

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Full Circle:

What Goes Around Comes Around

Nella Landers and her husband Melvin never thought that they would someday find refuge at a homeless shelter. After Nella had two back-to-back surgeries, Melvin took family leave to stay home and care for their young children, ages 6, 1, and 9 months. Then he lost his job. With no money to pay the rent, they lost their home. Desperate, they turned to Catholic Charities who sent them to the NHA program the Haven Center, Lorain County's only year-round emergency homeless shelter for men, women and children.

"I've learned never to take anything for granted," said Nella. "I never thought I would have to go to a homeless shelter. The people at the Haven Center helped us when we had nowhere else to go. We had a room to sleep in, three meals a day, and we felt safe." The Landers family stayed at The Haven Center from April 2 until June 20, 2009, and then the future got a lot brighter for the struggling family.



NELLA LANDERS & MIKE THOMAS, SPIN CYCLE GENERAL MANAGER

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A Sweet Evening for the Haven Center



"SWEET DREAMS" HOSTS BRIDGET & BERNIE MORENO

When Bridget Moreno learned that the Haven Center homeless shelter, needed to replace all 68 old, worn-out wooden bed frames, she and her husband Bernie offered their home and gourmet desserts to "sweet-talk" their way into raising the money.

Residents of Cuyahoga County, most of the Morenos' guests were not familiar with the Haven Center homeless shelter in neighboring Lorain County. Many were surprised to learn that the Haven Center is the only homeless shelter in Lorain County offering year-round emergency homeless shelter for men, women and children and a program of NHA (Neighborhood House Association). Bridget loved introducing her guests to Neighborhood House Association's CEO/President Michael Mayse. He, in turn, shared the history, mission, programs and support opportunities at NHA.

Bridget's fundraiser, "Sweet Dreams, Sweet Desserts", was a sweet success! The original goal of \$8000 goal was exceeded-raising over \$10,000, thanks to attending guests and generous donations of friends and family that could not attend.

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Welcome Marlene Telegdy!



In July of 2009, Marlene joined the NHA family as the Oberlin Senior Center Director.

Her experience as Municipal Senior Center Director, Ohio Senior Center Association trustee, and member of multiple county and local boards and councils will help to direct her efforts to see that Oberlin and Lorain County seniors are in good hands. She served as the first chairperson of the 42 Municipal Senior Center Directors Association in Cuyahoga County.

During her tenure with the City of North Olmsted, Marlene was instrumental in setting up the AARP Connections Center. Under her direction, utilization of services grew by over 69 percent.

A caring advocate and visionary, Marlene Telegdy has had the opportunity to work on behalf of seniors and groups, facilitating health promotion and creating programs that enhance life and create memories. Her background in occupational therapy, gerontology, management and journalism, assists her in promoting positive life experiences for elders.

Making memories is a key tenet for Marlene and she tries to do that for others and herself. Marlene treasures her time with 3 grandsons, ages 5, 3 and 3 months, enjoys travel, yoga, reading, and is a 'life-long student'.

Marlene Telegdy (440) 926-6199
marlenet@nhalorain.org

Where Does Your Money Go?

Where does your money go when you donate to the Haven Center? The cost for one person for one night in the Haven Center is \$25. Along with providing safe shelter and three meals a day, your donations support the programs that are carefully designed for the homeless to make a successful transition from homeless to tenant/homeowner.

Each resident is assessed on an individual basis and assigned to programs & classes designed to assist in breaking the cycle of poverty that is keeping them homeless. Families must attend group counseling and are strongly encouraged to get involved in support groups. They will have an opportunity to make friends and most important – learn how to ask for help before they reach a crisis situation.

There can be what seems like endless paperwork: filing for ID's, government assistance, housing and utility vouchers, school records, and more.

The average stay at the Haven Center is 90 days. Time is critical and there is a sense of urgency.

Some of the programs available at the Haven Center:

Case Management	Family Counseling
Individual Counseling	Support Groups
AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)	NA (Narcotics Anonymous)
Anger Management	

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FRATELLO'S

Join us on Tuesdays in November

10% of dine-in will benefit NHA

Nov 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

(5:00 - 10:00 PM only)



32085 Electric Boulevard (at Lear Rd.)

Avon Lake OH, 44012

14th Annual Christmas for Kids



Neighborhood House Association will continue the legacy of sponsoring children in our Child Care programs. With your help, we can make the holiday season brighter for those children who need it most!

This being the year to be sensitive and sensible with the economy, we have made some exciting changes that will keep all of us in the spirit of Christmas gift giving without burden or worry!

This year we are introducing the 'Shoe Box'! This gift is practical and will address basic needs. Each sponsor will be asked to purchase a plastic shoe bin and gifts from the suggested list based on age group and gender. We estimate the average cost will be \$20-\$30 per shoe box.

To sponsor a child, please call or email:
Lois (440) 926.6207 loisp@nhalorain.org
Kat (440) 926.6215 kathleenm@nhalorain.org

Thank you for your continuing support!



Saturday May 8, 2010
4th Annual
Walk for the Homeless

HEAVEN SENT

The PSR Youth Stewardship group 'Y-GOD' from St. Joseph Church in Avon Lake is not your typical group of teenage volunteers.

