Angela House volunteers are truly special people who care deeply about our residents. They support us in every way imaginable. Our volunteers are a diverse population of students, non-profit partners, church groups, corporate partners, members of the Houston recovery community and school groups. Over the summer, the Angela House staff was overjoyed to hear from a number of our devoted individual and group volunteers who wanted to come back in person to connect with our residents after fifteen long months of Covid-19 caution.

Soon after the March 2020 shut down, several of our volunteers skillfully shifted to offer Zoom classes and enriching activities for Angela House residents, but as one of our most loyal volunteers, Maggie Corcoran, said, “Getting to know the residents in person is such a joy! Friendly hello’s, questions asked and answered, love and support freely exchanged - these are the makings of warm relationships. Volunteering at Angela House is the most rewarding activity of my week!”

The volunteers who asked to come back felt comfortable to return. According to long time-volunteer Karen Pepkin, “I chose to volunteer at Angela House because I believed in that mission and wanted to be a part of it. Unfortunately, Covid-19 prevented me from continuing, but I always intended to return when it was safe.”

Our residents missed the volunteers just as much as the volunteers missed our residents. Before the shut down, the women of Angela House looked forward to the groups who brought special meals, game nights and creative projects to do together. Most of all they missed meeting other people who care about them and want to contribute to their success.

“Without fail, each time we visit we leave inspired by the honesty, courage and commitment of the residents,” said Amanda Craig, Spiritual Formation Director at Mercy Street. “The women have inspired us with their resilience and hope and we treasure the time we have shared together.”

“It was such a privilege to be able to volunteer at Angela House this fall,” stated Stewart Heatwole, Theology Department Chair at St. Agnes Academy. “The connection between St. Agnes and Angela House is such a meaningful one because of the alignment of our missions: we both share the goal of offering a place of support for women so that they can become the truest and most vibrant version of themselves.”
In September we celebrated a milestone twenty years in the making. Angela House welcomed our 500th resident! For two decades, Angela House has provided life-saving support to marginalized and forgotten women returning to our community. As monumental as this milestone is, we find ourselves celebrating special moments every day.

In the last twelve months seventeen residents have graduated our program and moved to independent living. Seven of the current residents have found full-time employment in our community.

Each woman’s journey at Angela House is based on her individualized reentry plan with her case manager which includes life skills training, mental health and substance abuse counseling and job skills development. Yet beyond the expectations and resources, graduates tell us that Angela House offers something far more important: compassion, respect and lessons on self-worth. For women who feel broken or angry by a life of unaddressed addictive behavior and past trauma, changes may not happen overnight, but residents with a mindset for change do learn new skills that empower them to overcome obstacles and create a stable life for themselves and their families.

The women at Angela House prove time and again that the power of second chances cannot be destroyed by shame, addiction, trauma or incarceration. In the end there is always HOPE. When we stop the cycle of addiction and incarceration, we can realize generational change. We look forward to seeing what the next twenty years holds for Angela House. One thing is certain: we will continue to provide sanctuary for women rebuilding their lives and reimagining their futures.
Greetings Friends –

The mission of Angela House is to successfully transition women into society after incarceration.

That is the aim of Angela House, every day and with every woman. We strive to prepare women to build a productive life and to reclaim the life that they deserve to live. How do we know if that goal is being met, how do we measure success? Watching the women’s journeys and seeing the glow of pride on their faces as they make their way is certainly gratifying, but it’s the recidivism rate of Angela House residents that tells a compelling story. Put simply, recidivism refers to a person’s relapse into criminal behavior fall too often finding themselves back in prison. Notably, only 13% of Angela House graduates have returned to incarceration which is a rate significantly lower than both the state (46%) and national (68%) averages.

