



Harbor Lights

A Safe Haven for Youth

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2012

Shelter and Transitional Living Program Story

John, a white, 16-year-old boy, had a troubled and challenging life. John's father died when he was just 12 years old and, due to his serious drug addiction, John had no contact with his birth mother. So, he was shuffled around from family member to family member for years when he was younger, suffering from frequent abuse, neglect and abandonment. Because of the limited supervision he received, he found himself in and out of trouble. Committing petty theft and experimenting with drugs and alcohol caused him to be in and out of the Juvenile Detention Center and eventually placed in a program for troubled boys. Upon completion of that program, John found that he had nowhere to go, nowhere to sleep and no way to get food.

So, he came to Harbor House (the Shelter) for emergency services. John was shy and very reserved at first and didn't easily make friends. He was cautious with the information he shared with his counselor. His counselor worked at John's pace and slowly John opened up about the abuse and neglect he suffered. John shared that he aspired to be "different, good, successful and happy."

While John was living at Harbor House the staff was able to get him enrolled back into school. This was a first step toward his future. Just after getting enrolled, it was clear to the staff that John would not be going home with anyone, so he moved to the SHORE House to receive long-term services.

Through a supportive and caring environment, John worked diligently on his class work over the first marking period and to his surprise he made high honor roll. For the first time, he realized success and began to understand what it meant. He also began a summer job at a local fast food restaurant and opened a savings account to start saving for his future. As John's confidence and self-esteem soared, he began to make friends in the house and slowly became more outgoing.

John came home one day and stated that he would like to join the wrestling team. With no prior experience, he

gave 100% and never missed a practice. Not winning any matches initially, he persevered. By the end of the year, he was winning matches, gained respect from teammates and coaches, lettered in wrestling, and received the President's academic award for making high honor roll for four making periods.



Returning to say hello, John reported that he is now in college, has a car and job, and plans for his career. He casually told his counselor that if it weren't for Ocean's Harbor House, he truly believes he would be in jail or dead.

Outreach Story

Emily met us hanging out, just passing time at the Ocean County Library, one of the main places the Street Works Outreach team goes to meet young people in need. Over the next 3 months, we began to see her around more and more. After getting to know her, she disclosed that her mother had passed away recently, leaving her and her sister with their father. Their father, who was left to raise a 14-year-old and an 8-year-old, was tormented by the loss, turned to alcohol and became distant, angry, hurtful and unable to cope. Emily was angry, scared and confused, but still, so full of life and energy. She finally decided she wanted to attend the Young Women's group that the agency held.

She attended the support group regularly for 4 years and became very connected to Ocean's Harbor House. She shared her grief at the loss of her mother, the anger at her father for not knowing how to raise two girls on his own, her frustrations and accomplishments at school, the good and the bad, until we watched her graduate. We were the ear to listen, and so often the shoulder she needed to cry on. There were times that she asked us to talk to her father and help them communicate and there were times when she would lose touch with us. Most of all we worked with her and taught her how to better communicate her

Ocean's Harbor House is Proudly Affiliated with the following:



thoughts and feelings, how to stand up for herself, and how to work past the pain, grief and loss and to focus on her future.

Then came the day she left us, deciding that living in town was too painful. Young and in love with the wrong person, she was gone. Just simply gone. She went halfway across the country where she lost sight of her family, friends and us. We understood she wanted to go, to be free and independent at age 18, but we knew she wasn't ready. She finally contacted us, and kept contacting us while she was away - we told her we would always be there for her.

Six months later, in she walked, pale and skinny, with her beautiful eyes to the ground. Ashamed for leaving and for what she had done while she was gone, the staff immediately greeted her with a huge sigh of relief and the biggest hugs in the world.

Once again, she would be safe, drug free, and with people who would be able to help her move past the pain and the losses, and move forward in life.



