



The Family Fridge

OCTOBER 2006



OCTOBER MENU

Tuesday 10/3

3PM Prayer Gathering
Spruce Street

Thursday 10/5

3PM Prayer Gathering
Sanctuary

Tuesday 10/10

3PM Prayer Gathering
Bainbridge Street

DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Thursday 10/12

3PM Prayer Gathering
North Broad Street

Tuesday 10/17

3PM Memorial Service for
Jimmy Ray Robinson
Bainbridge Street

Thursday 10/19

11AM—1PM Community Life
Council Meeting
1630 Admin Office

3PM Prayer Gathering
Sanctuary

Saturday 10/21

Philadelphia Cares Day

Tuesday 10/24

3PM Prayer Gathering
Bainbridge Street

Thursday 10/26

3PM Prayer Gathering
North Broad Street

Saturday 10/28

St. Norbert's Fundraiser

All-Staff Retreat, Daylesford Abbey

On an overcast Wednesday in mid-September, staff representing each wing of Bethesda Project's operations made the yearly pilgrimage back to Daylesford Abbey for a day together. As the site of Bethesda's birth, Daylesford was an appropriate location for lessons on the causes of homelessness, its links to poverty, and discussions about advocacy and volunteerism.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, staff, along with Dr. Chris Martin and Father Domenic Rossi, held a prayer gathering to honor the late Phyllis Martin, one of Bethesda's founders and champions. We hope that by remembering her and emulating her loving persistence, we can inspire each other to do more this coming year.



IN MEMORIAM: Jimmy Ray Robinson 6/11/57 - 9/26/06

Bethesda Project sadly commemorates the passing of Jimmy Ray Robinson on September 26. Jimmy was born and raised in Greenville, SC and joined the Bainbridge 'Band of Brothers' in April of this year. His sudden death brought grief to our entire community. Immediately after hearing of his death, residents gathered in prayer with staff members to place Jimmy and his memory in God's hands. May he rest in peace. A memorial for Jimmy Ray will be held at Bainbridge House on October 17th at 3 PM.

A Gathering of Congregations: Making Advocacy a Moral Issue

On September 28, 2006, Bethesda Project and Project H.O.M.E. hosted "A Gathering of Congregations" at the Arch Street Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse. Almost 30 leaders of faith communities, as well as Dainette Mintz, the director of the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing, were in attendance to discuss how to provide better services and advocacy for our city's abandoned poor.



Out of this meeting comes a great deal of hope. We may soon see the beginning of a greater interfaith movement toward education, awareness and advocacy about the problem of homelessness in our city.

If your congregation is interested in this initiative, please contact Ed Speedling at Project H.O.M.E: edspeedling@projecthome.org



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Spruce Street gets a New Caseworker!

As part of her master's program in social work, Tina Pagotto is now working part time as a case worker at Spruce Street in addition to her crucial position in Development in the 1630 Office. This is the first time Spruce Street has had a case worker in recent memory. Good luck, Tina!



Join us for a day cleaning, painting and repairing our city's public schools!

PHILADELPHIA CARES DAY



Kick off will start at 8:30 AM with a pep rally and full breakfast at the Mann Music Center. From there, all volunteers will carpool to their site. A pizza lunch is included. If you're interested in giving back and doing something for the children of Philadelphia, sign up sheets will be posted at our residences, Our Brothers' Place, and the 1630 Office. We hope to see you there!

St. Norbert's Parish presents its annual Bethesda Project fundraiser:

"A Taste of the Main Line" St. Norbert's Parish Hall Saturday, October 28: 7-10PM,

Tickets are \$50
Bethesda Staff and Resident Working Volunteers are free!

Join our loyal supporters at St. Norbert's and enjoy:
The finest caterers of the Main Line, silent Auction and live music and lots and lots of fun!

For information, call Sharyn Tehrani at the Parish office Monday-Wednesday mornings (610-644-1655) or Michele Howard (610-296-7719) at other times.



There's Still Time... to reserve a Bethesda House for your group's Christmas giving!!

Every year, through the generous cooperation of religious, social, civic and business groups, Bethesda Project is able to present two requested Christmas gifts (@\$25 each) to each of our 150 residents (who are busily working on their two wishes even as you read this note!). In mid-October we will gather the requests of each of our seven residences, and match them to your group's abilities and interests. Call Tony or Nora to find out how your group can play Santa Clause at Bethesda this year: 215-985-1600.



To New Hires!

Nathaniel Harris, William Tidwell, Robert White and Lamont McDowell



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Photo Safari and Contest at My Brother's House

On September 21st, residents of My Brother's House went to Love Park in Center City for a "Photo Safari." John Murrell won the photo contest with this study of a high rise and fountain. Congratulations, John!



Little did we know, but that very same sunny afternoon we picked for a peaceful stroll around the city also marked the PECO gas line explosion, which made for a great deal more excitement around the park than we had expected! Luckily, everyone got back safely with great photos and good story to boot! And Speaking of Photography...

Philly Fellows-Bethesda North Broad Photography Exhibit!

From October 20-21, the Philly Fellows Program – which brought volunteer Nora Spriggs to Bethesda this year – is putting on a photography exhibit! The first house to photograph and tell their "Philadelphia Stories" will be Bethesda North Broad. Nine residents have received cameras, and will take pictures of what Philly means to them.



The photos will be on display at the Gilbert Building Festival on October 20th and 21st at 1315 Cherry Street in Chinatown. For those of you participating in Philly Cares Day, this will be right after service on Saturday. Come support our Bethesda Family in these artistic efforts. Next year, it might be you!

Spruce Street Women Retreat to Cranaleith

The women from Spruce Street took a day off from city life to retreat to the peaceful and bucolic setting of the Cranaleith Spiritual Center. There, they participated in communal prayer and reflection to help and "experience the spirituality of mercy."



VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Jerry, one of Bethesda's former residents, used to tell us: "You wait, someday I'll be a tax-paying citizen." Today Jerry has an apartment, a job, and his long-awaited opportunity to pay taxes. Another way Jerry can grow that sense of citizenship is through the exercise of his right to vote. Bethesda Project supports Jerry and all of our residents and guests in their return to full citizenship.

We are an official sponsor of *Election 2006: Vote for Homes!*, a [nonpartisan](#) coalition focused on the issues of affordable housing, living-wage jobs, and quality services in the upcoming Gubernatorial and Senate elections. We are currently engaged in registering all of our members so that they can take part in the November elections. The city of Philadelphia is currently 60,000 units short of affordable housing. Who better to have a say in this issue than our homeless poor? Be sure to exercise *your* citizenship, too: vote on November 7th!

Happy October Birthdays to Brandon Green 10/7, Booker Williams 10/18, William Douglass 10/22, Sylvia Hill 10/23, and Diamond Williams 10/23