



Insider

Simon House Celebrates 25 Years of Service

The Simon House Story

In 1985, a young woman in Frankfort who was pregnant and homeless called the pregnancy helpline. The VISTA worker who answered that call could not find any place within Kentucky that could accommodate her. The VISTA worker didn't give up, however, and found a duplex in the Holmes Street area of Frankfort that could be renovated to help this young woman and others in similar circumstances.

The plight of that woman and the determination of the VISTA worker laid the groundwork for what was to become Simon House, which was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in



January of 1987. Soon the number of women seeking help was greater than could be housed at the Holmes Street house, and the Board of this young organization began searching for another facility. In November of 1987, the present home of Simon House was purchased and has housed women and their children ever since.

The very existence of Simon House would not have been possible without the help of many in the community. City officials, community organizations, churches, high school clubs and many other volunteers have pitched in with monetary contributions and much hard work to build and sustain Simon House as it exists today.

Simon House offers shelter and hope to homeless women, age 18 or older, who are pregnant or have children. Residents are provided with individualized assistance designed to develop personal and family stability enabling mothers in crisis to become self-sufficient and positive parents for their children.

Throughout its history, Simon House has served more than 430 women and 410 children in its residential program. About one-third of the women served were pregnant.

Besides its residential program, Simon House provides outreach to community residents needing assistance with material items such as food, clothing, diapers, cleaning supplies and personal care products. In 2011 more than 320 families were assisted, preventing some from becoming homeless.



Empowering Women

Nurturing Children

Changing Lives

Enhancing Communities

Simon House Day Celebration

Tuesday

November 13, 2012

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Capitol Rotunda

Enclosed with this newsletter is your personal invitation to attend this celebratory event which is hosted by the Frankfort Kiwanis Club in recognition of 25 years of inclusion of women in Kiwanis International and local chapters. Please join us for greetings from dignitaries, a keynote address, and a presentation by the Kiwanis Club. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony on the Mezzanine floor of the Capitol.

You are also invited to an

Open House

at Simon House

208 W. Campbell Street
Frankfort, KY

1:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 13

Come and see our facility and programs

Would you like to help Simon House celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a gift? All "birthday" donations received between now and the end of 2012 will go into our building fund. Enclosed is a donation card you can use to return with your contribution in the envelope provided. More information about the future of Simon House is included on page 2 of this newsletter.



Simon House

From the Director's Desk

Pam McCalla



The Future of Simon House

Simon House is thriving and growing. It began as a resource for single pregnant women with no other place to turn. Through the years, the need has evolved for services that help homeless single mothers as well as those who are pregnant.

Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population in the United States, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. The National Center on Family Homelessness reports that homeless families now comprise roughly one-third of the total homeless population in this country, and approximately 1.6 million children experience homelessness each year.

Poverty, domestic violence, physical and mental health issues, substance abuse, limited educational attainment, and inadequate employment options often are factors for homeless families. Homelessness is one of many traumatic events in the lives of these mothers and their children. The results for the children often are so significant that their development may be delayed. They are more likely than other children to experience violence in their families or communities, be sick, have emotional or behavioral problems, and develop learning problems.

Sadly, the need for housing for homeless single mothers and their children is so great in Franklin and surrounding Central Kentucky counties that Simon House has to turn away about three or four families for each one that can be served. When all six of our units are occupied and a young mother with one or two children needs a place to live, it is heart-wrenching to know that she and her children likely will have to continue living in overcrowded — and sometimes unsafe — conditions with friends or relatives who may not want them, go to a short-term emergency shelter and move again in 30 days, or perhaps live in their car until a better



Cheryl is a native of Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from Kentucky State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work in May, 2012. She is a Certified Nursing Assistant and previously worked in an Assisted Living facility and at Hospice of the Bluegrass in Frankfort. While a student, she volunteered at Simon House and at the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce.

Cheryl works 30 hours each week at Simon House and also is pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work at Kentucky State University.

Simon House Welcomes New Personnel

Cheryl Crawford

Case Manager

Cheryl Crawford became the new case manager at Simon House beginning October 2, 2012. She will help each resident develop personal goals and work to achieve them so they can become self-sufficient and live independently in the community with their children.

Mehgan Straub

AmeriCorps Member

Mehgan Straub is our AmeriCorps Member who began working at Simon House on September 4, 2012.

Mehgan works with families who qualify for our residential program but for whom we have no space.

She also assists former Simon House residents and low-income families in the community needing assistance to remain in their homes.

Mehgan is from Woodford County and earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Midway College in December, 2010. She has great creative ideas for acquiring and organizing resources for families in need. She has already obtained donations to upgrade one of the bathrooms at Simon House and she is working on matching donated furniture with the needs of some of our clients.



Stop by Simon House to meet these new workers!

solution can be found.

