

Re:Entry Summit Is a Success

On September 30, The Women's Home held our very first Re:Entry Summit, a daylong symposium dedicated to discussing the issues women face upon reentering society after incarceration. The event brought together 30 plus panelists and speakers from across the nation, all of whom have dedicated their work to researching the ways that the criminal justice system affects those involved in it.

The day opened with thanks to the Texas Bar Foundation for awarding the grant that made this summit possible. This was followed by a short video where one of The Home's graduates spoke about her experience with reentry. Next the morning keynote speakers and the authors of *A Country Called Prison*, Dr. Mary D. Looman and Dr. John D. Carl, discussed how their research began. Dr. Looman first came to Dr. Carl with her observations about how incarcerated people share a distinct language, "pro-social" behavior (ways of dressing/presenting yourself and interacting with others) and similar childhood narratives. Dr. Carl, a sociologist, noted that these commonalities are the things that a country's culture is also built on. The two then began researching how our current prison system alienates millions of citizens, effectively preventing them from ever fully reentering society.

The speakers went on to deliver the daunting statistic that the incarcerated population in the United States, at over 16 million, is just slightly smaller than that of the state of Florida. Furthermore, those incarcerated not only lack a voice in policymaking, but also carry lifelong disadvantages from the stigma of a criminal record and from poor access to resources, disadvantages that are passed to the next generation. The failure to provide specialized services and training creates an environment where inmates are left stagnate together until they are released. All leave prison with no resources, social skills, or pro-social behaviors to help them recover and avoid returning.

After this provocative opening, attendees left the main room to join the morning breakout sessions of their choice. The morning sessions included:

- A more in-depth look at Dr. Looman and Dr. Carl's 11 proposals to address the problems their opening speech laid out
- A panel featuring afternoon keynote speaker Dr. Andrea Leverentz and The Women's Home graduate Natasha Jones that examined the journey from prison to reentry from the lived perspective
- A behavioral health panel featuring Career and Recovery's Alternative Program Director Jeff Berry as well as The Women's Home Executive Director Paula Paust and The Women's Home graduate Tina Carr, who now works within the Harris County Jail providing mental health services

- A look at the impact of diversion courts and similar initiatives, presented by a panel including the Honorable Judge Denise Bradley, Director of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Teresa May, SAFE Program District Attorney Crystal Okorafor and The Women's Home graduate and STAR court client Anna Rabe, who now works as an account manager and recruiter for a staffing firm
- A panel focused on how activism and programs within the community can enact change and provide support, with input from Angela House Executive Director Maureen O'Connell, Angela House Associate Director Alycia Welch and Brigid's Hope's Program Director Regina Walker.

After lunch the afternoon keynote speakers, Senator John Whitmire and Dr. Andrea Leverentz were introduced. Senator Whitmire gave a speech addressing how, early on in his career, he recognized the need to provide treatment and support instead of punishment to individuals brought into the judicial system for nonviolent drug offenses. Senator Whitmire argued for alternatives, such as diversion courts, that allow those brought in on nonviolent charges like drug possession the opportunity to seek treatment rather than be locked up. He also advocated for a process that would allow for the eventual expungement of criminal records after former inmates have made changes to their lives and are again productive citizens.

Dr. Leverentz followed Senator Whitmire with a presentation elaborating on the research she discussed during her morning breakout session. Author of *The Ex-Prisoner's Dilemma*, she began researching the effects of incarceration upon women after discovering a lack of information and data focused on the gender-specific needs of women reentering society from prison. The summit broke out again for afternoon sessions covering:

- A discussion of employment barriers and difficulties in finding and maintaining work with Second Chance Chief Executive Officer Robert Coleman and Career and Recovery Services' Director of Veteran and Housing Services Barbara Irving
- An examination of the overlap between those facing chronic homelessness and those enduring repeat incarceration with Special Assistant to the Mayor for

Continued on page 3



Construction Update

The foundations and parking lots are poured; elevator shaft walls are complete; structural steel and fire pump tank are in place; framing began November 9th.

