

HOMES NOW, INC.

First Quarterly News

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Quarterly News Update

September, 2004



**Dottie's
House**

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Dear Friends of Homes Now and its affiliates,

Welcome to the first edition of what will be our continuing effort to keep you informed of the work we are doing, with your help, to continue to provide housing to low and moderate income families with a special focus on seniors, physically and developmentally disabled and survivors of domestic violence and their children (through Dottie's House).

All of what we do is accomplished only through the support, financial and otherwise, of so many of you throughout New Jersey.

Because of your support, our golf outing in June of this year netted more than \$40,000 for the women and children living at Dottie's House. Our next event will be a 5k walk/run at the Blue Claws Stadium on September 18. And we'll be celebrating our wonderful holiday party on December 8. This year the celebration will be at The Breakers on the ocean in Spring Lake.

But, there is so much yet to do. We must expand Dottie's House to accommodate the requests we receive from women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. We're also trying to help provide more needed housing for the developmentally disabled. We have three four-bedroom homes under construction right now to house wheel-chair bound individuals who require 24 hour nursing. The first house is expected to open later this month. And our search continues for vacant land for affordable senior housing.

We have made great progress over the years, and we look forward to an even brighter future.

But we must have your continued involvement and support to help accomplish our goals. To those of you who have shared your skills and resources in the past, please accept our heartfelt thanks. To those who will embrace our programs in the future, and on behalf of the hundreds of men, women and children who benefit from your selflessness, welcome to our world!

**Carol A. Wolfe, President
Homes Now, Inc.**



THE CHAMBERS BRIDGE RESIDENCE

You must have seen it on your way to the Garden State Parkway or to the Brick Township Municipal Complex. It sits off to the north of the four lane roadway and to the unknowing eye, could be an exclusive high rise of the kind that dot Florida's waterways. But no, it's the Chambers Bridge Residence and its occupants are all low income individuals.

A full wing of this 184 unit facility (eight 3-bedroom apartments) is devoted to the developmentally disabled. The remainder of the building is reserved for senior citizens 55 years and older, with 16 units reserved for those with physical disabilities. Almost every apartment has a balcony; all floors have trash and recycling areas; there are laundry rooms for the tenants and each floor has a different color scheme so that visually impaired residents will be able to more easily identify their home.

But there's more. A gym, a large community room with its own kitchen, a library, five TVs and VCRs located throughout the building, and even more amenities to benefit the residents. A van is available to residents for transport to places such as doctors, shopping and the Point Pleasant Beach boardwalk. The tenants have formed their own

association and host activities such as bingo on Wednesdays, cookouts and trips to Atlantic City and concerts.



The facility, which opened its doors in 1998, accepts no government subsidies. And,

imagine, it's 100 percent occupied.

That is what Homes Now does.



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE Regina Foley

Her resume reads like a "who's who" of the medical community in the Monmouth/Ocean County area. But that's because she is among this elite group. A registered nurse who has a master's in Business Administration and received a Wharton (University of Pennsylvania) Nurse Executive Fellowship in 2002. Regina Foley more than earned her title as Vice-President of Nursing/Chief Executive Nurse for the Medical Center of Ocean County (a division of Meridian Health).

Her responsibilities are massive: not only does she oversee the overall services at MCOC but also has administrative responsibility for orthopedic and cardiac services as well as such individual programs as the fitness center, family health center and the wound center.

Where she finds time to devote as a trustee to Homes Now is amazing, but as they say: "If you want something done, give it to a busy person."

She's especially proud to be a member of the Dottie's House board. As she says: "It allows me to be part of a team to support women and children exposed to domestic violence. This team is dynamic with a 'can do' attitude. The board of Dottie's House consistently looks to find creative ways to raise funds. These funds are used immediately for women and children suffering from domestic violence. I'm privileged to work with fellow board members in eradicating domestic violence in Ocean County."

DOTTIE'S HOUSE

YESTERDAY...TODAY...AND TOMORROW

A little over three years ago, Dottie's House opened its doors to eight families intent on changing their lives and freeing themselves from the devastating effects of domestic violence.

Dottie's House, located at a confidential Ocean County location, is a transitional housing facility, providing eight two and three-bedroom apartments to women and their children who are survivors of domestic violence. The program is 21 months in duration and is the first of its kind in New Jersey to restrict occupancy exclusively to survivors of domestic violence.

Another woman, who also entered on emergency assistance, was determined to provide a better life for herself and her son. She recently started schooling to become a medical assistant, the first step toward becoming a nurse.

During their stay, women are required to participate in counseling, educational support, job training, parenting classes, money management sessions and other life-enriching services. The women are also required to attend school and/or be employed on a full-time basis. Thus, each woman is provided the tools and opportunity to realize her vision of the future.

To provide a safe and secure future for herself and her children, as well as pursue her desire to become a certified chef, was the wish of another resident. She recently finished her schooling as the top student in her class and is actively seeking employment in the hospitality food industry.

Currently there are eight women and 11 children residing at Dottie's House, each with a different dream of the future and each with the determination to succeed. The yesterday's for these women were full of challenges; they faced homelessness, financial devastation and an uncertain future. With time, perseverance and professional guidance, these challenges incrementally turn into successes, some large and some small, but all critical to achieving a final goal. A sampling of some of these successes are best illustrated by looking back to when a woman entered the program and where she is a year or two later.

Among the current residents of Dottie's House, there are five women gainfully employed; two have recently completed schooling and are now looking actively for employment; and one is enrolled in school. Six of the eight women have achieved professional certification. The women have checking and savings accounts; their children are flourishing, and they are progressing in their determination to become self-sufficient. For each, the tomorrows are filled with endless opportunities. The hopes and dreams of yesterday can come true.

Prior to entering Dottie's House, the women are asked to write an essay about what they hope to achieve during their two-year stay. One woman, who entered on public emergency assistance, hoped to save enough money to buy a house. She enrolled and completed professional schooling.

Dottie's House

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

DOTTIE'S HOUSE FUNDRAISER EVENTS

DOTTIE'S HOUSE RUN SCHEDULED

On September 18, a Family Fun Run/Walk will be held at the BlueClaws Stadium to benefit and expand Dottie's House, which harbors survivors of domestic violence and their children for up to two years.

Entry fees to run or walk are only \$18, and \$8 for children under the age of 14. And with this you get a free lunch, a custom designed shirt and a gift bag.

Sign-in for the event begins at 8:30 a.m., with the race starting at 10 a.m. For additional information, or to sign up for the race, please call (732) 295-7380.

HOLD THIS DATE — DECEMBER 8th

The annual holiday party for Dottie's House will be held December 8 at The Breakers, on the ocean in Spring Lake. The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. and tickets cost \$200. The event offers butler style hors d'oeuvres, open bar and premium wines and liquors and full course dinner and dessert. Silent auction and exotic trips, Waterford crystal and other elegant gifts adds to the festivities. Holiday wrapped gifts will be presented to all our guests. Please join us as we celebrate the season and your generous support to help us continue and expand our service to victims of domestic violence and their children.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED