



OPENING DOORS

HEARTH

Golf Outing Wine & Food Event
Martinis & More Dreammakers

Spring 2008

LORI'S STORY: BEING WHERE SHE NEEDED TO BE LED TO DOING WHAT SHE WAS MEANT TO DO

Lori's children have always been the most important part of her life, so when her husband became involved with drugs and consequently abusive, she knew she could not keep them in that situation. She had been serving in an AmeriCorps program in the Pittsburgh area and asked to be transferred to another program in Indiana. When her term of service was complete, she moved to Arizona, where life was going well for her. She had a good job and was earning enough to have a home and enroll her 3 children in a private school.

Throughout her life, Lori had various jobs. Besides working with at-risk youth through AmeriCorps, she worked in daycare centers, at the Boys and Girls Club, at the Boy Scouts, and for a market research company.

In July 2005, she was diagnosed with a serious medical condition that made it difficult for her to work. Since she was physically unable to work, she lost her job and eventually her housing. While she recovered in the Intensive Care Unit after surgery, her mother decided to move her and her children back to Pittsburgh to be closer to family. However, when Lori arrived, the housing arrangements her mother made fell through, and Lori ended up with one friend and her children with another.

In the fall of 2005, a friend told Lori about Benedictine Place, and she knew that was where she needed to be. First, she needed to get her family back together and stable. Second, she wanted her children in a good school system again. Finally, she wanted to go back to school.

In December 2006, she earned an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts from CCAC. Although she had a pattern of working with kids, she never realized she wanted to make a career of it. While at CCAC, she literally had an epiphany and realized she needed to serve others, specifically kids. She wanted to not only work with them but really support and empower them. She explains, "I had this vision of a coral reef, and I was being told to emerge. I needed to take all my bad experiences and learn from them so that I could help others in similar situations. I would emerge; I would be fulfilled by serving others."

In the spring of 2007, she enrolled at Point Park University in the Criminal Justice Program. HEARTH can refer "graduates" of Benedictine Place to receive a scholarship from Point Park. Called Visions of Tomorrow, this scholarship pays 80% of their tuition, for up to 60 credits, if enrolled in one of Point Park's part-time or accelerated programs. Although she moved out of Benedictine Place in October of 2007, she still attends Point Park and plans to graduate in December. She is currently doing an internship with the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, working on the largest DARE graduation in the country to be held at Heinz Field in May.

Most recently, she accepted a position at Gwen's Girls, an organization whose mission is to empower girls, ages 8 to 18, to have productive futures through holistic, gender-specific programs, education and experiences. She will work directly with the girls, providing counseling, homework help, and programming. HEARTH is proud of you, Lori!

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT NEWS

Marsha finished the Modern Office Systems Training Program at CCAC, has secured full-time employment with a major company, and has moved into an apartment in the North Hills.

Krysta made the Dean's List (3 As and one B) in the fall semester.

April graduated from Bidwell Training Center as a Chemical Laboratory Technician, has secured a temporary position at a major Pittsburgh company, and has moved into an apartment with her 2 children.

Arnita completed the Paralegal Associate of Science Program at CCAC.



MARTINIS AND MORE

Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 6-9 PM
at The LeMont Restaurant

Sponsored by:
Daily's - Deloitte - Fort Pitt Capital Group

Featuring Spirits from:
Raise Your Spirits

Tickets \$80 each or Table of 10 for \$750
Valet Parking required- \$5 fee

Martini Tasting - 'Tini Boutique - Hors d'oeuvres - Carving Stations - Sushi - Dessert

Benefits Benet Woods Housing Corporation

FORT PITT CAPITAL GROUP PRESENTS 13TH ANNUAL TEE AND GREEN GOLF OUTING AND DREAMMAKER DINNER



Monday, June 16, 2008 at Sewickley Heights Golf Club

Noon Shotgun Start
\$1200 per foursome- includes practice time, lunch, 18
holes of golf with cart, and dinner
Various sponsorship packages still available

5 PM- Silent Auction and Hors d'oeuvres
7 PM- Dreammaker Dinner

Reservations for dinner only will be taken with payment of \$80



Early Bird Sponsors:

Fort Pitt Capital Group - Precision Endodontics
Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. - Ciber
Savinis, D'Amico and Kane, LLC - PGT Trucking - Metz Lewis, LLC
Northwest Savings Bank - Trinity Jewelers - Daniel W. Costa, CPA, CFP
Herbein and Company - Allegheny Valley Bank
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, PC - Stoltenberg Consulting
Bobby Rahal Automotive Group - WDVE and News Talk 104.7



PARKVALE BANK PRESENTS 6TH ANNUAL ART OF WINE AND FOOD

Parkvale Bank

Thank you again to our sponsors in 2007: Parkvale Bank; DRS Architects; Reed Smith, LLP; Citizens Bank; Software Specialists, Inc.; 3WS and FM Newstalk 104.7; North Hills Monthly Magazine; Broudy Printing; Alpern Rosenthal; Bayer Corporation; The Iannucci Law Group, PC; Pietragallo, Bosick, and Gordon LLP; and solutions4networks.

Also, a special thanks to DJ Kelli Burns, Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh, and Massage Envy!

The 7th annual event is set for Thursday, September 25, 2008 at the National Aviary, and Parkvale Bank will once again be the Presenting Sponsor. Regular tickets are \$60, and VIP tickets, which include valet parking and early admission, are \$85.



**For more information about or tickets for any event, visit
www.hearth-bp.org or call (412) 939-2302.**

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND SPECIAL DONATIONS

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their contributions and ongoing partnerships:

- **CB Richard Ellis** provides a birthday cake to each child at Benedictine Place.

- **Stein Mart** for selecting **HEARTH** to receive donations of new clothing through the **Dignity U Wear** program, coming to **HEARTH** to sort the donated clothing, and doing collections of needed items at the store.



- **Spotlight Costumes** and owner **Kim Brown** donated 13 Halloween costumes for kids living at Benedictine Place.



- **WYEP** collected about 35 boxes of non-perishable food items through their Alternative Souper Bowl event.

- Our women and older children received new **Gap** jeans through **Gifts in Kind**.

- **Action Housing** volunteers painted an apartment and the

staff office on **United Way Day of Caring**. **PPG** provided paint and supplies. **Alcoa** volunteers painted an apartment through **Pittsburgh Cares**, and **Glaxo Smith Kline** volunteers painted an apartment as part of their Days of Caring.



- Sponsors for Benedictine Place families during the holidays- **Health Studies Office at Pitt**, **Perry Highland Jr. Women's Club**, **Ingomar United Methodist Church Missions Committee**, **Cindy Patterson**, **Barb Lambe**, **Society for Design Administrators**, **Citizens Bank employees**, **Carrie Burnham**, **Amy Nagler and friends**, **Doug and Connie Kreps and family**, **Raymond and Maggie Kern**, **Anna Marie Leezer**, **Titina Ott**, and **Incarnation 8th Grade CCD**.

- **SMS Demag** and **McCandless Rotary** sponsored Angel Trees for our program participants this past holiday.

- **Alicia Dal Lago** of **Alicia Photography** took family portraits of our families and gave them each a package of portraits they could distribute with their holiday cards.

- **The National Honor Society at Pine Richland High School** donated filled stockings for each of our moms and children.

- **The Norwin High School Show Choir** hosted the best holiday party for the children complete with their show-stopping entertainment and gifts from Santa.

- **Lynda McDonough and friends** hosted a Santa Shoppe for the children so they could choose gifts for their family members.



- **Parkvale Bank** collected tree decorations for all of the families.

- Other holiday "necessities" provided by: **SMS Demag**, **Beth Stone**, **Bradfordwoods Women's Club**, **Jean Arendosh**, **Bradfordwoods Community Church**, **Sts. John and Paul Women's Guild**, **Ed and Christy Kosakowsky**, **Susan Courtad**, **KDKA Turkey Fund**, **Pinnacle Group**, **Jim and Jackie Eakin**, **Barb and Katie Waronek**, **Julie Walko**, **Christ Episcopal Church**, **Maureen Passage and daughters**, **Girl Scout Troop 976**, **Incarnation 8th Grade CCD**, and **Blake and Rosalie Howell**.

DREAMMAKERS NAMED



Ebken family

Dreammakers are donors who have either donated or raised \$10,000, exclusive of sponsorships. This year, we honor two such donors.

Gary and Christine Ebken have been giving to HEARTH since 1996, when they were introduced to the program by their neighbor Debra Dion Krischke, another long-time supporter.

Christine was a graduate of St. Benedict's Academy, the former school that has become Benedictine Place, and she remembered some of the Sisters associated with the program from back when she was in school.

She says, "Although I was initially interested because of Debbie and my familiarity with the Academy, I got deeply involved because I believed in the cause. You see the difference the program makes on the women almost immediately, and it's very gratifying to see them grow throughout the process."

The couple generously donates money to a few organizations. However, Christine says, "We especially like HEARTH because it's a good *local* organization. We like that we are helping our own community."

Rudd Equipment Company made its first donation to HEARTH in January 2003 and have been making annual donations ever since. The company provides complete equipment sales and service support to the mining, construction and associated industries.

Join us in honoring these Dreammakers at the Dreammaker Dinner to be held June 16 at Sewickley Heights Golf Club.

GRANT UPDATE

HEARTH could not open doors for families in crisis without financial support, and we are very thankful for the support of several grantors in the last several months.

Money for operating expenses:

Including building expenses, utilities, services to program participants, and a small amount of salaries for staff support to the families

Emergency Shelter Grant 2007-2008
\$25,000

Fetterolf Family Foundation \$1000

A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo

Charitable Trust \$10,000

FISA Foundation \$35,000

W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund \$2500

Citizens Bank \$5000

HUD 2007 Continuum of Care

\$286,062 (for 2008-2010)

Richard J. Madden Foundation \$10,000

Leonard and Mary Jane Schafer

Foundation \$2000

Anonymous Donor \$50,000

Money for educational scholarships for program participants:

Zonta Three Rivers Pittsburgh North
\$2300

Money for family activities:

Including bus trips to area attractions like the zoo and Children's Museum, the purchase of special holiday items such as valentines for children and Easter egg dye for each family at Benedictine Place, and other activities such as making dog biscuits that were donated to an animal shelter (pictured).



North Hills Community Outreach
\$5000

KENNYWOOD TICKETS FOR SALE

HEARTH will be selling
Good Any Day FunDay
tickets starting in May!

\$22 if purchased by June 1
\$24 after June 1

Tickets are regularly \$32

Call (412) 939-2302 for more
information.

BENET WOODS UPDATE

Do you have a grandson who recently graduated from college but had to take a job in an electronics store until he could find a job in his field? Does your daughter love her job at a daycare but you secretly worry about her family's financial stability? Are you concerned that, although both parents work, your neighbors are struggling to make ends meet?

Some of these individuals and families may soon have some relief! You may have seen in the local newspapers that HEARTH encountered some opposition to our building a set of duplexes in Ross Township. However, we are now excited to announce that we have been given approval to proceed!

We are currently in the process of securing all necessary funding for the \$2.8 million development (includes \$1.8 million in construction costs). Commitments to date include the following:

- The Pittsburgh Foundation \$100,000
- Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant \$15,000
- HEARTH Board \$50,000
- Martinis and More event 2007 \$19,000
- William B. McLaughlin Charitable Trust \$5000
- Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency \$2.1 million
- Allegheny County HOME Funds \$800,000

Although, according to our current timeline, construction will not begin until July/August 2008, we will likely begin site development, i.e. clearing trees and moving dirt, as early as spring. We are hoping construction will take about a year and that families will be able to move in August 2009!

HEARTH HAPPENINGS

Welcome Bethany! **Bethany Friel** began work as our new Direct Services Coordinator on October 1. She previously worked at The Pittsburgh Project, where she met with at risk students to challenge and support them with job training, leadership skills, and personal goals.



Former HEARTH Direct Services Coordinator **Jodie Walker** gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Mason, on August 20. Just prior to his arrival, she had decided to leave HEARTH and be a mommy full-time.

HEARTH would like to welcome several new Board Members: **Thomas Bakaitus, Jr.** of Herbein and Company; **Cynthia Kamin** of CB Richard Ellis; **Susan Kostkas** of Rawle and Henderson; and **Cindy Patterson** of Catholic Cemeteries Association.



(Formerly North Hills Affordable Housing)
4540 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229-2296
412-939-2302
www.hearth-bp.org