

# beginnings

the newsletter of Cathedral Shelter of Chicago



## An Evening of Celebration

As the snow fell, spirits rose inside Second Chance Thrift at the reception preceding the 93rd Annual Meeting held on Thursday, January 31, 2008. The reception provided an opportunity for staff, participants, honorees and board members to share stories while enjoying food provided by Inspiration Corporation.

At 7:00 p.m., the 93rd Annual Meeting was called to order by outgoing Board President Carol Morse. The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors proposed a slate of directors and officers for 2008.

Directors elected to a first three-year term are Meta Dunn,

Julie Flood, Sue Hammond, Robert Hepding, Sydne Mullings, Suzanne Peregrine, Cynthia Thomas, Christine Walker, and Richard Wellner. These directors come to CSC with expertise in public housing, children's welfare, advocacy, operations management, finance, and real estate.

Directors elected to a second three-year term are Lynne Taylor, Marcus Randle, and The Reverend Jack Seymour.

Leading the Board in 2008 are Lynne Taylor, President; Stephen Rankin, Vice President; Hope Schall, Secretary; and Jack Seymour, Treasurer. Working with them on the Executive Committee will be Michael

Hagen, Karen Ferrantella, and Kathryn Montgomery Moran.

Carol Morse and The Reverend Glenn Chalmers, Executive Director, thanked outgoing directors Courtney Hays, Mary Johnson, Joseph Randle, and Eric Roberson for their faithful years of service. Ms. Morse, finishing her service as president, was presented with a stained glass Episcopal shield.

Program participants, a parish, an employee, volunteers, and corporate partners were also honored.

Entertainment was provided by the Cathedral Shelter Choir.

## CSC Honors Standouts

Cathedral Shelter honored individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievements and contributions at the 93rd Annual Meeting.

Two program participants, Garfield Human and Pierre Johnson,



Lynne Taylor, Carol Morse, Glenn Chalmers, Garfield Human and Theresa McBroom Jackson

were recognized for their personal achievements. Mr. Human had to separate from his family to begin his recovery in earnest. He got that fresh start at Cressey House. In addition to the addiction counseling he received, he learned to surround himself with positive people

and found support in Alcoholics Anonymous and the Bible. He also received legal assistance to get a pardon of his criminal record from the governor.

Mr. Johnson, through his time at Higgins House, learned how to positively deal with difficult situations, how to enjoy himself without the aid of drugs and alcohol, and recognized and sought treatment for his depression. He is now employed full-time and returns to Cathedral Shelter weekly to participate in book study.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston, was honored as Parish of the Year for extending itself beyond past efforts in support of the Christmas Basket Program. In addition to sponsoring 29 households, St. Luke's supplied volunteers for multiple days of registration in the summer and check-in and distribution in December.

Two individuals were honored as Volunteer of the Year: Ursula Berliner and Nora Rucker. Ms. Berliner supports the participants of

Cathedral Shelter's Work Transitions program by arranging professional clothing drives at Chicago law firms. Ms. Rucker worked with staff members to develop and facilitate parenting workshops.

Two companies were also recognized as Corporate Partner of the Year. Sandstorm Design has been designing award-winning annual reports for Cathedral Shelter since 2003. Starting as a way for owner Sandy Marsico to share "her God-given creative talents in support of the community," the opportunity is now shared among the Sandstorm Design staff.

The Staubach Company chose to partner with Cathedral Shelter, an agency "with heart, purpose, and a track record of dedication." Staubach has provided work groups for the thrift store renovation, provided turkeys for Cressey House residents, and Halloween costumes and birthday cakes for the children.

In the most closely guarded secret of the night, Tanya Kyles was acknowledged as Employee of the Year, as nominated by her peers.

Restoring hope. Preventing homelessness.

## Help Needed April 12, May 10

Cathedral Shelter, a member agency of Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD), distributes 45,276 pounds of food annually to Near West Side residents and homeless individuals. We purchase additional food from GCFD each month to meet our community's needs.

An easy, fun, and educational way to help Cathedral Shelter reduce its food costs is to volunteer at GCFD, which will credit Cathedral Shelter with \$5 per volunteer hour served in its name. Cathedral Shelter has spots available on both Saturday, April 12, and Saturday, May 10, 8:45 a.m. until noon. Please join us on either or both days by contacting Jason Jones (312.997.2222, extension 238; [jjones@cathedralshelter.org](mailto:jjones@cathedralshelter.org)) to reserve a spot or get more information.

FUNDING PARTNERS

City of Chicago Department of Human Services  
 City of Chicago Department of Public Health  
 Illinois Department of Human Services  
 Illinois Department of Human Services,  
 Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse  
 US Department of Housing and Urban Development  
 US Department of Veterans Administration



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### THANKS FOR THE TURKEY!

The residents of Cressey House send a heartfelt thanks to The Staubach Company for providing turkeys for their holiday meal!

## Parishioners Pack Shelf-Stable Food, Produce

On Saturday, February 16, a group of cheerful parishioners from St. John's Episcopal Church, Mount Prospect, arrived at 9:00 a.m. eager to work. They sorted food and packed grocery bags with a variety of food items and were ready for the doors to open at 11:00 a.m.

"The parishioners' jolly attitude was contagious," Diane, staff member of CSC, said. "There was a wonderful air of hospitality which the recipients appreciated." The recipients were grateful for the week's supply of food as well. Especially exciting was the addition this month of fresh produce.

If you have a group that is looking for ways to help fight hunger and are interested in a food drive or helping in the pantry, please contact Jason Jones at [jjones@cathedralshelter.org](mailto:jjones@cathedralshelter.org) or 312.997.2222, extension 238.

## The Elves Have Done It Again!

Thanks to all the elves who made Christmas presents a reality for 4,812 Chicagoans.

Generous donors came to CSC through 42 churches, nine



Christmas Baskets roll out the door as Sharon guides volunteers from Macy's in the warehouse.

businesses and schools, and individually. They provided presents for each individual in the 1,638 families we served. Families also received grocery store gift cards

to enable them to have a special holiday meal full of personal traditions.

Christmas Baskets wouldn't make it to the families without the many volunteer hands that helped with distribution: 115 spirit-filled volunteers provided over 700 hours of service. Volunteers drove trucks to pick up presents, checked in recipients, addressed thank you notes, and passed out boxes of wrapped presents.

It will be just a few short months before the elves begin work for 2008. If you are interested in having a bigger role in this project, please contact Jason Jones at [jjones@cathedralshelter.org](mailto:jjones@cathedralshelter.org) or 312.997.2222, extension 238.

## Sober Socials Swing

Recovery services participants, friends and family gathered in December for two sober socials.

On December 19, the men of Higgins House celebrated an early Christmas. The men invited alumni and families to join them for dinner. Christmas presents capped off the evening.

On December 31, the regular Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings segued into a New Year's Eve party for all participants and alumni of Cathedral Shelter. A meal was served, music was turned up, and children of Cressey House danced with neighbors. Celebratory stories of sober living were shared including words of hope from an alumnus in his seventh year of sobriety.