For more info and photos about the construction update, visit us online at www.thewomenshome.org





Fall newsletter 2015 – Your year-end gifts

This is such an exciting time for The Women’s Home. Our \$27 million dollar capital campaign is coming to a successful close. Construction has started on our second apartment community in Spring Branch- a place to call home for women and their children. It will offer 84 families a community that is affordable, safe and supportive.

And soon we expect to start construction on our WholeLife® Service Center. The Center will serve our families and our community in Spring Branch. Based on a community needs assessment, we have gathered strong partners to help us meet the needs that our neighbors identified. Spring Branch Community Health Center, a federally qualified healthcare center, will offer family medicine, pediatric services, well women care, and together we will offer mental health and substance-abuse

services. Our site will house their fourth clinic. The YMCA will offer after-school and summer school programming. Because a number of our children will have experienced homelessness, Deplchin Children’s Center will provide specialized mental health services for children and their families. Memorial Assistance Ministries will help us offer adult education and workforce development. We will be identifying many more partners. We want our families and community to thrive.

There is lots of excitement about our future programs but we know it is important that we do not forget to support our current programs. And that is why your gift is so important. There are many ways to give before the end of the year. I would encourage you, if you have not done so, to renew your leadership circle membership, and if

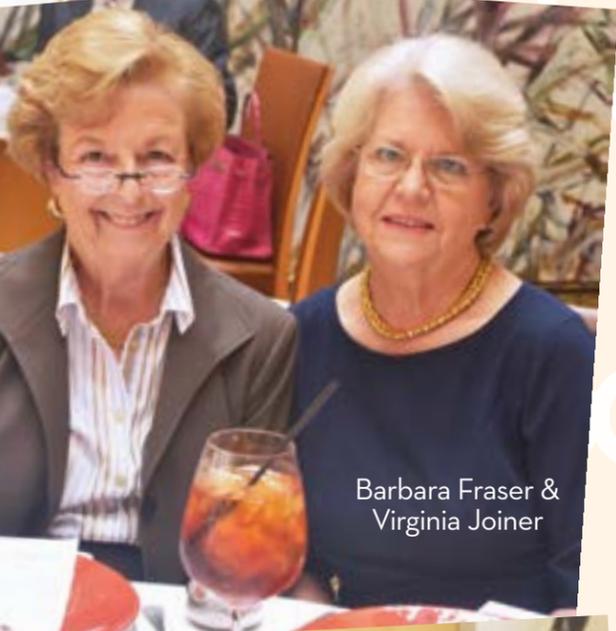
you are not a member, please consider joining our leadership family. And, of course, a year-end gift is a significant way to show your support.

Your contributions support our nationally recognized treatment program that helps a woman heal, and our transitional housing program that helps her move toward independence. These programs offer a pathway to recovery. Jane Cizik Garden Place, our first apartment community, offers a first real home to many.

At The Women’s Home, we envision a world in which every woman embraces her unique value and potential for a life filled with love, dignity and purpose. Help us fulfill this vision by giving generously this holiday season.



Gina Lee & Marie Bosarge



Barbara Fraser & Virginia Joiner



Varda Dror & Friend



Leadership Circle The Women’s Home “Conversations With...” Luncheon

Friday, October 16, 2015, nearly sixty guests gathered in the Remo Room at Tony’s for a private luncheon event in partnership with Morton’s Auction House and generously underwritten by Board Member and Leadership Circle Volunteer Laura McWilliams. The Women’s Home Conversations With...Luncheon featuring Elaine Turner of Elaine Turner Designs gave guests the opportunity to meet and hear the story of the stylish and engaging Elaine Turner but also learn more about The Home’s mission to serve women in crisis throughout the Houston area.

Elaine, who was also honored this past year by The Women’s Home at our annual WholeLife® luncheon for her dedication to giving back, spoke candidly and passionately about family, business and her relentless commitment to charity.

The Sugarland native and University of Texas Graduate spoke about meeting her husband and business partner Jim Turner in New York City, raising a daughter with autism, and how seeing her mother survive breast cancer were all significant turning points in both her professional and personal her life. In 2014, her stores hosted more than 300 charity events, raising more than \$100,000! Turner says fashion gave her a platform to be able to do this.

