



# SPOTLIGHT

*And Financial Report*

www.dignityhousing.org

Spring 2009, Volume 28

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

**Update on Property Renovations**

**Financial Report**

**Thank you, Donors!**

**Jazz Buffet Highlights**

**Spotlight is on...**

## GED Program Wraps Up First Year

With the support of the Pew Charitable Trust, Dignity completes its first year of GED instruction this spring. Classes have met twice a week since the fall at Dignity's main office in Germantown.

Dignity's GED Program prepares students to take and pass the GED exam. This is a straightforward goal, but a crucial step if a tenant lacks a high school diploma. Without a high school diploma, many tenants find it difficult to obtain a job that will pay a housing wage and nearly impossible to obtain higher levels of education.

Since the GED exam consists of several subject-based tests, Mike Stevens encourages his students to take each section separately. Using this one-step-at-a-time method, the students build confidence as they move toward the goal of obtaining their GED.

For Dignity's tenants, passing the GED is not simply a matter of obtaining a credential. For this reason, Stevens has also teaches contextually. By focusing on the real world applications of the skills they cultivate while studying for the exam, the adult students also improve their life skills.



## The Spotlight is on...

Denise O'Malley's voice fills with pride as she describes the quiet, tree-lined street in the Northeast where she has been renting a home for the past year. Ms. O'Malley and her daughter, Gianna, are both doing very well. Gianna is succeeding in second grade at a local private school. She also enjoys gymnastics in her free time. Ms. O'Malley is a certified dental assistant at a Perodontist's office, where she was recently made a supervisor to the other dental assistants. When Ms. O'Malley describes her life, she clearly sees herself as a Dignity success story.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing, however, for Ms. O'Malley since she transitioned from Dignity Housing in December 2005. Ms. O'Malley transitioned early, before her time at Dignity had expired. She describes leaving Dignity as "hard and scary" but she had a job at the time and felt it was time to move on. Unfortunately, three weeks after leaving Dignity, Ms. O'Malley lost her job. Instead of panicking or backsliding, however, Ms. O'Malley says she felt she had "come [too] far to let it all go away." Her perseverance paid off  
*(continued on page 2)*



### Congratulations!

The first graduate of Dignity's GED program, Orlando Broxton (right) with instructor Mike Stevens. Mr. Broxton has diligently attended GED prep classes since the program's inception in fall 2008. He attained his GED this spring.

## Renovations Get Boost from Job Corp

Dignity partnered with the Job Corp program to accomplish some much-needed property maintenance throughout the summer and fall of 2008. Job Corp members performed renovations at Dignity II, including work to the basement of the housing complex. Damaged in 2006, the basement had been home to Dignity's After School Program. When renovations are complete, Dignity hopes to use the basement as a Multi-Purpose space for women's workshops and meetings as well as the After School Program.

The Job Corp involves at-risk high school students in construction and renovation projects, many at low or no cost for nonprofits like Dignity Housing. Dignity's other connection to Job Corp is Senior Maintenance Tech Mark Ballard, a graduate of the program.



Job Corp members clean up at Dignity II.



A Job Corp member paints at Dignity II.

## Dignity to Benefit From Special Funding

At this year's Jazz Buffet, Bonnie Motley Bowser, representing Philadelphia Congressman Chaka Fattah, announced a \$190,000 legislative grant that will be awarded to Dignity Housing in 2009.

The federal funding, supported by Congressman Fattah, comes at a critical time for Dignity. It will facilitate much-needed renovation and repair of Dignity's affordable rental housing throughout Northwest Philadelphia.

