



ST. PETER'S HOMES, INC. MCCREESH PLACE

May, 2008

Donation Requests:

- Bus Passes
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Toilet tissue
- Food storage containers
- Cleaning supplies
- Dish detergent
- Clothes detergent
- Gift Cards

*"It is in
the shelter
of each other
that the
people live."*

Irish Proverb

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What is McCreesh Place?

By Amy Leary

We are permanent supportive housing.

McCreesh Place is a home for its residents, not a program.

Most of our residents rent here for more than a year while they are getting on their feet. Some choose to rent here indefinitely.

- **Permanent:** residents have a place where they can remain as long as they choose.
- **Supportive:** residents have the help they need to rebuild their lives so they don't have to return to homelessness in the future.
- **Housing:** their own apartment in their own name.

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.

We are community builders.

Beyond renting apartments, St. Peter's Homes, Inc. is also about creating community connections so that people who are homeless can become a part of the community where they live.

More than building apartments, we are building connections for formerly homeless men through support services onsite, volunteers, and other service providers in the community.



Amy Leary, MSW
Support Services Manager

*Amy Leary
joined the staff of
McCreesh Place in 2004,
after volunteering
with the organization
in 2002.*

*Amy earned her
Master of Social Work
Degree after working with
emergency shelter and
transitional housing
programs from
1994-2000.*



McCreesh Place



Community Room



Gerald G. "Jerry" Fox

Gerald "Jerry" Fox is a graduate of Kansas University with a Master of Public Administration Degree.

Fox served as County Manager for Mecklenburg County from 1980-2000 and has been a member of the Board of Directors of St. Peter's Homes, Inc. since 2002.

Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Newsletter Staff

Mary Ciminelli
Development Manager
Virginia Pharr
Development Associate

Jerry Fox, Board Member

One of the recommendations from "**Out of the Shadow**", the Homelessness Strategic Plan developed in 2002, a study I co-chaired, was to develop a single room occupancy (SRO) shelter for the homeless. **St. Peter's Homes, Inc. at McCreesh Place** was constructed and opened. I gladly accepted a position on the Board of Directors.

One of the major issues of the board during my tenure has been to establish financial stability for the operation of the facility. We

now have a partnership with Mecklenburg County to provide human, social and health services for the McCreesh Place residents.

Many of our original supporters were area congregations. We value their continued support and are expanding our base to include more congregations and foundations, as well as individual and corporate partners.

With the support and help from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community, McCreesh Place will continue to provide vital services for the homeless of our community.

Volunteer Your Time

Individuals, organizations, faith communities, schools and businesses – come experience the community-building that makes McCreesh Place unique for its residents and for the Charlotte community.

Homelessness happens to people when they are socially isolated, and the experience itself can be further isolating.

Volunteer your time for on-call & event drivers, birthday celebration hosts, holiday & activity hosts, building and landscaping projects.

For volunteer information:

704-335-9380

volunteer-sph@carolina.rr.com

Thank You, Patterson-Pope

THANK YOU to our friends at Patterson-Pope for their donation of off-site storage services and DocuWare document management systems software.

With our limited storage space, Patterson Pope has made file management and storage simple.



Emily Atkinson Ratliff

Denny Hammack, President, currently volunteers his company and himself to image all of our reports and documents.

Thank you Emily Ratliff and John Bowling for helping us get our document management system set up and running.

"Space made Simple"

Patterson-Pope

3001 North Graham St.

Charlotte, NC 28206

704.523.4400

www.pattersonpoppe.com

Your Contributions at work.....

Herbert Martin

**Outstanding Personal Achievement Award—2007
Homeless Service Network**

This award was presented to individuals who were formerly homeless, have successfully transitioned to stability and have made an exemplary effort to give back to homeless people in need.



Herbert Martin

After 8 years of drug use and a failed suicide attempt, Herbert found the Uptown Shelter in September of 2004. He was later identified as being eligible to apply for an apartment at **McCreesh Place**.

He moved in April of 2005. Herbert continued to volunteer at the shelter and keep in contact with the people who had helped him so much. He also became an active resident at McCreesh Place, maintaining his recovery from alcohol and drugs, and building a savings account.

Herbert began going fishing again with his brother, who took him back to church where he started helping with the youth group. He started to work with another McCreesh Place resident, a former teacher, on improving his reading and writing skills.

When three rose plants were donated, he took it upon himself to adopt them, and became the caretaker for flowers that now brighten the walkway to the lobby entrance.

For his positive attitude and helpfulness, Herbert was nominated by his peers and voted into the position of Vice President of the Resident Association. Despite his uncertainty about his ability to perform the role, he accepted the challenge and excelled!

With new confidence, Herbert accepted a new volunteer position at McCreesh Place as a Front Desk Volunteer. He answers the phones, delivers Friendship Trays to residents, and assists walk-in visitors. He greets everyone with his enormous smile. Herbert's laughter and dancing bring joy to everyone who has the pleasure of knowing him.



Herbert and His Roses



Front Desk Volunteer

Herbert's successes have not been without difficulty. Around the holidays he suffered the loss of a close relative, his brother's wife. Herbert stayed strong. He was firmly re-connected in his community and had support from his church, staff and neighbors at McCreesh Place. Herbert not only maintained his own recovery, he also was able to be a positive presence and source of support for his brother during this hard time.

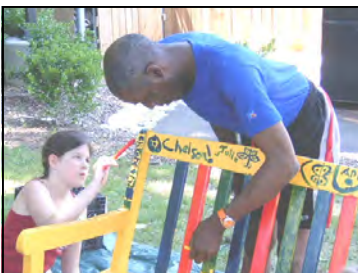
In June of 2007, Herbert made the decision to move in with his brother, where he now continues to live and participate in his church community.

Herbert celebrated 3 years drug and alcohol free last fall.

Just as when he moved from the Uptown Shelter and returned to give back in the kitchen, Herbert now returns to McCreesh Place several days a week to continue his service as a front desk volunteer. He takes pride in giving helpful information and hope, especially to many who recognize him from his shelter days of long ago.

He never tires of saying, *"If I can do it, they can too."*

Herbert is an inspiration and is genuinely deserving of this important recognition from the Homeless Services Network for all of his successes, as well as for the ways he continues to give back.



Herbert Gives Back

Thank you, Herbert - we love you...

Thank you, Donors, for your help in making this possible...



ST. PETER'S HOMES, INC. MCCREESH PLACE

Our Gentlemen

They're hurting,
But now they're safe.
They've been neglected,
But now they're safe.
They've had problems,
But haven't we all?

They're helping each other
Those who read,
Teach those who don't.
Those who walk,
Look out for those who can't.
Some have become family
For those who have none.

Three or four have died
But with "family" to mourn them.

They are all unique
And unrepeatable gifts of GOD.
And now they're safe
And living with help
At McCreesh Place.

*By Bobbi Gagnon
Board Member*

On a Personal Note:

Jermayne Cook, our Executive Director, is temporarily on leave, recuperating from injuries sustained in a car accident on April 2, 2008.

Jermayne wishes to express her sincere **THANKS** to all for your prayers, support and "get well" wishes.



Homeless Walk 2007

Not all who arrive
Stay for long.
Some decide to move on
When they become strong enough.

Others have trouble co-existing
With so many men.
Still others break the house rules
And so move out.

ST. PETER'S HOMES, INC.



MCCREESH PLACE

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