People’s Place Celebrates 40 Years at Annual Breakfast

On Wednesday, May 16th, People’s Place celebrated its 40th anniversary at its annual breakfast and awards ceremony held at the Milford Senior Center. During the breakfast ceremony, many members of the Milford and surrounding communities were on hand to witness a House of Representative’s Tribute co-sponsored by Representatives Harvey R. Kenton, Harold J. Peterman, David L. Wilson and William R. Outten presented to People’s Place Board of Directors President Van Warrington and Executive Director Del Failing. The tribute recognized People’s Place for its “success in providing quality social and mental health services for children and adults” over the past 40 years. Also in attendance was Dr. Frank Shavlik, who served as Executive Director from 1975 to 1995.

The event included awards presented to the following individuals: Tina Camper, Employee of the Year; Tanya Pettyjohn, Employee of the Year; Theresa Wills, Rookie of the Year; Gale White, Volunteer of the Year; Terese Zatcoff and Delaware Womenade by the Sea, Volunteer of the Year, and Edward and Marge Steiner, Community Service and People’s Place Supporters of the Year.

At the annual breakfast (from left): State Representatives. Jack Peterman, Bobby Outten, Dave Wilson; People’s Place Board President Van Warrington; People’s Place Executive Director Del Failing; State Senator Gary Simpson, and State Representative Harvey Kenton.
Fund for Women Supports Domestic Violence Shelter

A $15,000 grant was recently awarded to People’s Place by the Fund for Women of the Delaware Community Foundation. The generous grant will support its Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) domestic violence shelter program. The Abriendo Puertas Program is the only statewide bicultural and bilingual domestic violence shelter program serving Latina women and children who are escaping, experiencing or have been affected by domestic violence. The funding will be used to purchase food for shelter residents and groceries for women who have left shelter or chosen not to enter shelter.

Longwood Foundation Donates $35,175 to Peoples Place Veterans Outreach Program

People’s Place has recently received a $35,175 donation from the Longwood Foundation to support its Veterans Outreach Program. The generous grant was used to purchase a 2012 replacement 12-passenger van for the program.

The Veterans Outreach Program provides free, door-to-door transportation for all participating veterans residing in southern Delaware, with a focus on transportation from rural areas to specific destinations. Since 1989, the program has helped Delaware veterans access state and federal benefits, including medical care, treatment, housing, job placement, counseling, and emergency shelter.

The generosity of the Longwood Foundation made possible the purchase of this 12 passenger van for use in the Veterans Outreach program.

Gorgeous weather, delicious food, and great company contributed to the success of this year’s staff picnic. People’s Place employees and their families and friends who gathered on Friday, June 15th, at Killens Pond enjoyed a hearty meal and entertainment. Special thanks to Steve Peterman for the food, Dean Scott for the music, and Ann Southard for the body painting.
Procter & Gamble Dover Wipes Staff Shows Support

A group of employees at the Procter & Gamble Dover Wipes Plant recently gathered to formulate a plan for giving to People’s Place. The committee did not want to stop at monetary support—they were looking for ways to be directly involved, particularly in the Whatcoat Social Services program.

Thus came the Day of Caring, and on June 22nd P&G staff showed up at the Ruth Dorsey Emergency Shelter ready to get their hands dirty. The volunteers added a new coat of paint to the front porch, renovated the downstairs bathroom, and carpeted the front staircase. Shelter residents and employees were thrilled with the improvements.

The P&G Dover Wipes Plant team has made a lasting impression and continues to support People’s Place. We are proud to have them on board as our 2012 Platinum Event Sponsor.

Success Story – Christella

Christella was a foster youth in her teens when she was referred to the Independent Living program at People’s Place. She got assistance with her job search, learned how to create and stick to a budget, and signed up for health insurance; in her own words, she got “all the necessary skills for the transition from adolescent years to adulthood.”

