



One House At A Time News

April 2007 Issue 5

Sharing a great success story and good news from Levette!

Almost five years ago, when I first met Levette, she was struggling through tough times. She had several children, no high school diploma, and was on welfare. She had a job, but it was temporary and part-time. Fortunately, she was able to find housing, but she didn't have a stick of furniture. That was then NOW Levette is a high school graduate, is employed full-time and is off welfare! She has even started a mission to feed the hungry, and actually wants to donate furniture to One House At A Time because she is getting new living room furniture!

WAY TO GO Levette!

We love to hear stories like this from people we helped in their time of need. One of the very first deliveries I coordinated when I started at One House At A Time was for this delightful woman named Levette and her family. She had a house, and we were glad to help and provide her with furniture and household items to make her house into a home! Levette was so grateful and felt so blessed by One House At A Time, that she wanted to help us in return. After hearing that our storage sheds are always in need of cleaning, she would get up at the crack of dawn on a Saturday and take three trains to get to Ambler to help us organize the sheds! Levette would work tirelessly for hours (along with several other female volunteers) and then make the trek back home again. She always referred to these women as "my ladies".

Levette has never forgotten us. She calls us every few months, just to see how we all are (in particular, "her ladies") and always offers to come up and help. It's through these periodic calls that we learned about her high school accomplishment and of her most recent 'good news'. Her parting words to me this time were, *"You know Miss Wendy, I will always feel blessed by One House and all you did for me. I had nothing when I called you, and you all made my house the most beautiful home I ever had. I will always pray for and bless One House At A Time."* We bless Levette for all she's been able to accomplish and hope the same for all our recipients.

Thank you, to all of you who help make this possible! *Wendy Kahan-Winters, Program Coordinator*



Right: Ron and Nick, two of our volunteers, are busy loading the truck with furniture donations



Volunteer Thank You Dinner

The summer picnic got rained out, and February 10th was a very cold night, but there was lots of warmth and good feelings generated by everyone at the Thank You Dinner for One House At A Time volunteers. Hosted by Frank and Ellen Svitek, the Board provided lots of interesting hors d'oeuvres and a delicious meal for everyone that could make it. The volunteers and their guests gathered to enjoy old and new friendships and share many endearing volunteer experiences!

Our Mission:

To provide household furnishings to families without the basic necessities of life.

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A Message from the Chairman

It is with great pleasure that I begin my third year as Chairman and continue to work with so many dedicated individuals and organizations. Last year One House At A Time 'doubled' our support to families by providing over 150 families in the Philadelphia area with furniture and household items and purchasing and delivering 255 beds to children in need of a good night's sleep! Thank you for helping us to accomplish this huge growth! The One House At A Time Board also showed growth and welcomes the strength and experience of new members, Ellen Svitek of Congregation Beth Or and Bruce Anderson of Upper Dublin Lutheran Church.

We are starting the New Year off with plans to expand our program by "spreading the word." We continue to reach out to local churches, synagogues, businesses and other non-profit organizations by asking them to help in whatever way they can. Please help us "spread the word" and continue your support of One House At A Time.

This year I am pleased to have Kathleen Roberts assist me as Vice-Chair. With her background and experience, I am anxious to have her head up our marketing and strategic planning initiatives. I am also excited that Jean Graber joined our staff as our Associate Program Director. Jean's primary role is to help us take One House At A Time to the next level. She will also help us reach out to local organizations for support and help grow our volunteer base. Wendy Kahan-Winters will continue as Program Coordinator and is responsible for scheduling and working with donors and social workers.

Please help us fulfill our mission and make 2007 our best year yet! Thank You!

Jim Tilney, Chairman of the Board

So Many Ways You Can Help!

- ◆ **Make a financial contribution** directly to One House At A Time (address below), on-line through our website www.ohaat.org, or via the United Way (for UW of SEPA use Donor Choice #14144 - otherwise, be sure to fill in our name.)
- ◆ **Volunteer** to make furniture pick-ups or deliveries (< 3 hours per trip). Drivers and lifters are always needed! Contact Jean to sign up.
- ◆ **Donate "gently used" furniture and household items.** Contact Wendy to schedule a pick-up.
- ◆ Make an indirect contribution by **enrolling with eScrip** www.escrip.com and designate One House At A Time (group ID #15560069). A percentage of your purchases at Genuardi's, Whole Foods, MACY's, Target, local restaurants and numerous other retailers will automatically be sent to us.
- ◆ **Drop off your used cell phones or printer/toner cartridges** at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church. We can turn them into cash for One House At A Time.
- ◆ **Send a card** through our donation 'In honor of' and 'In memory of' program. (see insert for details)
- ◆ **"Spread the word" about One House At A Time to your family, friends and colleagues!**



Above: A happy recipient helps carry new beds for her brothers and sisters.

A look into 2007 ...

In 2007, we will continue to leverage the energy and passion that the board members, employees and volunteers have brought to One House At A Time. Our goals are to: increase our individual and grant funding, guarantee weekly deliveries, increase our volunteer base, hire additional resources, increase hours of operation, improve our processes, and plan for the future.

Make an 'In honor of' or 'In memory of' donation soon!

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