



The Family Fridge



MARCH 2007

MARCH MENU

Thursday 3/1

3PM Prayer Gathering
North Broad Street

Tuesday 3/6

3PM Prayer Gathering
Spruce Street

3PM Voter Registration Training
Project Home
1515 Fairmount Avenue

Wednesday 3/7

6:30PM Voter Registration Training
Project Home
1515 Fairmount Avenue

Thursday 3/8

3PM Prayer Gathering
Sanctuary

Sunday 3/11

3PM Voter Registration Training
Project Home
1515 Fairmount Avenue

Tuesday 3/13

3PM Prayer Gathering
Bainbridge Street

Thursday 3/15

9AM- 3PM
Community Life Council Retreat
(Rescheduled)
Cranaleith Center

Tuesday 3/20

3PM Prayer Gathering
Spruce Street

Thursday 3/22

3PM Prayer Gathering
Sanctuary

Tuesday 3/27

3PM Prayer Gathering
Bainbridge Street

Wednesday 3/28

6-8PM No Barriers Dinner
Broad Street Ministry
315 South Broad Street

Around the Neighborhood

Though Valentine's Day 2007 marked some of the worst weather Philadelphia has seen all year, residents and staff at My Brothers' House brought warmth to nearby sites with friendly greetings – and lots of calories!



My Brothers' House staff and residents display the products of their annual Valentine's Day bake-off!



Bainbridge house enjoyed a festive Mardi Gras party this year, courtesy of the fabulous volunteers from St. Norbert's Parish, Mary Ann Flynn, Linda VanOcker, Michele Howard, and Gina DePaolis.



Sister Kathleen and Bob Moyer share a laugh while he opens his presents.



North Broad Street celebrated Program Coordinator Bob Moyer's years of dedicated service with homemade soup, delicious cake and of course... presents! Thank you, Bob! Good luck!

No North Broad party is complete without the help of Linda and Michele!





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*Election 2007: **VOTE FOR HOMES!***



Bethesda Project has once again joined forces with the *Election 2007: Vote for Homes Coalition* to raise the issues of affordable housing, living-wage jobs and quality services in the upcoming mayoral elections. *Guaranteeing a voice for all of Bethesda's members in the issues which most affect them....*

Sign Up For Voter Registration and Education Trainings
Choose **ONE** training and **RSVP** to tmedwid@bethesdaproject.org

Date	Time
Tuesday, March 6 th	3 pm – 5 pm
Wednesday, March 7 th	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Sunday, March 11 th	3 pm – 5 pm

Snacks provided at all trainings

Election 2007 Registration Kick Off Event

<p>Monday, March 12, 2007 11:00 am – Rally and Press Conference 11:30 am –Volunteers go to shelters, soup kitchens, and neighborhoods</p>
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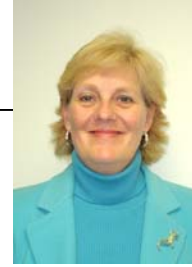
Heroes of North Philadelphia

In honor of February's Black History month, and women's history month in March, the Family Fridge would like to honor "Mom" Crippen: an African-American woman from North Philadelphia who called at least forty foster children her own. To our organization, which strives to be family for those who have none, Ms. Crippen serves as a wonderful example of someone who pursued that goal quite literally. Though there is hardly any scholarly material on this remarkable person, Ms. Crippen is memorialized in the "Heroes of North Philadelphia: Still We Rise" mural, here photographed by Bethesda North Broad resident artist, Mr. Michael Canty.



The Family Fridge

From Left: 315 South Caseworker Misty Sparks, Bainbridge Resident and café volunteer Michael Kravitz, and Director of Programs, Sue Dichter.



315 South Café is Front Page News!

Bethesda Project's 315 South Café recently got some great press in the Philadelphia Inquirer! The front page article outlined the new trend of overnight "cafes," to serve those most resistant to entering shelter environments. If you didn't see it on Saturday morning, you can access it on the web for a limited time at <http://www.philly.com/ml/16772076.htm>

Bethesda's own Misty Sparks, Michael Kravitz and Sue Dichter were all quoted in the feature story.

Bill Golderer, the convening minister of Broad Street Ministry, was also interviewed, and said of the guests: "I know their names [now]; they are our neighbors," an apt comment from a leader of a faith community that has so willingly offered his help and resources to us, and all of Philadelphia.