## The Spotlight is on...

(continued from page 1)...and Ms. O'Malley found her current job with a dentist in the Northeast with whom she had built a "good rapport" in the past few years. Ms. O'Malley says that her time at Dignity made her a stronger person and gave her the strength to deal with the obstacles she has had to overcome since leaving Dignity. Ms. O'Malley says: "I got really great support from the staff [at Dignity]". The staff gave her "constructive criticism" and opportunities to learn to be a better parent. Ms. O'Malley is very grateful that Dignity gave her the resources to go back to school and become certified as a dental assistant. Ms. O'Malley believes the Dignity program taught her how to "deal with" and "interact"

with people in a better way than she had done in the past.

Ms. O'Malley had to face a lot of the issues that had contributed to her former homelessness while at Dignity, and she feels that although it was difficult, it was also necessary: "To deal with my issues was painful and horrid, but now that I'm through it I'm thankful for that [opportunity]." She feels that facing her demons has made her a stronger person and a better parent. She cites this as the most lasting benefit the Dignity program has given her.

Ms. O'Malley admits that figuring out "the right way to live" while in the Dignity program can be "uncomfortable at first" but she believes it is a necessary step to self-sufficiency. Part of what makes the road to self-sufficiency so difficult, she believes, is having to think about the

things you have done in the past that contributed to becoming homeless in the first place. While this can be scary, Ms. O'Malley believes this is the only way to grow, so when things get you down, you have the tools to work it out, not run away.

Ms. O'Malley says the best advice she can give to current Dignity residents is to follow the program and take advantage of every opportunity, especially the opportunity to further your education. Ms. O'Malley is an inspiring example of what can be achieved in life after Dignity Housing with the right attitude and determination.

Written by Program and Youth Development Assistant, Karen Barker and originally published in *Dignity Doings*, Dignity's newsletter for tenants.

## **Introduction to the Financial Report: Beyond Subsistence**

News headlines regarding the impact of the current recession and economic downturn reinforce what many of us face daily – things are indeed difficult for state and local governments, individuals, families, and nonprofit service organizations like Dignity Housing. Foundation, government, and individual donations for our work with low-income homeless families are more limited than in previous years. Yet, the needs continue to grow. Each month Dignity receives inquiries from more than 100 frantic, needy families and we must regrettably inform them that we do not have available, affordable units.

The cost of delivering supportive services and maintaining Dignity Housing rental units has escalated over the years. Despite our receipt of accolades regarding the quality of services that our agency provides tenant households, despite the outstanding outcomes and annual progress towards self-sufficiency attained by a significant number of participants and despite Dignity's positive impact on neighborhoods in which our renovated units are located, resources continue to shrink and raising funds to cover all aspects of Dignity's operations has become increasingly challenging.

Everyone is hurting. However, there is little solace in knowing that you are not alone in struggle and that you join legions of individuals and agencies in the nation today who are battling hard times. Taking comfort in that view is akin to feeling victorious after fighting for a better deck chair on the Titanic - a ship doomed to calamity.

Nevertheless, at Dignity, we remain confident that persistence, knowledge, astute national leadership, and commitment will ultimately prevail and, in due time, we will all reap the benefits of a national and international



**By**  
**Executive Director,**  
**Alicia Christian**

economic recovery.

Although the journey towards recovery remains difficult, there are encouraging developments. We are still heartened by many successes in the Dignity Housing program. Our staff continues to be resourceful, despite scant resources, and provides viable, much needed services. This fiscal year a staffer revitalized our tenant newsletter, *Dignity Doings*, and it has been well received. Creative tenant events include a Mother's Day brunch, continued peer group meetings, participation in neighborhood engagement and clean-up activities, and the annual tenant recognition event. We are also proud to announce the first graduate and GED recipient from Dignity's newly established GED program.

Dignity Housing's program will continue. The dreams and hopes of our tenants will prevail. However, at this critical juncture, we need ongoing support from our allies, donors, government and foundation funders, and volunteers. Together we will move forward to meet pressing needs.

