the motivation and charisma that Samara possesses she is off to a great start of making her dreams become reality.

GMR Golf Outing

The G.M.R. (Grocery Manufactures Representatives) of Western New York held its annual golf outing at Lancaster County Club on 9/23/2008.

It was attended by 99 golfers and 114 dinner guests. Special guest speakers were Larry Playfair, along with Rene Robert. Live and silent

auction items, along with a great meal, made this a great event. The proceeds for the golf outing were \$7,050.00, which was donated to benefit Homespace.

Meet Our Staff

Molly McFarland, Program Director

Molly started at Homespace Corp. in October 2007 as a very part time assistant to our Second Chance Home program manager who was going on maternity leave. Her skills quickly were evident and when an opportunity arose for a program manager for our new SILP program, Molly was quickly chosen. Since that time we have reorganized the agency and Molly currently serves as our Program Director. Molly is responsible for all programming

and staffing of programmatic staff including training and assessing needs to further each program. She oversees a team of professionals as well as direct care workers. Molly is motivated to make Homespace the best program available to young single parents in our community. One of the new ideas Molly has brought to Homespace is our new Mentoring Program, matching our young parents with responsible, dedicated individuals in the community to guide our youth into their futures. If

you are interested in mentoring please call Molly at 881-4600. Molly states "Working at Homespace is a surreal experience as we see our residents go through the processes of adolescence and self-discovery while they are also trying to navigate the new role of motherhood. Working with the staff at Homespace has been such a pleasure as everyone is clearly committed to these young women and go above and beyond in order to create a safe, nurturing home for our families to live in."



Bill Brown, Maintenance Engineer

In October 2008 Bill began working with Homespace Corp.. He has quickly made a positive impact on the staff with his ability to complete repairs efficiently and his positive interaction with all staff and residents alike. Bill states he works at

Homespace "because it provides me the unique opportunity to work alongside intelligent, compassionate, caring individuals and it allows me to help those same individuals provide a safe, happy, and healthy living environment for young families who are in need of guidance". Bill

works directly with the Property and Grounds Committee, ensuring that the sites of Homespace are taken care of and maintained for the young families that live here. The committee has been very pleased with Bill's work. We welcome Bill to the Homespace team and look forward to a long working relationship with him.



Bonnie Dantzler, Child Care Supervisor

Bonnie came to Homespace Corp. in March 2006 to assist in the opening of Second Chance Home. She began as a Child Care Worker and has been promoted twice in her time with the agency. Bonnie states that she "loves her job" and that one of the reasons she works at Homespace is "because I was a teenage mom myself and I am

trying to reach out to and encourage other teenage moms to do their best". When asked what is the best thing about her job Bonnie will quickly answer "the girls". Bonnie is the glue that hold Second Chance Home together. She works diligently to make sure that each young lady is involved and connected with our program as well as an educational or vocational experi-

ence in order to progress in their lives. Bonnie's supervisor states that her strengths include her dedication to each and every resident, as well as her ability to meet the needs of not only the residents, but also the Child Care Workers that she supervises. Bonnie is dedicated to the Homespace mission and values, and the mantra of Homespace, "helping families two generations at a time".



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Upcoming Events

March 2009– The Annual Campaign will be held once again and this year, more than any, we need your support. Due to tremendous funding cuts and the current economy we find it even more difficult to provide a home for our families. With the support of the community we will be able to continue to make a positive difference.

Early Autumn 2009– We will be celebrating 15 years of service to the community and recognizing our founders. Please look for more information to come to help us celebrate all that we have accomplished for young families!

May 2009– The Homespace Annual Meeting will be held May 27th at 5 pm. Call 881-4600 for more information.

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