

*What Kind of Legacy
Will You Leave?*

Choosing to leave a gift from the heart brings meaning, dignity and purpose to a life well lived. Your gift is your opportunity to participate in the charitable and community work most meaningful to you, in a way that allows these important causes to be well supported now and long after you have gone. Personal philanthropy through a will can be a way to ensure that your memory lives on.

If you chose to make a planned gift to Dottie's House, or have questions on how to make a bequest, please contact Marilyn Marcin at (732) 295-7380.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5K
Hosted by Ocean County Bar Association

Benefitting Dottie's House
Saturday, May 9, 2009
Seaside Park, NJ



10th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, May 18, 2009
Eagle Ridge Golf Course
Lakewood, NJ



4th Annual Jersey Shore Tennis Open

Hosted by Childers Sotheby's International Realty

Benefitting Dottie's House
Saturday, July 25, 2009
Toms River Country Club
Toms River, NJ



Homes Now, Inc.
Dottie's House
Friends of Dottie's House
Homes Now Chambers Bridge Project
2141 Route 88 East, Suite 4
Brick, NJ 08724

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Homes Now, Inc.
Carol A. Wolfe,
President

Dottie's House
Oliver S. Walling III,
President

Friends of Dottie's House
Regina Foley,
President

**Homes Now Chambers
Bridge Project**
Carol A. Wolfe,
President



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Phone (732) 295-7380
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www.homes-now.org
www.dottieshouse.org
www.friendsofdottieshouse.org

Newsletter

Winter 2009

**HOMES NOW, INC.
RECEIVES HONORS**



Approximately 175 people gathered on December 4, 2008 in celebration of The Brick Township Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet and installation of the 2009 Officers and Board of Directors. Over 20 attendees, consisting of board members, staff, and even residents of the Brick Township Affordable Program were there to witness Homes Now, Inc. as they were presented with The 2008 Service Organization Award. Regina Foley, RN, MBA, CHE and President of the Friends of Dottie's House Board of Directors was also honored as the recipient of The Distinguished Individual Award. The final award, 2008 Business of the Year, was presented to Local Radio Stations of Millennium Radio. We would like to thank the Chamber for organizing this wonderful evening and offer congratulations to all of the honorees!

**THE GUILD OF OCEAN MEDICAL CENTER
RECOGNIZES CAROL A. WOLFE**



Guild Members Jean Guempel, Susan Scherler, Susan Cirafesi, and Starr Wheeler present Carol A. Wolfe of Dottie's House with a beautiful floral arrangement and generous donation for the organization.

On November 12, 2008 the Guild of Ocean Medical Center held their Fall Luncheon and Fashion Show at Manasquan River Golf Club wherein they honored Carol A. Wolfe of Dottie's House. Mrs. Wolfe extended her sincere thanks to the Guild members as they presented Dottie's House with a \$500.00 donation. She also spoke briefly about Dottie's House and the services it provides to women and children who have survived domestic violence.

The Guild of Ocean Medical Center is a non-profit organization which funds educational and health related services throughout the community. The Luncheon consisted of a fashion show of exquisite women's clothing from The Bee and The Wasp, and a Chinese auction, all of which served as exciting pieces for the attendees to view.

Volunteer Spotlight

Judith Petix



Judie Petix has been a significant supporter of Dottie's House since joining the Board of Directors in 2006. She has both personally and professionally given generously of her time, talents and resources. Ms. Petix serves as the Supervisor of Operations at The Mary Holder Agency's Point Pleasant Beach office. In that capacity she spearheaded a food drive for the families of Dottie's House at Thanksgiving which was a resounding success. She and her husband personally delivered the collected goods in time for our residents to enjoy for the holiday. She has also made Dottie's House a part of the Christmas and Hanukah thoughts of the sales agents at her real estate office. Each year they "adopt" a family and respond to the wish lists written by a mom and her children. The agents collect and wrap the wish list gifts and deliver them in time for Santa to bring them on Christmas Eve. Ms. Petix is driven in her efforts to give of herself to help the women and children that are working toward independence and living free of domestic violence.

