

HOMEFRONT

THE WOMEN'S HOME

713.521.3150

www.thewomenshome.org

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THE WOMEN'S HOME

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Calendar



Wednesday, April 23, 2008

The Women's Home Partnership Luncheon Series

Speaker: Linda Lorelle

The Briar Club

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

The Women's Home Volunteer

Appreciation Evening

HOMEFRONT

THE WOMEN'S HOME

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2008



Photograph by Bob Straus

Carol Mann, World Golf Hall of Fame member and past national president of the LPGA, will headline the Carol Mann LPGA Players Invitational *FORE!* The Women's Home, Monday, April 14, 2008 at the Houston National Golf Course.



Message from the Executive Director

Paula Paust, MSW

Settling In: Spring Branch News

The Women's Home is proud to be a new neighbor in Spring Branch. We are fortunate that the three-acre site we acquired for our new affordable housing complex has an existing climate-controlled building as well as warehouse space. These facilities have proven an excellent base of operations for our outreach to our new neighbors. Activities to date:

- ❖ An Open House with food and games to introduce ourselves to the neighborhood.
- ❖ We have been attending the Old Spring Branch Civic Association meeting since October 2007.
- ❖ The Old Spring Branch Civic Association is currently storing their supplies free of charge in our warehouse.
- ❖ Warehouse space has been offered to the local police for their Blue Santa Project.

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.



Paula Paust, MSW

- ❖ We participated in a school fair at Treasure Forest Elementary School.
- ❖ At Thanksgiving, we gave out over 200 turkey dinners to families that the elementary school principal and staff identified as being in need (as pictured, right).
- ❖ We have purchased food from Spring Branch vendors for two different volunteer projects.
- ❖ We held a warehouse sale with merchandise from the Cottage Thrift Shop at bargain prices for our new neighbors.

We look forward to spending more time with our new friends!



The Great Thanksgiving Turkey Project

The Monday before Thanksgiving, three residents of The Women's Home volunteered time, smiles, and enthusiasm to help distribute over 200 turkey dinners donated by Visible Changes at The Home's Spring Branch site. Turkeys and trimmings went to families whose children attend Treasure Forest Elementary School. Teachers and parent volunteers from Treasure Forest lent much-needed hands with distribution and Spanish translation; some gave their whole afternoon to the effort. The day was filled with fun and heart-felt moments as our residents and volunteers experienced the joy of giving to others in preparation for the holiday season.



Resident Margaret Transports Turkeys



Unloading Over 200 Turkeys: Residents Jessica and Beth



Residents with Treasure Forest Elementary Teachers and Parent Volunteers

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

The Residential Program, integral to all components of the WholeLife model but especially to Physical and Social Wellness, is featured in this issue.



The Door that Leads to Hope

When new residents enter the main dormitory at The Women's Home for the first time, they cross the threshold to a new life. Usually frightened, often exhausted, a new resident at The Women's Home is welcomed into a serene environment, with comfortable rooms marked by cleanliness and order. For most new residents, the tidiness and predictability of their new home offers a haven of safety after a life of homelessness: a chance to exhale, begin breathing deeply; an opportunity to feel in safe in their surroundings for the first time or after a long period of chaos.

The freedom from fear that this new environment offers is the first step toward a new life, the portal to change.



After the Dormitory: Transitional Cottages



The Chapel and Fountain

"I walked into The Women's Home and I knew at once my spirit was made whole. I felt hope and was embraced with unconditional love. I see myself accomplishing my goals, my weaknesses becoming my strengths. Every day I thank my higher power for the grace of allowing me another chance at life. The Women's Home can only give me the tools. It is left up to me to put them in the right toolbox."

-Gayla

"Upon my arrival at The Women's Home, I received a beautiful warm welcome. Because the environment was clean, I felt that I was in a safe haven. I knew immediately that The Women's Home was the place that I was going to obtain self-sufficiency."

-Carol

"Upon entering the residential facility, I felt refreshed, encouraged, and so grateful. The Women's Home has given me new hope and inspiration."

-Jana

Mickie Winborn Recalls The Home in Decades Past

In the late 1960's, when Mickie Winborn became a member of the Board of Directors, The Women's Home was called "The Women's Christian Home." Still a relatively young agency, The Home lacked the comprehensive approach that defines it today. Its focus then was providing a safe place for women, especially battered women who had no other place to go, and providing vocational training.

