



*Giving Hope & Shelter to Homeless Women with Children*

# Insider



*Happy Holidays*



*Thank you for your generous support that helps homeless families enjoy a blessed holiday season and gain hope for the New Year*

## 2011 Accomplishments

Many important and exciting achievements have been realized at Simon House during 2011. Fourteen families (14 women and 18 children) lived at Simon House between January and November .

We served a few less families during 2011 than in the previous year because one of our living units was under renovation for several months. The

transformation of that unit was completed by Jimmy Bailey (age 14) who undertook the project for his Eagle Scout certification. Jimmy managed the replacement of the kitchen sink, painting of all rooms, repair and replacement of flooring, and other needed repairs. The living unit now looks great and is making a comfortable home for one of our resident families.

Simon House also assisted 258 families including former residents and families from the community with material items or vouchers that helped them remain in their own homes. The types of items provided included diapers and other baby needs, food, personal care items, cleaning products, clothing, and some household items. (continued p. 2)

## Looking Forward to 2012

Simon House looks forward to an exciting year in 2012 which marks its 25th year of continuous operation serving homeless women and children (see page 3 for more information). We look forward to continuing to serve women and children who are homeless or are experiencing financial and other challenges in their lives. We anticipate that the need for

housing or help with other needs will continue to increase due to current economic trends.

With the continued support of the many friends of Simon House, we will continue to address these needs. We have several fundraising opportunities planned for 2012 and we invite you to participate. More information is provided on page 3.

La Jardiniere Garden Club donated a special Christmas tree for our lobby.



## From the Director's Desk

Pam McCalla



Over the last year, I have been looking at ways to help not only the ladies in our residential program, but the plight of the homeless and low income in the area. At the beginning, in 1987, Simon House responded to the need for young pregnant women for housing because they could not get a job while pregnant or lacked family support. Over the years, the program grew to respond to the needs of pregnant women and single mothers who lacked support, and found themselves without a home of their own.

In anticipation of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I have been going through some old records, while reflecting on the current program. As the needs in this community have changed, we have expanded beyond the residential program to include others who are in need in our area. We have made many referrals to other agencies, networking with them so that people could have their temporary needs met. We have shared our excess blessings with other agencies who serve low income populations. We accept their referrals for financial counseling, Goodwill vouchers, and other items.

With expanding needs, space becomes a serious issue. I share an office with the two AmeriCorps members, and as cozy as it is, it is not always convenient to interrupt what I am doing when one of them meets with a client. Recently, we had to turn down at least four women in just one week because our residential program is full. Our children need room to play (which has always been the case). As more of our residents realize the need for education, a computer room is quickly becoming a necessity.

In 2012, I would love to see a \$250,000 balance in our capital reserves enabling us to move forward to meet our space needs. I would like to see an education fund established for the residents encouraging them to further their education. Out of the six current residents, two are pursuing higher education, two are looking into it, and the other two have GEDs. I anticipate more opportunities to network with other agencies in the area trying to coordinate services for those who are homeless or extremely low income.

## 2011 Accomplishments (Continued)

(Continued from p. 1)

All this assistance is made possible by donated items from the community.

Two local businesses helped with funding: Kohl's provided \$1,500, and volunteer employees put in a vegetable garden for the house. The grant was used to purchase new school clothes and school supplies for children at Simon House and to purchase pull-ups for resident children and community families. T J Maxx selected Simon House as its charity of choice and donated \$5,000 toward program operations.

For the safety of our residents and staff, new smoke detectors were placed throughout the house and linked to alert residents on any floor if there is an alarm on another floor. A Board Committee has also drafted emergency policies and procedures that are under review at present.

Simon House was the recipient of two AmeriCorps

member volunteers during 2011 (see article below). These individuals will be providing financial literacy training for residents and will be assisting with finding them permanent housing. Besides assisting Simon House residents, the AmeriCorps members are working with our prevention and outreach program to help low income families in the community who are at risk of losing their housing.