The Simon House Board and staff are studying needs and trends to determine the best direction for future development. A new facility is needed to replace the 100-plus-year-old building currently in use. Besides a more modern and larger facility, we need outdoor play space for our children, storage, and staff offices.

A capital campaign is underway and ongoing community support will be essential to continue this vital service for women and children.

Simon House is in the business of changing lives by empowering women so they can better nurture their children. When that happens our community will be a better place for all of us to live.

Thank You for Your Gifts

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations who donated funds during August and September, 2012.

George Allison
V. Barr
Michele Brown
Robyn B. Cheung
Crusaders Sunday School Class
Charles & Diane Dickenson
Faith Fellowship of Lexington
First United Methodist Church, Frankfort
Fox Creek Christian Church
Roberta Gray
James Hall
Bill & Ola B. Howard
William & Jenny May
Aileen McClain

Kenneth O. Mitchell
Martha Moore
Patricia Nicol
Rhonda Petr
Emily & Rex Pitts
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church
Steven & Amber Riddle
Margaret Jo Shockley
Scott Stevenson
Geneva Straub
VFW Franklin County Post 4075
Donald J. & Carolyn F. Waldner
Nancy W. Walton
Linda M. Watts
Susan Wells
A gift for the building fund was also received from Geneva Straub.

Some Current Needs At Simon House

- Christmas cards and stamps for residents to send.
- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Dishwashing detergent
- Mops
- Carpet cleaner
- Heavy duty vacuum cleaners

Volunteers Spruce Up Simon House

Clay Hardwick and Betty Lawson renovated the second floor common bathroom with a vanity donated by Cabinet Concepts, Frankfort; flooring from Rodgers Décor and More, Versailles; and a new sink provided by Edmondson Plumbing, Heating, and Electric Supply, Lawrenceburg. Thanks for these generous donations of time and materials!



Become a Charter Member of Simon's Sidekicks

Simon House depends on gifts of time, talents, and money from many generous friends in the community to serve mothers and children. **Simon's Sidekicks Society** is a new way to provide that support to Simon House. Members are asked to answer a few questions about ways they would like to be involved. Then we will keep in touch with you as needs arise that meet your interests.

See the enclosed brochure for more information and a form to return to Simon House.



Kroger Cards

As you plan for your holiday meals, don't forget that you can help Simon House by using a Kroger gift card for your shopping. If you don't have a special Simon House gift card, please contact us (502-223-2138). Just load money on your card and spend it for groceries, gas, prescriptions, and other purchases at any Kroger store. Simon House receives 4 percent of all amounts loaded on these cards. Just in August, we received a \$217 rebate from these cards.

Gifts for the Ladies

Solid Rock Christian Church donated personal care "goodies" to Simon House residents.



Generous Community Donations



In August, Simon House issued a challenge to local businesses to collect paper products that were greatly needed by Simon House. Fit Time for Women (above) delivered the largest

donation, followed by Permit America (below right). Thanks to all who participated by donating these much needed items.



Simon House Receives Two Grants

Emergency Solutions Grant

Simon House is grateful to be the recipient of an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) from Kentucky Housing Corporation. The federal Housing and Urban Development funds will allow Simon House to serve additional families. Besides those who will be partially supported in our transitional living program, we can now help families that qualify for Rapid Re-Housing. They will receive the same assessment and supportive services as our traditional

transitional housing clients, but we will be able to assist them to move into independent housing in the community more quickly and provide them with support for several months while they are adjusting to their new housing and responsibilities.

Blue Grass Community Foundation

Simon House was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Blue Grass Community Foundation. This grant will allow us to provide extra educational support for the children in our program. The

funding will be used for school backpacks, supplies and clothing; fees so children can attend extra school activities; and educational supplies and activities at Simon House. A part-time Educational Coordinator also will be hired to tutor children and provide them with educational enrichment activities.



Save the Dates

Friday, March 15, 2013

Dine to Donate at
Staxx BBQ

A portion of sales will go to
Simon House.

Friday, May 17, 2013

A Night in Margaritaville
Frankfort Country Club

Nominated for the Chamber of Commerce 2012 People's Choice Award for Best Local Evening Event



Simon House sends you and your loved ones warmest holiday wishes. Thank you for your generous support that helps homeless families enjoy a blessed holiday season and gain hope for the New Year.

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 to meet 2012 budget obligations and plan for needs in 2013. Costs are rising markedly, and Simon House cannot dodge these increases. Utilities, food, supplies, and all other costs will be higher in 2013.

Your generous donation 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?

Gifts that Give!

Would you like an easy way to do your holiday shopping and help Simon House at the same time? Now you can shop online for the same products you would find in high-end department stores. Select your items, and 20% of the amount of every purchase will be donated to Simon House.

Give logo. Sit back and enjoy shopping without the crowds, traffic, and other hassles.

Make this holiday season peaceful while helping others in need.



Go to our website at www.simonhouseonline.org and click on the Gifts That

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 _____



Simon House

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