



Insider

Simon House Celebrates 25 Years and Launches Capital Campaign

By Dave Mistich

As Simon House celebrates 25 years of serving homeless women at 208 West Campbell Street in Frankfort, the organization is launching a capital campaign to expand their services to the community.

For 25 years Simon House has helped homeless, single mothers acquire temporary shelter for themselves and their children in times of need. Aside from providing shelter, the organization helps women get back on track by offering an extensive list of transitional services, including financial planning, a mandated GED preparation course, and college application counseling.

Executive Director Pamela McCalla says the organization has made full use of the current location. Just within the past year, Simon House has renovated living units,

bathrooms, and the home's attic. Even with renovations, the current facility only has 6 units available for women seeking help.

"It's good, but we could do so much more," said McCalla. "We turn down an average of two to three women a month due to a lack of room."

McCalla said that the organization has done well considering the circumstances, but explained that there are still many women in the community that could benefit from their services if Simon House had a bigger and better equipped facility. "We've expanded our services as much as we can given the limitations of the current facility, but we'd like to do more. We'd like to help more people because there is still a need out there," she said.

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Spring Fundraisers for Simon House

On Friday, May 18, Simon House will hold its fifth annual fundraiser, *A Night in Margaritaville*, at the Frankfort Country Club. The festive event will feature live and silent auctions of fantastic items donated by area merchants and individuals.

Besides that, guests can dance to the music of Jimmy Buffett, and enjoy delicious food and free Margarita tastings.

Between now and May 10 Simon House will be accepting sponsorship and auction item donations.



Make a Mother's Day gift to Simon House in honor or in memory of your mother or another special person in your life.

Simon House will mail a special Mother's Day card to the person you are honoring. For memorial gifts, a tasteful card will be sent to an individual you designate, if you wish. Further, the names of all those honored or remembered will be listed in the *State Journal* on Sunday May 13, and they also will be listed on Simon House's website. (continued on page 2)

Tickets will cost \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Reserve your tickets early, as space is limited (cont., page 2)



If These Walls Could Talk!



Simon House is 25 years old! We desperately need a newer, larger facility. We are working diligently this year to reach the \$250,000 mark in our Capital Campaign. With that amount, we can apply to large foundations and government agencies for matching funds.

The story of the Simon House began with a need and the resulting vision of how to fulfill that need.

The year was 1985. The need was personified by a young woman who found herself pregnant and with no place to stay. In a desperate situation she called the pregnancy help line and talked with a VISTA worker about her plight. However, no place could be found for her to live within the whole

state of Kentucky. Despite the roadblock the VISTA worker did not give up. She took it upon herself to find a place for this desperate young woman. And with work and good fortune she found a dwelling – a duplex in the Holmes Street area of Frankfort – that could be renovated. Not only would the duplex help the desperate young woman, but there was enough space to help three

(continued on page 3)

Please Contact Simon House

Are you — or do you know — a former Simon House resident, staff member, volunteer or board member? Please contact us at 502-223-2138 to share this information. We would like to compile information about our history and where you are today.

Needed Items

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Formula
- Dish and laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Bathroom tissue
- Trash bags
- Facial tissues
- Shampoo, conditioners, and other hair products
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- New Pillows
- Twin size sheets, blankets and comforters
- First aid kits
- Copy paper
- Postage stamps

Speakers

Do you need a speaker for your group or organization? Contact Simon House at 502-223-2138 to arrange for a staff or Board member to speak at your meeting.



Treasures await you at this year's *A Night in Margaritaville*. Take a chance on a treasure chest for surprises and special values!

**Capital Campaign (continued)**

That need can be filled by acquiring and renovating a new location or by breaking ground for construction of a new facility altogether. The organization hopes to find the space and resources to provide other needed services for women and children housed at the shelter. The current location lacks space for a play area for children and adequate room for offices for staff and volunteers.

To reach their goal of raising \$250,000 in 2012, the organization has a variety of events planned for the remainder of the year, including their annual A Night in Margaritaville event in May and a fund drive leading up to Mother's Day. The organization is also planning

a benefit concert in September.

Individual members of the board of directors and volunteers of the organization will also be planning events at their homes to raise money, inviting 25 friends and community members for a social function and asking them to contribute to the building fund.

"If everybody on our mailing list would donate twenty-five dollars, it would account for over fifty thousand dollars of what we need," said McCalla.

Those donations go to an important and unique cause in the area, she said. Not only does Simon House provide housing, it inspires and motivates women to achieve their goals. It is a place of hope.

A Night in Margaritaville (continued)

for this exciting event. Proceeds will go toward Simon House's capital campaign.

