



[www.calcuttahouse.org](http://www.calcuttahouse.org)  
1601 West Girard Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1614  
215-684-0480

#### Board of Directors

Kevin E. Vaughan, President  
David Romine, Esq., Vice President  
Sr. Suzanne Thompson, RSM, Secretary  
Shawn Marcell, Treasurer  
James Anderson  
Rev. Rodger C. Bradley  
Margaret Brock  
Thelma Cretchfield  
Jennifer Daniels  
Joe Drennan  
Bruce Flannery  
Stephen Gluckman  
Horace Godwin  
Suzanne Harmon  
Leslie Hayes  
Sr. Eileen McGowan, RSM  
Jason Olim  
Steve M. Peura  
Santiago Pujadas  
Martin D. Sellers  
Bernadette Stiitt

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.

*Calcutta House News* is designed, written and illustrated by Philip Simmons

# Serenity Court Grand Opening Celebration

that you need.” Clarke has been of great service to the project, which is located in the district that he represents, from its inception in 1999.

Chief Meteorologist Schwartz recalled covering a news story in 1981 as a science reporter for an Atlanta TV station,

building is a clear indication of the city’s commitment to the neighborhood, and a tribute to the people who built it.” Mr. Joseph said that his organization in cooperation with PNC Bank was tremendously proud to have been part of the project.

The celebration began with a recep-



about a strange new disease, that was later identified as AIDS. He spoke of the lasting impact made upon him from his interviews with the people suffering from the disease.

Health Commissioner Domzalski representing Mayor John F. Street, recalled speaking at Calcutta House Day 2003 for the 1000 Points of Hope balloon launch in front of city Hall. He said, “Last summer we launched a thousand balloons to honor those who are living with, and have died from AIDS. The mayor is in the forefront of the battle against this terrible disease, and is very concerned to get help to this neighborhood.”

RDA Chairman Dougherty said, “Serenity Court is more than just a building, it is a place that gives dignity to its residents.” He said that it had been an honor to work with Calcutta House. OCHD Director McColloch said, “The

tion for organizations and individuals who made significant financial contributions to the construction and operation of the new facility. These special guests were thanked with a private tour of the beautiful new facility led by Calcutta House staff.

During the main ceremonies, all guests were entertained by noted Philadelphia singer and long-time Calcutta House supporter Ruth Naomi Floyd. After remarks by the invited guests, Calcutta House Board President Kevin Vaughan and Executive Director Steve Peura, the new facility was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony including all of the assembled guests.

Refreshments for the event were generously provided by Sodexo. Other sponsors of the event included Arcadia University, and the Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development.

# ON BOARD

## Get acquainted with the Calcutta House Board of Directors

**David Romine**  
Lawyer, Langsam Stevens & Silver LLP  
Board member since 1997



David Romine's legal advice and particular expertise in the legal details of financial transactions have been of great benefit to Calcutta House, especially in the negotiations leading to the construction of Serenity Court. David's concern for people with AIDS became personal when he lost his brother to the disease in 1996. In 1997, he became

involved with Calcutta House after a law partner at his firm was invited to join the board by (former) board president Gloria Guard. That former board member suggested that he apply for board membership as well. He holds a BA in economics from Columbia University, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1993.

**Thelma Cretchfield**  
Retired, Philadelphia School District  
Board member since 1993



At 77 years of age, Thelma Cretchfield's remarkable dedication to Calcutta House and the surrounding neighborhood is notable. She has lived in the Calcutta House neighborhood since she was born, first on the 1500 block of Stiles Street, and then in her current home adjacent to Serenity Court on the 1800

block of Stiles Street. She has served as a board member since retiring from the Philadelphia School District in 1993, after a 30 year career. Her service as a neighborhood representative and liaison for Calcutta House, first with Independence Place and now with Serenity Court, has been of great value to the organization.

**Margaret Brock:**  
Social Security Administrator  
Board member since 1993



Margaret Brock is well-placed to help Calcutta House develop relations with residents in the local community. As a lifetime resident and activist in the Francisville area of North Philadelphia (adjacent to the Calcutta House neighborhood), she has seen the fortunes of the area rise due to the efforts of organizations like ours. She

is proud to work with Calcutta House to improve the lives of the people within her community. Margaret joined the Board of Directors with the encouragement of former board member and community leader Unavee Bruce.