Upon being released from prison, women immediately face structural barriers that prevent their successful reentry into society: where to live, how to find a job, how to access physical and mental health care, and how to stay sober. It should come as no surprise that given these obstacles many women struggle and ultimately fail. But the women who come to Angela House are given a chance to overcome those challenges by securing a safe place to live, a community of loving support, extensive individual and group counseling, focused attention on addiction recovery, efforts towards job readiness and a nurturing of their own personal growth. For the last twenty years Angela House has made these resources available at absolutely no cost to the residents or to the taxpayers of Texas. Indeed, every dollar spent at Angela House is through the generosity of individual donors and foundations.

The women of Angela House are learning to live their best lives. This means a better, brighter future for them but also for the many others they are connected to…. their spouses, parents, siblings, children and friends. It is our honor to be a part of their success story.

My best,
Maureen Graf

Save the Date!

Please be our guest at our annual Opening Doors Luncheon
Benefitting Angela House
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

New Location
The Junior League
1811 Briar Oaks Lane
Houston, Texas 77027
We look forward to seeing you!

For more information email
mhilltinger@angelahouse.org
The residents of Angela House spent the summer preparing for a 5K race thanks to trainers from Bel Inizio (Italian for beautiful beginning), a Houston non-profit that has worked with women from many partner agencies to develop self-confidence and life skills through fitness and nutrition. The ultimate goal is to train participants to finish a 5K (three mile) course which helps prepare them for the ultimate race—the race for a better life.

Bel Inizio Founder and Executive Director, Theresa Strong, and Program Manager, Mika Foster, along with their volunteers worked out with Angela House residents two mornings each week adding distance to their walk or run or a more challenging exercise class each time.

According to Ms. Strong, “When Bel Inizio began training with the women of Angela House, we felt a spirit which was strong, willing and powerful. The team bonded and grew eventually naming themselves the “Savage Queens.”

Angela House resident, Joey B., had a previous spinal injury and doubted she was capable of walking 3 miles.

“Mika, from Bel Inizio was amazing, she was a motivator, then a congratulator. She always made me feel I was doing such a good job that I couldn’t wait to get to the finish line because she was there cheering for me. I was able to feel my body strengthen and it feels really good to do that after years of abuse. And I am super proud of myself.”

On race day, September 3rd at the Purple Monkey 5K in Alvin EVERY team member finished the 5K, faster than ever in training!

“When the day of the race it felt great to be a part of something, to give back since the race was for a charitable cause,” said Angela House resident, Jessica T. “I love to go out with Angela House and represent. I like to show everybody that we are growing every day.”
Jessica T.
It has been 7 years since I have been employed. Now, I have a full-time job that I love. I work as a server at Katz’s Deli in Montrose.

There was a time in my life that I thought I wouldn’t be able to get a job and become self-sufficient. Through hard work at Angela House, I have learned that balancing recovery, work and self care are key to a successful future. Today I am truly grateful for the changes in my life.

Joey B.
I am so blessed to be here because not only has Angela House helped me learn how to live my life in recovery, but also, how to move toward my goals and dreams while staying sober. I have not been employed in over 13 years and didn’t have the confidence to even go on an interview. I am currently working at MOD Pizza. Thank you so much to everyone at Angela House, staff, residents, and supporters, you are making my dreams come true.

Nicole W.
Since living here at Angela House, I have gotten a job at Katz’s Deli and enrolled in the welding program at HCC. I could not have done any of this without the help from Angela House staff. Angela House has helped me gain confidence and know my self worth. Each day is a new opportunity and I strive to make it count.

Joanna K.
Angela House has given me every tool needed for success. After taking an eight week culinary course through Brazen Table, I was able to get a job at A 2nd Cup as a prep cook. I also have a part-time job as an author’s assistant.

Danielle R.
Angela House has helped me to come out of my shell. We have a strong sisterhood in the house. I participate in a program that offers free tattoo removal to increase our employment opportunities. I have been working at MOD Pizza for the last few months.
A LEGACY OF GIVING

What is your Legacy?

Angela House established a society to recognize those who have included Angela House in their estate plans.

Through these gifts, you ensure the future of Angela House and help continue the legacy of successfully transitioning women into society after incarceration.

For more information, contact Kristin Guiney, Executive Director at 281.445.9696 or kguiney@angelahouse.org