### **Dignity Welcomes New Board Members**

**Ernest Hargett, Jr.**  
**&**  
**Monica O. Montgomery**

Dignity welcomed two new members to our board of directors in recent months. Ernest Hargett, Jr. is a Deputy Fire Commissioner with Philadelphia Fire Department. Our newest board member, Monica Montgomery is the Director of Development & Public Relations for the Green Tree School, a special needs autism education school in Germantown.



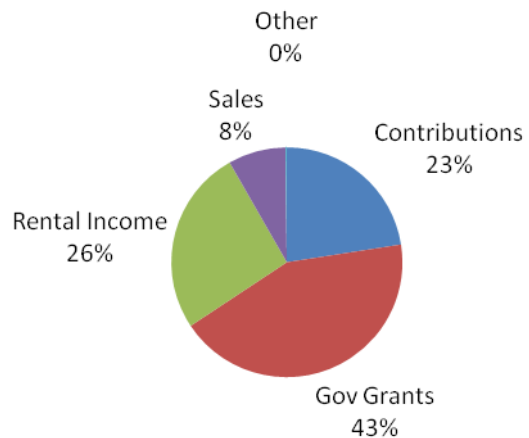
PA Senator Robert Casey at The National Center on Family Homelessness conference in Washington, D.C. Casey is a key supporter of the center's recent publication of *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness*. Dignity's Karen Barker (far left) traveled to the conference in March with a group of Philadelphia homeless service providers.

# FY07-FY08 Financial Report

## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

Support and revenues:	2008			2007
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
Contributions				
Cash	\$ 163,737	\$ 168,800	\$ 332,537	\$ 167,413
Interest subsidies	7,705		7,705	7,952
In-Kind	5,200		5,200	5,200
Government grants				
Cash	521,275		521,275	573,331
Interest subsidies	140,204		140,204	142,222
In-Kind				84,950
Rental Income	398,488		398,488	427,251
Housing sales and developer fees	124,248		124,248	240,436
Other income	2,763		2,763	7,566
	1,363,620	168,800	1,532,420	1,656,321
Net assets released from restrictions	39,633	39,633		
Total Support and revenue	1,403,253	129,167	1,532,420	1,656,321
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Social Services	652,753		652,753	673,278
Rental, housing and development	628,935		628,935	677,627
Supporting services:				
Management and general	323,530		323,530	333,032
Fundraising	129,296		129,296	126,251
Expenses before other income and expenses	1,734,514		1,734,514	1,810,188
Depreciation expense	205,696		205,696	219,487
Total other income and (expense)	205,696		205,696	219,487
Changes in net assets	536,957	129,167	373,354	373,354
Net assets - beginning of year	975,446	30,000	1,378,800	1,378,800
Net assets - end of year	438,489	159,167	1,005,446	1,005,446

Public Support and Revenue	
Contributions	\$345,442
Gov Grants	661,479
Rental Income	398,488
Sales	124,248
Other	2,763



# FY08 & FY09 Contributors

*Dignity would like to thank our FY08 donors (July 1, 07-June 30, 08) as well as those who have donated so far in FY09 (July 1, 08-June 30, 09).*