**Jennifer Daniels**  
Attorney, Blank Rome, LLP  
Board member since December 2003



Jennifer Daniels' experience as an attorney for the Health Law Group of Blank Rome, LLP, will be of direct benefit to Calcutta House when it faces regulatory and reimbursement issues. As a lawyer focusing on legal and regulatory issues that impact the health care industry, she has represented health care and pharmaceutical clients in

the United States and Europe. Since graduating from the University of a Penn Law School in 1999, Jennifer has sought a way to serve the Philadelphia community, and was made aware of the opportunity to serve Calcutta House through the efforts of board member Shawn Marcell.

# Thanks for your support!

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

## AIDS FUND

All Saints' Episcopal Church,  
Norristown, PA  
Bellman Allan Trust  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian  
Church  
Catholic Daughters of the  
Americas - Court of St.  
Matthew of Mayfair, #1828  
Claneil Foundation, Inc.  
Collenbrook United Church,  
Drexel Hill, PA  
Congregation of the Mission -  
the Vincentians  
Convent of Divine Love  
Danellie Foundation  
Dignity- Philadelphia  
Eastern Baptist Theological  
Seminary, St. Davids, PA  
Domenick and Associates,  
Rosemont, PA  
Domus, Inc., Philadelphia, PA  
First Hospital Foundation  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Springfield, Flourtown, PA  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Guarino Family Fund  
Holy Innocents Church,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Immaculate Conception  
Church, Jenkintown, PA  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Church, Philadelphia, PA

Les Oiseaux Foundation  
Liberty Bears of Philadelphia  
Medical Mission Sisters  
Our Lady of Ransom Church,  
Philadelphia, PA  
The PNC Bank Foundation  
Sacred Heart Church,  
Havertown, PA  
St. Andrew's Episcopal  
Church, Glenmoore, PA  
St. Anselm's Church,  
Philadelphia, PA  
St. Anthony's Church,  
Ambler, PA  
St. Benedict's Church,  
Philadelphia, PA  
St. Elizabeth's Church,  
Uwchlan, PA  
St. John Baptist Vianney  
Church, Gladwyne, PA  
St. John the Evangelist  
Church, Philadelphia, PA  
St. Joseph's Church,  
Downingtown, PA  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church,  
Pleasantville, NJ  
St. Matthew's Church,  
Conshohocken, PA  
St. Monica's Church,  
Berwyn, PA  
St. Nicholas of Tolentine  
Church, Philadelphia, PA  
St. Patrick's Church,  
Philadelphia, PA  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Exton, PA  
St. Raymond of Penafort  
Church, Philadelphia, PA  
Ss. Simon & Jude Church,

West Chester, PA  
Sherick Project Management  
Inc., Philadelphia, PA  
Sisters of Mercy  
Carl Steele Associates,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Subak Family Foundation  
United Way of Southeastern  
Pennsylvania  
United Way of Tri-State  
Your Part-Time Controller,  
Cherry Hill, NJ

## **Gifts have been made in memory of:**

Kent Anderson  
William "Skip" Blanchard  
Blessed Mother Teresa  
of Calcutta  
Asa Branch  
Gregory Branham  
Timothy Brooks  
Amadeo Casale  
Mel Cantrell  
Grace Clark  
Ronald Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Conton  
Duane Crenshaw  
Jeffrey Demos  
Cadwalader Evans  
Joe Fisher  
Eric Fleet  
Virginia Fleet  
John Flynn  
Joanne Fritz  
J. J. Huddy  
Margaret Hudson  
James P. Hymes  
Regina Jenkins

# Thank You!

Michael Jesiolowski  
Joseph F. Kattner  
Bill Kieffer  
Kathryn Kiley  
Alexander Kopple  
Mary E. Lilly  
Paul Livingston  
Lugo and Salgado Family  
Members  
Thomas J. Mansfield Jr.  
Anthony Martino  
Irene Martorano  
Daniel Marvin  
Wayne Mason  
Michael  
Robert Murdock  
Douglas Pierce  
Harold Pleasant  
Chelsea Resseger  
James P. Ricciardelli  
Mark Scarlett  
Clayton Scoville  
Joanne Searle  
Raheem Solomon  
Edward M. Speece  
Dr. William Stewart  
Ella Mae Strand  
Allen Talone  
Nick Talone  
Rose T. Varalli  
Eric Vincoff  
Charlie Wills  
Peter Yates

