



PO Box 3893  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

# FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS AUGUST 2010

## A Message from our Executive Director...

**“In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give completes the circle and comes back to us.” - Flora Edwards**

For the last six months that I have been executive director of Shalom House, it has been a privilege to serve homeless women and their children who come to our door despairing, without hope and alone. So many of the women we see at Shalom House have experienced traumas and set-backs in their lives and, eventually, the pain and ongoing disappointments have broken their spirits. While with us, these women are able to find their inner strength and begin to rebuild their lives.... The unconditional love, supportive help and encouragement we give, help them to believe in themselves again. In the end, it is that loving, caring hand of help that truly makes life changing moments possible.

Many of the ladies and children served at the shelter enter one of our housing programs and prosper from continued goal driven case management, loving support and assistance in obtaining community resources. And the services we give are only made possible from the help of our donor friends and, without it, we can not fulfill our mission. As our public funding continues to diminish, we need the help of our supporters now more than ever to continue our vital programs. Through the first six months of this year, your support has enabled Shalom House to provide shelter, food, clothing, transportation assistance and numerous other supportive services to over 213 women and their children. Our services are aimed at helping each and every one of them lead happier and more self-sustaining lives.

When Martha was living at Shalom House, she took my arm one evening and said: “If this is a shelter, I don’t want to leave.” That speaks volumes to me and I hope to all of you reading this newsletter. It made me proud to be a part of a great team of staff and a tremendous and vital mission to aid women and their children to lead self sufficient lives and to achieve stable housing. Martha’s comment speak to the heart of Shalom House — a caring, loving, safe place for all those who enter, a place void of judgment, degradation, hopelessness and fear. A place you can call home and find your dreams again.

The circle becomes complete.

In partnership,

*Lorí Hoffmaster*

### LOCAL PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS OFFER DONOR FRIENDSHIP



The Shalom House has been given a makeover thanks to the Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation who provided a generous gift of \$2,000 for new living room furniture, carpeting and dining room tables and chairs. We received the grant award in June and purchased our new furnishings at Furniture and Mattress King Outlet. Bob Bender, owner of the store, has been a donor friend to Shalom House for a number of years and has provided an on going supply of new twin beds to the shelter and the ladies in our housing programs. Thanks to Bob’s generosity, we were able to extend our grant to also purchase the new dining room table. Thank you to our friends at the Kline Foundation and Mattress King for making this possible.



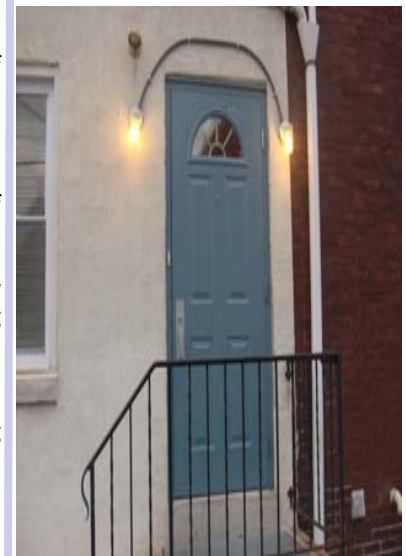
The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation also awarded Shalom House a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for operating support and a new wooden privacy fence for the backyard of the shelter.... Again, our heartfelt appreciation for this wonderful gift... the fence is underway!!



Please join us on October 30, 2010 for our new fundraiser: 1st Annual **HALLOWEEN HUSTLE !!** Sponsors still needed at various levels. Please come out and support the ongoing operation of our shelter for homeless women and their children. Call 232-3482 for more information or visit [www.shalomhouse.net](http://www.shalomhouse.net)

### **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS WINNER!!**

The Shalom House won the June contest of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and was awarded a beautiful new entrance door for the shelter. The door not only provides a warm, home-like residential appearance but also all of the necessary electronics needed to ensure our needed security. Many thanks to Hershocks, Flora Posteraro and Musser Builders for their generosity to the community and SHALOM HOUSE! All of the residents and staff love it!!



## Meet “Ruthie”

Ruthie is a frail 63 year old, partially disabled woman, who came to us by way of HELP Ministries and her daughter. Ruthie moved to the Harrisburg area over a year ago at the invitation of her daughter. After she moved in with her daughter, son in law, two grandchildren, and the dog nobody took for walks, she was asked to sign the lease at the new townhouse. After Ruthie signed the lease, her daughter removed her own name from the lease. The daughter also had access to her mother’s bank account. Miss Ruthie always paid her rent on time. She paid all of her bills on time, faithfully every month. After several months, Ruthie’s son-in-law and grandson moved to another state and her granddaughter joined the military. At the suggestion of her daughter, Ruthie returned to her old home for two weeks to see friends and relatives. She was so happy to go home and see everyone. Upon her return, Ruthie discovered her daughter had moved and throwing away many of her mothers’ belongings, and most of her furniture. Ruthie stayed a few days with her daughter, distraught over the loss of her furniture and other personal possessions. Prone to anxiety and panic attacks, she was beside herself. Ruthie had applied earlier with Dauphin County Housing Authority. The daughter took her to the HELP office who placed her at Shalom House us.

This first introduction was shocking. Ruthie was a meek elderly lady, frail and stressed by the issues with her child and finances and at the end of her rope. Beside Ruthie stood her daughter who voiced her demands for housing and insisted she would call Dauphin County housing every day until they **gave** her mom a unit. The daughter was a challenge and very demanding of resources that take time to solidify.

Miss Ruthie overcame many hurdles while at Shalom House. Through intensive case management she became stronger, more assertive and was able to sever the family from her bank account, get new identification cards, and fix her credit card accounts that were not paid for several months. She had trusted her daughter to pay them and believed that she had until she found a statement in her daughters’ car. She was months behind, the daughter never paying the bill after taking the money to do so. Again she was devastated and full of anxiety. We helped her to contact the company and set up a hardship arrangement until she could get back on her feet again.

She also discovered she was now responsible for damages at the townhouse where she had stayed. The carpet had to be replaced and there were numerous damages. We helped her to come to terms with the former leasing office. They were very accommodating and understanding, knowing she had not caused the damages.

She was able to meet face to face with the Dauphin County Housing Authority Coordinator to finalize her paperwork. The first meeting had not gone well, being escorted by her daughter, and she left feeling embarrassed and humiliated. The second meeting she was accompanied by a Shalom House Case Manager and was actually able to talk freely with the housing coordinator and didn’t even have an anxiety attack.

While at Shalom House, Ruthie received caring support, case management, fellowship from those around her and was able to meet with staff whenever anything worried her. She was able to sleep at night knowing staff was here to help her.

Ultimately we helped Miss Ruthie to move to a new apartment, get furniture, food, household supplies and some small household appliances and items she needed. We do keep in contact. Today she is living independently again. All of her bills are paid on time and she has peace of mind. She has even made new friends, attends the farmers market, the senior center and goes on day trips. There is a social worker and visiting nurses from a local college in her complex every week. She has her independence and supportive help when needed. She now sleeps very well in her own house, once again in her own bed.

**Patricia Carpintieri**

**House Manager and Personal Case Manager to “Ruthie”**



## Messiah College Service Day lends helping hand to Shalom House

On April 15, 2010, 10 Messiah College students came to the shelter ready to work as they cleaned up the backyard of the house and painted the fire escape. They were wonderful addition to our day. The students had a chance to talk with clients and enjoy pizza with both residents and staff!! Many thanks to all those who participated.

Messiah College Freshman students will come again to help us clean basements at our SHARP and SHARP Vets houses for permanently disabled women and women military veterans receiving transitional housing services. This day of outreach is called “Into the streets” and is yet another example of Messiah College’s commitment to the community.

**From Help Comes Hope... and a New Life**

Jill first arrived at Shalom House in the winter of 2010. She was leaving an abusive relationship, one in which she knew she and her three children were not safe. Jill came to Shalom House “lost”, “emotionally detached”, and with her spirits completely broken. Her daughter was near suicidal, and their family was torn apart. “We lost everything”, says Jill. They were without hope. But then Jill came to the Shalom House. She recalls the “turning point” when a shelter employee hugged her tightly and offered support and assistance and Jill found hope again.

Since then, Jill’s life has been different. In April 2010, after being in the shelter for several weeks, Jill joined Shalom House’s Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). This program helps homeless families find their own apartment and helps provide assistance with rent and utility payments. In addition, intensive case management services are provided weekly in the client’s new home. The client can be in the program for up to 18 months, during which they work toward goals leading them to a new life of independence, stability and self-sufficiency.

Jill has now been in HPRP for just over four months, and her transformation is incredible. She has applied herself to her personal goals to obtain a steady income, manage her money wisely, furnish her new home, and pursue further education. Jill now has a steady job working 40 hours a week at a local financial management firm and has begun to support her family. She now pays all of her utility bills and is covering a third of her rent. Jill has been dedicated to following her budget closely and has made significant changes in her spending habits. Jill says that now she manages her money with the future in mind, which is something she learned through the coaching she received from her case manager at Shalom House. Jill has worked hard to make her house a home and keep it a safe haven for her family. She is also hoping to attend Harrisburg Area Community College this Fall for Criminal Justice classes.

Jill is vocal about her transformation and what Shalom House has meant to her. She believes our program has given her “confidence and hope”, and she is grateful for her new home which has brought her an incredible “peace of mind” never experienced before. The most important change, however, is the transformation of their family life brought about through this program. A once broken family now functions as a team and experiences great closeness as they work towards their new hope filled future. Jill and her oldest son are even planning to attend college together in the Fall, as a way to pursue their goals together. Jill has high hopes for the future. She hopes to own her own home, accumulate significant savings, see her children graduate from college, and complete her degree in Criminal Justice.

When asked to describe her experience with HPRP, Jill states “marvelous”. She says that it has been a stepping stone for her to accomplish her goals in life, and that the program has truly helped her “begin life anew”.

**Jessie Kasiguran, HPRP Case Manager**



**Go Confidently in  
the Direction of  
your Dreams.  
Live the Life You  
have Imagined.**

**Henry David  
Thoreau**

“Our mission is to provide women and their children a home during a time of crisis and the tools they need to become self-sufficient. We will engage the entire organization, including the board, the community, and the employees of Shalom House to connect women with available necessary resources.”

SHALOM HOUSE STAFF

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Lori Hoffmaster, Executive Director        | Lisa Celsky, Client Support Assistant      |
| Tara Stevens, Director of Housing Programs | Mamie Walton, Client Support Assistant     |
| Patricia Carpintieri, House Manager        | Cynthia McArthur, Client Support Assistant |
| Jessie Kasiguran, HPRP Case Manager        | Arriba Walker, Overnight Coordinator       |
| Regina Lyons, Evening Coordinator          |  |

Thank You to  
The Hershey Company  
for donating the printing  
of the newsletter.



Shalom House  
P.O. Box 3893  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
Web Address: [www.shalomhouse.net](http://www.shalomhouse.net)  
E-mail: [shalomhouseforwomen@verizon.net](mailto:shalomhouseforwomen@verizon.net)

### West Shore Evangelical Free Church provide 18 volunteers for Community Outreach Day

A group of adults, teenagers and small children all came to Shalom House on April 17th and painted the outside deck, handicap accessible ramp, railing, third floor and shelter entrance all in one day!! It looks terrific and we are so grateful for their support and new donor friendship! THANKS WEST SHORE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

The painting looks terrific!



### Wrap Up A Brighter Holiday With Shalom House

Holiday traditions and celebrations are almost here! It seems time passes more quickly each year in our busy, hectic lives. Now that an enjoyable summer is over and we move into the bright crisp days of fall, it is time for an early start to planning for the winter holidays.

Many families, groups, and friends of all ages, join Shalom House for holiday gift wrapping. This is a fun and enjoyable holiday activity you can do with family, friends, work associates, classmates, or with a group. You will have the opportunity to meet new people while wrapping gifts for donations which benefit Shalom House Women's Shelter. If you have not had the opportunity to enjoy this activity, please put it on your list of "must do's" this year. Holiday Gift Wrapping has been one of our main fundraising activities for 15 plus years. All proceeds directly benefit Shalom House clients.

YOU can help. Many groups, and families commit as little as two hours to a whole day of gift wrapping to end the cycle of homelessness. Individuals volunteer for shifts of 2,3 or 4 hours, between the hours of 11:00 AM and 9:00 PM. Some wrap with us several times during the season; we will work with you to find a time or shift to fit your schedule. The booth is located in Colonial Park Mall. All supplies are provided. To sign up please contact Marsha Fortney by email at [mfortney28@comcast.net](mailto:mfortney28@comcast.net) or by phone (545-6494) or (255-2056).

### Shalom House Wish List

- |                                    |                      |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| *Paper Towels                      | Adult Toothbrushes   | Calendars and Date Books   |
| *Toilet Paper                      | Toothpaste           | Bulletin Boards            |
| Feminine Hygiene Products          | Lysol Spray or Wipes | Radios                     |
| Adult Size Bars of Soap, Body Wash | Masking Tape         | Rugs                       |
| Shampoo and Conditioner            | Thumbtacks           | Small Kitchen Appliances   |
| Women's Deodorant                  | Office Chair         | Large Plastic Storage Bins |

All types of Cleaning Products

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS—WE TRULY COULD NOT FULFILL OUR MISSION WITHOUT YOU.

Please help Shalom House go Green! If you send us your email address, we will send our next newsletter through your email. Saves postage too, so more of your donor help goes directly to those who need our help. E-mail: [shalomhouseforwomen@verizon.net](mailto:shalomhouseforwomen@verizon.net)

# HALLOWEEN HUSTLE 5K Race and Family 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday October 30th 2010

Registration 8:00 A.M.

5K Starts 9:00 A.M.

Family Fun Walk Starts 9:30 A.M.

Costumes  
Encouraged



Sponsored by



### Course:

The course for the 5K run and fun walk starts and finishes at the Penn State Hershey University Fitness Center. A popular course along Bullfrog Valley Road and the Shank Park trail.

To view and download the course map go to  
[www.shalomhouse.net](http://www.shalomhouse.net)



### Awards / Prizes

Awards and prizes will be given to the top 3 finishers in each age group and top overall male and female runners. Prizes do not overlap. You must be present to collect your prize.

### Registration Fees:

Each Pre-Registered Participant will receive a  
*Halloween Hustle* T-Shirt

Registration received before 10/25/10: \$20

Registration received after 10/25/10: \$25

Family Registration received before 10/25/10: \$55

Family Registration received after 10/25/10: \$60

Event will be rain or shine. As this is a charity fundraising event, we cannot provide refunds if the event is cancelled due to weather.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F

T-Shirt: YS YM YL S M L XL

I am registering as a 5K runner in the following division: (circle one)

14 and under 15-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

I am registering as a walker

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to walk or run at the event, but would like to donate to Shalom House and have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail In Form & Check:  
Shalom House  
c/o Carlyn Butz  
1784 Winterhaven Dr.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Waiver: I, waive all claims for myself, my heirs, and assigns, against the event sponsors, cooperating and coordinating groups, and any individuals associated with the event, and will hold each and all of them harmless for any and all injuries that may result from my participation. I further affirm and attest that I am in proper physical condition to participate in this race. I also give my permission to the media and the event sponsors to use my name, picture or statements in any newspaper, broadcast, telecast or other account of this event now or in the future, without limitation or obligation to anyone to compensate me further therefore.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

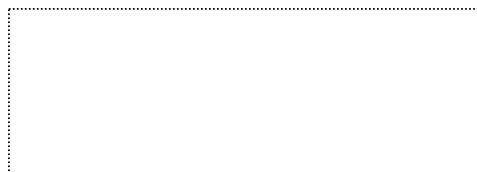
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature (Under 18)

P. O Box 3893  
Harrisburg, PA 17105



**Because Everybody Deserves a  
Place To Call Home**



### ***Your Donations Make a Difference***

- ***\$10 provides toiletries for a woman while at the shelter;***
- ***\$25 provides a homeless woman with life skills training;***
- ***\$45 provides bus passes for a disabled woman in our Sharp program;***
- ***\$47 provides a homeless woman a safe place to call home for a night;***
- ***\$60 provides a homeless female veteran in our Veteran's program with one month of food;***
- ***\$95 provides a homeless mother and her child with a safe place to call home for a night.***



### ***Wreaths for a Reason***

This November, the Shalom House is announcing our first annual Wreaths For A Reason event.

All of us are fortunate we live in a house or apartment with a door where we hang wreaths to mark the holidays and passing seasons. But those who are homeless do not have a house or a door or a wreath. For many women and their children in Harrisburg, Shalom House is the place they call home and where they begin the hard work to resolve the causes of their homelessness.

“Wreaths for a Reason” is a fundraiser/community awareness event offering an opportunity to groups and individuals to create a holiday wreath, and at the same time, help end homelessness.

Shalom House will supply a 12” wire wreath form, and you supply the creativity and your own materials. Participants are invited to exercise their imaginations and have fun!

Finished wreaths are donated to Shalom House and picked up in mid-November by a Shalom House volunteer for display at Strawberry Square for a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit Shalom House.

If your school, business, religious organization, senior citizen center, scout troop, individuals – all are welcome – would like to help Shalom House by creating your own “Wreath for a Reason”, contact Shalom House volunteer Janet McNally by phone at (717) 805-6935 or by email at [jmcnally4@gmail.com](mailto:jmcnally4@gmail.com).



