



THE Window

1601 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130-1614 PH: 215-684-0480 FX: 215-684-0490

Dedicated to supporting the self-empowerment of adults living with AIDS

FALL 2004



CALCUTTA HOUSE SELECTED AS A "COMMUNITY CHAMPION"

Calcutta House was selected by Citizens Bank in collaboration with NBC-10 News to receive their Summer 2004 Community Champion Award. The award acknowledges the excellence and dedication of organizations that are committed to making a difference in the community. As the recipient of this award, Calcutta House received a generous \$25,000 grant, media coverage and extensive promotional and volunteer support. You may have seen the public service announcement on NBC-10 during the past 2 months. Many thanks to Citizens Bank & NBC-10 for their vote of confidence in our mission of serving vulnerable adults living with AIDS.



Volunteers from Citizens Bank spend a day at Calcutta House.

KATSEYE STUDIO Hosts Art Show Benefiting Calcutta House

On September 18th and 19th, Kat Reilly, owner of Katseye Studio & Gallery, opened her doors to the city for an art show and benefit in a gallery that was a former rug factory built in 1885 in the Port Richmond section of the city. The Art Show included a horse and carriage ride, hors d'oeuvres, live musical enter-



tainment and featured some of Philadelphia's finest painters, sculptors and photographers. About 500 guests attended. Twenty-percent of the proceeds from the open studio exhibition benefited Calcutta House. Several residents from Calcutta House also included their work in gallery show. Kat Reilly contacted Calcutta House about a year ago and had a desire to help us in our efforts to raise both funds and awareness about the impact of AIDS in our community. Her spirit of compassion and commitment is very closely knit with the mission of Calcutta House. Our residents are particularly excited since she has also graciously offered her time and talent to teach them photography and photo development in her studio. We look forward to working with



Kat in the future as she will be hosting other shows during the year. The next show is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th from 6 pm till midnight with a wine and cheese reception and musical entertainment, and Sunday, December 5th, with an open house, from 1 pm to 6 pm. 10% of the proceeds will benefit Calcutta House. Please visit her website at www.katseyestudio.net or call 215-426-6200 to keep updated on upcoming art shows and other events at the studio.





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2004-2005**

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MISSION STATEMENT

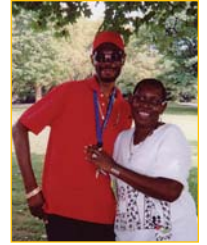
Calcutta House exists to serve the most fragile persons with AIDS and to support the self-empowerment of each person to live as fully as their situation permits.

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.



Residents, staff and volunteers enjoy a Labor Day barbecue at Lemon Hill.



Caregivers Corner

This past May, Serenity Court officially opened its doors. This new 9-bed facility, which will provide palliative care for the most seriously ill residents, is located three blocks west of our original site on Girard Avenue. This building project was a milestone for Calcutta House and we thank all of our supporters for making this possible. Special thanks to the following donors for furnishing rooms at Serenity Court:

- An Anonymous Donor
- Members of the Wayne United Methodist Church in honor of Reverend Edwin R. Green, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement
- The Thompson Family in loving memory of: James J. Daly, Jr. Gregory J. Thompson Joseph A. Thompson, Sr.

Shawn and Jody Marcell in loving memory of James Schott (1966-2004)

A special thanks to artist Philip Simmons for creating and donating 3 beautiful wall sculptures entitled "Orchids" which will be hung in the Community Room at Serenity Court.

Our program at Independence Place (1601 West Girard Avenue) will be more rehabilitative in nature and geared to those clients whose health has stabilized and who are better equipped to manage the activities of daily living. Hopefully, many of these residents will one day be able to transition to their own apartment and live independent and productive lives.

Since The Last Newsletter...

- We welcomed these new residents: Angela, Charles, Herbert, Janusz, Kevin, Lewis and Victor to Serenity Court.
- We remembered those residents who have died: Dawn, Gary, Rommell.
- We said goodbye to two dedicated staff members: Virginia Resseger, who served as Director of Social Services for the past five

years and Philip Simmons who served as Director of Public Affairs for the past two years. We wish them every success.

