Many Friends Bring the Holiday Spirit Home for BCHS Residents

Dedicated donors, volunteers, and employees committed their time, resources, and hearts to spread the warmth of the season at BCHS during November and December. Thanks to these wonderful friends, 2009 ended with joyous celebrations, festive decorations, and delicious food for our residents.

On November 24, the Scattered-Site Apartment Program hosted a "home-cooked" Thanksgiving dinner for its clients, who live independently in apartments leased by BCHS. The staff cooked and served residents an array of delicious holiday favorites.

On Thanksgiving Day, residents at Brooklyn Gardens were treated to turkey and trimmings donated and served by volunteers from nine Brooklyn-based Golden Krust Bakery & Grill locations. Several additional volunteers pitched in as well, including DJ Disciple and Eric Blackwell, who also contributed canned-goods and money collected at their November 20 event.

December brought even more festivities to BCHS, including a holiday luncheon with food donated by Board Member Aricka Westbrooks, who owns the internationally-acclaimed Jive Turkey Restaurant in Clinton Hill.

The highlight of the season may have been when Santa Claus visited Arbor Inn to distribute toys and other gifts to the girls and boys. The presents were freshly wrapped and personalized for each child, and generously donated by Fountain Christian Center in Brooklyn; Captain Branch and New York State Correctional Officers from Rikers Island; and members of the NYC Fire Department’s EMS Academy (notably, this donation was coordinated by a former Arbor Inn resident who is now a successful FDNY EMS worker.)

Thanks again to everyone who helped bring home the holiday spirit for the residents of BCHS.
Navy Green SRO Scheduled to Break Ground in June 2010

The new project, located just outside the Brooklyn Navy Yards, represents a multi-faceted partnership between BCHS, Pratt Area Community Council, and Martin Dunn Development. The facility will offer 96 single-room-occupancy (SRO) units of permanent, supportive housing for formerly homeless and low-income individuals. Units should be ready for occupancy 24 months after construction begins.

Homelessness Prevention Program Earns Key Funding Commitment

The London-based Oak Foundation has approved a $360,000 three-year challenge grant to support BCHS' Brooklyn Housing Assistance Center (BHAC), an innovative program designed to prevent homelessness among Brooklyn's most at-risk populations, including seniors, veterans, and single men returning from incarceration. The program will also offer comprehensive aftercare to help former BCHS residents avoid homelessness when serious crises jeopardize their housing.

The Oak Foundation’s generous grant will provide a substantial portion of the operating costs during the BHAC’s first three years. BCHS is currently working to secure the additional financial resources necessary to launch and operate the program, and has proposals pending with several potential funders.

Message from Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky

Dear friends,


On June 10th, Brooklyn becomes the fashion capitol of the world – that's right, we are holding our 8th annual “Fashion on Fulton” Gala, and this year’s event is going to be a stunner. The fashion show will take place in the grand and beautifully restored historic lobby of the former Williamsburg Savings Bank building, now known as Skylight One Hanson. You can see pictures of this beautiful space, and learn more about this year’s event, at fashiononfulton.com. The purpose of “Fashion on Fulton” is to spotlight Brooklyn's hippest and most creative designers, celebrate the accomplishments of Brooklyn leaders, and raise funds and awareness for BCHS’ mission and services. I hope to see you there!

In this issue of Community Notes you can see some of the wonderful activities that were held at BCHS over the holidays. I can’t thank our staff and volunteers enough for all their amazing efforts – at a time when many can feel anxious and uncertain, their warmth, compassion and spirit made the holiday season a special and loving one for all our residents. It was the best gift possible. And as you can see in the article on the left, this winter was also a time when we received great news about some of our new initiatives, like the Navy Green SRO and the Brooklyn Housing Assistance Center. We’ll keep you updated as these exciting projects move forward.

Finally, BCHS is deeply grateful to all of our extraordinarily generous supporters. Because of you, we had the most successful Annual Appeal in the agency’s history, and it is your generosity and thoughtfulness that has allowed BCHS to maintain its programs and provide its services more effectively than ever, just when these services have been needed the most. Thank you so much for your support, and thank you for being part of the effort to end homelessness in Brooklyn.

Friends, Old and New, Toast BCHS at Annual Wine Tasting Event

On November 19, Board Member La Andrews and her husband, Eliot Merrill, welcomed more than 40 guests into their Cobble Hill home for a wine and hors d’oeuvre reception to celebrate the Board Members, donors and volunteers who support BCHS. The evening also offered new friends an opportunity to learn about the agency’s life-saving work and how they can help BCHS end homelessness in Brooklyn. Many thanks to La, Eliot and their family for sharing their beautiful home for this special occasion.
### Contributions (July 2009 - February 2010)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 and more</td>
<td>Guardian Life Insurance Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>Corporation for Supportive Housing, Mary J. Hutchins Foundation</td>
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<td>$5,000 - $9,999</td>
<td>Ia Andrews and Eliot Merrill, Clifford and Leslie Cohen</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,500 - $4,999</td>
<td>Ben and Susan Bax, Edith C. Blum Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Castelnuovo Hurst Groves, Tim Hosking and Audrey Sokoloff, Massey Knakal Charitable Foundation</td>
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<td>$1,000 - $2,499</td>
<td>Ron Carr, June Castelnuovo, Carolyn T. Ellis and H. Lake Wise, Patrick and Andrea Fry, Assemblyman Joseph R. Lentol, Ann and Mitch Lowenthal, Melinda and David Milberg, Oriental Pastry &amp; Grocery Co., Mary Kay Orr and George Saterson</td>
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<td>$500 - $999</td>
<td>David Banks (DJ Disciple), Eric Blackwell, Bob Buchholz and Lizanne Fontaine, Margie Hanssen and Kevin McGath, The Hartford Foundation Michael Manasia, Marty McKenna (Pilaster Inc.), Srenica Munthee and David Hazan, Bruce Murray, Jeff Nemetsky and Jessica Ziegler, Bill Nye, Ph.D., Nora O’Brien-Suric and Dagen Suric, Susan Reese, Michael Rothenberg and Zerline Goodman, Laura Schnell and John Pacelle, Michael and Vivien Shelanski</td>
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### Tributes

#### In Honor
- Cotting School Therapy & Medical Staff
- Bridge Irish
- Joan Erskine
- Alisa Martin
- Sean O’Neal
- David and Suzanne Ward
- Michael Rothenberg
- Susan and Kanti Rai
- Melanie Smoyle and Vincent Linda Safran

#### In Memory
- Beverly and Sheldon Thaler
- Melinda and David Milberg
- Sally Yarmolinsky
- Ben Yarmolinsky

#### Brooklyn Indie Market
- Special thanks to Brooklyn Indie Market and its vendors for supporting BCHS by donating proceeds from their Annual Benefit Shopping Days, December 12 and 13, 2009.
SAVE THE DATE

The 8th Annual
Fashion on Fulton

a gala celebration to benefit
Brooklyn Community Housing and Services

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Skylight One Hanson
(formerly the Williamsburg Savings Bank Building)

www.FashionOnFulton.com
(718) 222-1808 x 2140
www.BCHandS.org