



newsletter

—Spring 2003—

Calcutta House Day, June 27th 2003

Environmentally sensitive balloon launch will mark the occasion

This summer we will celebrate the second annual Calcutta House Day, a new tradition started last year when Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street proclaimed June 27th, 2002 to be “Calcutta House Day” in the city of Philadelphia. We will mark the day this year with **1000 Points of Hope**, by launching 1000 white balloons to raise awareness about the work done by Calcutta House, and to raise much-needed money to help with the construction and maintenance of Calcutta House III, a new facility to serve people seriously ill and dying from AIDS.

The balloons are made of biodegradable natural latex, specially selected to conform with strict environmental standards set by the XXX XOOOO to protect the plants and animals in our region.

You are invited to participate! Simply return the enclosed pledge envelope with your personal message. Next to the amount of your donation, write “1000 Points” to ensure proper crediting. You can also call 215-684-0480, or log onto www.calcuttthouse.org to pledge \$10 or more to have your personal message or prayer of hope, remembrance and support for people with AIDS placed into one of the balloons. We hope to see you there on June 27th., Calcutta House Day.



Introducing the newest members of our Board of Directors

Calcutta House is proud to announce the election of four new members to its Board of Directors. This influx of talent and energy come at an important point in the life of our organization as we begin the construction of Calcutta House III and plan for the future. Over the course of a two-year term on the Board of Directors, **Joseph T. Drennan, Leslie Hayes, Sister**

Eileen McGowan, and Bernadette Stitt will have the opportunity to add their abilities and resources to the leadership team at Calcutta House, and have a significant impact on the quality of life for our residents.

Joe Drennan brings over 30 years of senior level management experience to Calcutta House, including experience on



www.calcuttahouse.org
1601 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1614
215-684-0480

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Helena A. Kwakwa, MD
Sr. Eileen McGowan, RSM
Martin D. Sellers
Bernadette Stitt

Calcutta House exists to serve the most fragile persons with AIDS and to support the self-empowerment of each person to live as fully as their situation permits.

We provide supportive housing with services responsive to the individual: those who are dying, those who are able to rebuild their lives and move on to independence, and those who will continue to require the assistance of supportive housing.

We work with each person to progress towards his/her potential and to achieve attainable and realistic goals.

Designed, written and illustrated by Philip Simmons

Calcutta House Welcomes New Board Members

(from page 1)



Joe Drennan
*Founding Partner of
Mulberry Consulting Group, LLC*

AIDS several years ago. So in a number of ways, the disease has affected my life." Drennan finds that many people still do not want to acknowledge and confront the AIDS epidemic. "We have to treat it like any other disease, and work to find better treatments, and a cure," he said.

After serving in Viet Nam as a Company Commander in the United States Marine Corps, Drennan went to work for First Pennsylvania Bank, rising to the position of Executive Vice President over a 26-year career there. He is especially proud of the work he did to save the ailing institution from bankruptcy, when a series of bad business decisions jeopardized the financial standing of the bank. "I was part of a group of people who stuck with the bank and brought it back to health. We eventually organized a successful merger with Corestates." He noted with equal pride that he and his wife have raised five children and put them through college.

He took on a leadership role as Executive Vice President at Corestates Financial Corp., and later Vice President at Coretech Consulting Group, before founding Mulberry Consulting Group.

Leslie Hayes brings the professional perspective of someone with six years of direct service to the HIV/AIDS community to the Calcutta House Board. Her current work at Arcadia University involves conference and event planning, campus scheduling and management of all large university events, and marketing for the university as a conference site. As the former Women's Volleyball Head Coach at Arcadia, a winning attitude led to measurable success for her team.

Hayes has particular empathy for the significant segment of the HIV/AIDS population who also struggle with addiction to drugs and alcohol. As a person in recovery from alcoholism, she is well aware of the difficulties faced by people burdened with addiction. She was led to become involved in serving the HIV/AIDS community when friends and acquaintances became infected with the disease. "When I went back to school in 1991, I knew I would

the Boards of other organizations. In his current position at Mulberry Consulting Group, he provides planning, marketing, alignment, growth and implementation solutions for small to medium-sized enterprises. The skills he is offering to Calcutta House as a volunteer board member are highly sought after by businesses and other organizations.

The Devon, PA resident became interested in Calcutta House after learning about it from board member Shawn Marcell, and attending the Calcutta House 15th Anniversary Gala. "I have a friend whose child contracted HIV, and another personal friend who died of



Leslie Hayes
*Director of Conference Services,
Arcadia University*

be personally affected by AIDS, because people with addictions would be impacted. I was the first student at Arcadia to do an internship helping people who have the disease.”

She wrote her senior thesis at Arcadia University on women and AIDS, before graduating in 1992. She then worked at the Northeast Treatment Center, Thomas Jefferson Hospital and the Philadelphia Community Health Alternative for a total of six years, providing HIV counseling and testing, and links between the HIV/AIDS community and addiction treatment and needle exchange centers. Hayes is a certified Trainer and Evaluator for prospective HIV Prevention Counselors, and works periodically for the Family Planning Council as an evaluator in the oral component of the examination process for certified HIV Prevention Counselor candidates.



Sr. Eileen McGowan
*Campus Minister, Theology Professor,
Lasalle University*

Sr. Eileen McGowan, RSM has been aware of the work done by Calcutta House and of its good reputation since the early years of its existence. Our first full-time Executive Director, Sr. Joanne Whitaker is a member of McGowan’s religious community, The Sisters of Mercy, and Sr. Suzanne Thompson, also a Sister of Mercy, has served on the Calcutta

House Board for many years.