Please contact Simon House at 502-223-2138 to:

- Purchase tickets.
- Donate auction items.
- Donate sponsorships.
- Volunteer to assist with the event.

Mothers Day Gifts (continued)

What better way to say "thank you," to your mother or other special person in your life than to let her know you want other mothers to have the opportunity to care for their children as she cared for you!

To make a donation, see the enclosed letter and return the donation form in the enclosed envelope to

Simon House
P. O. Box 5174
Frankfort, KY 40602

If you would be interested in hosting a social event for your friends to support the **Building Fund Campaign**, please contact Simon House at 502-223-2138. We can supply you with invitations, commitment cards and other information.



Scenes from last year's Margaritaville promise a good time for 2012. Above left, many guests enjoy talking with the live parrot. At right above is the Tiki Bar where free Margarita tastings are available. Below, guests enjoy bidding on the many auction items.



If These Walls Could Talk! (continued)

other women in similar situations.

Thus began the vision of what was to become the Simon House. And the vision was becoming a reality – but not without a lot of hard work on many different levels, from government approvals and permits to hammering the last nail in the renovation project. City officials, community organizations, churches, high school clubs and volunteers from every corner of the community all pitched in, with whatever means they could, along with monetary contributions to make the 10-room duplex a reality and a safe haven for women in search of help, hope and a roof over their heads.

Some setbacks did occur along the way. But within a few months the house was ready for its first resident. Others soon followed and the house was filled to capacity by June 1986. In 1987 the Simon House was incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization.

And so, with many hurdles overcome, more hurdles were to be confronted. The house on Holmes Street was not perfect by any means. Space was limited, it was a distance from public transportation and major sewer problems began to develop. A more suitable dwelling was found at 208 West Campbell Street, just four blocks from the Kentucky Capitol building. The residence was old but large enough to accommodate six living units, was structurally sound, properly zoned, was on a bus route and, best of all, it was for sale – if but a little unaffordable. Not to be deterred by a few thousand dollars, the Simon House was able to get the price lowered from \$90,000 to \$70,000 (thanks to Cattie Lou Miller, owner of the structure). With help from the community, \$15,000 was raised for the down payment. An additional loan was procured and the house was purchased.

In November 1987, the Simon House moved to the Campbell St. location and remains there to date.

The structure had already served as a home to many individuals and families prior to becoming The Simon House. The first reference to it in deed

records was in 1906. Susan McGrew lived at this address at the time of her death and left it in her will to Harriet Shea who sold it in 1906 to J. B. Utterback for \$4,000. Mr. and Mrs. Utterback sold the property that same year to Annie L. O'Donnell.

The next record we have is the transfer of the property in 1944 from Alice Campbell to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harrod and Mr. and Mrs. James Miller. They, in turn, sold it in 1946 to Joie Jones.

In 1965 Ms. Jones sold the house with all the personal property it contained to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Peach who transferred it in 1968 to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Craig who assumed the mortgage of \$19,878.11. The Craigs sold the property in 1974 to Mr. and Mrs. James Daniels and Mr. and Mrs. James Tutt for 28,000. They then sold it in 1977 to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jeffers for \$35,000.

The Jeffers sold the house in 1980 to Virginia O'Nan Harrod and Cattie Lou Miller for \$62,000. Ms. Harrod sold her half interest to Ms. Miller in 1983, and in 1987, Cattie Lou Miller sold the property to Simon House for \$70,000.

We know little about the changes made to the property over the years, but it may have been subdivided into apartments as early as the mid-1940s when it was purchased by the Harrods and Millers together. It is likely that many families called the residence home from the early 1900s until 1987.

Since 208 Campbell Street became The Simon House in 1987, more than 425 women and 325 children who otherwise would have had no place to live have found a home – if only temporarily – under its roof. More than one-third of the women served in the program during the past 25 years were pregnant.

If these walls could talk, they probably would tell stories of heartache – of women and children becoming homeless due to poverty, domestic

violence, substance abuse, and many other difficulties that led to a crisis in their lives.

However, the walls also would likely tell stories of great joy – of mothers and their children feeling safe and having a warm place to stay; of children being able to attend school regularly; of mothers getting jobs and paying off debts or saving enough money to get their own apartment; of women pursuing their dreams of an education or specific career training instead of settling for minimum wage jobs.

These walls have also witnessed the relief of families that knock on the door with great frequency to ask for help with necessities, just to make it through the month until their next check comes. They might say that if Simon House hadn't been there to help them, they, too, would have been homeless. In 2011, 321 unduplicated families received assistance such as food, diapers, cleaning products, personal care items, and clothing.