**In Honor of:**  
All God's Children  
Anthony Arce, MD

Viola Byrne  
Calcutta House Staff  
Calcutta House Volunteers  
Rafaela Colon  
Rosemary Connors  
Nancy Gessner  
Edward Harding  
Wayne Haines  
David Horn  
Betty Tyson-Keller  
Catherine Kutzler  
Frank Lyons  
Tom and Cathy MacGrory  
Timothy F. Murray  
The Sacred Heart  
St. Joseph  
Tom Udicious  
George Walmsley, III  
Marlene Douglas-Walsh  
Sister Joanne Whitaker, RSM  
Lorraine B. Wierzbicki

**In-Kind Gifts were donated by:**  
Ardmore United Methodist  
Church  
Bethel Presbyterian Church,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Rita Bianocosino  
Diane Bones  
Sharon Butler  
Brother Steven Casale, FSC  
Thomas Cavanaugh  
Gene Chappell  
Diane Church  
CVS ProCare  
Benoit Dube, MD  
Rebecca Gilbert Mee

Craig Hindman  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Huddy  
Independence Blue Cross Care  
Management & Coordination  
Region 1  
Rodney Jones  
Katseye Studio & Gallery,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Sue McFadden  
Dr. V. S. Naiken  
Michael Neff  
Omar's Beauty Shop  
Letitia Principato  
Richard Rasmindarya  
Mrs. Elise Rice  
St. Joseph's School, Milford, NJ  
St. Joseph's University  
St. Malachy's School,  
Philadelphia, PA  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church,  
Pleasantville, NJ  
St. Thomas' (Whitemarsh)  
Episcopal Church, Ft.  
Washington, PA  
St. Thomas of Villanova & Our  
Mother of Good Counsel  
School, Bryn Mawr, PA  
Seventh Day Adventist Church,  
Philadelphia PA  
Top Ladies of Distinction  
Jet Wimp

We thank all those who continue  
to support us financially and in  
other ways throughout the year.

# Giving

*Help Calcutta House by donating the following items:*

**Paper Products:**

Paper towels, Napkins, Facial Tissues, Scott toilet tissue

**Cleaning Products:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Tupperware Containers (various sizes)  
13 gallon and 33 gallon Trash Bags,

Q-tips, Dryer Sheets, Eucerin Lotion, 81mg aspirin

**Food:**

Canned Tuna, Campbell's Chunky Soup, Progresso Soup  
Coffee, Canned Salmon

**call us to donate: 215-684-0480**  
**Shop On-Line to Support Calcutta House! Go to our secure location:**  
[www.calcuttahouse.efunddrive.com](http://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 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.

Contribute Online At: [www.calcuttahouse.org/giving.htm](http://www.calcuttahouse.org/giving.htm)



1601 West Girard Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19130-1614

**Non-profit  
Organization U.S.  
Postage PAID  
Philadelphia, PA  
Permit No. 578**



# newsletter

— Spring 2004 —

## Calcutta House Celebrates Grand Opening of Serenity Court

Guest speakers included City Councilman Darrell Clarke and Health Commissioner John Domzalski



After over five years of planning fundraising and building, Calcutta House celebrated the Grand Opening of Serenity Court on May 18th, 2004. This was truly a day of rejoicing for Calcutta House residents, staff, financial supporters, volunteers, neighbors, and our community's most fragile people suffering from AIDS. Calcutta House was honored to have M.C. NBC10 Chief Meteorologist Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz introduce the guest speakers, City Councilman Darrell Clarke, Redevelopment Authority Chairman John Dougherty, Office of Housing and

Councilman Clarke addressing the guests at the Grand Opening of Serenity Court, with M.C. NBC10 Chief Meteorologist Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz on the left.

Community Development Director Deborah McColloch, CID Consultant Bill Joseph of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, and The Reverend William B. Moore, pastor of 10th Memorial Baptist Church. In his remarks, Councilman Clarke called the new facility "a cornerstone of the neighborhood." He said, "We are committed to the struggle against AIDS, and will help you [at Calcutta House] to get the support

continued on page 2