"I saw the great need and problem of women who had just been released from jail," Mickie said. "At that time, women were released from jail with a cash allowance for about three days. When that money was gone, many of them had no place to go. The Home not only provided a home to them at this crisis time in their lives, but gave them emotional support. They were offered vocational training and help in getting work."

Mickie's friend Alliene Vale, then a Houston interior designer, also served on the board. "Many lives were saved and tragedies averted by The Home being kind to women and giving them an opportunity in life," Alliene observes. "They received hope instead of helplessness."

During the 1970's, Mickie recalls, The Home's budget was tight. Among her contributions was a weekly trip to the Farmer's Market on Airline Road in her large station wagon. By timing her visits, late in the day, Mickie was able to buy fresh produce for practically nothing. Returning with crates of fresh fruit and vegetables, Mickie helped residents unload and the work in the kitchen, preserving and preparing, would begin.

Now back at The Home as a member of The Partnership, Mickie notes that The Home is more professional and efficient in lifting women's hearts, souls, and bodies toward a fresh start, with the goal of transformation and self-sufficiency. "It is with joy," Mickie remarks, "that I serve with others of integrity and compassion."

Thank you Mickie, for your years of dedication to The Women's Home!



Mickie Winborn

Three hundred guests enjoyed a dazzling evening of fun and festivities on February 2 to support The Home. Chairs Gordon and Sylvia Quan and Premier Underwriters and Co-Chairs June and Virgil Waggoner welcomed guests with warmth and style. With extraordinary silent and live auction items, including wine lots and matching glasses decorated by artists from Archway Gallery, a California winery weekend, and dinners hosted by the Consuls General of Japan, Korea, and Mexico as well as the Honorary Consul General of Thailand, the evening raised almost \$300,000. The event recognized outstanding contributions to Houston by Honoree Eleanor Tinsley as well as five Houstonians who have opened doors for women in their respective careers: Lauren Andersen, Donna Cole, Minerva Perez, Monica Pope, and Martha Turner. Marvelous food and service by Jackson and Company and the stunning surroundings of The Corinthian rounded out the glittering evening.



Premier Underwriters and Honorary Chairs Virgil Waggoner with Gala Chairs Sylvia and Gordon Quan

The Scholars Society

A feature of The Home's annual gala since 2001, members of the Scholars Society donate \$5,000 to provide a resident with a four month scholarship in The Home's long-term rehabilitation program. Members of the Scholars Society are permanently recognized in a display at The Women's Home and are guests at an annual recognition event. New and renewing members of the Scholars Society for 2008 are Lynne and John Averett in memory of John B. and Herberta Averett, Raymond Betz, Brian Teichman in honor of Terri DiRaddo, and The Student Aid Foundation Enterprises in honor of James O'Brien.



Executive Director Paula Paust with Gala Honoree Eleanor Tinsley



Joanne King Herring, long-time supporter of The Home



Left to Right: Scholars Society Members John and Lynne Averett, auction winners Jack and Judi Holmes, and Brian Teichman, new Scholars Society Member and highest auction bidder of the evening.



Assistant Executive Director Debbie Drake, poised to present a rose to profiled woman Martha Turner.

Photographs by Pete Baatz

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http://www.thewomenshome.org/howToHelp/events_golf.php

The Carol Mann LPGA Players Invitational *FORE!* The Women's Home will include a tournament in team scramble format, a long drive clinic with National Long Drive Champion Brian Pavlet, an interactive clinic of golf basics for women, "Sharing the Gift of Golf," led by Rick Martino, Director of Instruction for the PGA of America, contests, awards, food, and fun.

Monday, April 14, 2008
Houston National Golf Club
www.houstonnationalgolf.com

Featuring (top row): Three World Golf Hall of Famers



Carol Mann



Donna Caponi



Betsy King



Angela Stanford
LPGA Player



Katie Futcher
LPGA Player



Kate Golden
LPGA Player



Amy Read
LPGA Player



Paula with Board Member Robbie Jones (center) and Tina Bomar of Boardwalk Pipeline Partners

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TEEING OFF
WITH YOU ON APRIL 14!