With thoughts toward her future, Christella signed up for classes at Del Tech. During her two years there, she worried about what to do next and how to fund two more years of college. Her Independent Living case manager helped her research available scholarships for foster youth, and they found resources like the Ivyane Davis Scholarship, the Education and Training Voucher program, and the Stand By Me Scholarship.

Armed with funding from scholarships and her part-time job, Christella entered Delaware State University. She will graduate in December 2012 with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. She hopes to continue her education with a dual degree program in law and social work. Reflecting on the employment skills she gained from the Independent Living program, Christella says she will then “utilize them to find a good job.”

On April 18, 2012, Crystal Allen-Horne (second from left), Program Director of Whatcoat Social Services was presented a $3,500 grant from the Youth Philanthropy Board for Kent County of the Delaware Community Foundation.

The Milford Lions Club generously donated $2,000 to the People’s Place Milford Counseling Center on May 24, 2012.
Delaware’s Lt. Governor Visits People’s Place

On June 13, 2012, Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn visited People’s Place administrative offices, the SAFE shelter, and the Group Home for Girls. He was joined by Chief of Staff Emily Cunningham (center) and Raina Sheth, Intern (far right). Also pictured are SAFE Assistant Program Director LaSheea Hicks (far left) and Chere-lyn Homlish, Associate Director of Domestic Violence Services.

Circle of Light

Circle of Light, Inc. has been a proud sponsor of the People’s Place Group Home for Girls and the SAFE Program. At a recent public forum benefiting the homeless children in Milford, Circle of Light presented handmade pillowcases to Girls Group Home and SAFE staff.

Circle of Light is proud to be a sponsor of these worthwhile programs at People’s Place. We look forward to helping in many more ways in the future.

-- Deacon Dottie, Circle of Light, Inc.

NO MORE

A life that has for so long been controlled
  by manipulation and fear,
So many times left broken and in tears.
Broken bones and bruises followed by promises
  allowed to heal,
Names and accusations, confusion at the appeal.

Was it really appeal, or just a distorted view?
A victim of the lies, a victim of “I don’t know
  what to do”.
Attempts to do what’s right, attempts to
  inspire change,
Feelings of defeat when things remained the same.

A will to be happy, a will to stand fear in the face,
Determination to finally escape this dreadful place.
Emergence out of darkness, finally able
  to see the light,
Finally the courage to stand up and fight the fight.

No more being afraid, no more running away,
No more looking back and living like yesterday.
No! No more being afraid, not one more excuse,
No longer a victim, but a survivor of abuse.

By Ashley P., Domestic Violence Survivor

WMDT 47 PSA Wins Telly Award

Early this year, People’s Place was chosen as one of two media partners by WMDT 47 NEWS. As part of this relationship, WMDT 47 Creative Services produced three public service announcements featuring People’s Place programs (an Events PSA is still to come). The “Violence Kitchen” PSA, produced by Don Gaul and highlighting the domestic violence programs, was submitted for a Telly Award and won! The Telly Awards honor the very best film & video productions, groundbreaking online video content, and outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs.
**SPOTLIGHT**

The first thing People’s Place employee William Schuler did when he arrived on American soil was “get into a comfortable pair of jeans.” He said it was “good to be back in civilian clothes” after wearing a uniform for so long. “Uniforms everyday got kind of boring,” he said. There was also a BBQ at his parents’ home, with hamburgers and hot dogs cooking on the grill.

For Schuler, joining the Delaware National Guard in 2008 was something he always wanted to do. Although he participated in ROTC during high school, he said he joined the National Guard because his grandfather had served. But speaking awhile longer, he said he “always had a calling to do something in the military.” Even so, Schuler spent one month after high school traveling solo through Europe in 2007.

Phone calls were few and far between, Skype was available only on special occasions, and the Internet was hard to come by, so Schuler depended on letters from home to help him through his tour in Afghanistan. Deployed with the 1049th Transportation Company, he gives credit to his wife, friends, and family in Milford for their support and inspiration.