Simon House benefits greatly from the services of many volunteers and has enjoyed increased regular volunteers who assist with clerical tasks, tutoring, and transportation on a consistent basis. Groups from two local churches meet weekly with our residents — one sharing a meal with them, and the other offering a Bible study.

Many other volunteer groups have provided help with maintenance and special events including GO Frankfort, several church groups, civic organizations,

and others. Staff has prepared a volunteer training manual that is in the editing stages.

Generous donations of material goods continue to flow in making it possible for Simon House to help many in the community as well as our residents. Simon House works with other community organizations to distribute these items. For example, Simon House is the delivery point for a quarterly donation of foods from the Kraft Company which are then shared with other homeless shelters and food resources in the community.

Simon House held several successful fundraisers during 2011 — Lasagna with Luigi, Mother's Day gifts, *A Night in Margaritaville*, and Dine to Donate at Applebee's and Carino's which raised more than \$40,000. This, with the generous support of many individuals, churches, and businesses makes our work possible.

## Simon House Welcomes New AmeriCorps Member

Kathy Schneider began her service at Simon House as an AmeriCorps Build Corps member from the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky. She is our resident housing specialist helping the residents in the program get ready to find and secure stable housing for their families.

She is a wonderful addition to our program and voluntarily facilitated our Wednesday evening night program before beginning as the Housing Specialist.

Kathy moved to Frankfort in early 2010 and owns properties in the area. She retired from United Family

Services in Charlotte, NC, where she served as a financial and housing counselor. She comes with a multitude of experiences including public school teaching and many volunteer projects. She is a life long learner, always seeking to build new skills.

Kathy has two grown children, a married son in Pittsburgh and a married daughter in San Diego.

Kathy states, "I am convinced that I am [well] suited to Simon House, where I continue to learn every day."



Have you been a resident, board member, volunteer or staff member of Simon House between its beginning in 1987 and now? If so, we would like to hear from you to help us put together historical information for our 25th anniversary celebration.

## Recent Donations and Services

### Donations from National Guard

Members of the local National Guard brought an early Christmas gift to Simon House in November. They first brought food items, but when they learned we were



running short on baby items they returned the next day with additional supplies.

### Go Frankfort Volunteers

On Saturday, November 19, a large group of volunteers came to Simon House to help with several needed tasks. One group of students spent the morning decorating the house for Christmas, much to the delight of the residents! Another group sorted donated items and put together boxes of things that are often requested, making it easier to meet these needs.



### Open House

Simon House Board members and staff hosted an Open House on November 19. With the house all decorated for Christmas by Go Frankfort volunteers, guests were able to tour the facility, learn about our programs and needs, and enjoy refreshment and conversations with staff. Above, Board member Kevin Welch welcomes visitors.

## 25th Anniversary Celebration

Get ready to celebrate! The Simon House board and staff are planning several activities to celebrate 25 years of service to the community during 2012 including benefit concerts, special historical articles, recognition of those involved in Simon House from its beginning to the present, and the launch of a capital campaign for a new facility.

A contest was held for area high school students to cre-

ate a logo for our 25th anniversary with the prize going to Emily Martin (below with Board Chair, Ann Crowe) from Frankfort High School



who created the design above. Look for it throughout the year to learn about celebratory activities.

## 2012 Fundraisers

In 2012, Simon House will hold its fifth annual fundraiser, *A Night in Margaritaville*. It will be held May 18 at the Frankfort Country Club, and this year promises to provide more fun, excitement, and wonderful auction items than ever before. Save the date and plan to join us then!

We will again have our annual Mother's Day campaign in early May giving our supporters a chance to honor or remember their mothers with a gift to Simon House. The person honored will receive a Mother's Day card, and the names of those honored and remem-

bered will be placed in the local newspaper and on Simon House's website.

During our 25th year we have set a goal of raising at least \$25,000 for a new facility from individual and group donations. If you can give \$25, \$250, \$1,000 or any amount to help us celebrate and move forward to help more women and children, please send your donation to Simon House, P. O. Box 5174, Frankfort, KY 40602.

