

Open Doors



If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter electronically, please send your email address to :
aahs@negia.net

Harvest for the Homeless

When you think of November, you may think of beautiful leaves, cooler weather, Thanksgiving, and family. However, there are other important things about the month of November that many do not know. One such thing, is that November is *National Homeless Awareness Month*. It is a time for us to think of others that may be in need.

November is also the time when we host our annual Harvest for the Homeless. The event, now in its fifth year, serves to heighten awareness about homelessness within the community while raising the funds needed to provide shelter and supportive services to homeless families with children.

This year the Harvest for the Homeless Reception will be held on **Sunday November 23, 2008** from **5:00pm to 7:30pm** at **The Foundry Park Inn Ballroom, 295 E. Dougherty Street in Athens**. The reception will include a buffet dinner, a silent auction, music by The Modern Skirts and a Grand Prize Raffle Drawing that includes 52 gift certificates to local restaurants. That will give one lucky winner the chance to eat out FREE once a week for an entire year! Admission is \$20 per person or \$15 for Shelter Providers. Raffle tickets to benefit Harvest for the Homeless are being sold for \$1 each and are available at Trinity Accounting Group, on our website, or by contacting us at 706-354-0423.

There is also a great opportunity to become a sponsor for this event. Sponsorships are available at several different levels of commitment. To find the level that is right for you or your organization, please visit our website at: www.AthensAreaHomelessShelter.org

Ways You Can Help



Adopt~ A~ Family

With the holidays quickly approaching, we have already begun work on our adopt a family program and have seen tremendous interest. We are very excited about another year of bringing Holiday Cheer to our families at the shelter. If you or your organization would like to participate, please contact the shelter at 706-354-0423.

Dinner Is Served!

Volunteer groups are needed to purchase, prepare, and serve dinner to the shelter residents every night of the year. If your group is interested in volunteering please call us at 706-354-0423.

Become a Shelter Provider

Regardless of the economy, the season or any other factors, homelessness never relents— it's a year-round issue— making the Shelter Provider Program vital. These individuals provide a steady stream of support in a way that is easy & convenient. Shelter providers are individuals who approve a set amount to be deducted from their checking account each month.



The Athens Area Homeless Shelter is proud to be a member of the Georgia Shares Program. Georgia Shares is a federation of non-profit organizations. By signing up to participate in this payroll deduction plan at your workplace, you will help to support groups that make a difference in your community to solve issues that are important to you. State of Georgia & UGA employees please look for us on your options.

For more information on ways you can help please contact Interim Director Heather McElroy at 706-354-0423 or aahs@negia.net.

Shelter Providers

Upshaw Bentley
 Gladys K. Bowles
 Paul & Mary Boykin, Jr.
 Anne Brightwell
 Elizabeth Bryant
 Samantha Carvalho
 Emily Carr & Dale Hoyt
 Christin Ciaccio &
 Charles Malcom
 E. Scott Coulter
 Ann M Darby
 Larry B Dendy
 Susan S Dillard
 Stanley & Vera Durante
 Mary A Erlanger
 Willie & Tommie Farmer
 Anna Foletta
 Tammy & Geof Gilland
 Rosemary E M
 Hathaway
 J Hue Henry
 John Hocking &
 Ruth Anderson- Hocking
 Thomas P Holland
 Julie D Horne
 James & Nancy Kissane

**Miracles Really Do Happen**

The shelter recently faced a very big dilemma. We were at maximum capacity with children and adults at the shelter when our stove started leaking gas. We contacted the gas department who told us to evacuate the shelter immediately and wait for a technician to arrive. When technician Darryl Walker arrived he came in, turned off the gas and said that the stove was inoperable and would have to be replaced. During this conversation with Shelter Director Courtney Davis, Mr. Walker began asking exactly what type of shelter we are? After being told, he said he had no idea that we housed families with children. After he left, Courtney was faced with the task of trying to figure out how the shelter would be able to afford a new stove. 48 hours later a miracle happened. Mr. Walker called to let Courtney know that he and his fellow co-workers at Atlanta Gas Light had raised enough money to buy a new stove! Mr. Walker then contacted Rick Mobley at Manning Brothers. At that time, Mr. Mobley agreed to help. Mr. Walker and Courtney went in and picked out a stove that was given to them at cost, exactly the amount in Mr. Walker's pocket.

Thanks to the employees of Atlanta Gas Light, Darryl Walker, Manning Brothers, & Rick Mobley!

**October 31, 2008**

Donations of Children's Halloween costumes are welcome.

For Donations, please contact Rachel Bellew at almosthome@negia.net.

Individual Donors

Dolores Gazda	Adam Parrott
Christopher Henderson	1125 Coffee Club
JoBeth Allen	Mike & Sandra Moss
Thomas Williams	James & Elaine Gaudin
Dale Dorman	Donna Lukich
J. Allen Seymour	Rebecca Jordan-Henderson
John Langone	Jerry & Glenda Gay
Lauren Abrams	JL & E Barton
Nathaniel Collum	Elizabeth Sheerer
Stephanie Pierce	Jeff Tobias
Joseph Repetske	Jesse & June Cawthon
Kathleen Blane	Thomas & Anna Dyer

Special Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 305!!!

Lead by Eagle Scout Candidate Dayne Joyner, Boy Scout Troop 305 held a Backpack drive to help make homeless individuals days go a little more smoothly. The 90 donated backpacks were filled with daily essentials such as soap, towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream and razors. Thanks again for such a wonderful gift!