“Without their support during the last year, everything would be impossible.” He said his mother “worried” but was always very supportive. “They had their own lives, yet they supported me from 13,000 miles away.” He also credits several guys who were deployed along with him and are now his good friends. “I have made several friends who will have for life,” he said. “Stacie and I are getting married again next month, and several of those in the wedding party are good army friends, all from different parts of the state.” He met his wife, Stacie, in 2010 in college; they married in March and will renew their vows in a wedding ceremony in August.

Schuler said that he was very fortunate to “…see the extreme differences between our culture and theirs. Being in a combat situation daily really makes you think about the little things, like going outside and seeing the grass.” He says the greatest lesson he learned during his service was “to make the most of everything that is given to you. Don’t limit yourself,” he offered, “and keep persevering regardless of the situation. Take advantage of everything; keep an open point of view, and don’t take anything for granted.”

Will returned to his People’s Place direct-care position in the Residential Alternative to Detention program in July. He hopes to use his military experiences to expand the perspective of the youth he works with. Because he has two more years in his National Guard contract, there is always a possibility that he might be re-deployed.

But, for now, he’s enjoying life with his new wife, family, and friends in his comfortable jeans.

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**Girl Scouts Donate Cookies & Dolls to Domestic Violence Survivors**

Local Girl Scout troops recently donated cookies and dolls to the SAFE and Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) programs. In April, troops donated 24 boxes of cookies to the women and children in our domestic violence shelters. Then in May, the girls brought in approximately 100 dolls and toys for domestic violence survivors.

On May 16, 2012, the GFWC Women’s Club of Indian River donated purses and toiletries to the People’s Place domestic violence shelters. Pictured from left are Muriel Pfeiffer, Claudia Peña Porretti, Judy Kirkey and Cherelyn Homlish.
Delaware Womendale by the Sea Continues Support for Domestic Violence Survivors

During the May meeting of Delaware Womendale by the Sea, members brought new items that were used to paint and redecorate the Abriendo Puertas house, a shelter for Latino women and children escaping domestic violence.

Lunch With a Purpose

The Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Chi Chapter, sponsored the Lunch With a Purpose Benefit on March 2, 2012, at the Rehoboth Beach Country Club. The group raised $2,510 for the SAFE and Abriendo Puertas domestic violence programs.

THE LETTER

There were so many things I wanted to do
To let you know how I feel about you.
I didn't know how or where to start
So I will just try to write what I feel in my heart.

First I want to let you know I forgive you for
what you did to me
The things you took away from me, starting with
my memories
All the missing years that you have caused me to bury
so deep inside
All the days I lived in terror and all the nights I cried.

The separation from my family because you always
made me choose
The friendships I could have had and the ones you
made me lose
Our little baby that didn't make it because of all
her mother's stress
The guilt I felt each time I failed when I tried
to do my best.

The times you told me I was nothing and only you
would want someone like me
The hell I put our children through because your control
had made it hard for me to see
The pain I felt when you would hurt me because
you said I did things to make you get upset
The way I felt so useless because no matter what I did
my love you never would accept.

Then there are the good things that came from all
those years of strife
The strength you caused me to have and the way it has
helped me change my life
But I thank you most for our three children
for without you they would never be
And I would have missed out on all the joy
each one has given me.

So today I had to write this letter to you
And try to move on and get past all my pain
For now I have come to realize
When I put the past behind me, I have so much
more to gain
I only wish that one day you too can move past
all your insecurities and fears
And come to realize you don't have to force love
It comes from knowing someone cares.

By Kath, Domestic Violence Survivor

May 2012 Graduates

People’s Place congratulates three staff members for accomplishing their educational goals this year!

• JaKiya Davis, Independent Living staff, (left) earned her Master of Education in School Counseling from Wilmington University.

• Janell Stanton, SAFE staff, (center) earned her Bachelor’s in Social Work from Delaware State University.

• Sydney White, Family Visitation Centers staff, (right) earned her Master of Education in School Counseling from Wilmington University.
People’s Place is dedicated to helping people find their path to growth and independence.

