

July 2009

Summer



Carroll Street

By Susan Sprague Yeske

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is the agency in the City of Trenton that serves the truly needy men and women who have no place to turn for shelter, food, and clothing. The Mission provides a safe, clean, warm refuge for the homeless, the hungry, the transient, the addicted. The Mission provides services and counseling to encourage individuals to reach their greatest potential. The Mission creates an environment where one can live with dignity, build self-esteem, experience love, responsibility and hope.

Services include:

Vince's Place: Licensed by the State of NJ, Department of Human Services, as a Residential Addictions Treatment Facility (75 beds).

Outpatient Program: Substance abuse care for men and women providing counseling sessions, group counseling sessions, and addiction education. Referral for medical, behavioral health care, and other services as appropriate.

Robinson Program: Licensed by the State of NJ, Department of Community Affairs, Class C Rooming & Boarding House (50 beds).

Weekend Soup Kitchen

Emergency clothing and furniture

Emergency Shelter: Shelter for single men and women. Licensed by the State of NJ, Department of Community Affairs.

TEACH Program: Individuals are provided training in GED preparation, basic literacy, reading/writing skills, job seeking skills and computer and word processing skills.

Industrial Salvage: Donated materials are collected by route trucks and processed and sold through the Carroll Street Store and warehouse. The Mission depends on Industrial Salvage for 40% of its operating budget.

Rescue Mission of Trenton
98 Carroll St., P.O. Box 790
Trenton, NJ 08605-0790
Main 609-695-1436
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www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is hard to miss. It's a sprawling facility that occupies most of a city block, framed by Carroll, Perry and Ewing streets.

South on Carroll Street, in a block of town homes, is number 12, a much smaller building that stands out only because of its cheerful renovations.

But for the Mission, the James N. Brimmer House at 12 Carroll Street represents much more than a nice home on a quiet part of the street. Named for the Mission's former longtime Executive Director, it is the first permanent housing for former clients and reflects a shift in the relationship between the person and the Rescue Mission.

At the Brimmer House, former residents have a place to live while they work at jobs or go to school. Living there comes with the safety net of being overseen by the Rescue Mission, where as former residents they lived for months and made strides to overcome substance abuse and homelessness.

Purchased with money from the City of Trenton's Regional Contribution Agreement funds and the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency Special Needs Housing Trust Fund, the Brimmer House is home to five tenants. For the five men moving on with their lives, it is home.

"These are not residents of the Mission," explains Barrett Young, Manager of Life Skills & Operations for the Mission, who oversees the Brimmer House with Sheila Scott, Manager of Social Services. "This house has no affiliation with the programs other than that the Mission owns it."

At the Mission, residents receive three meals a day and laundry service. At the Brimmer House, they have to cook their own meals, take care of their clothing and rooms, and pay rent. "Here, they have to do everything," Young said, but, "they like the comfort of knowing the Mission is still there."

The selection process is rigorous, he said, for the right to share the comfortable furnished kitchen, living room and bathrooms and to have a bedroom that each man makes his own. The Brimmer House opened to its first residents in March, and everything has gone well.

"The guys love it," Young said. Living there, they have a sense of camaraderie and pride.

"You look out for yourself here," said resident James Neary, who recently graduated from the culinary program at Mercer County Community College and was waiting to hear about a job.



FOCUS ON

...Patricia Kidd

By Susan Sprague Yeske

Patricia Kidd knows how to find out what consumers want, a skill that has proved valuable during her tenure on the Rescue Mission Board of Directors.

Impressed by Mission operations during her first tour of the facilities nearly a dozen years ago, she was asked to put her marketing skills to work to determine what changes would draw more customers to the Mission store.

Employed by Biovid Corp. of Princeton as a strategic researcher for pharmaceutical companies, Pat knows how to collect data. For the Mission, she put together a questionnaire for customers and with help from other volunteers, "spent a day at the Mission training residents on how to administer the survey." After the information was compiled and sorted, she made a report to the board.

In addition to updating the store, which receives donations from the public and is a valuable source of income for the Mission as well as providing employment for its residents, the board members asked Pat to join them. "Once I got on the board we came up with a strategy for communicating that has successfully elevated the profile of the Rescue Mission," she said, which is vital during these trying fiscal times.

She enjoys her time on the board and appreciates the work

that is necessary to keep the Mission running. "I think it's a great place and is extremely well-run," she said. Chief Executive Officer Mary Gay Abbott-Young, she said, "is a motivating visionary."

"So much of what the Mission does is geared toward being self-supporting," she said. That and its reputation for being well managed are helping it to weather the current recession. "It's important for people to know the money they give goes far." She also has praise for the hard work of her fellow board members. "Ours is a very active board. We don't waste time," she said.

Pat grew up in Mercer County, where her father, Steve Kidd, was in the administration at Princeton University, and as a sideline drew cartoons for the Princeton Packet. Currently a resident of Pennington, she serves as an elder at Pennington Presbyterian Church. She loves to travel and several years ago enjoyed a month-long adventure in South America. For fun, "I really enjoy anything sporty," including tennis, hiking, running and yoga.



Bonnie Baker appointed President of the Board of Directors

Effective January 1, 2009, Bonnie Baker assumed the reins of President of the Mission Board of Directors, succeeding Robert Lewis, Ph.D., who served as President for the past three years. Bonnie, a Princeton resident, is an extremely familiar name to anyone in our area who has been involved in healthcare over the past fifteen years.

"The combination of Bonnie's extensive background in the provision of healthcare services and her diverse experience in fundraising will be invaluable assets to the Mission as we grapple with the "perfect storm" of increasing demand for our services and reductions in resources in various areas. The silent auction at our recent miniature golf event benefited greatly from Bonnie's hands-on fundraising talents," indicated Mary Gay Abbott-Young.



President Bonnie Baker with Director Pascal Seradarian, President of Hutchinson who made a contribution of \$25,000 to this year's golf tournament

12 Carroll Street

(Continued from page 1)

Homeless, James came to the Rescue Mission 15 months earlier through our shelter with little more than the clothes on his back. He came to the Mission wanting help. "At 46, I'm too old for that life," he said.

The Brimmer House is perfect for him, he said. As a cook, he appreciates the spacious kitchen where he likes to prepare seafood. It's also his chance to move toward independent living. Becoming independent is a gradual process, he said, which comes over time and by following the rules. "As long as you do the right thing, the right thing happens," he said.

The Brimmer house was an idea whose time had come, said Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO for the Mission. "There was a lot of effort from federal to local government to be more aggressive in assisting clients in finding permanent housing," she said. Initially, Mission officials discussed creating a unit for 15 to 20 residents. The decision was made to try something smaller first, to see how it would work.



James Neary (center) displaying his Culinary Certificate and Serv-Safe Certification with Sheila Scott, Manager of Social Services and Barrett Young, Manager of Life Skills & Operations

Hutchinson Industries, a major supporter of the Mission, made the project possible by agreeing to underwrite an exploratory study of the project. "This meant no financial risk for the Mission," Mary Gay said. "We're very grateful to Hutchinson Industries, the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Management Finance Agency, the City of Trenton, the neighborhood and the Department of Community Affairs, who have worked with us to embrace the notion that there are individuals who can work hard to rebuild their lives and have a place to live where they can work to improve their living quality," she said.

Studies have proven that housing is "an absolute necessity" for those struggling with substance abuse, she said. "There is considerable research that, once housed, homeless people do very well."

"This is clearly the next step in the continuum of progress for them," she said. Hopefully, the Brimmer House is just the first effort to create permanent housing for residents who leave the Rescue Mission. "We would very much like to see additional quality housing made available," said the CEO.

THE MISSION CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR SUPPORT

If you did not respond to our annual appeal please do so at this time.

We cannot serve those most in need in our community without your continued support.

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please send check and coupon to: **Rescue Mission of Trenton**, P.O. Box 790, Trenton, NJ 08605-0790

Rodney Hargis Continues to Shine

Rodney Hargis stayed at the Rescue Mission for about two years. Upon leaving, Rodney enrolled at Mercer County College. We previously reported that he was one of three applicants selected from approximately 1,000 applicants for the prestigious \$5,000 national scholarship and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honor Society for Community Colleges.

Recently Rodney was selected to be the commencement speaker for his graduating class at Mercer County Community College. The Times reported in a feature story on May 22nd that "Rodney Hargis, of Hamilton, started at Mercer in January 2007, continuing the college education that he began in 1990. He graduated with highest honors yesterday, having struggled to leave behind years of addiction, and other personal issues that landed him at the Rescue Mission of Trenton."

The full text of Rodney's speech can be found on our website. Here's what Rodney said about his time at the Mission: "By the time I arrived in this area in 2003, my life had been reduced to nothing but the clothes on my back and a beat-up guitar. Worn down from a life of addiction, I came to Trenton seeking a new life. I found myself in the Rescue Mission of Trenton, where I stayed for 2 years, learning many things during that time, but perhaps the most profound lesson I learned was that the only difference between dreams and reality is prayer and effort."

Rodney closed his speech by quoting the author Harper Lee, who said, "Real courage is when you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through NO MATTER WHAT."

On behalf of the entire Mission family, we congratulate Rodney for demonstrating real courage.

9 Ways to Support the Charitable Work of The Rescue Mission of Trenton

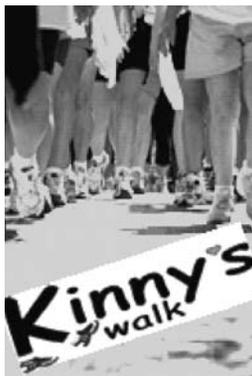
- 1** Provide a good job to a Mission resident, call Doug Liebau, Director of Entrepreneurial & Training at 609-396-2458 ext. 132 concerning job opportunities.
- 2** Donate wood furniture, clothing, or bric-a-brac (all donations are tax deductible). Call 800-528-8825 to arrange an at-home pickup or learn where our drop-off boxes are located.
- 3** Make a financial contribution either directly to the Mission or by contributing to the United Way: New Jersey Charitable Employee Campaign, #6625, Northern NJ Combined Federal Campaign, #6039.
- 4** Invite a Mission representative to speak at your club, organization, business or place of worship.
- 5** Make a memorial contribution in honor of a loved one or friend. Donate appreciated securities, or consider including the Mission in your will.
- 6** Shop at the Mission Store, Trenton's family department store, located at 98 Carroll Street, Trenton (across from The Times).
- 7** Volunteer your services for tutoring residents enrolled in our TEACH Program.
- 8** Organize a clothing drive at your company, school, club, business or place of worship.
- 9** Sell your unwanted treasures on eBay through e+MissionAuction. Lowest fees around – no sale no fee. Drop off any item at our Trenton store. Lots of free, on-site parking or call us for pick-up of items valued at \$250+. If an item doesn't sell you have the option of donating the item to the Mission and receiving a tax deduction.

609-695-1436 ext. 122

www.eplusmissionauction.org

Mon. thru Sat. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Great weather, good burgers, and lots of entertainment was plentiful for all the participants of this year's Kinny's Walk, which was held at Mercy Community Park on June 6th



Through the generosity of TYCO International, the Rescue Mission was able to purchase a large quantity of supplies for daily use in our Emergency Shelter



A constant support of the Rescue Mission of Trenton, a special Thank You to Mercer Street Friends for their continued support of our mutual services to the community.

DCA Commissioner Visits the Mission



Left to Right: President Bonnie Baker, Director Donald Waters, Commissioner Joseph Doria, Barrett Young, Manager Life Skills & Operations, Dennis Walker, Tenant, Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO inside 1st floor unit.

We are extremely proud that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Joseph Doria visited the Mission on June 11th.

DCA offers a wide range of programs and services that respond to issues of public concern including fire and building safety, housing production, community planning and development, and local government management and finance.

Prior to being appointed by Governor Corzine, Commissioner Doria served as he Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, State Senator for the 31st Legislative District, and a former Mayor of Bayonne, New Jersey, a position he held from 1998 to 2007.

DCA has provided funding to the Mission through its Shelter Support Program for the Supportive Housing Program renovations on the fourth floor and through its SRAP (State Rental Assistance Program) for residents in our new Permanent Housing Unit at 12 Carroll Street.

Commissioner Doria spent almost two hours at the Mission. The bulk of his time was spent talking to Mission residents about their pre-Mission experiences, their time at the Mission and the various barriers that they have experienced as they attempt to rebuild their lives. The Commissioner ended his visit by touring Brimmer House, the Mission's new permanent housing facility (see cover story).



Commissioner Joseph Doria (center) with residents Dennis Walker and James Neary

E-Mission Messages are Coming!

Beginning in September 2009, the Mission will have a new high-tech means of communicating with our many friends and supporters. If we have your e-mail address we will offer you the opportunity to receive a monthly e-blast from us. Mission Messages will provide timely tidbits about the Mission's programs and people and up-to-date information on upcoming activities and events at the Mission.

"In these extraordinarily difficult times it is extremely important that we do everything within our power to communicate with supporters. It is incumbent on us to convey to friends and supporters the urgency of the situation our clients face and the vital support role that the Mission plays in their lives. As we have indicated repeatedly over the years, the Mission would be unable to rebuild lives were not

for the support of the community at-large. We count on your financial contributions, donations of goods, volunteer support and patronage of our Carroll Street and on-line stores," indicates Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO.

According to Bonnie Baker, President of the Board of Directors, "Not only will e-Mission Message increase our ability to rapidly communicate, it will also reduce our cost of communicating which is extremely important in these very difficult economic times."

If you are not sure whether we have your current e-mail address and would like to receive e-Mission Messages please send your e-mail address to Mar@rescuemissionoftrenton.org. You will begin receiving our e-newsletter on a periodic basis in addition to our mailed newsletter.

Did You Know... *Did You Know ...*

- ✓ We would like to welcome several new employees to the Rescue Mission: Quiana Dawson, Administrative Clerk; Sylvia Hardee, Jose Espinoza, and Shana Stephens, Emergency Services Associates; Pedro Guzmann-Martinez and Kwame Picau, drivers.
- ✓ Pennington-Ewing Athletic Club recently donated towels to the Rescue Mission for use in the emergency shelter.
- ✓ Wayne Meisel, President of The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, as a Harvard Scholar, walked from Maine to Washington in an effort to champion student and campus involvement in community service. On Tuesday, May 5th, Wayne Meisel (pictured above with Mary Chamberlain) traveled from Princeton, New Jersey to Westminster, New Jersey on foot to continue his emphasis on campus community involvement. On his arrival at the Rescue Mission, he was greeted by Mary Chamberlain, Program & Grants Manager for the Mission who provided him and his son, Willie, with a personal guided tour of the Rescue Mission of Trenton.
- ✓ Aztec Software, Inc., has supported the Mission in our recent upgrades of our TEACH Center computer systems by donating software licenses. This enabled us to allow multiple students to access GED/Life Essentials Skills, Work Skills, and Occupational Foundation programs.
- ✓ Our volunteer program welcomes all churches, synagogues, civic associations, corporations, and schools who are interested in volunteering their time at the Mission. All interested parties should contact Maryann Rexrode at 609-695-1436 ext. 102 to reserve their dates. Group volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Friday every week.



The Rescue Mission of Trenton is not affiliated with any other organization in the U.S. listed as Rescue Mission. It is a private non-profit organization.

RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON

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TRENTON NJ 08605-0790

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Working Together To Rebuild Lives