'Y-GOD' (Youth Gladly Offering Deeds) group consists of 36 teens in the upcoming Confirmation class. With a commitment as our Service Partner, every other month the group focuses on the needs of the children in our programs. They have had several hugely successful collection drives of gently worn/used shoes, toys, books, children's clothing and new school supplies.

Several group members attended a tour of the Haven Center in July. After seeing firsthand the needs of the center, 2 additional collection drives were added: 'Towel Drive' and 'Blanket Drive'. The 'Towel Drive' collected 67 new & gently used bath towels! The 'Blanket Drive', led by St. Vincent de Paul Society, will end mid-October, just in time for winter.

The group is also participating in a collaborative community volunteer project. 'Book Exchange' will rotate gently used and new age-appropriate books to the child care centers and Haven Center. This volunteer-led project has many components-- the Y-GOD group has taken on the huge task of hand sewing all 200 book bags. The book bags will be delivered to the children in December at the 'Christmas for Kids' party.

Y-GOD or 'Youth Gladly Offering Deeds' are an inspiration to all of us. They are making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. We thank each and every person who has a part in the successful partnership between NHA and the Y-GOD group -- group leaders Donna Goodwin and Lorene Coughlin, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the staff, congregation of St. Joseph Church, teachers, students of St. Joseph School and the members of the Y-GOD group.



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Nella was able to get a job at Spin Cycle, a laundromat on Oberlin Avenue in Lorain. Mike Thomas, the Spin Cycle's general manager, and local radio station WOBL, held a clothing drive for the residents of the shelter. The response was tremendous!

Nella helped with the cleaning, drying, and sorting of the clothes, and loved being able to give something back to the shelter that had just helped her get back on her feet. It was wonderful to be able to deliver clothes to The Haven Center along with her love and best wishes. "What goes around comes around." said Nella. Thank you, Mike, Nella, and all the staff at Spin Cycle and WOBL for making the circle of helping others complete.

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It was all due to the sincere interest of her guests who share her passion in making a difference in the lives of others.

The dessert-themed evening began outdoors in the lovely landscaped backyard and elegant patio of their Westlake home. It quickly turned into a "team-building" exercise when an unexpected summer storm rolled over the area. The outdoor to indoor transformation was a group effort that proved to be a wonderful way for the staff and guests to get to introduce themselves to each other. The downstairs entertainment area transformed instantly with elegant desserts and showplace for the exclusive silent auction items generously donated for this event.



Save the Date!

**5th Annual
Golf & Gourmet
Friday, August 20, 2010**

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The process for obtaining necessary documents can take weeks and the filing of paperwork for housing even longer. Sometimes the work involved, rules and guidelines are too much and some people choose to leave. Far more go on to break the cycle of poverty, rebuild their lives while maintaining basic dignity, and even being empowered for the very first time.

The Haven Center's program is designed to be flexible for individual needs but keeps on track to the needs of the rules of society. Most people are slowly able to untangle to chaos in their lives and break out of the vicious cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Under the watchful guidance of the Haven Center staff, the residents are being set up to succeed. Through sheer determination and hard work, they can. And, thanks to your support, they will continue to have the opportunity to put together the pieces of their lives. And one day they will have a place they can call home.

For additional information about the Haven Center and how you can help the homeless, please visit our website

www.nhalorain.org

Congratulations NHA Raffle Winners!



CORNHOLE SET: PATTY ALICEA



QUILT: LOUISE HOSTETLER



DR PEPPER BIKE: AL VERHOFF



Mission Statement

NHA’s mission is to address a person’s basic needs, enhance individual and family life and improve neighborhoods and communities.

Vision Statement

NHA’s vision is to achieve genuine communities of inclusion and empowerment for all individuals.

Neighborhood News

Fall 2009

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Lorain County Hits Hard Economic Times

2009 may go down as one of the most difficult economic times in recent history for Neighborhood House Association (NHA). Everyone knows that unemployment is up. Local and state governments are slashing their budgets and services to those who can least afford it. Families who have worked all their lives are barely getting by with fewer hours, mandatory furloughs and dwindling benefits.

NHA has a record number of families at the Haven Homeless Shelter, including 21 children. We are just entering fall, what will it be like in the winter? The State of Ohio cut the Early Learning Initiative and \$500,000 was cut from our budget, with 77 childcare children affected at NHA. We consolidated our Mildred Bond Center with our City View Center in Lorain. As a result we laid off 15 employees this year to maximize the service to families who were affected.

At year end NHA will leave the St. Joseph Community Center since it is scheduled to close. We will have to find a new home for our Meals on Wheels kitchen to continue to serve 500 seniors with a daily hot meal. These are all obstacles that NHA has struggled with. But as Executive Director of NHA, I have hope.

New partnerships and collaborations are being planned to save costs and maximize service. Our Strategic Plan is complete and we have a clear direction to continue to serve the basic needs of our community. A committee of volunteers is working hard on the “Christmas for Kids” program for December.

All this is happening because Neighborhood House Association exists to serve those that need help. It exists to be a leader in our community. It has a pride in its past service and a bright future as we continue to meet the needs of the community. I hope you see the possibilities and continue to support NHA with donations, volunteer service and commitment.

Please consider visiting our website at www.nhalorain.org to learn more, volunteer, sign up for a tour or make a gift. Thank you to all those that care.

Michael Mayse, President / CEO