2011 Program Highlights

In 2012, so far we have had 7 young people graduate from the Transitional Living Program, 5 went to college, 1 went to a vocational school and another is working. Two more young people graduated from high school while staying at the Emergency Youth Shelter.

Shelter

127 Young People Housed
 Average Age = 16 years
 1717 - # of Service Days
 68% of young people reunified with families
 89% with positive placements

Outreach

8,146 - # of young people reached
 638 - # of additional young people reached through schools
 34,982 - # of issues discussed with young people
 343 - # of support / education groups provided

TLP

36 Young People Housed
 Average Age = 17.81 years
 3355 - # of Service Days
 81% of young people with permanent placement

Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)

337 - # of Family Sessions
 59 - # of Individual Sessions
 29 - # of Sibling / Parent Sessions

Young Supporters of Ocean's Harbor House

It is a pleasure to see that our young people are really taking action to help their peers! In addition to starting an entirely new group, called the Kids Are Reaching Everyone (K.A.R.E.), the **Lake Riviera Middle School** in Brick raised more than \$500 to help our young people by selling bracelets. Also, the **Mater Dei Prep School** in Middletown raised more than \$600 with their dress down day. But the amazing work continued with Mrs. Gentleman's class at **Stafford Intermediate School**, where each year they sell trinkets and other items at the school to raise funds on behalf of Ocean's Harbor House. Last, but certainly not least, the **Toms River Little League** teams filled tons of empty water bottles and raised more than \$1,095 on behalf of their peers. Here's to the young people throughout Ocean County! Great work!

“We must remember that one determined person can make a significant difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history.”
 - Sonia Johnson

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sid Colvin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We've just completed the 16th year of our annual 400 mile bicycle ride. We have four people who have done the ride each one of those years, two who have been involved for 15 years and another fourteen who have participated ten years or more. We have one person, in ten years of riding, raise over \$100,000. Talk about commitment and dedication – what a role model these people are!

We are fortunate that these people are part of the Harbor House family – but our good fortune doesn't end with them. Throughout the year I have the pleasurable task of signing thank you notes to those who have given financial resources, their time and goods to us. Many names have become familiar to me and I know some people have been contributing to the agency long before I came on board.

It is all of you that make the work this agency does possible. It is you who demonstrates that a family goes beyond just being related to one another. You show that a family is comprised of people who care and are there when needed.

Thank you to you, and our dedicated staff, for giving the gift of family to the youth we serve.

“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.”

- Maya Angelou

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Welcome to our new Agency Board Members

Shanon Chant-Berry, who works with the Juvenile Division Prosecutor's office has joined us recently and is bringing a great deal of knowledge of both the legal system and her experience in working with youth. Christina Fessler is an accountant that has had a great deal of experience working with youth through her previous volunteer efforts. Marianna Pontoriero has had many years of experience working with youth, as well as her family court expertise. Please join us in welcoming them and thanking them for their generosity of time, knowledge, and dedication to our young people!

We also bid a fond farewell to Jamie Schron, also from the Prosecutor's office. We sincerely appreciated her time, talents and efforts that she provided on behalf of our young people!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board or Foundation Board please contact us at (732) 929-0096 or e-mail us at: admin@oceansharborhouse.org

Foundation Board members

Bill Schlameuss, President
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Call: (732) 929-0096

or go to: oceansharborhouse.org

16th Annual Harbor House 400

It was another amazing and successful year for the Harbor house 400 ride! The cyclists rode 403 miles this year, going from Barnegat, NJ to Chincoteague, Virginia and back to Brick, NJ.

In the early morning hours of July 10th, 45 bicycle riders and 16 support and gear people (SAG) left the parking lot of St. Mary's in Barnegat to begin the trek south to Chincoteague, VA. On Thursday, July 11th, 7 additional riders and 4 SAG joined this group there for the return leg of the trip to Windward Beach Park in Brick.



If you asked any one of these people to sum up the ride you would probably get the response, "enjoyable but flat." After which the riders would probably add, "But that headwind going into Chincoteague was tortuous."

