

GOING HOME

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance

Winter 2010

Strength
Dignity
Hope

Compassion
Accountability
Respect &
Courage

Image from *Finding Grace*.
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Moving Day!

MDHA partners with Dallas Housing Authority, LifeNet to open complex devoted to Women and Children

It had been a long road for Eleanor: domestic violence and depression, the death of a child, an

auto accident and leg amputation, drug addiction, homelessness, and jail, followed by emergency shelter, transitional shelter at The Bridge, and now, at last, home.

Home for Eleanor is Pebbles Park Apartments, a 42 unit apartment complex on Park Lane, newly transformed into the first permanent supportive housing (PSH) focused on women and children. Permanent Supportive Housing is a successful, cost-effective combination of affordable housing with support services for

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We often remark that it's going to take every one of us to end chronic homelessness, and MDHA is fortunate to have a broad spectrum of stakeholders as members. This issue, we would like to acknowledge all the member agencies that provide the permanent supportive housing so critical to solving chronic homelessness.

- ABC Behavioral Health
- AIDS Services of Dallas
- Central Dallas Ministries
- City of Dallas
- Dallas Metrocare Services
- Housing Crisis Center
- LifeNet Community Behavioral Healthcare
- LifePath (Collin County)
- Operation Relief Center
- Promise House
- Veterans Administration



Moving Day Offers Opportunity and Hope

(continued from front page) those having experienced homelessness along with a mental, physical, or addiction disorder. At Pebbles, LifeNet Community Behavioral Healthcare provides on-site case management and coordinates support services. MDHA is seeking development of 700 units of permanent supportive

housing by 2014.

Pebbles Park is the first of two innovative partnerships between the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA), MDHA and LifeNet. DHA owns the property and leases it to MDHA for \$1 year plus operating costs.

Twenty-four homeless women and seventeen female-headed families moved into the apartment complex in time for Christmas, forming a community of mutual support. The second partnership, Cliff Manor High Rise, will provide supportive housing for 100.

For Eleanor, her home is a dream come true. "I love getting up in the morning, opening the curtains to see the sun, listening to the news and reading my Bible. I have a place now where I am able to fix my own food!"



Eleanor appreciates the simple pleasures of home.



New residents and Bridge MDHA care managers take a break on moving day.

TOP 5 REASONS YOUR ORGANIZATION SHOULD SPONSOR

The 2010 Help the Homeless WalkAthon and 5K

2010 Event Set for Saturday
November 13th at City Hall Plaza

- #5 Access** to the highly coveted runner demographic.
- #4 Momentum!** The last event brought out 2114 participants, a 107% increase over 2008.
- #3 Publicity** generated in 2009 exceeded \$633,000, an increase of more than 350% over 2008.
- #2** The 2010 Walk and 5K promises to be the **biggest, best yet!**
- #1** The proceeds will help **END chronic homelessness.**



Help those experiencing homelessness find their way back home. Sponsor the 4th Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon and 5K. For more information contact Amy Gill at 214-670-1506 or agill@mdhadallas.org.

Tour Tuesdays at The Bridge!

Ever wondered what it's like inside the Dallas Homeless Assistance Campus? Come and see on Tour Tuesdays at The Bridge. In May of 2008 we opened our doors to those experiencing homelessness and beginning March 2nd, we are opening our doors to you!

Twice a month, The Bridge offers visitor tours that last one hour. Join us!

- 2nd Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m.
- 4th Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Visitors must be 18 years of age or older. If you are interested, sign up online at www.mdhadallas.org or call us at 214-670-1138.

Volunteer Corner

With a little apprehension, Sue Graham arrived for her first day as a volunteer at The Bridge. After all, the appearance of some experiencing homelessness can be a little unsettling. One of her first thoughts: looks are indeed deceiving. Sue is glad to report that the Bridge guests she's met are overwhelmingly polite, kind, and show gratitude for even the simplest act or words of kindness.



Sue's job is to help the guests who come to the Services Building find the offices of one of the 16 co-located agencies that provide services at The Bridge. She believes she helps the guests also by offering respectful greetings and words of empathy for challenges they face. "You know when they stand in line for services for hours . . . they are really trying!"

Although Sue has volunteered many years in a variety of settings, The Bridge is her "favorite volunteer job of all time." She chose The Bridge because she heard what a unique place it is, and "it is so satisfying to know that you are making a difference in someone's life, sometimes a big difference that they will carry with them for a long time."

To find out how you can make a difference, visit our website at www.mdhadallas.org and click on "Volunteer."

Signs of Success

The Bridge's unique, multi-service campus provides a broad spectrum of care — including housing, emergency, and transitional care — for people experiencing long-term homelessness.

More than **1231 guests** have achieved **employment!**
Kudos to those guests, Workforce Texas, and Care Managers!