## Individual Donors

Timothy & Carolyn Adams  
Juanita Amonitti  
Cody & Verna Anderson  
Brenda Austin  
James & Marcia Austin  
Llyod & Annette Ayers  
Constance Baker  
Mark Ballard  
Zvi Barzilay  
Maria Pajil & Rudy Battle  
Elaine Baylinson  
Joyce Beckett  
David Belitsky  
Dene K. Bernstein  
Catherine Blackwell  
Joseph & Robin Bonus  
Jack & Penny Boorse  
Amy Branch & Jeff Benoleil  
David & Ruth Brill  
Andrea Broad  
Merle & Dolores Broberg  
Jacquelyn H. Brown  
John F. Brown  
Richard & Susan Brown  
Willie & Berneatha Brown  
Edward & Elizabeth Brown  
George W. Cannon  
Withrop & Lee Carty  
Louis Cataldo & Myra Reichel  
James & Carmella Chandler  
Mila L. Chavis  
Kenneth & Bralinda Christian  
Nicole Christian  
Alicia Christian  
Gilbert & Jane Chrstos  
Roger & Amelia Boss  
Cristina Coirolo  
Neil & Jill Felix Colton  
Jeffrey & Hope Comsiky  
Ludolph & Martha Conklin  
Marilyn J. Conwell  
Tiffany Cooper  
Leslie Cousins  
Jeffrey Cruse  
Kristina Davey  
Gregory Davis  
Alan & Roslyn Davis  
Robert W. Downie  
Peter & Anna Durbin  
Allan & Anne Edmunds  
Pablo & Helen Eisenberg  
Ashton G. Eldredge, Jr.  
Shirley Elliott  
Patricia Epps  
William & Stephanie Epstein  
Theodore & Elsie Erwin  
William & Anne Ewing  
Mark Fancher & Lorrain Brown  
MA Farrell  
Stuart Feldman  
Bruce & Anita Ficken  
Malcolm Ford

Dodi Fordham & Samuel Howe, III  
Estelle Franklin  
Arthur & Marcia Freiberg  
Alexis Gaddess  
Tyrone & Marie Gaddy  
Peter & Sarah Gaines  
Rodney & Susan Garrett  
Lisa Gemmill  
Laura Genovese  
Joseph & Beverly Gerber  
Germantown Academy  
Charlene Giles  
Stacy R. Gill  
Donald Glassman  
William & Mindy Glassman  
Joseph & Jane Goldblum  
Dorothy Goodwin  
Duncan & Victoria Grant  
John & Chara Haas  
Lorraine & Howard Hall  
David Harbater  
Ernest & Terry Hargett  
Carmen & Tracy Hart  
Millicent T. Hartsfield  
Karen Hayes  
John Heidenry & Julie Currie  
Ethel Hendricks & Gerri Walker  
William & Noreen Ryan Hetznecker  
Amy Hillier Fraatz  
Elizabeth Hillman  
Philip & Catherine Hinele  
Evelyn R. Hobson  
Helen E. Holmes  
Dr. Carolyn Holmes  
Zachariah B. Hughes  
Sharon D. Ingram  
Walter & Caroline Isard  
Jay & Judith Jacobs  
Fred Jacoby  
David & Jacqueline Janicki  
Sarah Janicki & Michael Stevens  
Susan E. Jenkins, M.D.  
Helen Joell  
Linda D. Johnson  
Gay Gilpin Johnson  
Kristi Johnson  
Tracy Johnson  
Virginia Johnson Smith  
Lurline Jones  
Monica Jordan  
John & Carol Kahler  
Ronald Kaiserman  
Gilbert & Carole Karash  
Ary & Nancy Kaufmann  
Anna L. Keith  
Justin & Mary Klein  
Joel & Anita Kulick  
Robert & Carol Kurz  
Peter & Emilie Lapham  
Richard & Evelyn Lapointe  
Guy Laren  
Judith Lynn Lasswell  
Claude & Clarice Leftwich  
David & Mary Leshan  
Cary & Lynda Levinson  
Celeste Lewis  
Gary Lewis  
Margaret Lloyd  
Paul & Jenny Mack