Correspondence regarding The People’s Voice should be directed to Tori Calvert (302) 422-8033, ext. 180 tcalvert@peoplesplace2.com

Sign Up for our Newsletter at www.peoplesplace2.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

People’s Promise of Hope Gala: An Evening of Music and Laughter
Saturday, September 22, 2012, Sheraton Dover Hotel
Featuring Comedian Moody McCarthy and music by the Funsters plus Dinner, Silent Auction & Raffle

Race 2B Safe 5K Run/Walk
Saturday, October 6, 2012 • 9 a.m.
Killens Pond State Park • Felton, Delaware
Administered by the Downstate Delaware Striders & Riders

13th Annual Choral Breakfast
Saturday, December 1, 2012 • Milford Senior Center

Thank you to our 2012 Event Sponsors!
Procter & Gamble Dover Wipes Plant • IFS/IFS Benefits, i.e. Burton • Bayhealth • Chesapeake Sharing, PMS Cleaning Company • WMDT 47 NEWS, Wendyzyne by Wendy Kessler

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Give a gift today and help us provide the ongoing support needed to help people find their path to growth and independence.

There are almost as many ways to make a planned gift as there are needs to be met. Explore the list on our website to discover new ways to make a gift that take into consideration your personal circumstances and the needs of your loved ones. For more information about how you can leave a legacy of helping others, please call Claudia Peña Porretti, J.D., CFRE at (302) 422-8033, ext. 198 or e-mail cporretti@people-place2.com.

PEOPLE’S PLACE, INC.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES
Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)
Center for Community Justice
Counseling Centers
Family Visitation Centers
Group Home for Girls
Independent Living
Residential Alternative to Detention (RAD)
S.A.F.E
Turning Point
Veterans Outreach Program
Whatcoat Social Services

WISH LIST

We receive generous clothing donations throughout the year. Therefore, we request that before a clothing drive is organized, please contact our office. If you wish to make a Wish List donation, please mail or drop off the items between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at:

People’s Place
Administrative Offices
1129 Airport Road
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 422-8033

Items needed: radios, pots and pans, alarm clocks, kitchen towels, durable flashlights, hampers/clothes baskets, small kitchen appliances, dishes, flatware, glasses, kitchen utensils, linens, pillows, bicycles for adult men, and toys, games and books for children up to age 12.
A Message from Our Executive Director

I recently heard someone say that the last thing a Veteran should have to do is fight for a job when he or she comes home. After serving our country and oftentimes putting their lives on the line, it’s hard to imagine that Veterans would have a difficult time accessing resources when they return to civilian life. But with more and more Veterans coming home from service, the reality is they do; especially if they have experienced a disability, a mental illness, or a financial hardship.

In April, the Delaware State News featured a special, five-part series highlighting homelessness and the efforts by nonprofits, shelters and others to assist those in need. They did an excellent job in educating the public about the plight of the homeless and the resources available within the community to help them. Most people can’t imagine that a large number of the homeless are Veterans. Yet, the Veterans Administration estimates that approximately 67,000 Veterans were homeless last year nationwide.

Our Veterans Outreach Program was started in 1989 by a small group of concerned individuals who wanted to help Veterans access resources when they returned home from service. Twenty-three years later, the Program is still going strong, now helping more and more Veterans with their basic needs, such as housing, employment, and transportation. Through our Program, we offer a door-to-door transportation service free of charge for Veterans to attend their medical appointments because we know that public transportation can be costly and sometimes difficult to access. And as you can imagine, with the rising cost of gasoline, our transportation service is now in even greater demand. Our emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are also showing an increase in the number of Veterans who seek housing assistance, both young and old.

Without a doubt, our Veterans Outreach Program and housing programs depend on the generosity of the community. Without community support and donations, our programs could not thrive.

Today, we are more than grateful to that small group who started the Veterans Outreach Program 23 years ago. Back then, none of them could have predicted the states of our country and economy today. But what they knew, and we still know, is that no Veteran should ever be homeless or without help.

Enjoy the summer, and we hope to see you at one of our Fall events!