



Friendship Street Talk



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Greetings from the Executive Director

Greetings:

It is so amazing to me that the fall is here again! I love the feeling of new beginnings: school starting for all of our children, a number of our residents starting college or enrolling in training programs, a new fiscal year for Amos House with renewed goals and priorities.

The next few years are going to be eventful ones at Amos House. We are about

to launch a capital campaign to raise funds to build a mother-child residential program for women who are looking to reunite with their children and a building to create a day program for men and women in the community who are in recovery and need support to maintain sobriety. We were fortunate to have the corner lot on our campus donated to us. It will accommodate

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Eileen Hayes

Special thanks to Christine Pastore Rhodes for many of the photos in this issue.

Our Mission

Amos House is a non-profit social services agency that provides hospitality and direct services to the homeless and poor of Rhode Island. We work in collaboration with other agencies and groups to address issues of hunger, homelessness and poverty.

Amos House

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Amos House Honors Mark Weiner

Mary Matalin and James Carville to Speak at Fundraising Dinner

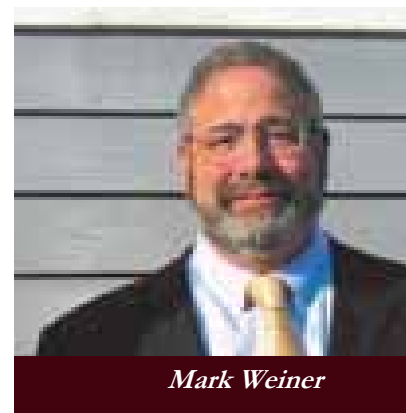
Amos House will honor businessman and philanthropist Mark Weiner at a fundraising dinner on Saturday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Providence. Political strategists Mary Matalin and James Carville will pay tribute to Weiner at the gala event for Amos House.

For the past decade, Weiner has been a loyal friend to Amos House as a donor and supporter of the agency's men's shelter at 56 Somerset Street. Last summer the shelter, which provides housing for 21 homeless men, was dedi-

cated to the memory of Weiner's father, Irving Weiner.

Mark Weiner is Founder and President of Financial Innovations, Inc., one of the largest political mass-marketing firms in the United States. He is the Founder and Chairman of Crimson Rose Accessories, a large jewelry manufacturing company with offices in America and Asia.

Weiner is also known for his work in the political arena



Mark Weiner

where he has held key positions in Presidential campaigns and on the Democratic National Committee. In Rhode Island he has provided leadership on numerous boards of directors including the Providence Civic Center Authority, the Rhode Island

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Did You Know...



Community Clean-up Day

Community Clean-up

Amos House and Crossroads RI teamed up on July 20th for a massive clean-up of the neighborhood around Broad and Friendship streets. Residents, guests and staff of both agencies collected 150 bags of trash in south Providence. They ended with a cookout and a greater sense of community pride.

Capitol Hill Visit

Last summer Amos House participated in the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, DC. An Amos House representative was Co-captain of a state delegation that visited RI legislators on Capitol Hill to encourage them to support more federal funding to help the homeless.

Greetings continued from page 1

housing for six families as well as a space to provide a therapeutic child care program.

Our catering business, More Than a Meal, has turned the corner and begun to make a profit as we continue to offer job opportunities to graduates of our culinary training program. With a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education we have added a literacy component to our ser-

vices and hired an employment specialist who will launch a new initiative: a training program that will focus on the trades.

As we expand to fulfill our mission of “helping people help themselves,” we continue to be concerned about the growing lines in our dining hall as well as the waiting lists for a bed in our 90-day program. During the

last week in August we served close to 1,000 meals a day. This past year we spent \$130,000 on emergency and prescription assistance. Thankfully, our donors recognize the significance of the services we provide to Rhode Islanders and continue to support us.

As we enter the holiday season, please consider

increasing your donation to Amos House by five to ten percent to match the increase in demand for our services by those in need. On behalf of our staff and guests I extend my deepest gratitude for your support.

Peace to you and your loved ones.

Eileen Hayes
Executive Director

Amos House Honors continued from page 1



Weiner and family at the Amos House Men's Shelter dedication to his father, Irving Weiner

Convention Center and the Rhode Island Board of Gover-

nors for Higher Education. He has received a number of awards and honors for his charitable work.