Edward Mahlman & Moya Kinnealey  
Edward Marshall & Joanna Bassert  
Carolyn Mather  
Cateria McCabe  
Linda McGregor  
Thomas McGuire  
Rebecca McJett  
Deborah McMillan  
Linda Medley  
Edward Mensah  
Roland & Janet Merritt  
Leonard L. Mohr  
Jeanean M. Mohr  
Monica Montgomery  
Barbara Moore-Williams  
John & Judy Murphy  
Annie Murphy & Brian Smith  
Nancy Newman & Jonathan Morley  
Madelyn P. Noel  
Theodore & Irene Oslick  
Glenn Godshall & Bonnie Ostrofsky  
Gertis Palmer  
Patricia Palmer  
Ronald & Carol Parker  
Valerie Peebles  
Ralph & Cornelia Penn  
George Perez  
Philadelphia Mural Arts Advocates  
Elliot & Verley Platt  
Margaret Poole Langley  
Alvin Powell  
Letitia O. Principato  
Frank & Michele Radisch  
Elizabeth Ragin  
Dolores Richardson  
Malcolm & Earlene Riley  
Jay & Gretchen Riley  
Robin Roberts  
Beverly Roberts  
Robert & Caro Rock  
James & Sandra Rodgers  
John Ryan  
Walter & Tawana Sabbath  
Salve Regina University  
Ricki Sanders, Ph.D.  
Sushil K. Sansil  
Bernard & Fran Sarnow  
Derrick Sawyer  
Charles & Linda Schelke  
Eric L. Scherling  
Alan & Pamela Schreiber  
Jeremy & Ellen Schwartz  
Samuel & Lynn Scott  
Sister Mary Scullion  
Gwendolyn Sebastian-Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Segal  
Alex & Stefanie Seldin  
Marjorie & Laurence Shiekman  
Wendy Shiekman  
Thomas McGuire  
John & Catherine Slavin  
Stan Smith  
Vera Smith-Bey Owens  
Andrew R. Snyder  
Leonard Sosnov  
Joseph & Martha Steele  
Marion Steinger  
Charlotte Stellwagen  
Sheila Stevens

Grace Stevenson  
Wayne & Fay Stokes  
James Straw  
Bertram & Lynne Strieb  
Kathleen Taintor  
Charles & Cecelia Taylor  
Vanessa Tercero  
Wendi Trainor  
Frances E. Turner  
Frances A. Upshaw  
Kevin Walker & Marcia Soast  
Henry Warner  
Raymond & Patricia Wellbank  
Gerald & Eileen Whelan  
Sabrina Whetstone  
Benny Williams  
Daniel Williams  
Kathleen Williams  
Sankey & Constance Williams  
W.M. & P.A. Williams  
Patricia Wilson  
John Wood  
Thomas & Jacqueline Zemaitis  
Michael Zuckerman

## In-Kind Donors

Jodi Bornstein  
Marvetta Coleman  
Nancy Dearden  
Daaimah Etheridge  
Peter & Janie Gross  
Scott & Abigail Lederman  
Kathy Lucidi

## Businesses

Bredenbeck's Bakery  
Catalyst Consulting  
Fern Rock Hardware Co.  
NateBrown Entertainment  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
Reinhart Carpet Outlet, Inc.  
Ten Thousand Villages  
Trolley Car Diner

## Foundations

Caroline J. Sanders Trust No. II  
Claneil Foundation  
Connelly Foundation  
Danellie Foundation  
Douty Foundation  
Enon Com. Reinvestment Ministry  
Fourjay Foundation  
Hankin Foundation  
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial  
Allen Hilles Fund  
Joseph Kennard Skilling Foundation  
Knorr Charitable Trust  
The Lenfest Foundation  
Pew Charitable Trust  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
Seybert Foundation  
The TJX Foundation, Inc.  
Wachovia Bank, N.A.

## 2008 Holiday Celebrations



On December 22nd, Dignity's tenants enjoyed the agency's annual holiday party. This year, celebrations took place at Dignity's main office. Tenants and staff enjoyed food provided by Marion Campbell of Abundant Life Empowerment Missions, Inc. Spiral Q Puppet Theatre provided children's entertainment. Members shared the unique ways the theatre creates its puppets, often using discarded cardboard and other inexpensive or free materials. Children were then able to try on a few of the company's props and marched in a "puppet parade" around the office. Tenants also received holiday gifts, which were donated by members of the community.



