

Fall Greetings

from our house to yours!



November 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM MAUREEN

Our long awaited move to the new Angela House has been such a blessing, but as we all know, blessings often provide challenges. The greatest challenge has been adjusting to a much more spacious home and all that entails. The expansion has allowed us to strengthen our Healthy & Whole collaborative with Healthcare for the Homeless Houston while providing much needed space for drama, financial literacy, job readiness, writing and literacy through photography classes. Our wonderful new home allows us to welcome more volunteers who enrich us in a variety of ways. The increased programming and living space includes increased utilities, which although expected, still stir a bit of sticker shock when it is time to pay the bills.

The ongoing saga of maintenance deferred continues to remind us that renovation does not end with the "certificate of completion" as we reclaim a sturdy, though aging edifice. On October 8, 2014, we finalized the "Contract for Deed and Repurchase Agreement" with the Archdiocese and began to make payments on our mortgage. Thanks to the very, very generous gift from Al & Dona Clay and a grant from the Archdiocese, we will have to repay about \$300,000 of the \$1.2 million renovation costs as we pay down the mortgage.

As Thanksgiving approaches we are so grateful. You, our faithful friends and supporters are the ones who made this move possible. For your continued support and care we say, Thank You!

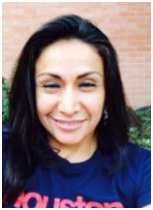
-Maureen O'Connell, OP, Executive Director



Healthy and Whole

Healthcare for the Homeless Houston's (HHH) Healthy and Whole had a busy fall. The women completed four weeks each of classes on mental health, women's health and medication management. These classes were enthusiastically taught by medical students from Baylor and UT and pharmacy students from U of H. New this fall was a class on dental health and a yoga class that the women have really been enjoying. The yoga and dental classes are both being taught by Schweitzer Fellows, all of whom are truly living out their mission of addressing the unmet health needs of vulnerable populations. The women all finished a 5K in October, posting really amazing times! We also had another successful Lunch with a Graduate where we honored recent graduate, April F. who inspired us all with her remarkable story. Photography with Houston Fotofest, cooking classes, wellness and Seeking Safety classes continue to round out Healthy and Whole programming, all helping the women achieve wellness in every area of their lives. And HHH continues to provide our women the very best medical and psychiatric care with regular and no-cost clinic visits. We look forward to a busy winter where we will start a new partnership with Bel Inizio, a walking and running program that helps women achieve self-confidence through exercise and nutrition.





An Attitude of Gratitude, by Christine

Today and each day I'm blessed to awaken to a day to be grateful for and continue in doing the right thing. I haven't always made the wise choices but, deciding to come to Angela House upon my release from incarceration was one of my best. I'm most grateful to my God who has never forsaken me and has continued to love me in the midst of my sin. Angela House isn't my 1st experience to transitional living but it is and has been by far the best. I am so touched by the warmth, care and concern that the staff gives so freely – so lovingly. They are here for you if you need help, understanding or just someone to talk to....and willing to go the extra step with you just because they believe in you. Many of us here have never had someone who believed in us... Thank you Sister, Tammie, Maria, Dr. Link, Teresa and Carole. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to better myself and a stepping stone to build a life on. I promise to give it my best and not give up on myself... God NEVER gave up on me! There is hope for many... you just gotta have faith, willingness, but most importantly, you gotta work for it. Nothing worth having in life is free.



Thanks to Trey Lowe, Memorial Drive United Methodist Scout and his troop of helpers, friends and family members, our latest Eagle Scout project has changed the exterior approach to Angela House. Trey was able to recycle bricks from the carport walls demolished during renovation. For his project he designed and executed a crushed stone path from the street to our front door. A very welcome addition to be sure.