Elaine also shared her enthusiasm for The Women’s Home, even recently shooting part of her YouTube reality show (Elaine’s Big Life) with The Home. She spoke about how touched she was getting to know one of our clients and the makeover episode they were filming. This episode airs in November 2015!

Elaine Turner’s focus on philanthropy embodies the exemplary qualities we appreciate in all our friends and supporters. At the end of the luncheon Elaine pledged as our newest Leadership Circle member and urged all in the room to do the same!



Elaine Turner



Laura McWilliams & Friend

Re:Entry Summit Is a Success, continued

the Homeless Initiative Mandy Chapman-Semple and Coalition for the Homeless's Director of Programs Eva Thibaudeau

- The exchange between Honorable Judge Angela Ellis and Angela House's and Healthcare for the Homeless's Program Director Dr. Andrea Link on how human trafficking and prostitution can trap women in a revolving cycle of incarceration and reentry, and how judicial solutions like GIRL's Court, a diversion court designed to help minors leave human trafficking and expunge criminal records, and health-oriented solutions like The Healthy and Whole program can restore
- A panel including the Honorable Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore, No More Victims Founder Marilyn Gambrell and Big Brothers Big Sisters' Director of Houston Enrollment & Special Projects Jenifer Butler, who discussed the impact incarceration can have, during and after the prison term, on family members, children and caretakers left behind
- A presentation by St. Paul's United Methodist Church's Senior Associate Pastor Matt Russell on his research exploring how men and women differ in building narratives of recovery and in viewing their experiences with incarceration
- An overview by Attorney at Law and Program Director of Beacon Law at The Beacon Leslie Schweinle Ginzle on the importance of providing comprehensive legal services to women reentering society

The symposium concluded with a keynote speech from Texas House of Representatives Member Senfronia Thompson, who spoke about the recent victory she and her cohorts accomplished by striking down legislation that prevented those with drug-related felonies from accessing SNAP food benefits and being able to rent an apartment. When asked what policies she's most excited about working towards in the next session, Representative Thompson, who has served in office since 1972, observed how politics make for

strange bedfellows since she and her colleagues across the aisle will be doing work together to reduce prison terms.

The Re:Entry Summit, which drew over 180 attendees, ended with closing remarks from The Women's Home Development Director Marcia Tapp, who thanked the presenters and speakers and affirmed the important work they and those who attended the summit do every day. Marcia also brought to the stage The Women's Home Intern Haley Sparks, who worked for months alongside Marcia to help organize the summit and played an integral role in seeing the event to fruition.

Three graduates of our treatment and transitional housing program agreed to be panelists in the Re:Entry Summit for exactly these reasons. Tina Carr, Natasha Jones and Anna Rabe all know the value of second chances, and the Re:Entry Summit gave them the opportunity to talk about the impact that a new chance can have while putting a personal face on the issues of reentry. Though their stories are different, all three received their second chance when STAR Court, a diversion court program, offered them the opportunity to come to The Women's Home as a part of the judicial process. STAR Court offers those facing nonviolent drug convictions the opportunity to enter a treatment program and work to regain their sobriety and independence. Participants that meet STAR Court requirements by the end of their program then have their criminal records expunged, enabling them to move forward with a fresh start.

See their stories on line at www.thewomenshome.org



On Wednesday August 19, The Women's Home's 6th annual reNew & reDo Fashion Show took to the grand foyer of the Wortham in style, despite the stormy weather. Over the course of the evening, the nearly 500 guests shopped with enthusiasm, fueled by sweet and savory bites from Lady Lavender Confections and Hungry's Café and Bistro. Among the crowd were Mary Axelrad, Marie and Nancy Dang, Deborah Duncan, Susanne Glasscock, Yasmine Haddad, Janice Hall, Harriet Hart, Ajay Khurana and Julie Mahler.

Guests watched as volunteer models – including Nancy Almodovar, Nick Anderson, Katy Boatman, Cindy Castañeda, Will Chang, Donae Chromosta, Ianne Fastoff, Tracy Faulkner, Varda Dror Fields, Rita Garcia, Nina Gutierrez-Garcia, Sanaz Harirchian, Quang Henderson, Staci Henderson, Euan Holden, Kenya Hunt, Sippi Khurana, Peta-Gay Ledbetter, Laith Mahmood, Naureen Malik, Kristen McDaniel, Shawntell McWilliams, Nick Merchant, Michael Pearce, Bharat Pothuri and Rachel Suliburt – walked the runway in ensembles styled once again by Lenny Matuszewski and Tamara Bonar from the designer donations to The Cottage Shop.