**We would like to thank everyone who donated toys, clothing and household items to Dignity Housing during the 2008 holiday season!**

### The Spotlight is on...

Marion Smith, a Dignity tenant since July 2008, is one of a handful of men currently in the program. When asked if he notices any downsides to being in a program that is largely comprised of women, none seem to come to mind. He feels he gets the same quality of support from his case manager and has built camaraderie with many female tenants who share similar histories. He is often the only man at workshops, but finds what he learns valuable and applicable to his own life.

Although he is a resilient and adaptable man today, Smith struggled with alcohol addiction for much of his adult life. Raised in a home with alcoholic parents, Smith began drinking as a teen. After an unsuccessful attempt at college, Smith joined the military for seven years. Smith was successful within the structure of the service and



Marion Smith at Dignity's Tenant Recognition Reception in 2008.

says he took great pride in wearing a uniform. However, life in the military was not always helpful for his struggles with addiction. He says he has been all over Europe, but spent most of his off duty hours drinking and celebrating with his fellow soldiers.

Beginning in August 2006, Smith made several attempts to get sober. Like so many concepts associated with addiction Smith says that he did not believe in "bottoming out" until it happened to him. He credits Gaudenzia Re-Entry House on Wayne Ave with truly helping him. Initially apprehensive to join an all-male group home, he quickly realized the men were not interested in being combative. He says the program worked for him because of the family atmosphere created by the staff and the men living there. Smith says he and the other men "laughed when things were funny and cried when they weren't." While at Gaudenzia, Smith began to understand what real friends were and the role addiction played in his past relationships.

Today, Smith takes pride in his educational goals, loves school and loves learning. After years of employment in the food service industry, he is ready for more ownership and creative control. He is back in school and enjoying success as a student at the Art Institute of Philadelphia where he is pursuing a Bachelors degree in culinary arts. He is eager to take on the challenge of designing his own menus and working with clients, and would

like to own his own high-end catering business. In the short term, he plans to use his culinary degree to find work with an established catering company where he can learn the business.

Smith appreciates that Dignity has been open and accessible. He speaks to his case manager regularly and feels that he can go to other case managers and staff if needed. He knows he has to want his success more than they want it for him. He has become his own best advocate; something he has learned through his recovery process.

Smith describes the time that one starts one's addiction as the time one stops growing. Although he is 52, he has the energy and optimism of the teenager he was before he began drinking. He is taking the time to grow and learn and is grateful that Dignity can provide him with guidance when he seeks it. He is grateful that he can find support and that so many people are interested in helping him meet his goals and overcome obstacles.

Looking forward, Smith wants to repair his credit and build his savings. He is optimistic that the economy will turn around and he wants to be in good financial standing when it does. Smith says he has learned to set realistic expectations for love and life, relationships and friendships. With the wisdom of age, he is now soaking up life's lessons and taking every opportunity to learn.

## Jazz Buffet a Success Thanks to Diverse Support

On Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dignity Housing held its 4th Annual Jazz Buffet Fundraiser at The Commodore Barry Club. As in year's past, the event featured music by well known local jazz ensemble, Ralph Penn & Friends.

The event drew record attendance thanks to the support of current and former board members. Among the diverse array of old and new supporters, the event was attended by Philadelphia Fire Department Deputy Commissioner and Dignity Board member, Ernest Hargett, as well as Philadelphia's Fire Commissioner, Lloyd Ayers. Many longtime Dignity supporters as well as Dignity staff also joined in the festivities, including former Dignity tenant Lynn Collins. Ms. Collins spoke about what initially attracted her to the program as well as her accomplishments since.

The Jazz Buffet, a fund raiser developed by Beverly Roberts and former board member Marie Gaddy, is a yearly celebration of Dignity's more than 20 year track record of providing supportive services and affordable rental housing for homeless families and single adults in Philadelphia. As Dignity's Executive Director Alicia Christian noted, "This event provides an opportunity to support the work and mission of Dignity Housing and to enjoy a wonderful Sunday experience with great food, excellent music, and a little dancing." Dignity would also like to thank Trolley Car Diner, Bredenebeck's Bakery, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, and Catalyst Consulting who donated gifts for the Jazz Buffet raffle.