Special guest Brian Pavlet,
National Long Drive Champion.

THANK YOU TO OUR
GENEROUS UNDERWRITERS:

Lauren & David Demshur/ Christine & John Ogren

For more information please contact Marcia Tapp, 713-328-1975 or mtapp@thewomenshome.org

Auxiliary Holiday Coffee Celebrates 2007, Launches a New Era

Always a festive event, the 2007 Holiday Coffee marked an important milestone for The Women's Home Auxiliary, poised to become The Women's Home Partnership at the turn of 2008. The year 2007 was outstanding in every category for the Auxiliary, and members and their friends gathered on December 5 to celebrate their successes and recognize outgoing Auxiliary President Wynette Stuntz for her dedicated service.

Jeanie Kilroy's gracious home welcomed guests including Phyllis G., a graduate of The Women's Home, whose compelling story underscored the holiday theme of gratitude. Paula Paust gratefully received the Auxiliary's record-breaking \$165,000 contribution to The Home for its 2007 activities.



Hostess Jeanie Kilroy with Graduate Phyllis G.



Wow! It says HOW much? Auxiliary President Wynette Stuntz Presents Record-Setting Check to Board President Susan Walker-Spalding and Paula Paust

Photographs by Kathryn Urbank

Red Rose: A Life Member of The Women's Home Partnership

Members of The Partnership who make a lifetime commitment to The Partnership join at the \$1,000 Red Rose level and receive special

recognition at an annual event. This dedicated group also carries out an annual volunteer project to benefit The Home: last year, Life Members purchased computers for Residents to use for training and job search.

Please consider making a lifetime commitment to The Partnership. To become a Red Rose Member, contact Marcia Tapp at 713-328-1975 or mtapp@thewomenshome.org.

Graduate Focus

A New Family, A New Life

For many women who seek out The Women's Home, being homeless is more than lacking a place to call home. It also means having no family to lean on when the need for loving support is greatest, and that was Carol's situation upon entering the program. After unexpectedly losing her husband, a chronic alcoholic, Carol was alone, angry, and facing her own uphill battle with alcohol. Yet Carol feels that her husband's death provided the catalyst that brought her the courage to change to her life.

Carol arrived at the home with eighteen months of sobriety but struggling and unsure of what the future held. Through her therapy at The Home, Carol realized a fundamental element was missing from her life: "The therapist would ask me what I wanted to get out of therapy, but I didn't know what I wanted. I didn't think I had anything to say or that I had a family to say it to." Her counselor encouraged her to create her own support system to help with the healing process, and Carol began to build relationships with people she felt she could trust. With the support of her new-found family, Carol successfully completed The Home's eighteen-month program.

Today, Carol is self-sufficient, working as a housekeeper for a senior living high-rise. The Women's Home is



Carol C.

unique, she believes, because it offers more than any program of its kind in Houston "There is so much available at The Women's Home," says Carol, "that none of the women in the program can possibly take advantage of everything that is offered." Carol encourages residents of The Home to use the opportunities the program affords to the fullest!

Staying Connected

Each month, The Women's Home offers its alumnae a special evening event to keep in touch with The Home, our staff, graduates, and other women who have participated in our program. Marcia Tapp, Director of Volunteer Services and Community Outreach, welcomes community groups who are willing to host these events.

To volunteer, contact Marcia at mtapp@thewomenshome.org or 713-328-1975.

Thank You! Thank You!

Accumulated gifts November '07 – February '08

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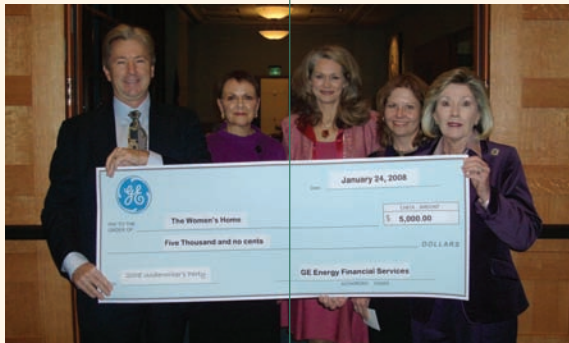
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A Special Announcement:

The Women's Home has been awarded
program funding by Harris County
Community Services Department.