Political strategists Mary Matalin and James Carville will add to the festivities on November 17th as the married couple recognizes Weiner from their different political perspectives.

Matalin is known for her work with the Republican

Party, included serving as assistant to President George W. Bush and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney during their first term. She hosted CNN's debate show, *Crossfire*, contributed to various publications and authored a best seller.

Carville, has managed political campaigns for

numerous Democratic leaders, including President Bill Clinton. He is an author, speaker, restaurateur and talk show host.

Amos House invites you to join us at what is sure to be a lively fundraising event this fall. Tickets are \$150 each. For more information please call 401.831.9866.

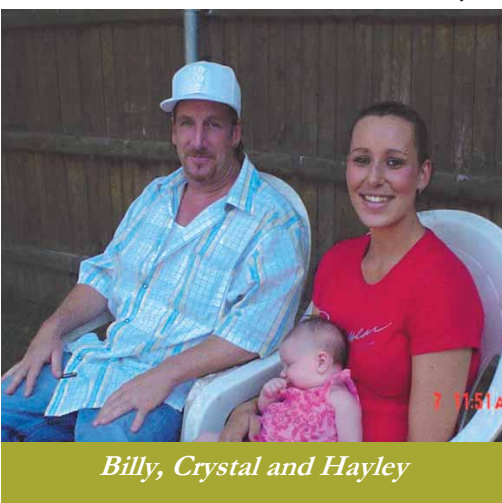
Community Voices

Billy remembered Crystal's bright smile and positive persona the first time they met. Crystal was drawn to Billy's personality and looks. Four years ago they began a life together, had a son and rented a house in Warwick. Their life was sweet until they started using drugs.

"We lost our house, car, son, jobs, everything," Crystal recalled. Their son was taken away by the Department of Children, Youth and Families. For months they lived on the streets and in shelters.

When Crystal became pregnant with their second child, they decided to seek help. "We were homeless, doing drugs and we had had enough of living the way we were living," said Billy.

In March they left the Welcome Arnold Shelter which was about to close and went to Amos House where they enrolled in the 90-day transitional shelter program. Together they began a jour-



Billy, Crystal and Hayley

ney toward recovery. "I was a mess. My life was a mess," Crystal said. "Amos House gave me and Billy a firm foundation for our recovery and we're so thankful to the staff."

Through case management support, counseling, life skills classes and the determination to rebuild their lives and family, Billy and Crystal have remained clean and sober for seven months. "Sometimes I wanted to leave the program," Crystal recalled, "but I didn't because it wasn't just about me. With a baby coming, recovery seemed more urgent."

Last May the couple graduated from the 90-day program and moved into an apartment with help from Amos House. They continue to attend support groups and use services at the agency. Billy plans to return to school for a plumber's license. Crystal volunteers at Amos House's women's shelter. Recently, she gave birth to their baby girl, Hayley. The couple hopes to regain custody of their son by Thanksgiving.

Billy shared the following advice for others in recovery: "Stick with it. Don't give up, because it *does* get better."

ACE Shooting Stars



Recently, Terry Carter appeared on television as local stations covered the opening of the Renaissance Hotel in Providence. The ACE graduate was dressed in a black uniform as he stood with the hotel staff. Carter is a banquet server for weddings, dinners and corporate functions in the Renaissance ballroom.

"What I like doing best is customer service because I like serving people and giving of myself," he said. "I like to see a smile on someone's face and know I had something to do with it."

The 47-year-old from Dorchester, Massachusetts is no stranger to the culinary field. His father was a first cook at a residential program and Carter's first job at age 16 was providing meals for summer camp children. He excelled in the field and worked at Simmons College and hotels such as the Sheraton and Hilton. His future was bright until drug and alcohol addiction crippled him personally and professionally.

Carter had been in and out of recovery programs for over 15 years when he discovered the ACE Program through an Internet search. What drew him to ACE from California was its unique combination of shelter, structured counseling, and culinary training. Carter applied to the program, was accepted and graduated last June. He left with national certification in the safe handling of foods and counseling that has helped him stay clean and sober for ten months. Amos House also provided him with housing one block away from his job and the confidence to enroll in an associate degree program in catering sales management at Johnson and Wales University. He attributes his success to "a loving and caring God" and Amos House.