All menswear was custom made by LUCHO, which donated a portion of the custom suits' sales to The Women's Home. After the show, the runway styles were wheeled onto the floor to join the rest of the designer clothing, shoes and accessories in the event's pop-up Cottage Shop Boutique, where the shopping excitement was in full swing as guests purchased top shelf brands like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Prada, Dior and many others at bargain prices.

The event featured a silent auction stocked with clothing, accessory, travel and event packages donated by a number of local and national businesses, as well as five dresses donated from the closets of this year's Fashion Icons Carrie Colbert, Joanne King Herring, Tatiana Masse, Theresa Roemer and Elaine Turner. These notable women were acknowledged with applause and their own walk on the runway during the show's opening. The event raised \$130,000 for The Women's Home.

Couldn't come to the big event? Head over to The Cottage Shop for a chance to check out our boutique and vintage sections to find treasures to make your own!



HIGHLIGHT ON THE

SECTION SPOTLIGHTS

VINTAGE DESIGN

If you've stopped by The Cottage Shop lately, you might have noticed one of the sections has turned back the clock. The Cottage Shop staff is working hard to curate our new vintage section, dedicated to giving old-school clothes with timeless style a place to shine. Whether you're looking for a piece in a style you regret letting go of during seasons past, or a retro twist to your contemporary wardrobe, or a way to make throwback Thursday come through live and in color, the vintage section is waiting for you to peruse.



DO YOU HAVE AN EYE FOR QUALITY VINTAGE FASHION OR DO YOU KNOW PLACES LOOKING TO DONATE VINTAGE CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES? Consider joining our vintage advisory group! We're looking for dedicated volunteers who love styles with history and the thrill of a treasure hunt to help us stock our vintage department.

ART CALL

Looking to retire those old prints, paintings, photos and sculptures? Donate them to The Cottage Shop and help us stock up for our big art sale in February 2016. For more information, contact Cottage Shop Manager Cheri Barton at cbarton@thewomenshome.org or 713.328.1957.

HOST A DRIVE

Fall's turn of the season is upon us at last, and as you take stock of your closet for the changing weather, many of your friends, neighbors, coworkers and peers are doing the same, finding items ready for retirement. If you have items in your closet available for a new home, consider gathering together with your faith community, neighbors, office or organization to host a drive benefiting The Cottage Shop. To host a drive, contact Cottage Shop Manager Cheri Barton at cbarton@thewomenshome.org or 713.328.1957.

BOUTIQUE

Have you checked out the boutique section of The Cottage Shop lately? We're pleased to say that our boutique is bigger and better than ever, with great deals on designer styles for men and women. As we draw nearer to the time of year when celebrations abound, check out our boutique for all your upscale ensembles. If you need that little black dress, or that holiday suit with just the right cut, our boutique section has you covered. The Cottage Shop boutique offerings ensure you can be the best dressed for every office party, social soiree and New Year's Ball Drop without ever having to repeat an outfit.



SHOP. Taste. EMPOWER.

Our very first Shop. Taste. Empower. was held on Sunday, May 3, at The Cottage Shop, drawing in 200 shoppers to sample delicious eats from Hungry's, BB's Roadhouse and Phoenicia's as they bid on amazing silent auction items and caught great deals on all merchandise at the shop.

The event was such a great hit, we're doing it again on Sunday, November 15, just in time for holiday shopping, and we need your help to make sure it will be even bigger and better than before! Francesca's Boutique has donated boxes of shoes, jewelry and accessories and Tres Chic Boutique, owned by mother-and-daughter team Susan and



Elizabeth Hancock, has generously donated over 100 pieces of stunning high fashion clothing, which we'll have on sale. This holiday edition of Shop. Taste. Empower. will have sweet bites and

warm drinks from Whole Foods, Jody Cakes, Paulie's and Greenway Coffee Company. DJ Gracie Chavez will be back again to mix tunes to help shoppers get in the spirit of the season. Fashion stylist

Dawn Bell and make-up artists and hair stylists Justin Hernandez and Lydia Lutz will also be on hand to offer style and beauty tips to interested attendees. Our media sponsor, Houstonia, will have special promotional goodies and copies of Houstonia magazine on offer that day. In addition to holiday styles for men and women in our vintage and evening sections, and our traditional "ugly holiday" sweaters, we'll have gift sections to help you find stocking stuffers, white elephant presents and gifts big and small for all the people in your life.



THE COTTAGE SHOP

ANTIQUES BY NANCY

Knowing the right refurbishing tricks can make your resale shopping trip a prospective treasure hunt. Antiques by Nancy owner Nancy Toy has built her profession on her keen eye for furnishings with potential and her artful hand at applying the right paint technique. This summer Nancy shared her skills and tools of the trade with 11 guests in The Cottage Shop community room on the morning of July 16. She has spent the last 30 years developing her Texas chic style, which is a local twist on the shabby chic mode, using colorful paint and layered finishing techniques to update old or inexpensive furniture while masking any imperfections.

Those 30 years of practice showed in the ease with which Nancy applied paint to the mirror frame she'd selected from The Cottage Shop for the class. She fielded questions and led the demonstration with good humor, announcing that she had "forgotten to blow her hair dry today" as she pulled out a blow dryer to help speed up the painting process for the class. The attendees were eager and astute, asking everything from her suggested brands of paint and sealer to what tools she used. Nancy, who is as thrifty and resourceful with her medium and tools as she is with the pieces she refinishes, suggested that refinishers check the sample paint section of the hardware store for the colors they wanted, rather than buying an entire pint or gallon for one piece of furniture. She also suggested spraying larger pieces rather than painting them with a brush, for both a smoother finish and faster painting.

Nancy's husband, Gary, has been her painting helper over the years, and she added that he is often the one who sprays the base coats on larger furniture.

She keeps her paint stored in plastic screw-top containers that once held cashews; should any grime or gunk get into her paints, she runs them through a

filter and into a new container rather than throw them away. As a health precaution, she uses only water-based paints and avoids paint stripper as much as possible, opting to sand

instead before priming the surface. Among the usual foam and bristle brushes available for hand painting, Nancy also has an antique shaving brush, picked up from a yard sale, that she uses for certain effects, and Q-tips are helpful for detailed work like adding gold highlights to the mirror frame. Nancy finished her demonstration with the simple, smart advice if a project doesn't turn out right: "If you don't like it, spray over it."

Nancy returned in October to demonstrate how to refinish an ill-matched frame to better suit the art it holds. She showed attendees how to choose colors and techniques to best update the style and feeling of the frame to complement the artwork inside. When the opportunity for questions arose at the end, several in the workshop asked when Nancy would be back, and we are happy to say that Nancy will return to do another class on Tuesday, November 17, at 11:30 am.

CALLING ALL UPCYCLERS...

Do you or someone you know have a special skill and a knack for showing people how to do it themselves? Maybe you're great at reupholstering worn furniture, or you've dyed and sewn your Cottage Shop finds into something new, or you can reimagine the paintings and prints you find embellished with your own flourishes, or you add custom touches to your linens with cross stitch, or you know how to string and wire wrap your own jewelry. If so, consider leading a workshop in The Cottage Shop community room and share your skill! For more information, contact Cheri Barton at cbarton@thewomenshome.org or 713.328.1957.



Announcing THE COTTAGE SHOP Community Room!

Looking for a place to hold your book club meetings? Need a spot for your knitting circle? If your small social group is looking for somewhere to gather, The Cottage Shop community room is the place for you! The Women's Home is excited to announce the opening of our Cottage Shop community room, a space that gives our patrons a new way to be a part of The Home.

The community room features a conference table that seats 12. It was decorated with the help of ExxonMobil volunteers, who repainted the walls, and Nancy Toy, who refurbished a mirror and credenza donated to the Shop. In addition to offering friends of The Home a location to reserve for their group meetings, the community room will serve as a space for us to offer small classes to our patrons.

Our first two classes were "up-cycling" classes held with Nancy Toy, who demonstrated the skills and techniques she used to refurbish the community room pieces.

Interested in reserving the Community Room? Contact Cheri Barton at cbarton@thewomenshome.org or 713.328.1957

MAKE AN EARLY 2016 RESOLUTION TO VOLUNTEER

The Cottage Shop is seeking weekly volunteers to help keep merchandise moving onto the shop floor. If you have an eye for quality and are looking for ways to give back, come volunteer at The Cottage Shop. We're looking for volunteers who can join our morning shifts from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and our afternoon shifts from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Whether you can volunteer every week or only a few times a month, the shop is looking for your help! Volunteers receive 25% off their purchase on the day they volunteer. For more information, contact Manager of Volunteer Services Chris Hammond at chammond@thewomenshome.org or 713.568.9919.

The Women's Home

Introducing Chris Hammond

The Women's Home is excited to introduce a new member of both our development and our programming staff. Chris Hammond recently joined us as our manager of Volunteer Services. Chris first heard of The Women's Home through his friend Stuart Nelson, vice president of the Institute for Spirituality and Health, who praised the work and mission of The Home. Chris had been teaching in a small town in Arkansas as a part of Teach For America. Hearing of the new manager position opening at The Home, he saw an opportunity for a change of field and scenery.

Chris began teaching when he realized his goal in life was to be of service and to improve the lives of those who were in need in his community. When he felt his passion for teaching begin to taper off, the opportunity to work in the nonprofit field, moreover in a position where he could use the same skills he had developed and loved as a teacher, felt like a natural transition. "Coming from teaching in the classroom, I wanted to still be able to interact with a lot of people," he says. "With this position, I'd be able to interact with people who were passionate about issues I cared about. I knew that managing and working with volunteers would be very fulfilling."

Chris was drawn to The Home not just for the opportunity to work with and develop our volunteer network, but also because of the way the WholeLife® program resonated with him. A graduate of Emory University, he earned his degree in Gender Studies, a path that raised his awareness of the inequities that women face in society. This perspective fueled his interest in joining The Women's Home staff, which will grant him the opportunity to help support our residents as they change their lives, as well as to provide like-minded volunteers more opportunities to get involved. Chris has already begun refining a consistent system for how The Women's Home interacts with volunteers, and he is expanding the network of people we reach out to. If you're interested in volunteering, or know someone with skills we need who might have an interest, contact Chris at chammond@thewomenshome.org or 713.568.9919.



HEATHER BARR

Heather Barr has been involved with The Women's Home since 2009, when she donated a pair of tennis shoes to a walking program for our residents. A certified dance, yoga and martial arts instructor, she gave a demonstration during one of our Friday Brown Bag sessions, and she eventually began teaching a weekly evening dance class for our treatment and transitional residents. Putting together the music and movement classes for residents gives Heather a change of pace from her regular desk job. Knowing the residents have fun and look forward to her classes has also helped her through her own hard times: "I know that the women have busy lives in the program, and they're tired at the end of the day, so I really appreciate when they come dance barefoot and let loose for a little while."

Maureen Cantu

Maureen Cantu has been volunteering in The Cottage Shop for a little over a year after being a loyal patron of the resale shop. As an English teacher, she appreciates how The Cottage Shop gives people the opportunity to purchase things they might not afford otherwise. She is also impressed by how those residents who train in the shop greet shoppers and remember regular visitors. About volunteering at the shop, Maureen says, "They made it easy for me... they're flexible and accepting of what I do have to give." Like Heather, Maureen finds volunteering at The Women's Home to be a welcome change of pace from her work. Interacting with The Cottage Shop staff means she is continually learning new things about fashion. Maureen has been a Brown Bag session speaker, too, giving a presentation about the positive impact that journaling had on the language skills and well-being of unaccompanied minors learning English; she then did vision boards with our residents. "I get more out of it than I give," she says. "I feel uplifted after being here, and volunteering in the shop is like opening a treasure box every day."



WEST U ROTARY CLUB

The West U Rotary Club has been volunteering with The Women's Home for over 10 years. They've held clothing drives, volunteered in The Cottage Shop, hosted an awards banquet for our residents, and furnished and decorated two of our apartments at Jane Cizik Garden Place, our supportive housing community in Spring Branch. The Rotary Club has also held interviewing skills workshops and mock interview sessions for our treatment and transitional residents, helping them with ways to present themselves professionally in their employment search. Several residents have even found work through the mock interviews with Rotary Club members. Members continue to volunteer with The Home "because of the immediate gratification that they get from having a positive impact on the women," a Rotary Club representative says. "As a group, we are happy to see the growth of The Women's Home and are committed to continued participation in whatever way we can best contribute."



Mary Gracely

Mary Gracely became involved with The Women's Home spiritual programs, The Courage to Search and The Search Continues, after doing an invocation at one of The Home's fundraising events. An interfaith minister, Mary has been volunteering with The Home for a little over eight months and enjoys being invested in the Houston community in a way that supports our residents' spiritual growth. She began volunteering at The Women's Home thinking she would be sharing knowledge with our residents, but discovered she learned just as much from them. "When I thought I knew it all, I learned more about my sisters," she says. "I expected to be at The Women's Home in service and gained so much from the experience."

Volunteer Community

Chad Alessi

Chad began volunteering with The Women's Home earlier this year after his coworker Lynda Hancock, one of our board members, invited him to several of our fundraisers last year. He teaches the class Computer Literacy 101 for our residents, covering everything from all the components on a desktop to how to write emails. Chad enjoys being able to help the residents learn and seeing the smiles on their faces when they succeed. "I think that people find their true meaning or value in life by helping others," he says. "By having the opportunity to volunteer at The Women's Home, I've had the privilege of helping others learn and improve themselves."



Bill & Peggy Bailey

Bill and Peggy Bailey have been volunteering at The Cottage Shop for 20 years - ever since Peggy saw a call in the paper for help the week after Bill retired. The Cottage Shop was a perfect fit for the pair, who sought a way to give back and stay involved in their community. Every Wednesday they're among a loyal group of long-term volunteers who help our shop staff process incoming merchandise, and they have no intention



of retiring from their service anytime soon. "It's fun every week," they say. "We're just family, you know... The name stands for itself: 'The Women's Home.' They're good for the women and good for us."

Joan Glover

Joan Glover has been volunteering with The Women's Home for nearly a year. She and her husband moved back to Houston in 2014, and she discovered The Home when she stopped by Shop. Taste. Empower. earlier this year. "I was impressed by the energy and overall commitment," she says. "The Women's Home strikes very close to my heart, not only because of the ladies involved, but also because of the excellent work that is done to intervene and provide alternatives. I continue to be impressed." She helps with the Computer Literacy 101 class, as well as with the residents' book club, where she discovered a new side to our residents. "The members of our book club were discussing which books to read," she says. "One participant suddenly said, 'What about "Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka?' I learned never, ever to underestimate the range, depth and abilities of the ladies at The Women's Home." Volunteering for Joan is a grounding exercise: "I get to meet very interesting people, each of whom has had many, many challenges. But they are truly determined to make changes and find a new path that will improve their lives and the lives of their families."



KATY BOATMAN

Katy Boatman got involved with The Women's Home after attending one of the first mixers our Young Professionals held. "I had tried several nonprofits over the years, but never really found a good fit," she says, wanting "an organization with a mission that spoke to me and one where I could really help. I was then invited to a happy hour by a woman I know who is involved with The Women's Home Young Professionals (WHYP). I really liked the mission of The Home, plus I liked that the WHYP was a relatively new organization. I felt like they were still looking for fresh ideas, which gives you an opportunity to sink your teeth in." Katy appreciates that our programs provide long-term services and support to our residents, fostering opportunities for them to grow and be involved in their community through joint volunteer events with our Young Professionals. "I like that the WHYP is not just about raising money," she adds. "We also have fun together and do a lot of outreach to get recognition for The Women's Home. For example, we called 'Lean In' a friendraiser, not a fundraiser. I also really like that we get to interact with the residents, like throwing them a Christmas party and volunteering alongside them."



Additional Opportunities for Volunteers...

