

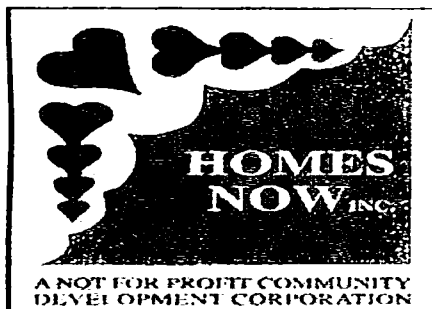
HOMES NOW, INC.

Second Quarterly News

Update Volume 1, Issue 2

Quarterly News Update

April, 2005



WE'VE MOVED

"Homes Now, Inc." has a new location but only the location has changed. Our new address is 2141 Route 88 East, Suite 1, Brick Township. It's easy to find, especially if you want pool supplies, because we're next to Kinney Pools. But our phone numbers remain the same, as has our fabulous staff. Please feel free to call us, or drop by, if you'd like to volunteer at Dottie's House to watch children or provide a professional service.

SAVE THE DATE

The Sixth Annual Dottie's House Golf Classic will be held Thursday, June 2, at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Lakewood. The event, the major fundraiser for Dottie's House, will feature a steak lunch, use of putting greens and the driving range, green fees, golf cart, an open bar cocktail party and an Awards and Dinner reception with an open bar --- all for a per person cost of \$225. Players will also be given a unique gift: golf shoes from Foot-Joy. To attend the dinner reception will cost only \$75. Many prizes will be offered at auction, including rounds of golf. For more information call (732) 295-7380.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol A. Wolfe
Paul L. Barlo
Ellen M. Dotto
Josephine Filardo, MD
Regina Foley
Hazel Gluck
Mary Holder
Sharon A. Labash
Richard Lau
Arthur P. Petracco
Scott M. Pezarras
Roger Pyrtko, Sr.
Kathy M. Russell
Ann Russin
Oliver S. Walling III

HOME DEPOT HELPS DOTTIE'S HOUSE

It was an amazing scene to view: more than 30 employees of Home Depot stores in Ocean County giving up vacation days to give Dottie's House a makeover and make even better the lives of the abused women and children who reside there.

The event, held late last year, was in response to a few signs put up in Home Depot stores in Dover, Lakewood and Stafford Townships, asking for help in giving Dottie's House an uplift. The response was immediate and overwhelming: in line with the company's "Week of Service" program, the non-profit Dottie's House fell completely within the scope of the program and the hearts of the volunteers.

With supplies donated by the store, with the exception of the paint which was provided free of charge from Glidden, the volunteers worked three days to repaint the eight two-and-three bedroom apartments and common areas; landscape the facility; repair the shed for children's bicycles; replace lighting fixtures; and do whatever other repairs were needed to the facility.

With the resident children at school, and their mothers at work or at school themselves, the volunteers had free reign to complete their project --- and to a person, visibly showed their delight in doing so. "It was a remarkable experience and we cannot thank Home Depot and their employee volunteers enough for the time, energy and commitment they made to us," said Dottie's House Director Sandy Sheehan. "Knowing that people care about them made so much of a difference to our mothers and their children."

(see photo on page 3)

WOMEN'S CLUB RAISES \$22,000 FOR DOTTIE'S HOUSE

Mary Stanford and Point Pleasant's Bay Head Shores Women's Association decided last year they wanted to give back to their community. Their decision was to fight against domestic violence --- and that their charity effort would be Dottie's House.

Last November, after only four months in planning this event, they successfully raised \$22,000 for the domestic violence shelter. And they did it by only charging \$25 per ticket.

In what we hope will be a yearly event, the group was able to raise such a large amount by having people donate their time (waitresses, bartenders and Mary's own catering skills) and solicit a large assortment of exceptional prizes for their Chinese auction.

"They essentially adopted a family of four for a full year," noted Dottie's House founder Carol Wolfe. "To me, that's just incredible. And their continued involvement in our cause will be a major benefit to us as we seek to expand our facility to accommodate, unfortunately, the many women and children who need a permanent place to live while they struggle to recapture their lives and those of their children."

BOARD MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- The Brick Municipal Alliance Committee recognized Homes Now, Inc. Board Members Kathy Russell (Brick Township Councilwoman) for her service to the community and Briarmill Pharmacy owner Richard Lau as Business of the Year on January 19.
- On February 26 the Point Pleasant Chamber of Commerce awarded Dottie's House and Carol Wolfe, President, the 2005 Leadership Award for Outstanding Volunteer Services.
- Homes Now, Inc. and Dottie's House Vice-President Paul Barlo has been nominated for the 40th Annual Silver Gull Award presented by the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council.