Flat rides are good because there are no hills to struggle up, but flat rides also means there's no hills to coast down -which puts bicyclists in the position of having to pedal the entire time they're on their bicycle. A headwind is never any good -you can't anticipate its end like you can a hill as you're pedaling up it so you never know how long it's going to last.



Whether it's flat, hilly, headwinds or no headwinds, hot, humid, rainy doesn't really seem to matter to those who participate in the ride. If you asked any one of these people why they do

the ride you'll more than likely hear the response, "For the kids."

So on behalf of those kids, a huge thank you goes out to all of the Riders who participated in the Harbor House 400 this year (the number in parenthesis indicates the years involved): **Sharon Hoban (16), Karen Limpert (16), Kathy Mallette (16), Bill Schlameuss (16), Bill Limpert Sr. (15), Monsignor Michael Walsh (15), Greg Aker (1), Robert Barone (1), John Bates (6),**



Terrence Byrd (11), Adam Clark (6), Steve Clark (9), Sid Colvin (10), Christine & Kevin Condon (1), Trevor Crowley (7), Mike Dohrenwend (1), Bud Downey (2), Monica & Joe Dudak (3), Gerry Duffy (4), George Elliott (10), Dennis Galvin (11), Kevin Gibson (7), Francesca & Dean Graziano (6), Don Ignozza (5), Jim Ippolito (11), Leah Joachim (3), Tim Kinsley (2), Jim Koerner (5), Tom Large (8), Donna Lee (4), Tom Lee (7), Bill Limpert Jr. (7), Matt Limpert (9), Rich Locicero (5), Francesca Locicero (4), Craig Lynch (10), Dick Majeski (13), Rick Napolitan (7), Paul Pierro (10), Robin Ritter-Feskany (13), Juergon Roedel (7), Anthony Romano (9), Laurie & Steve Rozzo (3), John Schneider (7), Ken Stauffer (3), John Sutherland (7), Sue Wetherell (4), Peter Wilkens (4) and John Wojdyla (10).



A huge thank you also goes to those who provided the riders with support and gear on the ride: **Diann & Glenn Zingler (4), Pat Adams (10), Gene Brennan (6), Paula Cantera (1), Angela Carlo (5), Karin Duffy**

(2), Adam Ginther (9), Terry Ginther (7), Jason Kapp (2), Lois Kapp (8), David Legg (1), Monica Marrone (2), Jim O'Donoghue (2), Craig Ramme (7), Dick Ramme (14), Jean Schlameuss (13), Tim Sigler (10), Francine Tilton (8) and Laney Wilkens (3).



Many thanks to **Applebee's**, Press Communications and

Thunder 106.5, Toms River Regional Schools, Tech Connections, the Lakewood BlueClaws mascot, Buster, volunteers, Board members and staff who welcomed the participants home with their cheers, great food and entertainment at Windward Beach Park in Brick. It was a Welcome Home Celebration to remember!

Last, but certainly not least, our appreciation goes out to all who supported the riders, SAG people and the ride. Your generosity has made it possible for this year's ride to raise a total of almost \$117,000 (as of this date).

Appreciation Breakfast

This was no ordinary Appreciation Breakfast at the Holiday Inn for Ocean's Harbor House. The shared stories made sure of that. Take Bill - this 17-year-old young man was once in gangs, had dabbled in drugs, had been in a juvenile detention center and was almost homeless - a life most of us wouldn't survive. Now, thanks to his hard work, determination and staff assistance at Ocean's Harbor House, he's not only surviving, but thriving.

There were many other stories shared by staff too. Two of them are on the front of this newsletter.