With the opening of Serenity Court, we welcomed new staff members:

- **Social Services:** Patricia Sherlock Dillon, Director of Social Services, Asinia Abdul-Wakeel, Counselor and Lauren Weinberg, a 1st year MSW student from Widener University's School of Social Work.

- **Nursing:** Certified Nursing Assistants: Darlene Beaufort, Denita Bronson, Sherrell DaShields, Chester Evans, Gary Little, Chantal Verneus, April Wilson and Sebrina Frink, RN.
- **Kitchen Staff:** Gaynelle Alphonzo, Kevin Carter, Marlon Craige, Stephnia Graham and Tasha Lott and Angela Scipio.
- **Custodial Staff:** Edward Chaplin and Tony Heckstall.
- **Office Manager:** Rose Lourdes Dorvil

VOLUNTEER HAPPENINGS

INTRODUCING OUR MERCY VOLUNTEERS!

Calcutta House was delighted to welcome 2 Mercy Volunteer Corps (MVC) members to assist us in the coming year.



Janet Dillon, originally from California with a B. S. in Physiology from University of California, is

serving her second year in the MVC program. Her previous experience working with the elderly and homeless left a lasting impression on her. "How can I be the same after seeing a man warm himself on the steam rising from a sewer drain?" "How can I be the same after looking into the eyes of my elderly friends who are starved for love?" When asked why she chooses another year of service, she replied. "I will never be the same. One year of service with MVC is not enough. It is a gift to have different volunteer experiences and to see how I may want to serve God through serving others in the future".



Shannon Peetz, who hails from Minnesota, is a registered nurse assistant. As long as she can remember, she

has always been involved in some type of volunteer activity. Shannon stated, "MVC offers many different opportunities to volunteer in healthcare related placements, where I can explore parts of the field I have not yet been exposed

provided a meal, hospitality and a place to sleep for the night. "This was my first experience working with homeless people. By the end of the night I was shocked by my own previous judgments and misconceptions. I was not expecting to spend the night laughing and sharing stories with a bunch of men with incredible life stories. I learned many things from this experience. I know now that service is not about me being better off than anyone else, and also its not always something that requires active work but can consist of simply providing a comfortable atmosphere and hospitality to others." Shannon is considering pursuing a career in medicine.

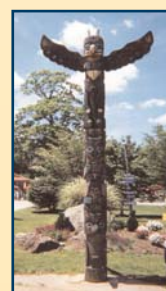
This past year Calcutta House volunteers logged in 7,000 hours of service. We are proud of our volunteers and thank them for their commitment of time, talent & treasure. For anyone interested in volunteering at Calcutta House, please contact Bryan McGrory, Coordinator of Volunteers and Activities at 215-684-0480 or bmcgrory@calcuttahouse.org.

Reflection...

"I thought it had gone away," friends often remark in surprise when they hear that I am involved in the field of HIV/AIDS. We tend to have short memories of things we don't feel any need to remember, especially if we can console ourselves by thinking, "it will never affect me".

Anonymous Volunteer

to and gain more hands-on experience." Shannon participated in a program called a "Night at the Inn." The program for homeless men in Nashville, Tennessee,



In July, all of our residents enjoyed a summer picnic at Brandywine Park.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

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

The 1957 Charity Foundation
AIDS FUND
The Barra Foundation, Inc.
Bernadette Choice & Members
of the Harriet Y. Davis Memorial
Bowling League
Black Women in Sports Foundation
Blank Rome, LLP
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Louis N. Cassett Foundation
Catholic Daughters of the Americas,
Court of St. Matthew of
Mayfair, #1828
Church of the Holy Comforter,
Drexel Hill, PA
Citizens Bank
Dignity-Philadelphia Chapter
The Horace W. Goldsmith
Foundation
The JDB Fund
The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
Lockheed Martin Employees'
Community Service Fund
Merck & Co., Inc.
St. Anselm's Church, Philadelphia, PA
St. Charles' Borromeo Church,
Bensalem, PA
St. Dorothy's Church, Drexel Hill, PA
St. Matthew's Church,
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St. Thomas of Villanova Church,
Rosemont, PA
The Patricia Waldron Fund –
Sisters of Mercy
Waldron Mercy Academy