Ms. Petix is a licensed New Jersey Real Estate Broker and serves as a member of the South Monmouth Board of Realtors, Monmouth-Ocean MLS, and New Jersey MLS Service for Middlesex, Mercer and Hudson Counties. She is also a Director for the Point Pleasant Beach Chamber and a member of the Brick Garden Club. We sincerely appreciate Judie and the Mary Holder Agency's continued support as we work toward diminishing the effects of domestic violence on our neighboring communities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INQUIRIES ON THE RISE

By Nicole Yannelli

Over the past few months our affordable housing inquiries have nearly doubled. The effects of rising unemployment and foreclosures have had a dramatic impact on many from our community. When individuals contact Homes Now, Inc. we provide them with an application for affordable housing and access to additional resources which are available to them. All applicants are referred to the New Jersey Housing Resource Center which provides a listing of affordable housing properties within the State of New Jersey and housing options to individuals with disabilities. We encourage them to get on as many waiting lists as possible to increase their chances of being placed in an affordable unit. Homes Now also refers individuals to the Housing Authority of municipalities they are interested in, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for possible rental assistance, and Ocean County Board of Social Services for various programs including food stamps, rent subsidies, Jersey Care, Adult Medicaid and assistance if they are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Lastly, if individuals contact us and advise that their home is in danger of foreclosure, we refer them to various foreclosure prevention and asset protection organizations, and also suggest that they contact their mortgage company to negotiate their mortgage terms. If you know anyone who is interested in affordable housing or is in danger of foreclosure, please have them contact Homes Now, Inc. because we all deserve to have a place we can call "home".



To obtain an application for affordable housing contact our office at (732) 295-7380 or download one from our website, www.homes-now.org



INAUGURAL TRIATHLON A SUCCESS!

More than 500 participants, spectators and volunteers gathered at Island Beach State Park on October 12, 2008 in celebration of the first ever triathlon benefitting Dottie's House. The triathlon, which also featured a duathlon, raised over \$16,000 and had a total of 363 participants ranging from 11 to 70 years of age.

The event took place on a beautiful fall morning with temperatures averaging 75 degrees and everyone in high spirits as they enjoyed music by Paul DiPasquale of Backstage Entertainment who donated his services.

The triathlon began with a ¼ mile swim in the 68 degree ocean and was followed by a 10 mile bike and 5k run through the scenic State Park. The 1st place winner, Dave Slavinski from Point Pleasant, crossed the finish line at 48:10. The 2nd place male winner was Joe Donahue, also from Point Pleasant, who finished at 50:22, and was followed shortly thereafter by the 3rd place male winner, Stephen Delmonte who finished at 50:49. The female winners were as follows: 1st place Midge Kerr (57:11), 2nd place Diane Rodgers (57:40), and 3rd place Laura Linenberg (1:00:37).

The duathlon consisted of a 2 mile run, 10 mile bike, and 5k run. The male winners were as follows: 1st place Dave Dixon (57:25), 2nd place Evan Redos (1:02:11), and 3rd place Dave Casal (1:02:35). The female winners were: 1st place Catherine Satzke (1:00:33), 2nd place Lorrie Beck (1:03:10), and 3rd place Tammy Guld (1:04:44).



Participants begin the race with a ¼ mile swim in the Atlantic Ocean of Island Beach State Park.

The race was followed by a lunch of pasta and chicken which was donated by Carrabba's Italian Grill of Brick and an awards ceremony where participants from 10 age categories received plaques and gift certificates.

"We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, participants, staff members, and volunteers. Your support has allowed us to provide services to the 17 women and 38 children who reside at Dottie's House as they strive to break free from the vicious cycle of domestic violence", said Carol A. Wolfe, Founder and Executive Director of Dottie's House. We are hoping to make this an annual event so be sure to check in with us next year!



