



OUR HOUSE

For volunteers & supporters of the homeless and our neighbors in need.

Calendar

**Oct
19**



Taste of
Operation Warm
Heart Dinner

**Nov
2019**



Designer
Pocketbook
Tricky Tray

**Jan
2020**



26th Annual
Hoops to End
Homelessness
Basketball
Classic

**May
2020**



5th Annual
There's
No Place
Like Home
Reception

**Fall
2020**



Benefit concert
with cover band
the Jersey Four
featuring
Joe Long,
original member
of the Four
Seasons

To Walk a Mile in Their Shoes - On Aging and Being Homeless

Some are veterans, some are grandparents, others still are alone - each one a human being facing life and surviving without a home. Right here in our community, a 69 year old woman, Melinda, lost her housing after being the sole caretaker for her chronically ill sister. Once her sister died she became unable to support herself and was soon evicted from her family home.



An 83 year old veteran, Walter, became a victim of elder abuse when his relatives exploited his financial benefits leaving him without the means to pay his rent. His family abandoned him to live in his car during the coldest of winter months. He spent 3 years on and off living in the streets until we learned of him and brought him in to Operation Warm Heart in 2019.

And then there is the story of a 66 year old woman, Bettina, who was her father's caretaker until she developed early onset dementia and was hospitalized. After she was discharged she ended up homeless as her family supports became strained and they could not care for her.



Aging is a natural part of the human experience and social supports are so important to our survival. Although, it is an imperfect world and not everyone will have the comfort of companionship, nor the material means necessary to thrive. More and more, our staff work with aging clients each day trying to provide solutions to their homelessness. But not every situation can be mended easily. Too many of our senior citizens can't afford their housing costs and the waiting lists for supportive senior housing can be unrealistically long.

Those elderly who now find themselves homeless often have been low-income wage earners for many, if not most, of the years they worked. During their lifetimes they cared for our children in daycares and served our meals in restaurants. They cleaned our offices and gave compassionate care to our dying family members in hospice. They lived in rental properties that got foreclosed on when the landlord experienced financial disaster or just wanted to convert to luxury apartments.

Melinda, Walter, and Bettina have all been successfully placed in stable housing. Walter checks back frequently as the Coalition and the Center have come to mean family to him. Melinda moved on from emergency shelter at the motel and in with a family friend and Bettina is now in assisted living. Often the homeless live invisibly among us, but our staff see the homeless for who they are... people in need of extra care.

Catholic Heart Workcamp Rocks!!



Catholic Heart Workcamp sends young people to New Jersey to serve with non-profit agencies in their efforts to reach those in need of caring and compassion. Camp participants set out to love, serve, and connect while doing all sorts of projects that our agencies are in need of getting done. For more than 10 years, Catholic Heart Work Camp has been coming to the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and St. Joseph's to help us keep up with repairs, painting, gardening and giving to our community through the sharing of food, clothing and so much more. We are thankful to these young people giving of their spirit and their labors to be with the least of their brothers and sisters. Kevin Mahoney coordinates their time with us each

year and shared his thoughts and appreciation: "I can't think of a more committed and hardworking group of young men and women." Thank you! Pictured above (though, not in order): Aemilia Blais, Dave DesRoberts, Evan Ceplensi, Ben DeAngelis, Frankie Lang, Trey Callender, Jack Power, Ryan Mucciacciaro, Samantha Brown, Ian Hopkins, and Carter Chase.

When Life Gives you Lemons...

You make a lemonade stand to help others! At least, that was the reason behind Alyssa Catalano, 11, and Jimmy Catalano, 8, putting up their lemonade stand to benefit Bernice's Place, our after-school and summer children's program. They were helped out by good friends, Kayla, 11, and Julian, 8, and raised an amazing \$42! When they heard that Westfield schools were collecting backpacks and school supplies for the children it motivated them to do something more. We are inspired by their good-will, compassion, and kindness! Thank you!



Bernice's Place campers enjoy the swings at Jenkinson's Amusement Park in Point Pleasant

~ Bernice's Place ~ A Summer of Fun



Day campers get to try out their swimming skills at Sahara Sam's Water Park



Discovering the bones of prehistoric creatures at the American Museum of Natural History in New York



Mama Julep visits with the children of Bernice's Place. She is a pet therapy dog cared for by AJ Albrecht, a volunteer with Creature Comfort Pet Therapy



From our hearts to yours...a special thank you to all the summer volunteers who taught science projects, led drama club, gave swim lessons, mentored, and shared fun with the children

The Westfield High School Swim Team teaches Bernice's Place day campers how to swim. In its fourteenth year, this swim program brings kids together to for the gift of a lifetime (photo at right)



Friends of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Our appreciation goes out to the foundations, organizations, and individuals whose support we have received in recent months. Without their generosity we would not be able to reach out to prevent homelessness for individuals and families struggling to keep or attain housing.