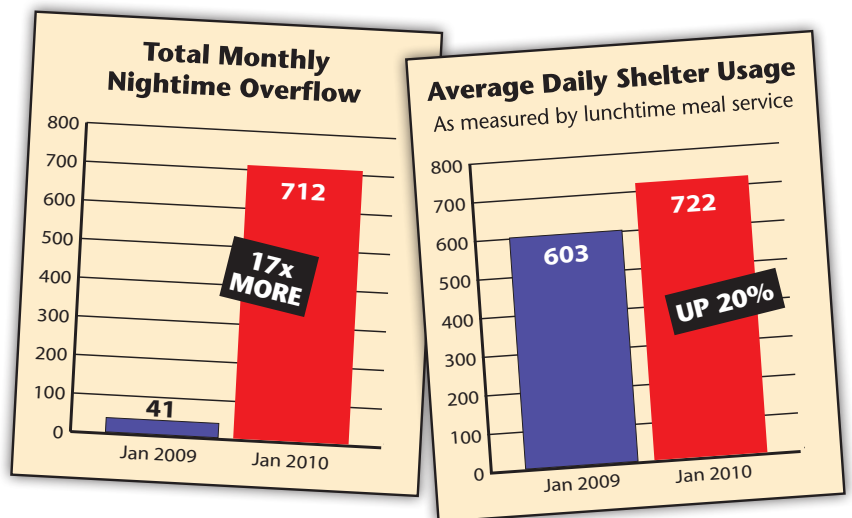
More than **647 guests** have been placed in **permanent housing.**
Welcome home!

The Bridge has now served more than **1 MILLION meals.** Congratulations to The Second Chance Cafe on this meaningful milestone!

Signs of the Times

The winter weather made for crowded area shelters. The Bridge accepts guests beyond our capacity of 325 after 10 p.m. on evenings in which the temperature is below 37 degrees. Many of these guests are dropped off by the Dallas Police Department and area hospitals.

We are able to keep guests safe from the temperatures but not comfortable. Overflow guests sit in chairs overnight to comply with fire codes. MDHA is working with a Task Force to explore shelter expansion.



A Personal Testimony



Frank Kaisler, a former guest at The Bridge, told the story of his journey from the hopelessly homeless situation he endured for years to a home and rewarding job.

A Note from Our President

Dear Friends of MDHA,

2010 is well underway, and this year MDHA has set goals that target housing development and services improvements. We are using the concept of *MDHA Housing Policy and Services Center* to articulate MDHA's work with the Continuum of Care, the planning and advocacy for housing policy and services and our partnerships with the Dallas Housing Authority to create permanent supportive housing. Our ambitious goal is for Dallas to create 400 new units of permanent supportive housing in 2010. Many of these will include a services monitoring and quality assurance role by MDHA.



This spring MDHA will take on the operation of the federally funded Homeless Information Management System that was developed and implemented under the committed stewardship of the Community Council of Greater Dallas over the last six years. Our goal is to continue to improve this system that is used by our Dallas area service providers who receive federal funds and simultaneously ensure that MDHA's data collection and analysis improves in the bargain.

We are alert to the fact that when we excel it is always through partnership with the private and public agencies that leverage shared expertise, resources and workload towards helping homeless people. Our committees have never been stronger and the staff benefits from guidance across a range of disciplines from our volunteers. It has been a tough era of scarcity for public and private providers of services, many who are MDHA members and this has made their support and willingness to collaborate with MDHA in key partnerships even more deeply appreciated. We recognize that it is only through strong collaborations that we will achieve our shared goal of ending chronic homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael M. Faenza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Michael M. Faenza
President & CEO
Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance

MISSION CHECK: The Economy's Impact on Our Movement

MDHA's mission is to end chronic homelessness by 2014. Chronically homeless describes those individuals experiencing homelessness for a year or more and suffering from a physical, mental or addiction disorder.

Let's review. 1231 job placements exceed our goal, Eleanor and more than 647 folks like her have received permanent housing. We celebrate each and every one.

But . . . The number of Bridge guests in 2009 exceeded projections by 29%. While we are seeing a decrease in the chronically homeless population, it is offset by increases in the number of first time homeless. Remember, after twelve months of homelessness, most will qualify as "chronically homeless."

We knew it wouldn't be easy.

It isn't.

We know it's going to take every one of us.

It is.

We're not giving up.

Stay tuned.



Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (*operators of The Bridge*) • 1818 Corsicana, Dallas, Texas 75201
214-670-1100 • Email: info@mdhadallas.org • Website: www.mdhadallas.org

The MDHA is a 501(c)(3) member organization composed of a broad spectrum of stakeholders committed to end homelessness. Through MDHA, 86 agencies that represent shelters, hospitals, government agencies, local municipalities, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, housing and treatment providers, individuals (including homeless consumers), businesses, medical/educational leaders, and other community members meet routinely to collaborate on issues to fight homelessness. The mission is to end homelessness in Metropolitan Dallas through advocacy, planning, and education that creates and sustains needed change.