



ST. PETER'S HOMES, INC. MCCREECH PLACE

Fall 2008

Donation Requests:

- Bus passes
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Hand soap
- Toilet tissue
- Food storage containers
- Cleaning supplies
- Oven cleaner
- Dish detergent
- Clothes detergent
- Gift cards

*Home is a
place of
warmth
and love.*

*Everyone
should have a
home.*

A Lot Can Happen In A Year!

When Justin Blackburn entered McCreesh Place last July, his sights were set. He wanted to stay clean, work, save money, and get his own apartment. One year later, he had achieved all that and more.

- As an active **service** member with Narcotics Anonymous, Justin shared his story of recovery with Salvation Army, Detox and Rebound.
- He participated in the **2007 Homeless Awareness Walk** and raised over \$300 for the McCreesh Place Team.
- He improved his **employment**, moving from fast food to retail, and earned a promotion to Foot-wear Lead at Dick's Sporting Goods. He almost doubled his earned income from entry to exit.
- He also enrolled in **school**. Just weeks after moving into his apartment, he began studying at CPCC to become a human services worker in the field of substance abuse recovery.

These are sweeping gains for a young man who at the age of 23 had become chronically homeless, was in and out of emergency shelters and sometimes slept outside. How did he do it? *"I kept pushing and tried to do something different!"* Justin also credits his family, the outstanding community support and GOD for helping him achieve his success.

Justin's message to others who are experiencing homelessness, mental illness or addiction is *"Anything is possible! It's always brighter when you make it through the storm."* Our message for Justin:

We are proud to know you, Justin... keep going!



Justin Blackburn

*"Anything is
possible! It's
always brighter
when you make
it through
the storm."*

How You Can Help

Creating community connections for formerly homeless men can mean as little as offering a ride or as much as offering to share a meal, or celebrate birthdays or holidays.

As a young organization, our community of volunteers has just started to grow.

We welcome individuals as well as groups from faith communities, schools, businesses and organizations to visit, volunteer, and become a part of one of the solutions to homelessness in Charlotte.

A special thanks to....

- Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church - Nancy Nance, Jeff Mitchiner and others for ice cream birthday party celebrations.
- Myers Park United Methodist Church - Campbell Tucker, family and friends for birthday fiestas complete with piñata fun.
- Julie Ellalasingham and Becky Williams for organizing the monthly resident Supper Club.
- Chris Albee for initiating tutoring onsite.
- 2008 Stapleton Davidson volunteers for a great evening of softball and barbeque.

For volunteer information:

704-335-9380
volunteer-sph@carolina.rr.com

A Real Team Effort

She's baaaaaack..... Jermayne D. Cook is back in her Executive Director chair.

I am so thankful to so many for so much! Terri Seagraves - interim director, a committed Board of Directors, a devoted staff; caring residents, generous volunteers and donors were all involved in sustaining and advancing the St. Peter's Homes, Inc. at McCreesh Place mission during my period of healing and recovery. Terri has been a blessing to me, the organization, and the community.

I am looking forward to the future for St. Peter's Homes, Inc. and McCreesh Place. All units are filled! We are looking at opportunities to expand. The need is greater than ever, especially during these difficult economic times! I encourage all to remember the gentlemen at McCreesh Place as you thoughtfully consider how to invest your donated dollars. By giving, you are helping to meet the costs of providing the basic need of housing for men who are ill, injured, or impaired by a debilitating disability.



Jermayne D. Cook
Executive Director

With profound gratitude and wish for health, safety and a home for all, Jermayne

Terri Seagraves, Interim Executive Director



Terri Seagraves
Interim Executive Director

"Thank you" to the residents, staff, volunteers, board members and the Homeless Services Network for working so hard every day to help one another and our neighbors in need. I have been involved with St. Peter's Homes, Inc. since 2001, as Executive Director from 2003 to 2004, and as a board member since 2007. I can not begin to tell you how proud I am of how far we have come as we celebrate our five-year anniversary this year!

When I learned of the terrible car accident Jermayne was in and how injured she was in April, I knew that somehow things would work out, because it always has for St. Peter's Homes! I was available to fill in as Interim Executive Director while Jermayne recuperated. We worked together tirelessly, as a great team to ensure that St. Peter's Homes, Inc. at McCreesh Place would continue to run efficiently and grow as planned.

Welcome back, Jermayne! And thanks again to everyone for all your help, hospitality and dedication to our mission.

Warm regards, Terri

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George Sistrunk, Vice President
Susan L. Zielinski, Secretary
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Stacey Williams
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Gary Waters
Thad Dowson
Sherman Pride

Board Highlight – Mark Cupples, Wachovia Bank

As Senior Vice-President and HR Communications Manager at **Wachovia Corporation**, Mark's leadership experience includes corporate communications, human resources, change management, and merger integration. He is also the Executive Sponsor of his department's giving and volunteer activities in support of Highland Renaissance Academy, an elementary school in Charlotte.