In-Kind Gifts

Berean Institute
M. Alqueena Bey
Diane Bones
James Broussard
Thomas Cavanaugh
Dr. Joseph Chapman
Citizens Bank
Daughters of Isis Pyramid Court, #17
Craig Hindman
HOPE Worldwide, Philadelphia, PA
ISREV-Roseanne McDougall, SHCJ
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Huddy
Charles Kappler

Les Dix Mesdames
Sue Mi Cha
Letitia Principato
V. S. Naiken, MD
Richard Rasmindarya
David Ryan
St. Mary's Episcopal Church,
Pleasantville, NJ
Top Ladies of Distinction
Urban League Guild, Philadelphia, PA
Jeffrey Watts
Jet Wimp

And all those who continue to support us financially and in other ways.



Gifts Were Made In Memory of

Asa Branch
Timothy Brooks
Diana, Princess of Wales
Richard Esposto
Maryrose Foley
Sister Camille Garceau, MMS
Margaret V. Hudson
Joseph F. Kattner
Bill Kieffer
Harry C. Lilly, Sr.
Michael
James O'Brien
Douglas Pierce
Michael Riesenber
Salgado and Lugo Families
The Honorable Mrs. Frances
Shand Kydd
Mother Theresa of Calcutta
The War Dead
Peter Yates



Gifts Were Made In Honor of

Paul Colgan
Rosemary Connors
Sister Sheila Murphy, RSM
Sister Joanne Whitaker, RSM



Our Wish List

- SPECIAL ITEMS:
2 Ionic Pro Air Purifiers from Target
- FOOD:
Coffee, Tuna Fish in Water,
peanut butter, cereal
- PAPER PRODUCTS:
paper towels, facial tissues,
toilet tissue

- CLEANING PRODUCTS:
bleach, glass cleaner, antibacterial
soft soap, air freshner
- DISPOSABLES: 13 gallon trash
bags, 33 gallon trash bags

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Many of Calcutta House's donors choose to contribute through the United Way's Donor Choice Program. This is another terrific way to support the mission of Calcutta House. Last year, United Way Donor Choice contributions totaled \$14,863. Please help support our work by designating us in your United Way contribution. **Our Donor Choice Number is: 08739.**

MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAMS

If you work for a company that has a matching gift program, consider obtaining the company's matching gift form, to increase the level of giving to Calcutta House by having your company's match added to your personal contribution. Many of Calcutta House's donors take advantage of this opportunity of maximizing their contribution.

Thank you for making a difference!

2004 AIDS WALK

Contributions are still being accepted for Calcutta House's Team #13 in support of the 2004 AIDS WALK. For more information, please contact Amy Bergels at 215-684-0480 or email her at abergels@calcuttthouse.org for more information.

2004-2005

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN APPEAL KICKS OFF

Calcutta House's Annual Giving Campaign appeal will be arriving in the mail in a few weeks. We are grateful to all those who contributed last year and are hopeful you will renew your support for this year's campaign. This year our goal is to raise \$100,000 from individual donors to support our program.

Calcutta House counts on a healthy Annual Giving Campaign each year to augment its other sources of revenue to sustain its programs and provide housing and vital services to vulnerable adults with AIDS who cannot care for themselves.

Your donation to the Annual Giving Campaign gives Calcutta House the additional flexibility, above and beyond what the budget allows, to place resources where they are most immediately needed. Annual Giving dollars also insure that ongoing program and services remain strong and at the same high level of excellence we have all come to expect.

Calcutta House continues to reaffirm its commitment to serving those with AIDS who have the greatest needs and fewest resources. With the opening of

Serenity Court, a 9-bed nursing facility, in May 2004, we expanded our service capacity by 50%. As a result, we anticipate an increase in our general operating expenses over the next year. However, with your help, we are confident that we will be able to meet our financial obligations.