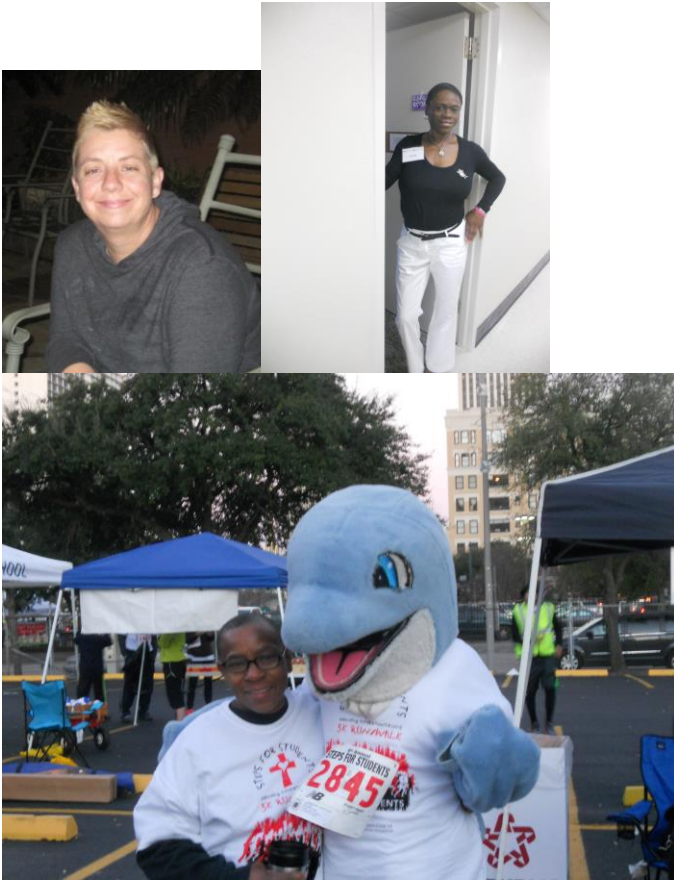
Church Women United

Members of the local chapter of the nation group Church Women United graced us with a visit on Friday, October 3rd. Our residents took small groups on tours of the house, and spoke with them about their experiences, struggles and their journey back to sobriety, employment and the road to a new life. After the tours we meet in the dining room for refreshments and of course Sr. Maureen's talk had everyone laughing. We are so thankful to our Church Women United friends for being such faithful supporters of Angela House over the years, and so glad we could share our new home with them.



Our new friend and supporter Kristi Rowland came out and taught a pottery class with the ladies of Angela House in October. Looking forward to the day when they will have jobs and live on their own, they each made a bowl for their future kitchens. Kristi is an accomplished potter and we are so grateful that she was willing to share her talents with us. If you have a talent you'd like to share, call us!

Our Recent Graduates!



We are so proud of Sarah, Carla and Angel who all recently moved to their own apartments! Sarah and Angel are working full time, and Carla is working toward her certification in Human Services Technology. It is always bittersweet for us to see our residents move out; to see them achieve such positive changes in their lives feels miraculous, but we will miss them and their courageous spirits. Achieving our mission “to successfully transition women into society after incarceration” feels so very good!

THANK YOU DOMINICAN FAMILY!

The Dominican Family is committed to promoting the principals of Saint Dominic through prayer, study, community and ministry. Their Study Action Committee on Poverty has “adopted” Angela House and have proposed a number of ideas, including a food drive and maintenance help with our facility that they would like to help us with on a consistent basis. This 160-strong group of men and women are putting their principles into action and we are so proud to have them working with us on our mission.

FROM THE BOARD On behalf of the Angela House Board of Directors, thank you for all of your support this year. We are so blessed to have such a strong community. Collectively every dollar donated, gift-in-kind donated and countless volunteer hours supports the success that is Angela House today. We celebrate all of this in every woman that graduates our program and successfully transitions into the community. You share in each of these achievements and we are grateful.

It is hard to believe that we are already celebrating a full year in our new home. A home made possible through your generosity and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The increased space has been critical to our programming for residents and graduates. Having the space to conduct many of the classes we could only dream of before and allowing our current residents and graduates to interact in a more consistent way has had a substantial impact. We host quarterly luncheons and we would love for you to join us on one of these special occasions.

I would like to convey the gratitude of the Angela House board to two of our members who retired from service this year, Judy Sere and Gretchen Umbeck. We are so appreciative of the time and talent that they brought to the board.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support and encourage your continued partnership with Angela House. If you have not had a chance, please stop by and see all the great things happening daily at Angela House. Our best wishes to you and your families this holiday season.

-Shelley Robson, Board President

Fight Like a Girl!

The Pleasant Hill Church in La Porte invited and sponsored our residents to attend their “Fight Like a Girl” conference. Events were held October 17 through 19 at the Onmi Hotel Westside, and featured speakers, round table discussions, praise and worship sessions, food, conversation and fun. We are so grateful to Pleasant Hill for offering our ladies this opportunity.



GO GREEN AT ANGELA HOUSE.ORG

Don't forget! While we will continue to mail our newsletter to our dedicated supporters and readers, we'd love to get our e-newsletter to supporters via e-mail. If you have not provided us with your e-mail address yet, it is not too late! We promise not to inundate you with ongoing communication and look forward to sharing our newsletter with you. Please help us save paper and send your e-mail address to us at info@angelahouse.org.



Angela House
6725 Reed Road
Houston, TX 77087
www.angelahouse.org



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The mission of
Angela House:

*“To successfully transition
women into
society after incarceration.”*

www.angelahouse.org

Nonprofit Org.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR WISH LIST

Gift Cards

- Kroger, Fiesta
- Walgreens or CVS
- Metro Bus Cards
- Movie Gift Cards

Miscellaneous

- Postage **STAMPS** (*Forever*)
- Women's cotton underwear
- Women's ankle socks
- Umbrellas
- 25-40 Gallon Trash Bags
- Bathroom Tissue
- Copy Paper
- Shop Vac vacuum cleaner
-

If anyone has a washing machine that needs a new home, we will welcome it with open arms!

THANK YOU!