"Amos House has given me a new life," Carter explained. "It's given me hope."



Volunteer Spotlight



Dr. Ed Martin

ED MARTIN, M.D.

DEDICATED TO COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

care. “I was aware Amos House was trying to provide various services for people,” he said., “but the medical component was missing. I thought I could help out.”

Since then, once a week during his lunch break, he volunteers at Amos House. Over the years Dr. Martin has provided vital services from conducting medical exams for guests and residents seeking employment to helping homeless persons with mental illnesses access medication. He also examines ACE Program students to check for any unmet medical needs. At times, he refers patients to specialists providing urgent care.

“I have seen the devastating consequences of the lack of universal health insurance in our country and the devastating impact of homelessness,” he shared. He explained that many serious ailments might have been prevented with earlier intervention.

Dr. Martin is also a physician with the National Guard. He recently returned from a 3-month deployment in Massachusetts. Stories shared by wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and homeless persons fuel his service. “At Amos House I really feel like I’m part of a great group of people, both staff and guests,” he said.

For the past 22 years Dr. Ed Martin has provided free medical services to guests and residents of Amos House. The physician, who is 53 years old and Medical Director at the Eleanor Slater Hospital in Cranston, has helped thousands of homeless persons with skill and compassion.

Dr. Martin became involved with Amos House after recognizing the rising need for affordable health-

Help Needed

Volunteers to assist in Amos House kitchen:

Breakfast shift

6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Lunch shift

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

No experience required – just a willingness to help in a great place with really nice workers.

Donated Items:

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Hand lotion

Deodorant

Soap

Shampoo and conditioner

Shaving cream

Razors

Baby formula & diapers

Bath towels

For more information please call 401-272-0220.

New Faces At Amos House



Dondi Alves
Case Manager



L. Joe Benton
Case Manager



Danielle Brown
Case Manager



David Perry
Maintenance Worker



Bill Scott
Employment Specialist



Amanda Sousa
Assistant Bookkeeper



Adrienne Taylor
Case Manager

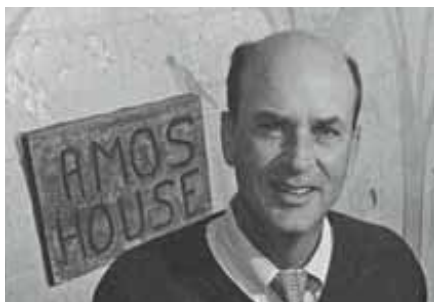
Not pictured: Roy Little, Supervisor of Maintenance, and Jenetta Bruce, House Manager at the Amos House Women’s Shelter

Opportunity Knocks

Please consider including Amos House in your trust or will as you create or review your estate plans this year. Gifts through estate plans have helped Amos House keep its doors open. For more information, please call Miriam Kimball at 401.831.9866.

Board Matters

Cavanagh and Pilkington Retire from Board



Brian Cavanagh



Dan Pilkington

Brian Cavanagh and Dan Pilkington will retire from the Amos House Board of Directors at the end of September. Their leadership, hard work and generosity have helped Amos House become a leading agency helping the poor and homeless in Rhode Island.

Cavanagh is CEO at Cavanagh Company, a major manufacturer of altar bread. He learned about Amos House 12 years ago after receiving an invitation to visit the agency. “Once I saw what was happening there, it made me feel I *had* to be involved. It was the epitome of meeting basic needs,” he recalled.

The executive quickly rolled up his sleeves and began raising funds for Amos House. Eventually he joined its Board of Directors. He also invited other professionals to get involved. One was Dan Pilkington, CEO and owner of EPCO, Inc., a roofing, siding and windows company. Together, they launched two of Amos House’s signature fundraising events: the Amos House Charity Golf Tournament and the annual Walk-A-Thon, which have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Amos House.

Pilkington also joined the board and helped lead tours to introduce others to the agency.

“What’s more important than working to ensure that people eat, are housed, and turn their lives around?” Pilkington asked. “I believe in what I’m doing here and in people involved in this organization.”

