



Caring Times

Winter/Spring
2008

The Caring Place, Inc.
Caring, Helping, and Equipping People for Living

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Board of Directors

Dave Atkins	Tanya Hervey
Mercedes Auger	Pat Hudson
Fred Bryan	Charlie Hughes
Delancy Carroll	Karen Sirls
Wendy Coulter	Denise Moye
Tracy Gregory	Joe Rappl
Carolyn Hendricks	Julie Robison

Ian Henshaw - President
Daniel Leslie - Vice President
Joe Rappl - Treasurer
Hari Nath - Secretary
Staff
Executive Director - Susan Marcinko
Program Manager - Annie Graham
Children's Program - Amelia Williams
Program Assistant - Sameena Rashid

The Caring Place Is Growing

Expansion from 5 to 8 Families Brings Need for More Volunteers

The Caring Place Transitional Housing Program has had some transitions of its own over the past few months. We are now serving eight families at a time in Cary, and they are living in entirely new rental units.

With help from landlords around town and volunteers, The Caring Place has expanded to eight units to fulfill the increased need for housing for homeless working families with children.

Even after the expansion, there is still a waiting list, Executive Director Susan Marcinko said. Because The Caring Place serves families, it is uniquely situated to help with the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, mothers with children. The 2008 point in time count children accounted for 15 percent of the homeless population.

More volunteers are needed in every area to serve the in-

creased numbers, especially direct support volunteers to commit to a four-month session with an individual family.

Volunteers share a community meal with the families on Thursday nights and then break into private sessions to give counseling and support. Training for this role is offered on the third Saturday morning of each month.

With the Thursday night sessions expanded to upwards of 65 people, more meal providers are also needed. Most meal providers are now splitting up and providing half a meal, which stretches our resources out even further.

Finally, financial support is always needed to keep up eight rental units around town, as well as other administrative costs of the program.

Inexpensive rental units are difficult to come by in Cary, and this Fall, families had to move out of the five largest

units on Walker Street when they were slated to be demolished to make room for other development.

The Caring Place also provides three permanent affordable housing units in Cary.



Don't Miss It!

7th Annual
Benefit Auction at
The Matthews House
in downtown Cary,
May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

If you have items to donate, would like to be a sponsor, or would like an invitation, call The Caring Place office at 462-1800.

In Memoriam: Yvonne Aselle

We dedicate this newsletter in loving memory to our friend and board member, Yvonne Aselle who passed away on February 18, 2008. She was an active member The Caring Place Board of Directors, the Cary Page Rotary and many other community organizations. Yvonne brought energy, enthusiasm and humor to everything she did – she is greatly missed.

Thank you to The Research Triangle Institute, which awarded The Caring Place \$2,500 through RTI's 2008 Community Partnership Program.

Thank you to Cary Oil Co. for once again providing a matching grant to The Caring Place. They will double your contributions up to \$16,800.

Reflections from a New Volunteer:

You live in Cary, really? You know that stands for Contained Area of Relocated Yankees, right? You sure don't seem like you live in Cary.

When I moved here a few years ago, these kinds of cryptic comments confused me.

I worked in Durham and went to church in Raleigh, but, yes, I lived in Cary. Okay, so I wasn't especially plugged in, but I could change that, right?

I thought the best way to meet my neighbors, in the broadest sense, would be to do some community volunteer work. I started asking around and heard, through a Raleigh friend, about The Caring Place. A quick trip on-line, an e-mail, a phone call and I was on my way to Greenwood Forest Baptist for my first Thursday night as a support partner.

That first night I'll admit, I was nervous. Was I really about to commit a night every week for four months to a group of strangers? Well, fortunately for me, I did just that.

That first night was months

ago and it's difficult now to remember not knowing the folks at The Caring Place. I've seen my first family graduate and move on to the next step of their lives. I'm in the midst of a housing search with my second family and things are progressing.

I've easily learned as much as any of the families I've helped.

I've learned that Cary is so much more than I had expected. Each Thursday I have a chance to sit down with parents, grandparents, and children from all walks of life. We share a meal lovingly prepared by our neighbors. We bring our strengths and talents to the table. We work together in very small and specific ways to get through adversity. In the process, we learn to trust each other, to care more deeply for one another, and to believe in bringing out the best in our community.

Thanks to everyone at the Caring Place for introducing me to Cary!

- by Laura Martin

Welcome to our 2008 Board of Directors

The 2008 Board of Directors will be led by President Ian Henshaw, who will be replacing outgoing president Tim Carr. Additional members of the Board include Susan Marcinko, Executive Director, Daniel Leslie, Vice President, Joe Rapp, Treasurer, and Hari Nath, Secretary.

2008 Committee Chairs for The Caring Place include Fundraising and Board Development Chair, Daniel Leslie, Properties Chair, Tim Carr, Public Relations Chair, Wendy Coulter, Human Resources Chair, Tanya Hervey, and Auction Chair, Pat Hudson.

"Employees, volunteers and the families of The Caring Place are thrilled to start off the New Year with such a passionate and knowledgeable team," said Marcinko. "I am especially looking forward to working with and learning from the Board and Committee Chair members who will bring a great deal of enthusiasm and knowledge to The Caring Place.

