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THE WOMEN'S HOME

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Calendar

Saturday, February 2, 2008

The 2008 Rose Gala "Opening Doors"

The Corinthian

Honoring: Eleanor Tinsley

Chairs: Gordon and Sylvia Quan

Saturday, March 1, 2008

The Cottage Thrift Shop Sidewalk Sale

811 Westheimer

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



CAROL MANN

LPGA PLAYERS PRO-AM INVITATIONAL

FORE! The Women's Home ~ April 14, 2008

HOMEFRONT

THE WOMEN'S HOME

Volume 3, Issue 3

Winter 2007



Board Member Laurie Gutierrez was named "Halliburton Hometown Hero" for the October 21 Texans game in recognition of her dedicated service to The Women's Home. "Toro" presented game tickets and other surprises to Laurie, who was featured on the JumboTron during the game. Thanks to Halliburton and the Houston Texans!



Message from the Executive Director

Paula Paust, MSW

The Women's Home: A Good Neighbor in Montrose for Fifty Years, Becoming a Good Neighbor in Spring Branch

Here at The Women's Home, we pride ourselves on being a good neighbor. Our own Avondale Civic Association meets monthly at our administrative office. This fall, we were pleased to host the Neartown Association's annual "meet and greet" event to build relationships among member civic associations and their state and local representatives. The Neartown Association includes Avondale and 20 other civic groups in the Montrose/Midtown area.

It was a pleasure to see State Representatives Ellen Cohen and Garnet Coleman along with City Council members Ada Edwards, Sue Lovell and Peter Brown. These elected representatives were attentive to Allen Ueckert, President of the Neartown Association, as he outlined the associations' concerns and goals. Issues of safety and green space were high on the list.



Paula Paust, MSW

Just as the Montrose neighborhood associations are interested in property values, safety, and neighborhood quality, we know that our new neighbors in Spring Branch share similar concerns. Integral to our goal of providing safe and affordable housing for our graduates and other single women at our new site is concern for the neighborhood in which they will be living. In an effort to develop strong relationships with these neighbors, The Women's Home has already organized a community outreach effort. Volunteers and staff are opening doors and introducing The Women's Home to local churches, civic groups and schools.

The Women's Home looks forward to being a good neighbor in Spring Branch. We are listening to the concerns of our new friends as we create new homes for women who will also become good neighbors.



Paula with State Representative and Houston Area Women Center Executive Director Ellen Cohen



State Representative Garnet Coleman with Paula Paust, MSW



Neartown President Allen Ueckert

Mission Statement

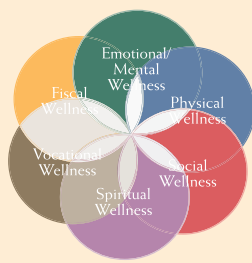
The mission of The Women's Home is to help women in crisis regain their self-esteem and dignity, empowering them to return to society as productive, self-sufficient individuals.



Architectural rendering of A Place of Her Own

WholeLife is The Women's Home's unique rehabilitation program.

It addresses six areas of wellness through The Home's Clinical, Vocational and Residential Services. Spiritual Wellness is featured in this issue.



Forgiveness Retreat

"I learned that I must focus on what happens today. The past can't be changed, and in order to have positive energy, we must practice forgiveness."

-Margaret, a resident

Spiritual Wellness is a critically important aspect of the WholeLife program. Recently The Home's Spiritual Development Coordinator, Rita Cusack, designed a unique retreat in the Texas Hill Country for the residents. Spiritual Retreats offer a safe, loving, and nurturing environment: the necessary prerequisite for life changing experiences.

On a Friday morning, eleven residents, each selected especially for their essays describing the gifts they hoped to share with the group and their expectations of the weekend, set off to the U Bar U Retreat and Conference Center near Kerrville.



The Path to Forgiveness

Meditation, prayer, exercise in the hills, and reflection under the stars provided opportunities for healing during the retreat. Most of the women focused on forgiving themselves, a necessary step on the path toward wholeness. Healing continued after the return trip. One resident re-connected with positive memories from the past, and reached out to family members to heal old estrangements.