Simon House continues to benefit from the Kroger Card fundraising initiative. By using a special gift card for

your Kroger purchases, you can donate four percent of your purchases to Simon House. If you don't have a card but would like to participate, please contact Simon House at (502) 223-2138.



As always donations of material items are needed and appreciated. At the right is a list of items we especially need at this time.

## Opportunities for Giving at Year-end and Beyond

As the end of the year approaches, many people consider their financial situation and make decisions about the current year and years ahead. Charitable giving provides an opportunity to receive a tax deduction while helping those less fortunate.

Besides cash gifts, donations of assets, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds that have increased in value, can be a benefit to Simon House and help the donor avoid capital gains taxes. Thus, the contributor benefits both from the value of the tax deduction for the charitable gift and by avoiding capital gains tax. To make such a gift to Simon House, contact your brokerage firm for advice on how to proceed.

It is also a good idea to review estate plans periodically. Including Simon House in your will or estate planning can provide a lasting gift to the women and children we serve and lessen estate taxes to your heirs.

Please contact Simon House if you have questions or need assistance in making arrangements. Gifts to Simon House provide a lasting legacy through the lives of women and children who benefit from your generosity.

### Needed Items

- Trash bags
- Sealable plastic bags (quart & gallon size)
- Bathroom tissue
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes
- Dish and laundry detergent
- New pillows
- Twin- and full-size blankets
- Flatware sets (at least 4 place settings)
- Pots, pans, and baking dishes
- First Aid kits
- Ladies' razors
- Deodorant

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**Simon House**

P. O. Box 5174  
208 W. Campbell Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

Phone: 502-223-2138  
Fax: 502-223-9808  
E-mail: [simon@fewpb.net](mailto:simon@fewpb.net)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.simonhouseonline.org](http://www.simonhouseonline.org)

## Recent Gifts

Simon House wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations who have donated funds between July and October, 2011.

Association of Government Accountants

Mildred Aukerman

Ann Crowe

Department Of Insurance, Consumer Protection Division

Charles & Diane Dickinson

First United Methodist Church

Fox Creek Christian Church

Frankfort Peddlers Mall

Good Shepherd Church

Roberta Gray

James Hall

Wendell & Lee Anne Hamm

Nicole Harmon

Jack Hoover

Hope Community Church

Immanuel Baptist Church

Robert & Beverly Lancaster

Kenneth H. Lovitt

Dennis Martin

Aileen McClain

Robert & Lynne McWilliams

Mary Meade

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church

Mary Anne Pollock

Anne Robbins

Admiral Dewey Sanders

Kathy Schneider

Susan Smith

Scott Stevenson

Bryan & Linda Stopper

Rene True

Donald & Carolyn Waldner

Does your club or organization need a guest speaker in 2012? Simon House will be happy to arrange for a staff or board member to speak. Make arrangements with Pam McCalla, Executive Director, (502) 223-2138 or [simon@fewpb.net](mailto:simon@fewpb.net).

## Be a Christmas Angel

### Support Simon House with your End-of-Year Tax Deductible Donation

Simon House depends on its many supporters to donate toward the shelter and care of homeless women and children throughout the year. As the end of the year approaches your generosity is especially important as we meet 2011 budget obligations and plan for needs in 2012. Costs are rising markedly, and Simon House cannot dodge these increases. Utilities, food, supplies, and all other costs will be higher in 2012.

Your generous donation in December will provide a significant portion of the support we need, and you will receive a tax deduction as well.

Please consider being a Christmas Angel for Simon House this year by donating as you are able.

The cost to provide shelter and other services for a client at Simon House for one day averages \$8.50. Would you consider supporting one resident for a day, a week, or a month?

Please clip this form and enclose in the envelope with your donation.

**Yes, I want to be a Christmas Angel for Simon House by making my donation as follows:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Gain your **Angel Harp** with a donation of \$60 to support one resident for a week.

\_\_\_\_\_ Obtain your **Angel Wings** with a donation of \$120 to support one resident for two weeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ Acquire your **Angel Halo** with a donation of \$255 to support one resident for a month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide an **Angel Sponsor** gift for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