- ◆ Provident Bank Foundation
- ◆ United Airlines
- ◆ Columbia Bank Foundation
- ◆ Fred C. Rummel Foundation
- ◆ Wyoming Presbyterian Church
- ◆ Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
- ◆ The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation
- ◆ New York Shipping Association
- ◆ Infineum USA, L.P.
- ◆ International Longshoremen's Association
- ◆ IBEW Local Union 102
- ◆ Union County Office of Cultural Affairs
- ◆ First Presbyterian Church of Cranford
- ◆ Elizabeth Firemen's Mutual Benefit Association Local 9



Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation presented The Provident Bank Foundation's \$7,500 Major Grant to the Elizabeth Coalition for Bernice's Place, our after-school and summer camp children's program. Pictured from left to right: Renae Smith, grant writer with the Elizabeth Coalition, Linda Flores-Tober, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Coalition, Jane Kurek, Executive Director of Provident Bank Foundation, and Edward Cugno, Banking Center Manager of Provident Bank.

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, in the middle at right, organized her annual Back to School Supply Drive, dubbed the annual "Happy Hour," to help our students get off to a strong start in school. During her sandwich drive in August., volunteers and sponsors made over 5,000 sandwiches. She is joined in this photo, at right, by Councilwoman Pat Perkins-Auguste who headed her volunteer youth groups in July to make sandwiches for our community, and at left, Linda Flores-Tober.



Thank you

Yes, I Want to Help the Homeless!

Here's what your donation will do

- \$500 houses a homeless family for a month so they can work and save for their own permanent home
- \$250 transports children to and from our after-school and summer camp programs
- \$100 pays for a week's groceries for a family
- \$75 pays for cots and bedding for Operation Warm Heart guests
- \$50 provides essential toiletries to clients starting out in Project Gatekeeper

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please let us know if your company has a matching gift program here: _____

To learn more about remembering us in your will or estate plans, please call Renae at 973-723-4584



Or you can donate online at www.theelizabethcoalition.org

The Legacy of Giving Back

We recently spoke with some of our volunteer board members whose parents have played important roles in the evolution and work of the Elizabeth Coalition to learn just how this kind of legacy volunteering came about. Roy Colicchio and his mother, Patricia Vogler, are both current board members.

For Pat, passing on values of service and compassion is a tradition she is committed to keeping. In her role as a public defender, her advocacy work has focused on the socio-economic inequities of our justice system. As a mother, Pat knew that her children needed to understand personal “privilege and how important it is to recognize and embrace the fact that people are subject to individual circumstances that most often are the result of luck or injustice. “The Coalition is doing important work. Clients receive so much support for themselves and their families when they come to 118 Division Street. It’s not just food assistance or job training, help navigating the social service system or emergency shelter, transitional apartments or support for children... it’s all of the above and more.”



Roy shared with us what is at the heart of his volunteer service on the board: “For me, it’s about supporting an organization that is doing the work of serving people in their time of need. It is easy to get caught up in the day to day routine of life and to overlook our privileges. Finding ways to give back is extremely important to me.” For Roy, volunteering in the children’s summer camp program when he was still in middle school himself had a profound impact on him. He saw first-hand what an impact the camp was having on the kids, their families, and even the volunteers. Roy went on to teach in the Teach for America program in Oklahoma. As soon as he moved back to New Jersey, he asked his Mom about becoming a board member. It is inspiring to hear the stories of our board members and to know that the legacy of giving continues to be handed down to yet another group of passionate leaders. We are blessed with talents and time of our board.

Do you have a passion for
Do it Yourself projects?

Do you like painting or working on small home projects? Do you have time to give?

We are currently seeking a volunteer who has an interest in helping our expanding housing programs keep up with minor maintenance, repair and hospitality.

Please call for more information 908-355-2060, ext. 202

We are seeking ESL tutors for our English language learners. Classes are held in the Church building at 118 Division Street. Students meet with tutors between 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm every Thursday until winter break in December.

Call for details
908-355-2060, ext. 202

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

**Dalai Lama XIV,
The Art of
Happiness**

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our gift card box is empty. Gift card collections help our folks meet immediate needs like groceries and school uniforms when entering our programs and when moving on into a place of their own. Some just need a cup of coffee on cold winter days.

Please consider donating any cards you may not be using or organize a collection among your family, through your social network, or in your faith community.

GIFT CARDS URGENTLY NEEDED :

*ShopRite/Walgreens/CVS/Subway/
Stop N Shop/Visa/Mastercard/Walmart/Target/
Dunkin' Donuts/other*

Call for details: 908-355-2060 ext. 202