The Women's Home hopes to provide this opportunity for growth yearly.

"I feel that growth within me took place that otherwise would not have had the chance to occur. The community with the other women and the activities we participated in were therapeutic as well as fun."

-Bonnie

"After participating in this retreat, I have frequently meditated about the beautiful flute music that we woke up to. There are simply no words to describe the beautiful hills, the serenity during the darkness and nighttime, and the shiny stars in the late night."

-Margaret

"I got to be one with God at camp . . . for that one weekend."

-Linda

Zonta Teams up with Vocational Staff

Zonta, an organization of executives and professionals working to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy, has been volunteering at The Home for over five years. This fall, Carolyn Phillips, Chair of Zonta's Service Committee, Carole Moffatt, and Melinda Sturgess, Co-chairs of The Women's Home Service Project, teamed up with our new Vocational staff to further residents' goals for long-term, sustainable employment. Krista and Lisa began as interns in January 2007. Now both are now on staff and working with volunteers to

help coordinate training and workshops. Team Building and Communication, Receptionist Skills, Resume Writing, Mock Interviewing, Time Management Skills, Dress for Success, and Financial Education are among the completed and planned courses. Kudos to our Zonta volunteers!



Lisa Connelly, Vocational Counselor/Aftercare Coordinator (left), and Krista Kline, Director of Vocational Services

West U Rotary Helps Make Dreams Come True

Ken Walker and Dee Ullrich are liaisons to The Home from the West U Rotary, whose motto is "Service Above Self." Funding for dental work, educational scholarships, employment

forums, mock interviewing, and access to a vast network of Rotarians to assist residents seeking employment, are examples of West U Rotary's contributions. Recently, the club helped sponsor one of our residents attending The Houston School of Floral Design.

Carolyn W. received her floral design certificate in October. Her thank-you letter to West U Rotarians says, "I plan to become one of the productive individuals who can produce arrangements and other floral designs to cheer, console and bring smiles and warmth to others." Now, with certificate in hand and a smile on her face, she is ready for the next challenge: finding employment in the floral industry she loves.



Carolyn W. displays one of her floral designs

2007 Auxiliary Style Show Pre-Party at
Elizabeth Anthony • Esther Wolf
October 25, 2007



Co-chair Kay Joyce descends the stair case in an exquisite ball gown.



Molly Hill, Laurie Gutierrez, and Kathy McRee strike a pose.



Style Show co-chairs Kay Joyce and Pat Heim



Teresa Baker and friends enjoy an evening of fine shopping.

2007 Auxiliary Style Show - *Then and Now*
InterContinental Houston
November 12, 2007



Pat Heim, Nancy Serebrenik, and Kay Joyce



Kathy Thompson, President-Elect of The Women's Home Partnership



Three generations of beautiful models: Julie Smith, J'Anne Rawson, and Katie Stuckey



Then and Now: Honoree Nancy Serebrenik and honored guests including Helen Hauser, one of the The Women's Home's original board members and volunteers, displaying her HomeWorks purchases

Honoring:
Nancy Serebrenik

Chairs:
Pat Heim and Kay Joyce

Premier Underwriter:
Targa Resources

This year's event enjoyed record attendance, and raised more than \$175,000 including over \$6,000 in sales of HomeWorks specialty items.



Gala Chairs Sylvia and Gordon Quan

For the last fifty years, The Women's Home has been "opening doors" for women and empowering them to return to society as productive, self-sufficient individuals. In recognition of this endeavor we are pleased to announce The 2008 Rose Gala:

The 2008 Rose Gala "Opening Doors"

Saturday, February 2, 2008
The Corinthian
6:30 p.m.



Honorary Chairs and
Premier Underwriters
June and Virgil Waggoner



Honoree Eleanor Tinsley

Eleanor's dedication and support has helped The Women's Home successfully serve women in crisis. She has been involved with The Home since 1987 and is currently serving on the Advisory Board. Eleanor has also been a strong force in opening doors for Houstonians in a variety of areas.



Profiled women, Lauren Anderson, Monica Pope, Minerva Perez, and Martha Turner
(Donna Cole, not pictured, will also be recognized at the gala.)