“Just look at the Amos House Culinary Program,” Cavanagh added. “It’s a prime example of what an organization can do when it sees a need...To see the light, achievement and pride in the graduates’ eyes is everything.”

Over the years Cavanagh has headed the board’s development and nominating committees. Pilkington has served as Vice President. His wife, Maurene, also has been a strong supporter of Amos House. After leaving the board, following six years as directors, both men will continue helping Amos House, particularly with the Walk-A-Thon.

“When you get involved in any organization, the joys of giving far outweigh the expenses,” said Pilkington. “If you’re thinking about joining a wonderful organization, *this* is the one for you.”

Thank You Donors!

Blue Cross Blue Shield



This year Amos House has provided more than 300 homeless persons with free prescription coverage, eye exams and eyeglasses, thanks to a \$25,000 BlueAngel Community Health Grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island Community Health Fund. Most of the persons assisted do not have health insurance and were not able to pay for life-sustaining medications. The grant covered their expenses through the Amos House Prescription and Eyeglass Program which helps 1,000 people a year.

BlueAngel Community Health Grants, which are administered through the Rhode Island Foundation, help to improve the quality of life of Rhode Islanders by improving their health. They meet a vital need as the homeless population in our state grows and more individuals lack access to health care. Thank you, Blue Cross Blue Shield, for supporting our Prescription and Eyeglass Program and providing volunteers for our soup kitchen. Go Blue!

Amos House also expresses gratitude to other supporters of our Prescription and Eyeglass Program. They include the Ida Ballou Littlefield Memorial Trust, Frank Hazard Charitable Trust, Morning Glory Family Foundation, John Clarke Trust, RI Foundation Basic Human Needs Grant, Episcopal Charities Fund; H.M., M.C., W.C. Horton Trust; and Sen-sata Technologies.

Amos House

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We're on the Web!

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Helping people help themselves.



Happenings

ACE Program Graduation
Thursday, October 11, 6:00 p.m.
Amos House Dining Hall, Providence, RI

Walk to D'Feet Hunger & Homelessness
Amos House's Annual Walk-A-Thon
Saturday, October 27, 9:00 a.m., registration
Temple to Music, Roger Williams Park
Providence, RI

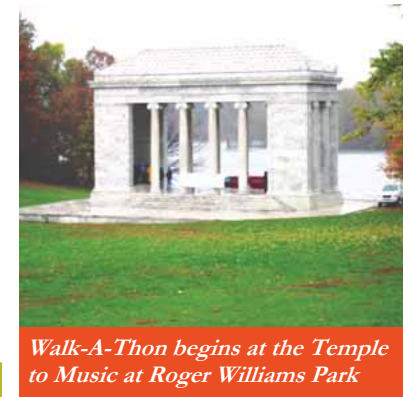
Mark Weiner Roast & Dinner
Saturday, November 17, 6:00 p.m.
Renaissance Hotel, Providence, RI
Ticket price: \$150

Adopt A Family Christmas Program
Monday, October 15, 9:00 a.m., registration begins
Amos House Social Services Building
Call 401.272.0220 for more information
if you would like to contribute to this
wonderful program by "adopting" a
family for the holidays.

Walk to Help the Homeless Amos House Hosts Third Annual Walk-A-Thon

Mark your calendar! Saturday, October 27th is the date of the third annual Amos House Walk-A-Thon, better known as the "Walk to D'Feet Hunger & Homelessness." Rain or shine, the walk-a-thon will start at 9:30 a.m. at the Temple to Music at Roger Williams Park in Providence. Registration for the 5K or 3.1-mile walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

The "Walk to D'Feet Hunger & Homelessness" is one of Amos House's major fundraising events. It is an energizing way for individuals, families and groups to raise vital dollars to feed, clothe and shelter the homeless during the winter months. Whether young or old you can participate by gathering



Walk-A-Thon begins at the Temple to Music at Roger Williams Park

pledges and walking, sponsoring a walker, or donating directly to the walk-a-thon fund. Major sponsors will be recognized in the media, at the event, and on Amos House's web site. Volunteers are also needed to help register walkers. For more information or to volunteer, please call 401.831.9866.