



Shelter News

October 2010

Another Successful Supper

The shelter's Sumptuous Southern Supper was another huge success. Last year, we raised \$14,000 and this year we are closing in on \$20,000. The event is sponsored by the Brainy Bodacious Women (BBW) which is an ever-expanding group of great women who support the shelter. We started with 50 women and grew to 550 last year to a little over a 1,000 this year. With a hostess list that large, you know you can pack a room, and pack a room we did. The First United Methodist Church Wesley Center was overflowing. Our grilling crew, headed by Russ and Susan Kennedy, worked tirelessly all afternoon cooking some really terrific barbecue chicken. Nadine Cox's yeast rolls were delicious as always. We had enough rolls left over at the end of the night to sell them by the dozen.

After dinner folks stayed around to listen to music, to socialize and to buy BBW merchandise. Aprons and T-shirts were discounted for the event. The Sumptuous Supper is quickly becoming a must-go-to event in Frankfort. A big thanks goes to the Brainy Bodacious Women, the First United Methodist Church, the entertainers and all the volunteers who made the event possible.

During the evening, Shelter Board President Barbara Hadley Smith announced that the Board of Directors had voted to honor shelter founder Jill Robinson by naming the building The Jill E. Robinson Shelter for Women.



Sonia Sanders, our 1000th BBW and her recruiter Teresa Barton.



Our Chefs Keith Goins, David Snyder, Art Boebinger, and Russ Kennedy



Debbie Wilson and Nadine Cox working on Nadine's famous yeast rolls.



Katherine Horton and Joyce Clark model their new shirts.



Barbara Hadley Smith announcing the naming of the shelter for Jill Robinson



Judy Turner and her granddaughter Cate cutting brownies

Volunteer News

By Doris Thurber Volunteer Coordinator

Summer Report:

Summertime is great with vacations and other seasonal activities, but we find it difficult to fill shifts with house volunteers. We muddled through July, but we anticipated a harder time in August. After brainstorming about how to make the volunteer shifts more attractive, we came up with the idea of providing incentives for doing extra shifts. Working two or more four hour shifts earned a Brainy Bodacious Woman shirt or apron, while two or more overnight shifts received Kroger gift cards. Seven volunteers took advantage of the incentive program.

August proved to be a much easier month to fill than we had expected which seemed to be a result of the incentives. We also had some happy people when they picked up their bounty. Thanks to everyone for helping out this summer!!

New volunteer training:

We have been holding a volunteer training about every month. Often we only have one person, but that is fine. We had a little burst of enthusiasm for this month's training due to people signing up at the Brainy Bodacious Women Sumptuous Supper.

We suggest that volunteers sign up for one shift a month, but of course, some people prefer to do more than



that, and others less. We are very grateful for our strong volunteer support. We literally could not do what we do without them.

Grants for Art Workshop

I applied for and received funding for the 2010 Arts Meets Activism Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women (KFW). It will allow me to coordinate a series of art workshops for the present and former residents of the shelter and domestic violence safe house. The KFW provides funding for art-related activities and projects which help Kentucky women and girls promote feminism.

The project will begin with a series of batik workshops in my art studio. The ladies will be encouraged to create items for their future homes to help make that dream seem more real.

Other workshops on jewelry making, gourd art, hand-building with clay, sewing and print making will be conducted by working artists. These workshops will help the ladies develop basic skills that they can carry with them throughout their lives.

Volunteer Clean-Up Day

On Saturday, August 21 there was a clean-up day at the shelter. Nancy Thompson organized the event as part of her obligation to Americorps. The building was cleaned from stem to stern, including windows. Volunteers put together a new desk and cabinet, removed the old metal desk and moved furniture around to make the offices more efficient. Some people worked in the yard, cleaning up the vegetable garden and weeding. Towel racks and toilet paper holders were replaced. When the day was over, the place sparkled! Many thanks to all who helped out.



Volunteers Always Needed

Our greatest need is for volunteers to work night, evening, weekend and week day office shifts. Other volunteer opportunities include providing transportation, group meal preparation, teaching lifeskills and hobby classes. Training is required for all volunteers. There is always a need for someone with simple carpentry and plumbing skills. **Contact Doris Thurber at 352-2843 to get involved.**

The Perfect Gift for Any Occasion

If you are having trouble finding the perfect gift for someone or if you want to remember someone who has passed away, make a donation in their name to the shelter. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. We will be more than glad to send you or the gift recipient a card.

News from the Shelter

Farewell to a Good Friend



It's the individuals who work behind the scenes who often make the biggest difference in this world, and my friend John Reed was that kind of person.

For years John served on the United Way and the Men's Shelter boards advocating for those less fortunate.

When we started talking about a women's shelter, John was one of the first people to call me to offer his advice and services.

With his continued guidance and close ties to the Executive Director of the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) Ben Cook, John played a quiet but important role in our securing the building at 303 E Third St..

He assisted us in moving the process along so that in December of 2007 we were able to seal the deal with the Frankfort Housing Authority, KHC and the shelter board.

John envisioned the women's shelter as a piece of the puzzle that provides a safety net for another element of homeless people in our community.

