

Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless  
President's Report  
2010

**Overnights of Hospitality Program**

We ended our sixth season of providing emergency sheltering in April, 2010. Over the 2009-10 season, we provided a total of 1,396 beds for 45 different individuals, averaging 10.3 guests per night, a slight decrease in all categories from the previous season. This decrease was due to the fact that we didn't begin the season until mid-November. One night, we had as many as sixteen guests. There were approximately 174 volunteers from eighteen different congregations and from the community at large who served as hosts and meal providers.

Beginning our seventh season, with the return of Beth Jacob to the rotation, we now are back to having seven congregations as host sites for the Overnights program for the 2010-11 season. The other six congregations are Christ Church Parish, Zion Lutheran, St. Mary's, First Parish Unitarian, Church of the Pilgrimage, and the First Baptist.

On Christmas Eve (2010), the Taskforce put up fifteen men at the Radisson. During the season, in emergency situations, we also put up several single homeless women, each for a night in a hotel.

Our weekly shower program was cut back to one day per week using the shower facility at Christ Church Food Pantry, due to the resignation of Dave Tassinari. Thanks to John Malloy for continuing to supervise this activity.

**Next Step House**

Five men are currently living in the Step House., One of the residents continues to serve as house manager, thus providing a consistent presence in the house.

**Government Housing Support**

Five more men were placed in supported housing in 2010 through federal and state funds, administered through Fr. Bill's/Mainspring. A total of twenty-five individuals have been placed since 2005. The Taskforce works with Fr. Bills/Mainspring to identify suitable candidates from the Overnights for housing. Since the Overnights program began, others have been able to secure their own housing

Unfortunately, more subsidies are becoming difficult to obtain due to funding limitations..

**Point in Time Homeless Count**

During the annual homeless count on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2010, we were able to identify twenty-four single individuals, most of whom were frequent or occasional guests at the shelter during the season. We continue to enter our data into the HMIS system as needed.

**Grants/Fundraising**

We had several successful fundraisers in 2010. Our fifth annual golf tournament raised over \$13,000. Special thanks to John Malloy and Barbara Wotjklewicz for their hard work in organizing this event.

The Bike Raffle raised over \$1,000. Thanks to Judy and Rich Pecorella for organizing this event.

Through the Scrip Gift Card program, folks are offered the opportunity to buy gift cards from hundreds of companies. PTH earns a varying percentage of the sales. We hope that this program will continue to grow. Thanks to Rich Pecorella for chairing this effort.

PTH continues to garner donations from individuals and organizations. We received and additional \$2,000 from the Church of the Pilgrimage's, Mahlon Walker fund in 2010

for supplies for the Overnights program. Wal-Mart contributed six large boxes filled with long john underwear which should last us for a long time!

### **Project Success**

The big success for the Taskforce in 2011 was to gain the approval of the Town Meeting to purchase 368-370 Court St. from Community Preservation Act funds. With near unanimous vote, Town Meeting gave us \$400,000. The Pinehills Charitable Trust gave us the remaining \$50,000 which will allow us to purchase the house mortgage free. We are still waiting for the Sec. 8 tenant to move out of the half before the purchase will be completed. Once we have control, we will be able to permanently house four more individuals, plus a staff manager, giving us a total of eight residents, plus two staff managers.

### **Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**

Our annual volunteer breakfast was held in April. Thanks to Jack Ryan for organizing this event.

### **Goals for 2011**

- Complete Purchase of 368-370 Court Street
- Grow the Board of Directors
- Work with congregations toward hardwiring smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
- Seek and apply for additional grants
- Seek new fundraising avenues
- Increase membership and/or to do a general fundraising campaign
- Recruit more congregations to offer their space
- Develop a website
- Refine the organization of the Board

In closing, I would like to personally thank all of our board members – Judy Erikson for managing our funds, Jan Palmer-Tarbox for taking the minutes, Amy Palmer for writing thank you notes, John Malloy, Rich Pecorella, Jack Ryan, Pamela Daikh, and Barbara Wotjklewicz for their valuable insight and willingness to help with fundraising.

Thanks also to Helen Evans, co-coordinator of nightly screening process and thanks to Judy Erikson, Rich Pecorella, and Barbara Wotjklewicz for driving. A special thanks to Gerge Berardi who helps to transport gear every week. Also, I would like to thank all of the site coordinators – Barbara Wotjklewicz, Ellen Nordquist, Valerie Peck, Rosalee Sinn, Helen Evans, Ray Tompkins, Dave Tassinari, Lawrence Silverman, Mark Hebert, Dick Skinner, and Jim Wohlander. Finally, the success of the Overnight program was due to the many other people who volunteered their time to host or to prepare a meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Melahoures  
President