McGowan has first-hand experience with the pain of losing someone because of AIDS. Her brother, a priest in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, died from AIDS in 1991. Her awareness of and knowledge about the disease and its early treatment regimens increased dramatically as she and her family cared for him over a three-year period. “My brother was very, very active in fighting AIDS; as he learned, I learned too.”

After this difficult time, in which she had to deal with prejudice and misunderstanding about AIDS within her diocese, and the community at large, McGowan spent a number of years doing post-graduate work in Theology at Catholic University in Washington DC (she holds Master Degrees in Bilingual/Bicultural Education from Marywood University, and Religious Studies from Villanova University.) While there, she regrouped mentally and emotionally while studying and providing pastore care for people with AIDS at the Washington Hospital Center.

Upon returning to the Philadelphia area two years ago, McGowan decided to accept the invitation to join the Calcutta House Board. “I hope to connect my

work at LaSalle, with volunteering at Calcutta House. Many students at LaSalle are dedicated to service and are ministerially minded, and I think there is a real opportunity to develop a connection between LaSalle volunteers and Calcutta House.” McGowan says that she is careful not to over-commit to volunteer activities. “I suppose that one of the things I have to offer is consistent effort. I try to determine what is needed and then decide what I have to give to that need.”

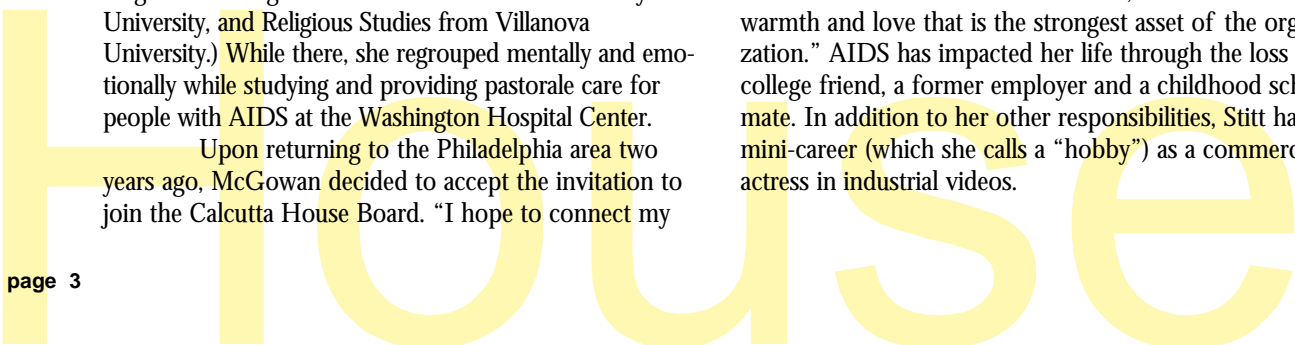
As a community volunteer and mother of three children, Bernadette Stitt offers Calcutta House a wealth of concern for others rooted in a commitment to service. The Villanova resident and Temple University graduate (B.A. English/Biology) has years of experience serving community organizations as diverse as the Gladwyne Library, several school boards and the Philadelphia Zoo. “Getting involved with Calcutta House is a way of taking a step outside of my world to help others who are in real need,” she said. “We have so much and often don’t realize it – serving on the Calcutta House Board of Directors is a way of positively affecting someone’s life outside of my community.”



Bernadette Stitt
Community Volunteer, Homemaker

Stitt is a first generation American of Filipino descent, and had the opportunity as a child of traveling with her parents in Southeast Asia. She says that this experience gave her an appreciation of how lucky many people in America are, and how much we have to give to our own less fortunate neighbors. One of her priorities as a board member will be to help Calcutta House reach potential supporters in the affluent suburbs around Philadelphia. “People out here have a lot of goodwill, and would love to help an organization like Calcutta House if they were made aware of its professionalism, reputability and very existence.”

Stitt learned about Calcutta House through another volunteer, when she was invited to serve on the 15th Anniversary Gala Committee. “I was thrilled to serve on the Gala Committee. Even the first time I visited the house on West Girard Avenue, I could sense the warmth and love that is the strongest asset of the organization.” AIDS has impacted her life through the loss of a college friend, a former employer and a childhood schoolmate. In addition to her other responsibilities, Stitt has a mini-career (which she calls a “hobby”) as a commercial actress in industrial videos.



thank you!

We recognize and thank the following for their recent support of the ongoing operations and development of Calcutta House:

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*Capital Support for the Calcutta III
Project.

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Project.

Gifts have been made in honor of:

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Calcutta House Residents
Calcutta House Volunteers
Rafaela Colon

Thanks for your support!

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Bleach, Glass Cleaner, Air Freshener, Antibacterial Soft Soap, Laundry Detergent

Food:

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Coffee, Canned Salmon

Miscellaneous:

Tupperware Containers (various sizes)
13 gallon and 33 gallon Trash Bags, Q-tips, Dryer Sheets, Eucerin Lotion.

call us to donate: 215-684-0480

Shop On-Line to Support Calcutta House! Go to our secure location:

www.calcuttahouse.efunddrive.com

Calcutta House is a charitable, tax-exempt, private non-profit organization providing specialized housing and care for adults with AIDS. A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Funding for housing and related services for our residents is provided in part by Philadelphia's Office of Housing & Community Development, and the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Funding for care services to our residents is provided in part through Philadelphia's Department of Public Health AIDS Activities Coordinating Office, the Office of Mental Health, the Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Programs, the Philadelphia AIDS Consortium; and Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare and Department of Health.

Contribute Online At: www.calcuttahouse.org/giving.htm



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