John passed away last spring after a struggle with heart disease. Next spring we will be dedicating a garden in the front of the shelter in honor of our friend John Reed.

By Jill Robinson, Past President

Farewell

The shelter bids a reluctant goodbye to Nancy Thompson, our AmeriCorps worker since September, 2009. Nancy came to us from her job as a caseworker in the prison system. Her experiences there connecting clients with community resources, allowed her to hit the ground running when she joined us. While with the shelter,

Nancy conducted financial education classes for our clients as well as Simon House residents. She also helped clients tap into aid from various resources, helped Felicia Green with case work and worked with residents who had medical issues.

In addition to her professional abilities, Nancy is an excellent cook. Shelter volunteers, residents and employees say they will each lose 5 pounds when Nancy leaves and takes her cooking talent with her. We are delighted that she has taken the position as client caseworker at the Simon House. This will enable us to further co-ordinate our efforts with that agency. Nancy plans to continue to volunteer at the shelter on a regular basis.

Welcome



Debbie Bohrn, a native of South Carolina, has lived in Frankfort since 1992. Her career here began at the Sunshine Center, progressed to the Frankfort

Housing Authority and then to state government. She worked in various departments at the state, retiring in 2007 from the Department of Aging and Independent Living as division director. While living in Frankfort, she obtained a BA in Business Administration with a minor in management from KSU.

She is an active community volunteer at the soup kitchen, the food pantry, Bluegrass Theater Guild and library special events. She also was a founding member and secretary of the War Mothers of the Bluegrass.

"I have enjoyed my first several weeks serving as an AmeriCorp member at the Franklin County Women's Shelter and look forward to a productive year," stated Debbie.

The Ups and Downs of Summer

It has been an eventful summer at the Franklin County Women's Shelter in ways both good and bad.

Through the hard work of our director, Josie Kirker, we were awarded an Emergency Shelter Grant from the Kentucky Housing Corporation in the amount of \$45,000 effective in July.

Also, the Sumptuous Southern Supper in August appears to have reached its goal of \$20,000 after expenses. We are very grateful for the support of our community.

These achievements put the shelter on sound financial footing and allow us to concentrate our efforts on working with our clients to help them become self-sufficient.

On the downside, Executive Director Josie Kirker's husband, Ryan was diagnosed with cancer and has been undergoing treatment in Indianapolis at Indiana University Medical Center. Josie is on medical leave from the shelter to be with him, but works whatever hours she is able.

About the same time, the husband of our treasurer, Yvonne Hill, also was diagnosed with cancer. Yvonne is with Bob as he undergoes treatment at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville.

We have both families in our thoughts and prayers and offer whatever support we can provide.

The executive committee of the shelter board has stepped up to take over some of the chores and the staff has carried on with admirable commitment and flexibility, even while experiencing transitions.

Other Staff Changes

Robin Watson, our Kentucky Works participant, moved on to a full-time job, which is the goal of the program.

At our request, the Council on Family Abuse hired a case worker for


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their clients which reduces the workload on our case-worker, Felicia Green, who had been staffing both organizations.

Felicia will now concentrate on the clients at the shelter. Doris Thurber continues as our volunteer coordinator, and we have hired Christina Bensen on a part-time, temporary basis as back up for the staff.

We look forward to Josie and Yvonne's return as their husbands' health improves. In the meantime the shelter will continue to deliver quality service to the women who come to us. We thank all the great volunteers and supporters who make this work possible.

By Barbara Hadley Smith, President



Franklin County Women's Shelter
Board of Directors
 Barbara Hadley Smith — President
 Gail Robinson — Vice President
 Yvonne Hill — Treasurer
 Sandy Lee — Secretary

Marti Booth	Alene Ransdell
Charlotte Flanary	Jill E. Robinson
Julie Garland	Melisa Sexton
Tonya Kenner	Glenn Spaulding
Sandy Lee	Brent Sweger
Zach Moore	Debbie Wilson
Jean Pettway	Carroll Young

Franklin County Women's Shelter
303 E Third St.
Frankfort, KY 40601

Return Service Requested

Monthly Community Support Important to FCWS

Several faith-based and civic organizations and governmental departments are monthly supporters of the FCWS. Their dedication helps the staff plan more efficiently for the shelter's needs. The Islamic Center of Frankfort brings office supplies and personal care items. In the past, several church women's groups have made monthly contributions of goods. (We are hopeful some will adopt this project again.) The Civitan Club cooks a meal monthly for shelter residents. The Department for Environmental Protection collects non-perishable food and delivers it each month.

On the average, the shelter provides three meals a day for seven women and one or two children. It also furnishes all personal care, paper, and washing products. All donations of these items, either on a regular schedule or occasionally are greatly appreciated and help to keep the shelter solvent and open.



Another way to Get Around

Stuart Harrod, of Folkbike Recyclery, has donated three bicycles to the Women's Shelter. Thanks to Stuart and Jan Cooper for refurbishing the bikes. The ladies are really enjoying having a way to get around the neighborhood. Baskets will be the next accessory for the bikes to carry groceries and library books etc. The women are finding the bikes to be a great alternative to walking.

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