Outside of the office, Mark has served on the Board of Directors and Development Committee for **St. Peter's Homes, Inc.** at **McCreesh Place** since 2006. Mark and his wife Kelly are the parents of two daughters: an 8 year old 3rd grader and almost 5 year old preschooler.



Mark Cupples
Board Member

Thanks, Mark, for all your time and leadership!

ABC GRANT AWARDED TO PREVENT RELAPSE



The Mecklenburg County ABC Board recently awarded McCreesh Place a grant to enhance **Recovery, Support and Education (RSE)** onsite. The goal of RSE is to reduce relapse rates by encouraging and facilitating broad social networks. RSE focuses on assessing risks of relapse, identifying triggers, promoting alternative social activities, and providing incentives for participation. Residents are eligible for drawings each month based on their participation in RSE activities.

So far, RSE has helped residents form three new recovery groups onsite. RSE Facilitator Frank Mansfield, leads a dual recover group and he coordinated a Speaker/Dinner Meeting to celebrate National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September. In keeping with the month's theme, **Real Recovery, Real People**, former resident was one of two speakers who shared their story. Thirty residents and guests in recovery attended. A hearty thank you goes to Chef Ron Ahlert and the Community Culinary School of Charlotte (CCSC) for catering the meal.

RSE is looking for speakers in recovery, incentives to raffle, and activity opportunities! Please contact Frank Mansfield at (704) 335-9379.



Chef "Speedy" Chef Ron Ahlert

We are grateful to the late John Corriston for introducing us to Chef Ron - we miss you, Speedy!

Thank You, Big Dogs!



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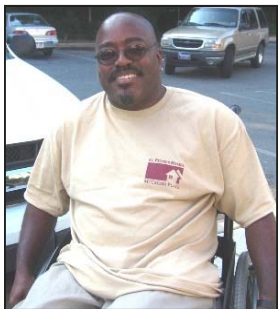
CONGRATULATIONS to our friends at TYLER 2 Construction for being awarded the 2008 Nine Who Care award. Sponsored by WSOC-TV and their Family Focus Partners, this awards program publicly recognizes individual volunteers, groups and businesses for service to their community. TYLER 2 is the recipient, out of 229 nominees, in the business category .

And thank you, TYLER 2, for your donation of time and repair services at McCreesh Place.

Congratulations, Tyler 2... the big Dogs!

News Flashes

- **SouthWood Corporation** selected St. Peter's Homes, Inc. as the inaugural recipient of their "Identifying Our Community" grant. McCreesh Place will be identified out front.



- **2008 Help The Homeless Walk.** Join us on November 22. Last year, a team of 12 walked and raised over \$1000 for the McCreesh Place Resident's Association.
- **McCreesh Place T-Shirts** – This year for the walk, residents will wear new t-shirts thanks to **Jeanine Morgan**, Father Gene McCreesh's niece. Contact McCreesh Place to order your own.

- **Building Community** - Join us at McCreesh Place on November 7 and every first Friday of the month for a community social and Neighborhood Art Show, 6 - 8 pm, thanks to **Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation** and **Crossroads Charlotte**, www.crossroadscharlotte.org.
- **Building Leaders** - Resident Association officers and candidates are grateful for new leadership training from **Charles Page**, CoolSpring Center, www.coolspring.com.

More news flashes to come in next newsletter!



Pledge or Sponsor
McCreesh Place Team
2008 Homeless Walk
November 22
mboldt-sph@carolina.rr.com
704-335-9379

Community Social &
Neighborhood Art Show at
McCreesh Place
First Friday of the Month

- meet our residents
- refreshments
- artwork for sale



MCCREECH PLACE

We are part of the solution.

Our residents, staff, board, partners and volunteers are all part of one of Charlotte's most innovative solutions to homelessness.

Exciting, recent research is revealing that **it is possible to end homelessness** for even those hardest to serve, the ones who are homeless most frequently and for the longest periods of time.

Permanent supportive housing has been shown in other cities to be cost-neutral compared to emergency shelters and cost-saving when public expenses related to homelessness are considered.

McCreech Place is a success! Please, come visit....



McCreech Place



ST. PETER'S HOMES, INC.



MCCREECH PLACE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.stpetershomesinc.org
www.mccreechplace.org

Providing affordable housing to alleviate homelessness and human suffering, and support services to maintain that housing.

Upcoming - Spring 2009 - McCreech Place 5th Anniversary Celebration!