Other people and organizations were honored for their donations of time, skills, talent and funds. Frank



Frank Wagenknecht
Volunteer of the Year

Wagenknecht won the 2011 Volunteer of the Year award for donating his time and talents to creating all of the posters, flyers, brochures, newsletters and Holiday Cards over the past two years, and even helping out at the events too. The Youth Volunteer of the Year



Cyndy Friedland of
the SOCBPW

award went to an organization called Tech Connections, where young people have raised funds for Ocean's Harbor House for the last several years, and have provided computer games during the Welcome Home Celebration of the Harbor

House 400 Bike Tour. Each year, they have raised more than \$1000 to benefit the young people we serve! Additionally, the Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust, Nordson Corporation Foundation and Southern Ocean County Business Professional Women's organizations were honored for their years of giving and support.

Members of the Board of Directors, volunteers, community members and staff came out to witness the young man tell his story and to learn more about the agency that helps the homeless, runaway, abused, neglected and abandoned youth throughout Ocean and Monmouth Counties.



Drew Gouveia from Nordson
Corporation Foundation

Become a Volunteer!

We have been the recipient of much assistance from our **wonderful volunteers!** Some of the activities that volunteers have done this past year include (but certainly are not limited to):

tutoring our young people ◇ grocery shopping ◇ weeding the garden ◇ helping with our fundraising events ◇ cooking ◇ administrative activities ◇ doing arts and crafts with the young people ◇ picking up food from restaurants that donate ◇ organizing our donations closet ◇ painting ◇ computer support ◇ coordinating volunteers ◇ teaching yoga or other sports

Some of the volunteers that did these activities and SO MUCH MORE, included:

Angela Aciardi, Pat Adams, Erin Batz, Amy Bellis, Judy Bernstein, Joanna Blanco, Lakewood BlueClaws, Maura Brannick, Amanda Brown, Jackie Byrnes, Pam Clark, Andrew Coleman, Amanda Denis, Samantha DiMeglio, Stephanie Fahey, Allison Fahmie, Joseph Ferranto, Christina Fessler, Marc Fichtner, Bobbea Fina, Alecon Fitzpatrick, Gina Gallo, Michael and James Gandolfini, Jenifer Gardner, Tracey Giersbach, JoAnn Gitto, Beth

Gordon, Marion Gorman, Caitlyn Gouveia, Drew Gouveia, Mary Gouveia, Jaisy Hayes, Elizabeth Hess, Caitlyn Hoey, Bill Howell, Daniel Iachetta, Kae Iversen, Joe Jackson, Angela Kacsler, Stacie Kaminski, Jese Kaufman, Carol Kaunitz, Donna Koch, Sarah Koch, Dominic Leone, Judi Leone, Al Matthieu, Elaine Matthieu, Cynthia McCarthy, Cynthia Batz McGrath, John McGrath, Molly McMahan, Debi Meli, Joseph Messina, Derek Montalto, Mary Mooney, Kate Moriarty, Jennifer Mustachio, Danielle Nazzaro, Lydia Nikosey, Karen Nugent, Vinny Papa, Hilda Rivera, Krista Rossi, Tracy Schubach, Michael Singer, Michael Smith, Maggie Steffen, Katie Sweeney, Lauren Tabbachino, Susan Taylor, Tech Connections, Patricia Troise, United Water, United Way of Ocean County, Vinny Vecchio, Frank Wagenknecht, Joyce Walsh, Melissa Wasenda, Michelle Weslager, Lori Wiacek, Mary Williams, AnnMarie Ziadie, Nicholas Zimmerman, Diann Zingler and Glenn Zingler.

Saying thank you just doesn't seem enough. These people donate their time, their talents, their expertise and their passion to help our young people every day. We are truly lucky to have such wonderful people helping us out!

2011 Harbor House 5K

Ocean's Harbor House held their 2nd Annual Harbor House 5K Fun Run-Walk and Health Fair at First Energy Park in Lakewood on November 12th.