FEATURED BOARD MEMBER

PAUL BARLO

As the saying goes, when you want something done, give it to a busy person. And if there's anyone who has been busy doing and donating to humanitarian and charitable concerns, it's the vice-president of the Homes Now, Inc. and Dottie's House boards, Paul Barlo.

Paul, the Principal Planner/Architect of the Mantoloking Road firm of Barlo & Associates, had known Carol Wolfe for years when she was the affordable housing director in Brick Township. Then, in 1997, they joined together to create Homes Now, Inc., with the focus being on providing decent and affordable housing to low and moderate income families and seniors. The scope expanded to include, at Paul's encouragement, housing for developmentally disabled individuals.

"Then, five years ago, we started discussing providing housing for victims of domestic violence and their children," Paul said, referring to the establishment of Dottie's House. "It's amazing how we've grown since."

What's also amazing is what Paul has already accomplished in his life. On the professional side, the magna cum laude Notre Dame University graduate has had his firm designated "Architectural Firm of the Year" by the American Institute of Architects; has been a pioneer in the "design/build" concept; and has been responsible for several downtown improvement projects, including Lakewood.

On the volunteer side, Paul is the former president of the Brick Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club; is fundraising chair of the Ocean County Big Brothers/Big Sisters; and is on the Board of Directors of the Monmouth-Ocean Development Corporation.

"Paul, for most of his adult life, has dedicated himself to making personal contributions of his time, and his talent, while also being a financial supporter of individuals and organizations providing services to those who are hungry, homeless, battered and abused," Carol Wolfe said. "He has been an inspiration to us at "Homes Now" and he deserves much credit for the work we have been able to perform on behalf of our county's low income, senior, developmentally disabled and domestic violence residents."

DOTTIE'S HOUSE "KIDS HELPING KIDS" COIN DRIVE

Before there was Dottie's House, there was a vision of Dottie's House: a place where women and children who were victims of domestic violence could live safely away from the violence and abuse they experienced in their past. It was a place where they had the support, time and resources to work toward self sufficiency and have emotional and economic independence. This vision grew and became a reality in 2001, when Dottie's House opened its doors.

The reason this vision became a reality was because of the generosity of the community. A particular, and special, part of the community that helped launch Dottie's House were the school children in Ocean County. Each year since 2000, we have conducted the "Kid's Helping Kids" coin drive. With permission from the county superintendent, Dottie's House works with the local school superintendents and principals to kick off the campaign.

To date, over \$26,000 has been raised by the children. Each group of children decides how they will raise the funds: some make items to sell, some conduct a bake sale and others give up their spending money --- but all are striving to help the kids at Dottie's House. The program, coordinated by Jill Keough, Donations Coordinator has been very successful, not only as a fundraising event but as an educational experience.

The campaign is now in full swing, with 39 schools participating. At the end of the drive, Dottie's House will recognize two first place winning schools, and two second place schools with awards based on enrollment criteria (the former having 700 or more students, the latter with less than 700 students). The first place prize will be a \$500 gift certificate for books and the second place prize will be \$250 worth of sports equipment.

This fund activity, along with other fund raising events, helps to keep the doors of Dottie's House open -- and will also be of great assistance as we look to expand this much needed facility.

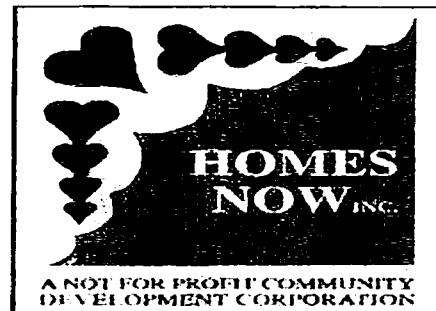


Several of the more than 30 Home Depot employees who volunteered to give Dottie's House a makeover.

HAZEL GLUCK JOINS "HOMES NOW" BOARD

The Board of Directors of Homes Now, Inc. has welcomed a new --- and well-known --- addition to their governing body: Hazel Frank Gluck. Hazel, a Brick Township resident, was the first and only Ocean County female Freeholder in the history of the county. She later served in the New Jersey Assembly and then, under the governorship of Thomas Kean, was Director of the New Jersey Lottery and served as both the Insurance and then Transportation Commissioner during his tenure.

Hazel Gluck, who's now a Trenton lobbyist, "has long been an advocate for women's issues," noted Homes Now President and CEO Carol Wolfe. "I am delighted that someone of her stature and commitment to women, seniors and others in need has volunteered to use her knowledge and contacts to assist Homes Now in our mission. And what better time for Hazel to join us as we begin our effort to bring about a much needed expansion of Dottie's House."



Homes Now , Inc.
2141 Route 88 East
Suite 1
Brick Township, NJ 08724
(732) 295-7380

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED