

A Message from Maureen

As we continue to move toward the full light of summer, like all of creation, we here at Angela House are continuing to grow and flourish. For those of you who were able to join us for the Dedication and Blessing, the effect of the newly renovated space was tangible. The increased space provides us with an increase of both personal and public space which has had a remarkable effect on all of us. The women are so proud of their rooms and continue to celebrate the luxury of a room with bath.

Programmatically, our new space has allowed for the long awaited expansion of services with appropriate classroom, gathering and exercise space. Our collaboration with Healthcare for Homeless Houston continues to flourish as medical students, pharmacy students and psychiatry residents from Baylor and UT Houston medical schools provide health education classes to the Angela House women.

Our new home also provides a much more expansive setting to welcome the many volunteer groups who generously give of their time and talent to help organize and maintain our space.

It is hard to believe that the move actually happened but suffice it to say that we all recognize that it was only through the efforts of so very many people who never gave up on us and continued to support and encourage us. The Angela House Board of Directors, the staff and residents of Angela House are profoundly grateful for our many friends who assisted with in-kind donations, volunteer hours, and financial support to make this new home a reality.

All are Welcome

Angela House's partnership with the Baylor College of Medicine continues to grow! Last month, a fourth year medical student, Ben Ma, interned with us for four weeks. He participated in all of the classes and got to know the women, often sharing his own story of why working with Angela House women was so important to him. Ben shares, "Like many other students, I came into medical school with the hope of learning how to serve the vulnerable and advocate for the weak. While I gained the knowledge and clinical skills in the academic curriculum at school, I was really missing the sense of ownership and personal connection with the people whom I had hoped to serve. Spending time at Angela House not only helped me develop

real insights into the lives of people with such unique and diverse life stories, it also turned my passions into a reality.”

Ben is a triathlete and on his last day with us made a very moving presentation on how training for a triathlon is like training for life. At the end of his talk, he presented each of the women with their own moleskin notebook, just like the one he uses, to write down their thoughts, prayers and goals.

Ben also designed a month long special elective at Angela House with our own Dr. Andrea Link as the faculty advisor. The elective will be offered to senior medical students who are interested in care of the underserved. The students will volunteer at Angela House, do directed reading about the medical and psychosocial issues our women face, and learn from the best teachers we have - our wonderful women. Reflecting on his time with us Ben says “I had some of the most unique experiences in med school at Angela House, and the impact that the women have had on my growth and aspirations as a future physician will be lasting and help impact my future patients for years to come.” We wish “Dr. Ben” all the best as he starts his residency in Emergency Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in a few weeks!

What Our Women Are up To

Our women get so busy sometimes it's hard to keep track! From performances at the Alley Theater, to a Prayer Breakfast with In His Care Ministries, to a Table Talk with Forge for Families, to the Albert Schweitzer Celebration of Service Luncheon we have definitely been on the move.

As part of our exercise program, we participated in the Steps for Students 5K to support Catholic education, and the Houston Aids Walk among other things. We are especially proud of our current resident Sarah, who graduated from the Industrial Welding Academy at the end of March. She was chosen to speak at her graduation ceremony, all of us were beaming! We also got word that one of our former residents graduated at the end of April from the Houston Community College, Community Health Worker's Program, we are so proud of her accomplishments. On top of all of these outside activities, our women participate weekly in a variety of educational experiences including wellness, photography, creative writing class, healthy cooking, and nutrition. It is truly amazing to see our women open their hearts and minds to these new experiences, God is truly at work here at Angela House.

From the Board

On behalf of the Angela House Board of Directors, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of Angela House. We reached a major milestone moving into the wonderful new home that will allow us to better serve the women of Angela House. None of this could have been accomplished without your generous support.

If you had an opportunity to join us at the Blessing and Dedication, you heard from Gina and Sarah how Angela House has changed their lives. They provided beautiful testimonials of their journeys and the difference Angela House has made in their lives.

Looking forward, there are still many things to accomplish. With our increased space, we look to expand the programs not only for our current residents but also for our graduates. We hope you will join us on this journey and thank you again for all you have made possible.

Girl Scouts Continue to Serve

Girl Scout Juliette Troop 30851 selected Angela House as the site for their Silver Award Project. The project culminated in an afternoon tea in April with string concert by three of the scouts as we enjoyed the delicious tea they had prepared. As part of their Silver Award Project, they prepared frozen entrees, planted herbs to be used for our cooking classes, and succulents to brighten the courtyard. The girls also made a picnic bench, and created individual blankets and gift bags for each woman.