With a somewhat chilly, windy (especially in the "wind tunnel"), but sunny day, the morning's event was attended by over 300 people! Buster, the Lakewood BlueClaws mascot was in attendance and cheered on the Kids 1 Mile Fun Run, the 5K runners and 5K walkers! "This is a great event and we plan on coming each year to support

the homeless and runaway youth in Ocean County," said Diann Zingler, one of the walkers. Everyone had a great time and the prizes were fantastic!



Prepare Your Calendars

Don't forget - we have our 3rd Annual Harbor House 5K Run-Walk event taking place on Saturday, November 10th at First Energy Park in Lakewood again this year. Be sure to join us for some family fun!

Go to <http://www.oceansharborhouse.org/runwalk.html> and register for the event now! ☺

October 2011 Art Show

Displaying the art and poetry of our young people, this event was a HUGE success! Many of the art displayed was purchased either at that event or later. Held at the Ocean County College Arts Building, many turned out to see what was on display, indicating frequently that they were surprised by the level of artwork and detail put into each piece.



Everyone seemed to utter with a hushed breath, "This is so moving and powerful!" Here is a sample of poetry from one of our 16-year-old young people:

"What is Family?"

by a 16-year-old resident at Ocean's Harbor House

***"What is Family,
Will I ever know,
I thought family was love
that would never let go.
It hurts inside to know,
that the world may never know,
How much I want a family
And be able to know.***

***What is Family,
Kids, marriage, husband and wife
Big blue house, picket fence
Or is that an old lady's myth or a fairy tale?***

***On the other side discourage
Is in my ear
My tears fall,
My heart is crushed
So I just hush***

***What is Family,
Will I ever know?"***

We are planning on having another art show again this year, and we will be letting people know when it is via email and Facebook, and of course, posting it on our website. If you haven't already, please provide your email address, so we can make sure you receive the information. ☺



Wish List

<p>Activities for Clients Arts and Craft Kits; Jewelry Making Kits; Scrapbooking Supplies (Albums, Stickers); Art Supplies; Crayons, Markers; Construction Paper; Paint & Paint Brushes; Crafts for Teen-agers; Crochet, Beads, Cross-Stitch</p>	<p>Hygiene Products Lotion; Feminine Hygiene Products; Deodorant; Shampoo; Hair Spray; Hair Conditioner, Gel, Mousse, Grease; Body Wash; Bars of Soap; Q-Tips; Barrettes; Clips; Elastic</p>	<p>Sports Equipment/Games Adult Bicycle Helmets; Bicycles with Bike Rack; Headlights for Bicycles; Bicycle Locks; Sports Equipment; Exercise Equipment; Pool Table</p>
<p>Miscellaneous Small, Individually Wrapped Snacks; Stamps; Batteries; Suitcases; Batteries; Alarm Clocks; Table Lamps; Outside Chair Cushions; Landscaping Materials and Service; Gardening Supplies and Tools; CD Players and MP3 Players; Pop-Up Hampers</p>	<p>Clothes - All New Underwear (Teen Girls and Boys); Undershirts (Plain White for Teens); Sports Bra's for Teens; Gym Shorts for Teens; Pajamas for Teens</p>	<p>Gift Certificates / Gift Cards Best Buy,, Bowling; Movies; McDonalds; K-Mart; Kohl's; Payless; Shop Rite; Target; Walmart</p>
<p>Assorted House Supplies New Pots and Pans; New Casserole; Dishes; New Dish Towels; New Cookie Sheets; New Pot Holders; New Storage Containers; New Vacuum Cleaner; New Mop; New Household Broom (2 please); Storage Totes (Large); New Bath Towels; New Wash Cloths; New Pillows & Pillow Covers; New Twin-sized Comforter Sets; New Twin-sized Sheet Sets; New Blankets; Garbage Bags; Household Cleaning Supplies; Laundry Detergent</p>		

Major Supporters of Ocean's Harbor House

Each year we are provided many gifts that enable the agency to not only survive, but thrive. This past year was no exception and we would like to thank the following for their consistent commitment to assisting our homeless, runaway, abused, neglected and abandoned youth:

- **United Way of Ocean County** has assisted the young people of this community consistently through the years. This past year was no exception, and they provided Ocean's Harbor House with more than \$100,000 in funding for the houses and outreach program.
- The **New Jersey Department of Community Affairs** awarded us a Shelter Support grant once again for our Transitional Living program. An award of more than \$72,000 will enable us to purchase a new van, install a generator in case of power loss, and other necessary renovations to the house.
- The **Citta Foundation** came through for us once again and provided a \$30,000 gift to our agency at the end of the year, which helped tremendously.
- The **OceanFirst Foundation** provided \$25,000 in some much needed funding for our Emergency Youth Shelter, to replace the hot water heater that broke and support our new programming with Project LEAP (Life Skills, Education, Advancement, and Prevention).
- **Open Arms and Extended Arms** once again worked hard throughout the year to help support our young people by throwing a variety of fundraising events on our behalf. At the end of the year, they presented a \$20,000 check to Ocean's Harbor House.
- **Lydia Collins deforest Charitable Trust** has once again provided a substantial and very necessary grant award of \$20,000 to go toward general operating expenses.
- The **Nordson Corporation Foundation** has supported our request for funding for our Transitional Living Program and awarded \$12,000 so that we can provide services and follow-up care to our young people.
- **James Gandolfini (Tony of "The Sopranos")** was generous enough to donate 13 laptop computers (over \$8,000 value) to replace the much older computer we had to help out the staff.
- **Wells Fargo** not only continued to provide their \$1,000 Community Partnership Grant to Ocean's Harbor House this year, but also awarded us a \$5,000 grant to help with the educational and employment development efforts of our young people.

There are four restaurants in Toms River and Brick that have been donating food to our young people each week for many years: **Atlanta Bread Company, Famous Dave's Barbecue, Olive Garden** and **Red Lobster**. Please show your support and thank them for their generosity when you eat there!

Call us with your email address, so we can email you this newsletter, help the environment and use more money toward our program services **(732-929-0096)**.



Harbor House

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www.oceansharborhouse.org

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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, CARING FOR KIDS NOW

While we do all that is possible to qualify for both government and private foundation grants, we must also seek the financial assistance of our community. You play a vital role in that effort. We thank our volunteers and supporters. We ask for your continued support in enabling us to proceed in our mission that aids local children. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT SUPPORT

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Administration for Children, Youth and Families
Federal Emergency Management Administration
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Ocean County & the Board of Chosen Freeholders
Township of Brick
Township of Toms River

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS

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Central Ocean Rotary
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Church of the Epiphany
Church of the Visitation

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Holy Family Church
Holy Family Community School
Kiwanis Club of Jackson
Kiwanis Club of Toms River
Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary
Lake Riviera Middle School
Mater Dei Prep - A Catholic Preparatory School
Mirage Women's Club
Monsignor Donovan High School
Ocean County College
Open Arms
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Renaissance Women's Club
Rotary Club of Toms River
Seaside Park Service Center
Sorooptimist International of Long Beach Island
Spruce Street Elementary School
St. Agnes Parish
St. Aloysius Church
St. Ann's Church
St. Anselm
St. Dominic's
St. Elizabeth in Avon by the Sea
St. John's Church
St. Joseph's Church
St. Mary's Church in Barnegat
St. Mary's Church of New Monmouth
St. Mary's of the Lake
St. Mary's of the Pines
St. Monica's
St. Veronica's Church
Stafford Intermediate School
Sunrise Rotary of Toms River
Toms River Intermediate School East
Toms River Little League
Toms River Police Department
United Way of Ocean County
Women's Club of Brielle, Inc.

If interested in maximizing your tax-deductible contributions with gifts of annuity, stock, property, or leaving Ocean's Harbor House in your Will, please contact 732-929-0096 today.

This list represents a set donation level made during a set time frame. We would like to thank all of our generous supporters for their commitment to the children of our community.