After 25 years at this location, Simon House has seen and heard a lot. If the walls could talk now, they would tell us they are worn and tired, requiring constant upkeep. They would talk about how the children living there have no place to play outside these walls because there is no land with this building. They would tell us how crowded it is for three staff members to work in one small office. And they would tell us that there is

simply not enough room to store the many generous donations that could be used by others in the community.

Most of all, these walls would describe the many heartbreaking stories of women and children who ask to live at Simon House but are turned away because no space is available when they need it. For every family that can enter the residential program, at least two or three others need to be admitted but there is no room.

So, during this 25th Anniversary year, Simon House's Board of Directors and staff are developing a new vision for this program because the need is ongoing and has grown even greater from its start in 1987.

Simon House needs a new facility with at least twice the space in its residential program, with outside play space for children, and with ample office space, storage, and other facilities (such as classrooms) to expand its programs to assist more women and children in Franklin and surrounding counties who are experiencing homelessness or are on the brink of losing their homes.

It will take the entire community to make this dream of a new facility a reality. Simon House welcomes gifts of any size to the building fund. Won't you help us achieve this vision by making a donation today?

Please clip and use the form below to send your donation to Simon House, P. O. Box 5174, Frankfort, KY 40602

Building Fund Commitment

Yes, I pledge to help Simon House raise \$250,000 for a new facility with my gift of \$ _____ (total gift) to be given:

by _____ (date) in _____ monthly installments

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Simon House, P. O. Box 5174, Frankfort, KY 40602

SIMON HOUSE

Simon House

P. O. Box 5174
208 W. Campbell Street

Phone: 502-223-2138

Fax: 502-223-9808

E-mail: simon@fewpb.net

Visit us on the web at
www.simonhouseonline.org



The children at Simon House received an extra Christmas gift this year. Members of Hope Community Church painted the playroom, removed old carpet, and had it re-carpeted. The playroom was finished in time for Christmas!



Renovations



Members of Juniper Hills Golf Association presented a check for \$1,000 to Pam McCalla, Executive Director and Karen Liebman, Board member on December 19, 2011.

Proceeds from Kroger cards generated more than \$650 for Simon House in 2011. This is a wonderful way to support Simon

House, and it costs shoppers nothing extra. If you don't yet have a Kroger card for Simon House, call 502-223-2138 to arrange to receive a card and learn how to use it to benefit Simon House.



Thank You for Your Gifts

Simon House wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations who have donated funds from November 2011, through February, 2012.

Charles & Betty Allen
Alpha Delta Kappa — Beta Epsilon
Altrusa International Inc.
V. Barr
Ann C. Bryan
Jim & Sara Call
Lisa Cann
Rebecca Childers
Danny & Mary Clay
James & Betty Claycomb
Steve & Jenny Clinger
Commonwealth Credit Union
Ann Crowe
Sandra Deaton
Darlene Eakin
Ted & Christina Evans
Sally A. Everman
First United Methodist Church
Mike & Kathy Fister
Fox Creek Christian Church

Frankfort Arts Foundation
Margaret B. Friel
Roberta Gabbard
Tammie F. Gaines
Good Shepherd Church
Roberta Gray
James Hall
Nicole Harmon
Thomas Hayden
Highland Christian Church
David & Lorie Hines
Jack Hoover
Hope Circle
Immanuel Baptist Church
Verna Johnson
Juniper Hill Golf Association, Inc.
Michael Kinnard
Kroger Starbucks
Amanda Lange
Brady J. Lineman
Janet L. Lohr
Dennis Martin
John B. Martin
Pamela McCalla
Aileen McClain
Charles & Mary Mitchell
John Moberly
Benjamin Moore

Mark & Nancy Overstreet
Path Choices, LLC
Phillip & Carol Coleman, III
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church
Mary Anne Pollock
Presbyterian Women
Circle 3 in 1
Carolyn Purcell
William Reinig
Ridgeview Homemakers
Doris Robinson
Mary Rogers
John Schaaf
William & Kay Scott
Hester Souder
Scott Stevenson
Bryan & Linda Stopper
Geneva Straub
Marvin V. Swinford
The Women of The South Frankfort Presbyterian Church
Donald J. & Carolyn F. Waldner
Sherrell Watson
Jessica Werremeyer
West End Homemakers
Maurita R. Whelan
Women's Club of Frankfort
Narvilla Woody



Board member Lane Stonecypher delivered boxes of toys and games for the children at Christmas.



Santa visited Simon House's children and volunteers at a party at Mr. Gatti's on December 19.