*Thank You to All The AAHS Supporters!
~July '08– September '08~*

Business, Church, & Community Organization Donors

Ashford Memorial Methodist Church	Muslim Law Students
Athens 1st Methodist Church Fellowship Sunday School Class	College Pro Landscaping
Central Baptist	Halloran Masonry, Inc
Central Presbyterian	ACC Employees— Georgia Shares
Covenant Presbyterian	Lavender Pest Control
First Baptist Church	Charter Communications
First Baptist Church of Athens	Big City Bread
Tuckston United Methodist Church	Free IT Athens
	St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

Thank You to Our Dinner Volunteers July '08-Sept '08

Ashford Memorial Methodist	Andrew Grant
Young Harris United Methodist	Lisa Marshall
AA Homebuilders Association	Bethel Baptist Youth Group
Athens Academy	Toni England
Susanne Chastain	Popular Springs Baptist Church
Family Solutions	First Christian Church
Hill Chapel Baptist	Kelly Powell
CC of Isreal	The Emami Family
Friendship Presbyterian	The Brackman Family
Grady College	Alpha Omega
The Arnold Family	The Taylor Family
New Grove Baptist Church	UGA Indian Cultural Exchange
1st AME	Sigma Alpha Lambda
AA Association of REALTORS	Black Affairs Council
Timothy Road Baptist	Gamma Sigma Sigma
Abbey Struempf	The Navy School
Tabor Chapel	Phi Beta Pi

Shelter Providers

Bryan & Allison McCullick
 Wilton C Morgan
 Julia Nathanson
 Stanley & Maxine Peaks
 Kathy Prescott & Grady Thrasher
 Michael Odom
 Hal & Lucy Rainey
 John & Elinor Rees
 William & Susan Reese
 Janice Lanford Rusk
 Virginia Rittmueller
 Timothy & Barbara Smalley
 Paula Schwanenflugel & William Whitman
 Allen & Catherine Seymour
 E P Turner
 Carter Vest &
 Joel Siebentritt
 Alice Vernon
 Eleanor Walker
 Jennifer Walsh
 Jenny & John Wares
 Natalie Wellman
 Juergen & Heide Wiegel



The Newsletter of the Athens Area Homeless Shelter

620 Barber Street Athens, Georgia 30601

Phone: 706-354-0423
Fax: 706-354-4226
Email: aahs@negia.net
www.AthensAeaHomelessShelter.org

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OPEN DOORS is published by the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, a private, not-for-profit 501 C-3 corporation.

Our Mission: AAHS provides collaborative, comprehensive services to homeless individuals and families, and fosters public awareness of homelessness in the community. Our Almost Home Transitional Program provides long term residential support for families with children who are homeless and who wish to make life changes to regain self sufficiency and independence. Our Job TREC and Nancy Travis House programs, serving our residents and other homeless individuals in Athens, provide supportive services to facilitate self-sufficiency.

Board of Directors: Robert Bachman, President; Sally Harris, Vice-president; Bryan McCullick, Treasurer; Brooke Gilmore, Secretary; Ernie Harris, Beth Adams, Bill Johns, Mary Gilbert, Rosemary Phelps, Peter VanDyck, Steve Sears, Bryan Harris, Jessica Howard.

Interim Executive Director: Heather McElroy

Assistant Director: Jane Matthews

Case Managers: Rachel Bellew
Brandy Tiller
Shawn Barnett

Night/Weekend Staff: Hollie Bellew, Aldric Calhoun, Hank Clay, Dana Porter, Rendi Moore, Marcus Thomas, Dana Carlyle- Wehner, Kate Dillon, Alex Adkins, Tim Johnson, Kerri Steele, Audrey Brannan, Leslie Herbert

UGA Interns: Kate Kotsko, Amber McClendon, Keri Bunting, Kelly Dahlke

AmeriCorp Member: Nathan Crowe

BECOME A SHELTER PROVIDER

Help us keep our doors open every day of the year to families with children in need of shelter and supportive services – allow us to make your support of AAHS a painless process every month. By filling out the form below, you can authorize your bank to draw your Shelter Provider gift from your checking account each month—no need to write a check or buy a stamp!

A monthly donation of just:

*\$5 may provide 15 gallons of milk for homeless children
\$10 may provide over 700 diapers for a homeless infant
\$25 may provide 240 bus passes to get homeless individuals to and from work*

Your commitment may last as long as you wish. You may cancel your participation at any time, for any reason, just by notifying us. Thank you for your support!

ATHENS AREA HOMELESS SHELTER
620 Barber Street, Athens, GA 30601

YES! I want to be a SHELTER PROVIDER! Enroll me in your monthly budget plan. I authorize my bank to transfer to AAHS each month the amount circled:

\$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 Other _____

Please endorse a check to AAHS for your first SHELTER PROVIDER gift:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My authorization to charge my account at my bank shall be the same as if I had personally signed a check to the Athens Area Homeless Shelter (AAHS). This authorization shall remain in effect until I notify my bank or AAHS in writing that I wish to end this agreement and my bank or AAHS has had reasonable time to act on it, or until my bank or AAHS has sent me 10 days written notice that they will end this agreement. A record of each charge will be included in my regular bank statement and will serve as my receipt.

Signature _____ Date: _____