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Phyllis Wyn Pate
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Applied Materials, Capitol Beverage/Rodney McDowell, Marti Christiansen, Carmen McClusky, Hilda and Mike Mikan, S & J Screen Printing, Glynda Noland, Gilbert Rivera, Ron Shaw, Susanna Sustare

VOLUNTEERS

Jeff Basa, Susan Biles, Bo Boatright, Heidi Boonzaaier, Ricardo Calderon, Arundhati Chabukswar, Greg Esparza, Barb Fennwald, Rich Felice, Devann Garner, Edmund Garza, Jasmine Hargrave, Christopher Hopeman, Amanda Hull, Heather Hunt, Sabine Imrhan, Brad Lake, Bill Marcum, Hilda and Mike Mikan, Stephen Moran, Brian Nalle, Cali Noeding,

Gifts made between 5/1/08 – 10/15/08

Josh Pope, Alison Preslar, David Rabke, Shana Rhoads, Tamara Russell, Jack Seaquist, Ron Shaw, Clark Siwensen, Steve Smith, Susanna Sustare, Delcia Tejada, Ricardo Velasco, Steven Venyvin, Xavier Vidal, Val Villanueva, Steve Walters, Rachel Wilson, Angie Woodward

Glen Oaks Corner Welcome Home Event Committee

Caitlin Uzzell (Chair), Narissa Adams (SafePlace), Bo Boatright, Greg Esparza, Chris Marcum, Gilbert Rivera (Rosewood/Glen Oaks Neighborhood Association), Ron Shaw, Susanna Sustare & Angie Woodward

Glen Oaks Corner Construction and Furnishing Underwriters

Capital One, City of Austin Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Department, Frost Bank, The Junior League of Austin, LCRA Employees' United Charities, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS

VOICE Vol. 4, No. 2, Fall 2008

WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

HOPE • HELPING OTHERS • GOODWILL

These were the recurring themes running throughout the Welcome Home Celebration to showcase Glen Oaks Corner, Community Partnership's newest supportive housing development.

Frank Fernandez, Executive Director, welcomed guests and introduced community leaders, underwriters and event volunteers. Frank talked about Glen Oaks Corner as a model project designed to provide high-quality housing for families who are transitioning from homelessness, and as an example of employing green building elements. SafePlace's Executive Director, Julia Spann, talked about the great need in Austin for supportive housing to help families regain their independence and re-start their lives free of domestic violence. SafePlace counselors will provide supportive services to these families.



Julie Spann, Tom Stacy, Frank Fernandez and Gilbert Rivera participate in the "green" ribbon-cutting.



Tom Stacy, Past-President of the Board, thanks our supporters.

Gilbert Rivera, a Community Partnership Board Member and President of the Rosewood/Glen Oaks Neighborhood Association, talked about how, when he moved into this neighborhood, virtually all of the families were first-time homeowners in this newly developed area of east Austin. He spoke of the need to offer the same opportunities to others as they now seek to regain their self-sufficiency.

The six houses that comprise the development have been constructed to Green Building Standards, and Community Partnership anticipates that it will receive a 5-Star Green rating from the City of Austin, the only supportive housing project in Austin to receive this designation.

HOLIDAY HELPING

- Cook a holiday meal for your shut-in neighbor.
- Help us make the holidays bright for our residents as well.

Donate at:
www.austinhomless.org



A beautiful new Glen Oaks Corner house.



Lee Chapman and Kamran Shah, CPH Board members, tour the new site.

A garland of grapevines was cut to symbolize that the "green" Glen Oaks Corner was open. Guests enjoyed refreshments as they toured three of the new houses that stand ready to welcome the first families. Each house was devoted to a particular theme: Green Building, Supportive Housing, and Community Partnership. These themes were highlighted by displays, signage and personal tours by volunteer guides and board members.

"High-quality projects like this not only provide shelter, they provide hope to families who have lost so much and are working hard to regain their independence."

- Tom Stacy, T.Stacy & Associates and Community Partnership Board Member



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THE COMMUNITY

RESIDENT SUCCESS



Ginger, on her feet and happy now.

MOVING OUT . . . AND MOVING ON

"The Re-entry Program offered me a safe place to start over," said Ginger*, a recent "graduate" of the Community Partnership program for veterans of honorable military service. Overcoming a couple of bad, life-changing decisions has been Ginger's goal for the past two years.

Growing up an Army brat, Ginger enlisted in the US Navy and was posted to San Diego. She enjoyed using her new skills in Navy communications, but wrist injuries began to plague her. After two surgeries, Ginger took advantage of an "early out" program, and returned to central Texas to begin life outside of the military.

After stints as a prison guard for seven years and a postal worker for another seven, Ginger once again underwent surgery. It was somewhat successful, but the pain continued, and she began to self-medicate. A conviction for drug possession prompted Ginger to seek treatment. After a successful three month stay at a rehab clinic, she faced a future that was drug-free, but filled with new life challenges: homelessness, joblessness – starting over.