Left to Right: Llyod Ayers, Alicia Christian, Beverly Roberts, and Ernest Hargett, Jr.



Dignity alum, Esther Bowens (left) with former board member Nancy Newman and current board member, Marjorie Shiekman.



Dignity board member, Mary Klein and husband, Justin.



Director of Social Services, Sarah Janicki (left) with former tenant Innocent Turner and former Director of Development, Jeanean Mohr.

Photos by Jeffrey Cruse, 2009

**Special Donation Request:**  
**(2) Washers and (2) Dryers**  
 For the 16 unit housing complex,  
**Dignity II**



Seeking the donation of two new washers and dryers for the Dignity II housing complex.

The appliances will be used to create an on-site basement laundry facility. To donate a new appliance or if

you have information about how we might obtain such a donation, please contact Jordan Butler, (215) 713.0960 or [jbutler@dignityhousing.org](mailto:jbutler@dignityhousing.org)

## Dignity Takes Part in *One Book* Activities

Dignity took part in several activities to celebrate the Free Library of Philadelphia's One Book, One Philadelphia selection of Steve Lopez's *The Soloist*.

In February, Dignity's Executive Director Alicia Christian participated in a panel discussion on street homelessness organized by Mount Airy Learning Tree. The panel was moderated by WHY's Dave Heller and also featured panelists from Project H.O.M.E and Ready, Willing and Able.

A number of tenants read the book, and a few who especially enjoyed it were able to meet Steve Lopez at an event at the White Dog Café. In addition, Dignity's social services staff organized a special presentation of One Book companion film *Basquiat* for Dignity tenants at the Little Theatre located in the Video Library in Mt. Airy.

The Committee for Dignity and Fairness for  
the Homeless Housing Development, Inc.  
5221 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
www.dignityhousing.org  
215-713-0960  
215-713-0968 (fax)

If you are interested in learning more about Dignity Housing or would like to make a contribution, please contact Beverly Roberts, Deputy Director/Director of Development at 215.713.0960.

Dignity Housing is a member of the United Way of SEPA Donor Choice Program.

**Our UWSEPA donation number is 02338.**

**Remember Dignity Housing in your will.**

To make a bequest to Dignity Housing, the following language will be helpful to your lawyer.

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless Housing Development, Inc. (Dignity Housing) the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (or otherwise describe the gift or specify a percentage of the estate).

***Alicia Christian,***  
Executive Director

***Beverly Roberts,***  
Deputy Director

**Board Officers**

***Deborah McMillan, Chair***  
***Zachariah B. Hughes, Treasurer***

**Directors**

***Mary Klein***  
***Marjorie Shiekman, Esq.***  
***Eric L. Scherling, Esq.***  
***Raymond Wellbank***  
***Ernest F. Hargett, Jr.***  
***Monica O. Montgomery***

**About Dignity Housing**

**Mission:** Dignity Housing is a non-profit corporation established by formerly homeless people **to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty confronting low-income and homeless families and individuals in Philadelphia.** Dignity Housing promotes client self-sufficiency by providing affordable rental housing with individualized social services, homeownership opportunities, housing placement services, money management services, workforce development, and assistance in pursuit of educational objectives. Established in 1988, Dignity Housing is unique in that it was founded and guided by homeless and formerly homeless individuals. It was the first such agency in the nation. To date, Dignity Housing has shepherded the acquisition and development of 160 scattered site units throughout Philadelphia, and has helped nearly 2,000 adults and children to attain individual goals for self-improvement and independence.

Design & Layout: Jordan Butler

Editors: Beverly Roberts, Jordan Butler

Authors: Jordan Butler, Alicia Christian, Karen Barker, Beverly Roberts