While we have many amazing volunteers here at The Women's Home, we always have space for another pair of helping hands. We're seeking individuals, faith groups, organizations and corporations interested in lending a hand at The Home. If you're interested in volunteering with us or know someone who might be, here's a list of our current needs:

SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Historical Archives Committee
- Mail packaging (hand addressing, packaging letters, stamping)
- Hold a drive for pantry/personal items for residents

Special Events:

- Support Volunteers at Special Events

THE COTTAGE SHOP:

- Hold a drive for, or sort clothes at, The Cottage Shop
- Vintage Advisory Council

JANE CIZIK GARDEN PLACE:

Social:

- Put up seasonal decorations
- Host a party at Jane Cizik Garden Place:
- BBQ, games, dancing, music, etc.

Renovations:

- Painting doors (experienced painters only please)

MONTROSE CAMPUS:

Social:

- Put up seasonal decorations at the Residential Facility

Host a family picnic:

- Games, food, sports, etc., with host organization's families and kids in attendance

Renovations:

- Refurbish/Renovate a classroom
- Refurbish/Renovate the telephone room
- Organize the chapel at the Montrose Residential Campus
- Decorate waiting room and conference room upstairs at Life Learning Center
- Paint the three transitional homes (experienced painters only please)

Support Services:

- Film chores at the 310 Pacific facility for resident orientation

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the **women's HOME**

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forget
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WHOLELIFE® LUNCHEON

Late on the sunny morning of Friday, June 5, 280 guests gathered at the Houstonian Hotel for our 2015 WholeLife® Luncheon featuring author Carine McCandless. Emceed by Deborah Duncan, a member of The Women's Home Advisory Board and host of Great Day Houston on KHOU, the luncheon began with thanks to sponsors before the presentation of our 2015 Laura Sampson Community Award Honorees. Recognized for their philanthropic dedication to their communities, our 2015 honorees were Dr. Sippi Khurana, Elaine Turner, Alden Clark and the Reverend Michael Gott, and The Women's Energy Network. The Women's Home Executive Director Paula Paust then announced our 2015 WholeLife Award Winner: Bryson Blair. The WholeLife Award goes to a graduate of The Women's Home treatment and transitional housing program who has flourished in her life and recovery. Bryson, with her perseverance, bravery and honesty, embodies what it means to live a whole life.

Carine McCandless took the podium for the final portion of the

luncheon, telling the story of her brother, Chris McCandless (also known as Alexander Supertramp), who was first made famous by Jon Krakauer's book *Into the Wild*. Carine explained how the longer she spoke about her brother's story at engagements and schools, where her candid honesty with students regularly led one in the crowd to come privately to her for help, the more she felt compelled to come forth with the whole story. This led to the writing of her memoir, *The Wild Truth*, which details how a childhood marked by emotional and physical domestic violence deeply shaped both her and Chris's lives.

Carine explained that while her brother was drawn more and more to the wilderness for refuge from their family struggles, she found herself driven to the city where she became involved in relationships that mirrored the violence of their family home. As she described being faced with making a choice in these difficult situations, Carine invoked the image of two roads: one clear, straight and smooth, but somehow unsettling, and the other one winding and potholed, but with signs of promise for the journey

ahead. Carine committed to the harder, more rewarding path at each turn in her life and found success.

Carine's story shows the same determination and indomitable spirit she recognizes in her brother. Time and again she found the strength to leave toxic relationships and to make the commitment to go through school, run her own business and begin a family she never expected to have.

Guests of the luncheon each received a signed copy of Carine's memoir, *The Wild Truth*, and had the opportunity to speak with Carine and have their book personalized after the program. Guests also bid on silent auction items provided by presenting sponsor Morton Auctioneers & Appraisers, by 2015 honoree and bronze sponsor Elaine Turner and by the fashion boutique LUCHO. Attendees raised over \$85,000, which will go towards helping women like Bryson build whole lives.

Pictured Top: WholeLife® Award Winner Bryson Blair and ED Paula Paust, **Middle:** Luncheon Award Winners Sippi Khurana, Elaine Turner, Alden Clark, Michael Gott, Jindi Vincent (former President of The Women's Energy Network), **Bottom:** Author Carine McCandless