Other exciting new things are the contributions rolling in from volunteers and donors! Special thanks go out to: Jeanie Almo, The Union League, Broad Street Ministry congregants Vance Ulysses, Cindi Miller and Miles Davis, Karen Leimkuhler and the Kitchen Krew from St. Norbert's, Linda VanOcker and Mary Ann Flynn, Germantown Presbyterian, and Temple Podiatry Students.



Bethesda Says Goodbye to Rev. Bob Moyer

Since October of 2001, Bob Moyer has been at the helm of Bethesda's North Broad Street residence, a home to 49 formerly homeless men and women. Bob has been mentor, friend, pastor and administrator to our North Broad family, blending competence and compassion as he guided staff and residents through the challenges of community life. Bethesda wishes Bob and his family every blessing as he embarks upon the next part of his life's journey in South Carolina!

From Left: Rev. John Mosley, Rev. Bob Moyer, Misty Sparks, and Kevin Jackson say a fond farewell

Waldron Mercy Academy Fourth Graders show Bethesda the Meaning of Valentine's Day!

The stellar fourth-grade classes of Mr. Sam Sheng and Mrs. JoAnne Risley are at it again! On the Monday before Valentine's Day, the main office at 1630 South Street was flooded with goodie bags hand-decorated by the students and filled with candies, messages, and useful items for the benefit of the residents at Spruce Street and My Brothers' House. Thanks, Waldron Mercy, for putting so much love into serving us!

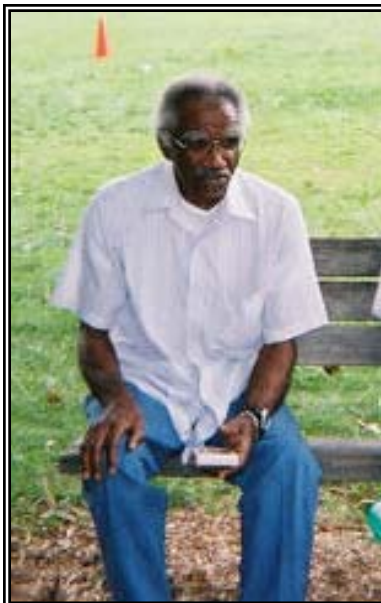



Jeremiah Monts 7/20/43 — 1/25/07

Over the years Jeremiah was a guest at many of our shelters and at least three of our residences; wherever he was, he was very much loved. During his last days at Graduate hospital Jeremiah had the comfort of many visitors from Bethesda and St. Francis' Inn who came to encourage and console him.

Jeremiah qualifies, in many ways, as the 'model' Bethesda member. In the original Bethesda bible story (John 5) Jesus asked the long-suffering man: 'Do you want to be well?' And even though the man never really said 'yes', Jesus reached out and ministered to him.

In a similar way, Jeremiah never really got with the program. But he never doubted for a moment that he was a valued member of our family. We are grateful to Jeremiah for all he brought to – and out of – Bethesda Project. May he rest in peace.


Ernest Ball 11/16/43 — 2/01/07

An alumnus of Bethesda's church-based shelter program, Ernest was a resident of Bethesda Sanctuary from May of 2003 until he moved to North Broad Street at the end of 2004. Ernest was a very responsible, hard-working resident, who did not take his recent good fortune for granted. He had a deep sense of gratitude for the support he received from Bethesda and would commute every Monday from North Broad to help prepare dinner at Sanctuary. Ernest was realistic about his health limitations and committed himself to taking 'one day at a time'.

Ernest entered the last stages of a long and persistent illness when he was admitted to St. Agnes Continuing Care Center, where he passed away on Thursday, February 1. Ernest was one of our faithful pillars. It will take more than a few of us to fill his shoes. May he rest in peace.



Bethesda Needs Beds



Bob Hayes, Social Services Coordinator of Our Brothers' Place, reports some amazing achievements as shelter guests are placed in efficiency apartments throughout the city. This is such a wonderful step in the lives of these men!

But, we need furnishings for those small apartments: twin-sized bed frames, box springs and mattresses, as well as chairs, small tables, etc. Help Bethesda put together 'housing starter kits' for our emerging success stories.



Contact Nora Spriggs nspriggs@bethesdaproject.org and we'll figure out to connect our staff with your stuff.



to: Joseph Solo 3/6, Eleanor Dorsey 3/8, Johnnie McDowell 3/12, Mary Perry 3/16, Tonia Alston 3/21, Kevin Jackson 3/22, Mumin Abdul-Haqq 3/23, Marquita Wright 3/25, Harry F. McLaughlin 3/31



to New Hires: Lisa Bowman, Irving Drake, Wendy Gaynor, Lawrence Harris and Akiba Kirkland!