Lennar Staff gather at Dottie's House for their Focused Act of Giving.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Adult volunteer drivers needed for
2 hour shifts (am and pm)
Monday through Friday
If you're interested, please contact
Dottie's House at (732) 295-7380

LENNAR'S FOCUSED ACT OF CARING

Lennar selected Dottie's House to be the recipient of their 2008 Focused Act of Caring which focuses on giving back to the community. Lennar did not hold their annual holiday parties this year. They instead replaced those parties, which places focus on 'themselves', with random acts of caring, which focuses on those 'who could not help themselves'.

On December 15, 2008 more than 50 employees from Lennar's Freehold office gathered at Dottie's House in their efforts to give back to the community. They completed various projects including painting, replacing weather stripping, and adding molding in the hallways to give it a more pleasant appearance for the residents. Lennar's staff also worked together to assemble and decorate Christmas trees and holiday decorations in both the common areas and individual apartments.

"We are delighted that Lennar has selected Dottie's House as their charity for their Focused Act of Caring," said Carol A. Wolfe, Executive Director of Dottie's House. "I would like to thank Don Bompensa, Lennar's New Jersey Division President, and all of his hard-working and dedicated staff members who helped make this year even brighter!"

'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY GIVING

For the 10th year in a row, the community outreach during the holiday season has been remarkable. 18 families and organizations adopted the women and children at Dottie's House, including Honey Tree Day Care of Point Pleasant and Toms River, Judith-Rachel Circle of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Mary Holder Realty, Shore Point Radiation Oncology, Spring Lake Manor Employees, Women's Club at Four Seasons South Knolls, along with several other generous families from the community. United Way donated one gift for each child, stockings were donated by Sea Girt Spring Lake Junior Woman's Club. Various gift cards were donated by Brick Utilities, Costanza Builders, and a local Knights of Columbus. John Crosio, member of the Knights, has also arranged for all of the families to receive Christmas dinners. Other donors included the Builder's Club of Lake Riveria Middle School, Horse-N-Around 4 H Club, St. Thomas & St. Paul's Churches, and Team Oliveira Brazilian Ji Jitsu. Additional toys, monetary donations, personal care items and cleaning products were donated by local clubs and families. We would like to thank the community for their continued generosity.

A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

On December 8, 2008 faculty and students of Point Pleasant Beach High School presented Dottie's House with a beautifully restored doll house. Mrs. Phyllis Appel, Home Economics Instructor, initiated this Community Service Project when she came upon the doll house in her basement and wanted it to be used by children in need. With the help of Mrs. Lisa Faitoute, Art and Computer Graphics Instructor, and Mr. Richard LaDuca, Woodshop and CAD Drawing Instructor, and 10 students (who are pictured to the right), came together and completed this community service project in a record 4 weeks, just in time for the holidays! Money was raised to fund the project by Key Club under the leadership of Mrs. Nancy Scalabrini and student Stephen Palsi, a Key Club Officer, who put together a 'Walk About' fundraising event.

Aside from the fundraising efforts, faculty and students made personal contributions to this project. Mrs. Appel donated the doll house, students Emily Pfister and Marissa Ober completely furnished one of the children's rooms, Ms. Stephanie Dalton handmade beautiful oriental rugs, and Mrs. Faitoute photographed the dolls and scattered family portraits of the doll house family throughout the home.