Armando Palacios,
owner of Armandos

Armandos restaurant hosted a dinner for gala chairs, honorees and the five women we are profiling at the gala for their efforts in "opening doors" in the Houston community. Many thanks to Armando Palacios for hosting this festive evening.

Photograph by Royad Abu-Taha



skirt! magazine

The Rose Gala is pleased to have skirt! as our media sponsor. skirt! is all about women...their work, play, families, creativity, style, health and wealth, bodies and soul. skirt! is an attitude...spirited, independent, outspoken, serious, playful and irreverent, sometimes controversial, always passionate. www.skirt.com

Auxiliary Hosts Final Best of Houston Luncheon for 2007

A last-minute change of plans made Houston's crisis of homelessness, and The Women's Home's efforts to address the problem, the focus of the September 26 luncheon. Ron Stone, slated to discuss his experience with mental illness, was forced to cancel due to illness. Former Houston City Council Member, immigration attorney, and 2008 Gala co-chair Gordon Quan graciously agreed to speak in his place, along with Paula Paust and Jennifer, a former resident of The Home who described her challenges in finding safe and affordable housing after her graduation from The Home.

The new topic was timely. On September 20, the *Houston Chronicle* covered The Home's current programs and its plans for a new 88-unit affordable housing project in the Spring Branch area. The new project will provide permanent and affordable one-bedroom apartments for graduates and other women in a safe, alcohol- and drug-free environment. With the capital campaign nearing the half-way point toward the



Gordon Quan makes the case for Houston's need for affordable housing and solutions to the problems of homelessness.

\$10 million goal, raising public awareness of the need for affordable housing in our community is critical.

Thanks to Chantal Cookware and Natasha McRee, who graciously provided door prizes. Special recognition goes to our luncheon chairs Kay Joyce, Linda Piper, Kathy McRee, and Janice Hall for four successful speaker luncheons that increased awareness about The Women's Home as well as important community concerns.

The Women's Home Auxiliary Announces New Name

What's in a Name?

As we come to the close of our fifty-year celebration, and after a year's consideration, The Women's Home Auxiliary—itsself nearly fifty years old—has decided to give itself a new name. Beginning in January, 2008, The Auxiliary will become **The Women's Home Partnership**.

Why "Partnership"? Because the term better represents the cooperative relationship between the Auxiliary and The Home, and because it points toward the Auxiliary's plans for a broader scope of membership that includes more men, young people, and corporate supporters.

The Women's Home Partnership: a new name and profile for our next fifty years.

Helping Hands From ExxonMobil

This fall, over one hundred volunteers from ExxonMobil companies enhanced The Women's Home's facilities during two Days of Caring. ExxonMobil Chemical Company employees spruced up the Life Learning Center, sorted and organized at the Cottage Thrift Shop, and added to the inventory of Auxiliary craft item for the holidays.

At The Women's Home's Spring Branch site, volunteers from ExxonMobil Exploration Company repaired and painted the interior of the new warehouse building, cleaned the exterior awnings, and gave the landscaping a much-needed boost with trimming and mulching.

For sixteen consecutive years, ExxonMobil has contributed helping hands to The Women's Home. The Home is grateful to ExxonMobil for its generosity and consistent support.



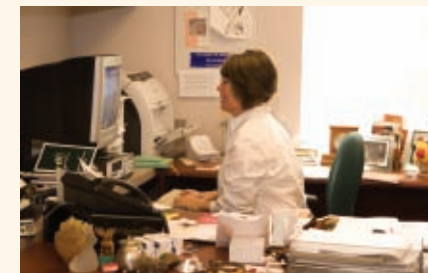
ExxonMobil Exploration Company employee volunteers Jennifer Andjelich (left) and Sonia Bradley (right) wrap up a long day of work at The Women's Home Spring Branch location.



Watch out for wet paint! ExxonMobil Chemical Company President Mike Dolan (center) with his wife Debbie (left) and Executive Director Paula Paust at the Life Learning Center



ExxonMobil Chemical Company Volunteers Deanna Muir, Cam-Sa Do-Thi, and Susan Berniard, also known as "angelic chorus," with angel tree ornaments



The Women's Home Director of Volunteer Services and Community Outreach, Marcia Tapp, tapping away to make things come together.

Photos above by Tammy Price

Graduate Focus

From Addiction to Reconciliation

Coming from an unstable childhood, her parents both drug addicts, Luciana faced possession charges at any early age. After breaking probation, Luciana spent time in jail before being transferred to a rehabilitation program where her counselor recommended that she transfer to The Women's Home for the transitional stage of her treatment.

At The Home, Luciana's chemical dependency group helped her understand how addicted parents could choose drugs over their child. There she met a woman who had lost her child to addiction. Hearing the regret and pain that her peer expressed gave Luciana a valuable new perspective on her own family.

To her surprise, Luciana discovered her mother had entered a rehabilitation program while she was at The Home. Luciana's counselor encouraged her to attend a family therapy group at her mother's facility. Though hesitant at first, Luciana decided to go. With the support of her counselor, Luciana was able to reconcile with her estranged mother and make peace with her past.

Besides helping Luciana heal broken relationships, The Women's Home also gave her skills to provide for her future. Before getting sidetracked by drugs, Luciana had earned her associate degree in Electronic Engineering

Technology. Through the vocational program at The Home, she was able to work towards her dream of a bachelor degree and land a great job with a major oil company working with electronics.



Luciana B.

"I believe that my experience at The Home helped me to develop my spiritual contact with God and gave me time to work on my life. The Home is a wonderful place if you want to do something with yourself and are ready to work for it - the opportunities it provides are endless."

- Luciana B.

Did You Know?

- In the first half of 2007, 87% of residents who completed at least six months of The Women's Home WholeLife Program left with income.
- The Home is a training site for masters-level mental health professionals, with 12 interns in training.
- The Home offers quarterly Family Therapy Weekends that afford resident families opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thank You! Thank You!

Accumulated gifts

August – October 2007

\$25,000+

Houston Endowment, Inc.
The Simmons Foundation
The Waggoners Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Charlene and Philip Carroll
CHRISTUS Health
Doug and Puddin' Pitcock
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Bonnie Bercegeay
Lynette Bishop
Cynthia and Robert Blevins
Tricia and Samuel K. Bravenec
Bebe Burns

Wish List

General:

Postage Stamps

The Cottage Thrift Shop:

A lightly used panel truck in good condition, with lift, for furniture donations

Vocational Program:

Correction Fluid
Duracell® Batteries AA
Duracell® Batteries AAA
Sharpie® Ultra Fine Point Markers
2-Pocket fastener folder
EZ Snap locking round ring view binder 2"
EZ Snap locking round ring view binder 3"
Big Tab Indexes 5 tab clear
Spiral Notebook 100 sheets
Ruled Pad 8 1/2 by 14 canary yellow
Lysol® sanitizing wipes 70 ct.
Yellow pen-style highlighters
Kleenex® Facial Tissues, flat box, 48 Box/Case
Latex powered gloves medium 100 ct.
Powder free gloves medium 100 ct.

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In Honor of Eleanor Tinsley
 Michael Appel
In Honor of Eleanor Tinsley
 R.G. and Pauline McCord
In Honor of Tosbi Hayre
 Ann Ratliff and Sallie Keller
 McNulty
In Honor of Adele Pieper
 Ginger Roberts
In Honor of Kay Joyce's birthday
 Dr. Bette A. Stead
In Honor of Sheila Turner
 Virginia Upton
In Honor of Sheila Dell'Osso
 Student Aid Foundation
 Enterprises
In Honor of James O'Brien

Memoriams
 Tricia and Samuel K. Bravenec
In Memory of Rosalie T. Benestante
 Dr. Fran S. Cardwell
In Memory of Dr. Dawn Yondas
 Ellen and Larry Forrester
In Memory of Ida Skrla

In-Kind Donations
 Judy and Tony Gilbert
Grandfather clock
 Karen McMillin
Mary Kay bags
 Michael Kemper Salon
Collected products for the women
 Nancy and Peter Serebrenik
Craft supplies from Michaels
 Enelah Sulistijo
Computer and printer

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