A Veterans Administration rep referred Ginger to Community Partnership. Working with her case manager from the VA, Ginger set new goals for her next life steps. With us, Ginger lived in a single family home for 6 months, along with two other female veterans. Staying here gave her time: time to look for a job, time to access the food pantry, time to use the computer to do Internet searches and stay in touch with family.

Talking with Ginger now, her eyes sparkle as she talks about staying sober, keeping her new job, and taking care of her children. "Everything about the program supported me on my journey," said Ginger. "The staff and the VA personnel were so helpful and so wonderful to me. I feel blessed to have the chance to start again."

* The resident's name has been changed to protect privacy.

"Everything about the program supported me on my journey. I feel blessed to have the chance to start again" - Ginger

OUR VOLUNTEERS

CREATING HOMES AT GLEN OAKS CORNER

This fall, Dell teams provided amazing support to Community Partnership as we worked to open our new Glen Oaks Corner project. Four teams volunteered with tasks that ranged from hanging shades, to building IKEA furniture and cleaning the units.

On October 3rd, our first two families moved in. That day held a whirlwind of activity to get the houses ready for them. Throughout the day, the teams hung shades, built furniture, made beds and cleaned the kitchens.

When the families walked into their homes the beds were made, clean dishes were set on the table and the bathrooms had new folded towels. A huge thank you to all of our Dell teams which helped transform our houses into homes for these families!



The amazing Latin America Marketing Dell team. From left to right: seated Dilcia Tejada, Ricardo Velasco, standing Jack Seaquist, Xavier Vidal, Ricardo Calderon and Cali Noeding.

CONTACT US

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FEEDBACK

To be added or removed from our mailing list, or to update your contact information, contact Sharon at 512.469.9130 or ssparlin@austinhomless.org.

OUR MISSION AND HISTORY

Community Partnership for the Homeless is dedicated to help end homelessness by providing safe, affordable housing for those working to achieve independent living. We acquire and develop housing, refurbish substandard housing, and partner with social service agencies to provide transitional, affordable and supportive housing for homeless adults and children in Austin/Travis County. Founded in 1990 by a formerly homeless young woman, the agency has grown to serve more than 50 homeless veterans of honorable military service and six families transitioning from homelessness each year. Since our founding, we have helped more than 550 individuals find their way back into the community, with 70% successfully transitioning to permanent housing and employment.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RECESSION. FINANCIAL MELTDOWN.

These words have become ubiquitous echoes reverberating through our offices, homes, schools and places of worship. Their effects are being felt all across our country – even here in vibrant, prosperous Austin.

You see it in ways small – fewer people going out to lunch, smaller numbers of potential clients at the car dealerships – and large – friends and family members losing their jobs because work is drying up. Sadly, the people who feel it the worst are often the ones least equipped to deal with it. In Travis County alone, there are more than 100,000 residents who can be classified as "one paycheck away from being homeless." For these folks, the current financial crisis is a beacon of economic uncertainty instilling fear and anxiety in their hearts. Homelessness has become a pressing and salient reality pulling on the edges of their lives right now.

And many of these Austinites will end up homeless, at least for a period of time. They represent an overlooked aspect of homelessness, especially the struggling families. For most, homelessness is embodied in the panhandler at roadsides or the chronic alcoholic sitting at a downtown bus stop. It is also, however, families facing economic and personal hardships. Indeed, families with children represent the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. The effects of a mom and her son having to live in their car are devastating – in terms of the child's schooling, the mom's sense of self-worth and security, and both of their physical and mental well-being.

This is why we are so excited to be opening Glen Oaks Corner, a supportive housing development targeted to families exiting homelessness and situations of domestic violence. We believe that the homes and connected supportive services provided will allow our family residents to build a deeper sense of stability and ensure that their families stay together and are not torn apart. Today's uncertain economic environment allows us all to feel, at some level, the financial anxiety that these poor working families face every day. Glen Oaks Corner, and future Community Partnership projects, will serve to remove that anxiety for more and more Austin families.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER

- 'Adopt' a resident (or family) and provide their meal for the holidays.
- Form a team to make holiday gift baskets for our residents.
- Assist with planting trees and landscaping for our families at Glen Oaks Corner.
- Form a team to help clean-up, landscape and build a fence for a Veteran house.
- Work directly with the hungry in our community distributing food from our food pantry (weekly opportunity).

Contact Greg at 469-9130 or gesparza@austinhomless.org to get started.

MAKE OUR WISHLIST COME TRUE

Our residents are always in need of:

- Gift cards for HEB, Target, gas stations, etc.
- Hygiene products: shampoo, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, soap and towels, etc.
- New men's white socks, underwear, and t-shirts.
- High request food pantry items: tuna, jelly, condiments, low salt foods, nutritional drinks and foods for diabetics.
- New or gently used outdoor patio furniture.

Contact Sharon at 469-9130 or ssparlin@austinhomless.org to donate.

DONATE

Please consider a cash donation to help support our residents as they move to independence!

Donate at www.austinhomless.org, or mail us a check today. Thank you!

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