Our Annual Giving Campaign donors are an invaluable group of dedicated individuals who are committed to the mission of Calcutta House. If you were one of our valued donors, thank you! We hope we can again rely upon your support. If you have yet to make a gift to Calcutta House, please consider joining us this year in making your contribution. All gifts make a difference, regardless of their size, in assisting Calcutta House in providing compassionate care for those who are living with AIDS. Please take a moment and write a check or make a donation online at www.calcuttthouse.org.

For more information about making a donation to Calcutta House, contact, Daniel Tomko at 215-684-0480 or dtomko@calcuttthouse.org.

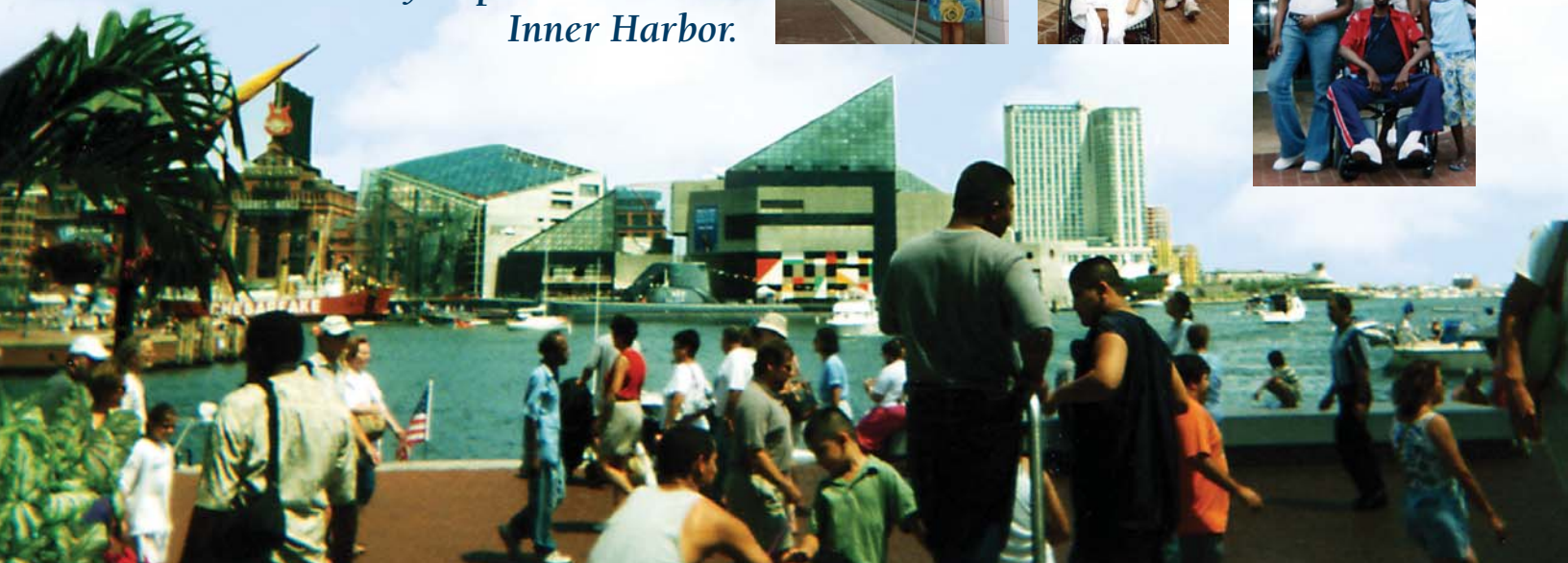
Calcutta House is a charitable, tax-exempt, private non-profit organization providing specialized housing and care for adults with AIDS. A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. 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 Coordination Office. The Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Programs, the Philadelphia AIDS Consortium, and Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare and Department of Health.

Calcutta House accepts people with AIDS regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, age, or religious belief. We particularly welcome the homeless, the indigent and those without family and friends.

A great time was enjoyed by residents, volunteers and staff who took a day trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor.



A good time was had by all!

Special thanks to St. Thomas' (Whitemarsh) Episcopal Church who invited Calcutta House residents to shop at Thrift Shop for "free".



Please visit our website at www.calcuttahouse.org.

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