"Each year we continue to teach homeless families with children necessary life skills for attaining independent living while providing them with short-term housing support services. With such a strong team for 2008, I am confident that The Caring Place will continue to provide services to families in need," Marcinko said.

Other board members include Dave Atkins, Mercedes Auger, Fred Bryan, Delancy Carroll, Aretha Daugherty, Carolyn Hendricks, Charlie Hughes, Denise Moye, Julie Robison, and Karen Sirls.

Some of Our Awesome Supporters and What They Are Doing

Cary High Youth Start Relay For Warmth

A group of cross country runners, who also happen to be the executive council of the Cary High School student body, raised \$3,200 for The Caring Place in January by organizing Relay for Warmth.

"It was a combination of a lot of things that just fell into place," said Will Thomason, student body president and a member of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, which supports The Caring Place.

The idea was hatched after a Fall food drive in which Cary High placed fourth in Wake County among all of the participating schools. During that time, Thomason and his friends learned that a large percentage of students who received a free or reduced lunch went to Cary High.

"We got to talking about how a lot of fundraisers are for people in Africa and that kind of thing, but we sometimes need to look in the local community," Thomason said.

With his twin brother, Steven, who is vice president of the executive council, and three other officers, they began soliciting donations and publicizing the event at other high schools and among the



Caring Place Exec. Director Susan Marcinko, left, accepts a check from the Cary High Student Council and advisors, from left, Will Thomason, Alexis Fernandez, Linnea Howle, Steven Thomason, Vu Nguyen, Kelly Parker and Celia Dukes

clubs at Cary High.

On January 12 at 8 a.m., the gun went off, and each team had to

Vines Bistro Donates A Portion of Its Proceeds

Vines Bistro, the new Italian-inspired restaurant located in the Maynard Crossing shopping complex in Cary, selected The Caring Place as the first organization to benefit from its bi-monthly charity dinners. The event was held Tuesday, March 11, and was a great success!

"I truly hope this program will get our guests excited about supporting the wonderful organizations that work so hard to help our community," said Vines owner Dawn Cupero.

First United Methodist Women Decorate Kitchens

Jennifer Stark has a knack for decorating kitchens.

With the help of the women of the New Day Circle at First United Methodist Church, she uses that knack to help others.

When families move in to one of The Caring Place apartments, or when they graduate and set up their own home, she comes in and pulls together a color scheme for them.

Program Assistant Sameena Rashid said the end result "looks like a model home."

Stark said she does it on a shoestring. She goes around to thrift

shops and dollar stores and also "shops" in the Caring Place storeroom of donated items. Then she emails the women of her circle and lets them know her needs, and they donate things.

"I try to tie it all together so the kitchen is not such a hodge podge of stuff that doesn't really go together," she said.

Stark, the daughter of a designer, and a realtor who is not currently working, plans to continue the project for a while. "I really enjoy doing it," she said.

keep one person on the track until the gun went off again at noon.

About 250 people participated, including Caring Place staff, members of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, and students from Enloe, Apex, Green Hope and Panther Creek high schools.

Thomason said it went well for the first time, but the incoming student council officers have promised to do it next year "with better and improved ways" which he hopes will benefit The Caring Place even more.

Irish Music Band Has Concert for The Caring Place

Paul Fackler likes to have concerts in his living room.

About once a month he packs about 40 people in to his home in Durham, suggests they put some money in his donation basket, and then sends it to a designated charity.

On January 20, Fackler's own band, Kylebrack, played a selection of their Irish favorites on fiddle, flute and guitar and raised almost \$700. The flautist, Allison Arnold of Cary, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, suggested the donations should benefit The Caring Place.



The Caring Place
P.O. Box 622
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Return Service Requested

Our Wish List



Phones with answering machines
 Iron and ironing boards
 First aid kits
 Tool boxes
 Vacuum cleaners
 Microwaves
 House cleaning supplies (Mr. Clean, windex, all purpose cleaner, soft scrub, oven cleaner)
 Mops and buckets
 brooms
 Garbage cans, big and small
 Garbage bags
 Toilet rolls
 Kitchen towels

A Special Thank You To Our Volunteers Who Helped Provide Christmas To Our Families

Christmas gifts were provided by:

1. Christ Family Church
2. Heery International
3. Cary Presbyterian Church

pots and pans
 Baking pans
 Utensils, flatware
 blankets
 sheet sets (twin, full or queen)
 Pillows
 Shower curtains
 Bedroom furniture (dressers, twin, full or queen bed sets)
 small dining room sets with four chairs
 coffee table and end tables
 Grocery gift cards (Food Lion, Walmart, Target)
 Gas gift cards
 Donations for car repairs

4. Ephesus Baptist Church
5. Cary Alliance Church
6. Grace Bible Fellowship
7. Woodland Terrace retirement community
8. Colonial Village
9. Ian Henshaw and the Pack 200 Boy Scouts
10. Bob Olsen
11. Celeste Garcia
12. Tasha Tompson and others in her group at the Wake County Public schools
13. Crescent State Bank
14. Colleen Hann and the mothers group

The Christmas meal was provided by Caring Place staff and volunteers from Greenwood Forest Baptist Church.

Thanksgiving Turkeys were provided for the families by Christ Family Church and Marlese McLaughlin.