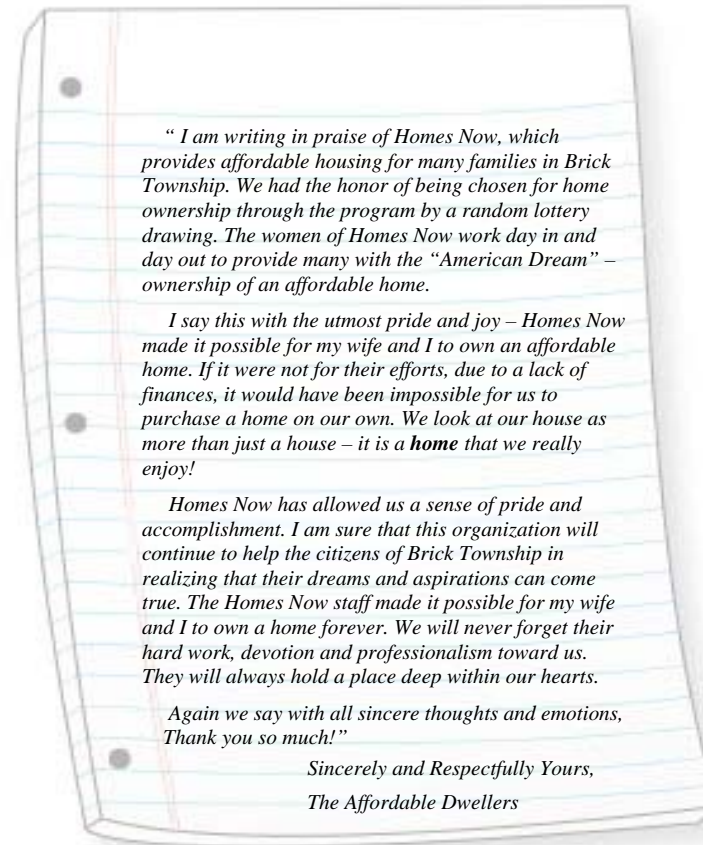
"We are overjoyed that Point Pleasant Beach High School has selected Dottie's House as the recipient of this Community Service Project and the children are going to adore this holiday gift. We are also very proud of the students that took time to think of others during the holiday season", said Marilyn Marcin, Operations Director. The doll house will be placed in the community room of Dottie's House, where volunteers come together on weeknights to babysit the children while their mothers are receiving support services within the facility.

Ms. Faitoute indicated that it is the desire of the related Arts Department to continue a service project every year to address the needs of the community and they are hoping to complete additional projects for Dottie's House in the future.



Point Pleasant Beach High School Students present their Community Service Project to Dottie's House.

The students pictured in the Back Row (left to right): Marissa Ober, Steve Palsi, Chris Hubbard, Kevin Conner, Conner Shields, PJ McNulty, Brendan Tighe
Front Row (left to right): Emily Pfister, Sarah Hurst, Martina Schatzman



"I am writing in praise of Homes Now, which provides affordable housing for many families in Brick Township. We had the honor of being chosen for home ownership through the program by a random lottery drawing. The women of Homes Now work day in and day out to provide many with the "American Dream" – ownership of an affordable home.

I say this with the utmost pride and joy – Homes Now made it possible for my wife and I to own an affordable home. If it were not for their efforts, due to a lack of finances, it would have been impossible for us to purchase a home on our own. We look at our house as more than just a house – it is a **home** that we really enjoy!

Homes Now has allowed us a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am sure that this organization will continue to help the citizens of Brick Township in realizing that their dreams and aspirations can come true. The Homes Now staff made it possible for my wife and I to own a home forever. We will never forget their hard work, devotion and professionalism toward us. They will always hold a place deep within our hearts.

Again we say with all sincere thoughts and emotions, Thank you so much!"

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,
The Affordable Dwellers

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Around the holidays you always hear different stories relating to the 'true meaning of Christmas'. This year we encountered the most generous little boy, Joey Zarrello of Forked River. Joey, who had just recently celebrated his 6th birthday, realized that he didn't necessarily *need* all of the toys he had received as gifts. He approached his mother and explained that he wanted his gifts to be given to children in need. After researching various local charities, Joey and his mother decided to make their donation to Dottie's House so that the residents would have as joyous a Christmas as their family has always had. Now this, ladies and gentlemen, defines the 'true meaning of Christmas'.



6 year old Joey Zarrello donates over 20 of his birthday presents to children in need.

HOW CAN I HELP?

We often receive phone calls from individuals asking what they can donate to Dottie's House. If you are interested in donating to Dottie's House, below is a general list of some items we could use:

- New sheet sets (full & twin sizes)
- New hypoallergenic pillows
- New shower curtains
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Cleaning products (i.e. Windex, Fantastic, Mr. Clean, Clorox Clean-Up, dusting polish)
- Mops / Swiffer WetJets
- Laundry detergent
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby wipes
- Gift Cards to grocery stores
- Gift Cards to local stores (i.e. Target, Walmart)

