

GOING HOME

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance

Strength
Dignity
Hope

Compassion
Accountability
Respect &
Courage

Summer 2010

Kathryn moves to Cliff Manor

After outcry, educational partnership forged

After a contentious town hall meeting on Cliff Manor, Kathryn Schultz, 60 year old resident of the Bridge's transitional living shelter, had trouble sleeping. Kathryn had already been accepted by Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) for tenancy at Cliff Manor. In order to qualify, she demonstrated stability by conducting regular community service, adhering to her behavioral health plan, and passing all the criminal background, public health/safety, and income utilization screenings required by The Bridge, DHA, and LifeNet. Kathryn had thought this screening would be her greatest hurdle.

"They treated us like second class citizens, like we had a disease or something," Kathryn recalled softly, her eyes glistening. Kathryn chose to attend and was prepared for concerns, but given consistent use of the building for low-income residents,

Kathryn will tell you, we all just want the same thing: safe housing and good neighbors.

thought the environment bewildering. Kathryn thought the addition of on-site support services would be a plus.

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Kathryn at The Bridge, where she lived for 4 months before qualifying for her new housing.

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Fortunately, the law protects Kathryn's right to housing, and she



All of those transitioning to Cliff Manor have received a warm welcome from staff, current residents and local churches.

moved into Cliff Manor on August 4th. Various neighborhood churches and Cliff Manor tenants were there to meet her. Key to coordinating that welcome was Randy Skinner, Executive Director of Justice Revival. Justice Revival is a coalition of churches focused on improving public education and ending homelessness. Always committed to Permanent Supportive Housing, Randy felt compelled to partner with MDHA after attending the Town Hall meeting. *Homes for our Neighbors*, a public education program on Permanent Supportive Housing, will roll out this fall.

As for Kathryn, her faith in God has been a source of strength through

Permanent Supportive Housing Statistics

- 75% of people who have transitioned from hospitals/jails/streets/shelters to Dallas area PSH maintain residencies of at least 6 months.
- 93% of people who have transitioned from The Bridge to Dallas area PSH maintain residencies of at least 6 months.

this bumpy road. After losing her mother and then her home and battling depression, she has been through worse. Kathryn will tell you, we all just want the same thing: safe housing and good neighbors.

MDHA Welcomes New Chair John Castle

On a routine stop at a gas station on the way to visit his grandchildren, John Castle struck up a conversation with a homeless man he had seen there before. John became friends with "Shorty" and tried unsuccessfully to get him to a shelter. Retired from his position as Executive Vice President of EDS Corporation and nearing the completion of his tenure as Chair of The Dallas Foundation, John was ready to focus on another big cause. He found it.

Castle is no stranger to philanthropy, having long volunteered his time in non-profit leadership. He currently serves on the boards of directors for a number of charitable organizations. Active in the Episcopal Church, John credits his faith for his commitment to service in the community. John says that the scripture is clear that those who have are to help those who don't.

In taking over the chairmanship, John has nothing but praise for his predecessor Mike Rawlings, "Mike worked tirelessly to develop an effective infrastructure at MDHA and The Bridge and much has been accomplished under Mike's leadership. During my time as chair-elect, we worked together to ensure a smooth transition. I'm delighted he will remain on the board." MDHA President & CEO Michael Faenza puts it this way. "John's career demonstrates his leadership skills, and his faith drives him. To have worked for Mike and now John, I'm just grateful for the opportunity to know both these hometown heroes." Staff and membership feel the same way.

Mike Rawlings was recently appointed President of the Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Dallas. MDHA will honor Mike at the Help the Homeless Kickoff Breakfast, 11/4.

Some of Dallas' most influential citizens came together to raise money for The Bridge at the opening of Shannon Wynne's newest restaurant, The Meddlesome Moth. The food was delicious and the atmosphere upbeat. The event, raised awareness and a cool \$55,000.



John and Dorothy Castle, Eleanor Key-Roberts and Mike Faenza



Shannon Wynne



Barry Andrews, Mike Rawlings and David Johnson

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Guests Give Back

“You can’t always ask for a hand, you must sometimes give a hand no matter what your circumstances are”, says Steve Dillworth, who stays

back five hours of their time each week volunteering in and around The Bridge, a program aptly titled “Guests Giving Back.”

The goal is to help people help themselves, and it seems to be working. Steve, like many other guests, puts in more time than required, sometimes volunteering over 15 hours a week. “We should feel grateful that these people are giving us a place to stay. It’s not about getting paid, it’s about doing what’s right”, says Steve.

The guests do everything from serving their peers lunch in the Second Chance Café to landscaping support. Off property, guests engage in perimeter trash clean up in a conscientious effort to be good neighbors. The program not only helps The Bridge, it also prepares guests to be successful once they are out on their own. Steve is looking forward to finding that out for himself.



in transitional living at The Bridge. Those guests in transitional living reside in dormitory style cubicles and are active in care management, following a health and housing plan to obtain permanent homes. Among other requirements, guests must give



Guests, staff, and volunteers came together on May 20th to celebrate The Bridge’s 2nd Anniversary.

Musical artist Glitter Rose entertained the crowd while volunteers and staff distributed bottled water and cupcakes. Over the past two years, The Bridge has achieved over 1500 job placements and 750 permanent housing placements. Now that’s something to celebrate!



Young and Homeless

Third in a series on the work of MDHA Membership Agencies

“What’s the worst part of being homeless?” a staffer asked the child, who promptly answered, “Having to carry your stuff with you all the time.” When thinking about the homeless, children and youth don’t typically come to mind. They are perhaps the most invisible of persons experiencing homelessness, but their needs are no less real.

In 1987, the Dallas Jewish Coalition for the Homeless saw the need for reliable and accessible free childcare for homeless parents with young children and began what is now known as Vogel Alcove. There, children develop social and interpersonal skills, enjoy supervised play, and learn basic educational skills. All basic essentials are provided at no cost



to the families, as are parenting classes.

Monica, a five year old reunited with her mother after two-years of foster care, arrived withdrawn and in anguish. She refused to eat and often hurt herself out of confusion and

frustration. Vogel Alcove provided Monica therapy and taught her mother bonding techniques. Over time, Monica began to feel more secure and comfortable, and her behavior demonstrated that new found stability. Monica stopped hurting herself, started eating again, and even blossomed in the classroom. MDHA congratulates Monica, her mother, and Vogel Alcove on this beautiful success story.

MDHA is grateful for the work of member agencies that focus on the future through their work with children and youth.

- **Captain Hope’s Kids**
- **Central Dallas Ministries’ TRAC**
- **Promise House**
- **Rainbow Days**
- **Vogel Alcove**
- **Wilkinson Center**

A Note from Our President

Dear Friends of MDHA,

One challenge for MDHA is caring for hundreds upon hundreds of homeless people each day who are well equipped to live successfully in supportive housing with none available. Another challenge is being able to respond effectively to some neighbors in North Oak Cliff and elsewhere who find it counter-intuitive that formerly homeless people can recover and be positive neighbors. To move forward with what we believe is “doing the right thing” in terms of the rights of the disabled and simultaneously anger good people who believe differently is not easy.



The people at the center of this controversy and the ones that I wish we could focus on are the formerly homeless neighbors like Kathryn. Being portrayed as needing neighborhood leaders to judge their numbers and scrutinize their problems and programs is not what they deserve. We do need neighbors' creativity and ideas to help Cliff Manor and other housing be as terrific as it can be.

MDHA is grateful to Justice Revival for their commitment to permanent supportive housing and Cliff Manor Baptist Church and other area churches for providing a warm welcome to the newest residents at Cliff Manor. As MDHA embarks on this year long public education campaign in partnership with Justice Revival, we remember our values: strength, dignity, hope, compassion, accountability, respect and courage. Our work requires all of these.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Faenza
President & CEO
Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance

Going Home is made possible through the generous support of



Fun with a Purpose

**Save the Dates for
Help the Homeless Week!**

Thursday, November 4, 2010

7:30-9:00 am

**Kick-off
Breakfast at
Sheraton
Dallas Hotel**

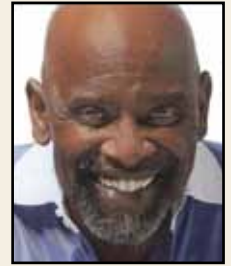
Hear Chris
Gardner speak
about his *Pursuit*

of Happiness, a story made
into a movie with Will Smith.

Oprah described Chris as a man who



overcame poverty and
homelessness to become
one of Bear Stearns
most successful brokers.
...an inspirational rags
to riches story!



Saturday, November 13, 2010

8:30-11:00 am

**4th Annual
Help the Homeless
Walkathon/5K**

Be a Sponsor, start a team, and join us for family oriented fitness and fun! There will be a walk, a 5K run, clowns, live music, dancers, and circus acts. Pet registration comes with a free bandana, and groups of 10 or more receive a \$5 discount.

**For the latest information, visit
www.mdhadallas.org/hthweekfun.**



Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (operators of *The Bridge*) • 1818 Corsicana, Dallas, Texas 75201
214-670-1100 • Email: info@mdhadallas.org • Website: www.mdhadallas.org

The MDHA is a 501(c)(3) member organization composed of a broad spectrum of stakeholders committed to end homelessness. Through MDHA, 86 agencies that represent shelters, hospitals, government agencies, local municipalities, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, housing and treatment providers, individuals (including homeless consumers), businesses, medical/educational leaders, and other community members meet routinely to collaborate on issues to fight homelessness. The mission is to end homelessness in Metropolitan Dallas through advocacy, planning, and education that creates and sustains needed change.