



# Friendship Street Talk

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**Special thanks to Kristina Lavoie for many of the photographs 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.

## Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

Thirty years ago, Sr. Eileen Murphy opened a small soup kitchen in a house on Somerset Street in south Providence to feed 20 to 30 homeless men a dinner meal. She named the soup kitchen “Amos House” after the Old Testament prophet Amos who fought for social justice.

Today, Amos House continues to provide meals and so much more to those who are hungry, homeless and in crisis. Since its inception, Amos House has served more than two million meals. We have

provided emergency assistance to more than 500,000 men, women and children. Over the past ten years, we have secured ten properties that have served as temporary and permanent housing for more than 2,000 people. One hundred and eighteen men and women have graduated from Amos House’s 4-year-old culinary education program, ACE. Our micro-business, Amos House Works, feeds close to 1,000 school-age children each weekday.

Truly Amos House is “more than a meal.” We are proud of our eight-building campus and our scattered



*Eileen Hayes*

housing that has launched us into one of the most respected social service agencies in Providence. We have accomplished this through saving one life at a time, by offering dignity and respect to the poorest and

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## Amos House Turns 30

### Luncheon Celebration Will Honor Larry Fish

Amos House will celebrate thirty years of serving poor and homeless Rhode Islanders at a special event on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The “Another Helping” luncheon will take place from noon until 1:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. The event will honor Larry Fish, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Financial Group, for his significant contributions to the homeless and hungry in Rhode Island.

Mr. Fish began his banking career in 1972 at



*Larry Fish*

Bank of Boston, where he ran various operations in the

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Geneva Johnson

## Out of Tragic Losses, Case Managers Help Others

Geneva Johnson and Sterling Washington have several things in common. They are African-American. Both are Case Managers at Amos House and each knows the anguish of losing a son to violence. Yet, out of their tragic losses they have dedicated their lives to helping others.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Johnson will receive the Marsha E. Carpenter Victim Advocacy Award at a luncheon spon-

sored by the Rhode Island Victims' Advocacy and Support Center. The program, which will begin at noon at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, commemorates National Victims' Rights Week. Johnson will be honored for her "unwavering commitment and historic contributions to survivors of homicide victims," said a representative from the Center.

Since the death of her son Keith in 1995, when he

was a sophomore at Feinstein High School, her mission has been to "create fewer victims." Toward that end Johnson has accepted appointments to the Governor's task force for reorganizing the Rhode Island Training School for troubled youth, the Governor's Justice Commission, and the Rhode Island Victims Justice Committee. She quit her job at an

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## Amos House continued from page 1

United States and overseas. Since he joined Citizens Bank in 1992, the institution has grown 25-fold and is the eighth largest commercial bank holding company in the United States in total deposits.

Mr. Fish has held leadership positions in the business arena and the commu-

nity. He has chaired numerous capital campaigns, including major initiatives to assist Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston, and The Vietnamese Community Center, which supports nonprofit agencies that provide economic development and social services to

Boston's Vietnamese refugee and immigrant families. A graduate of Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration and the recipient of six honorary doctorate degrees, Mr. Fish volunteers at inner-city organizations in Boston and Providence.

Amos House invites you to join us in honoring Mr.

Fish and celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the "Another Helping" Luncheon. Citizens Financial Group is the event's presenting sponsor. For more information, contact Miriam Kimball, Director of Development, at 401-831-9866. Proceeds will support Amos House.

## Greetings continued from page 1

most disenfranchised members of our society and, most importantly, by sticking to our mission of "helping people help themselves." With a staff of forty dedicated individuals, more than half of them former guests or students, Amos House embodies the work of all good prophets.

We are on the front line, fighting poverty, hunger, homelessness, drug addiction and despair. Every day we bear witness to tragedies and miracles as people join our community and begin to transform their lives, one step at a time.

As we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup>

anniversary, I invite you to come visit our campus, meet our guests and lend a helping hand. You too may be surprised to discover that Amos House is "more than a meal."

**"Truly Amos House is more than a meal."**  
Eileen Hayes,  
Executive Director

## Community Voices



*Arthur Porter*

Arthur Porter is a man with a vision. The former crack and heroin addict will begin training as a printer this spring. In several years he wants to be a motivational speaker and eventually enter college to study computers or human resource management. "I think God wants me to be an example, to show others you can turn your life around," said Porter, who is 47 years old.

The Providence native said Amos House has played a key role in his journey. Early last year after his house burned down, he was homeless, had an ankle injury, pneumonia and a drug problem. While he could have stayed at drug houses around Providence, he decided to pursue a better life. "I didn't want to be in those places no more," he recalls. Briefly he stayed at a nursing home on disability; then

he spent the next five months living in shelters, often visiting Amos House for meals.

Porter met Sol Nani, a Case Manager, who encouraged him to seek housing at Amos House. He pursued a room at the Amos House Men's Shelter and two months later, in October, reached the top of the waiting list. Porter remembers, "I was persistent because I was tired of the lifestyle at the other shelters. Ninety percent of the people were drunk or high every night. Looking back, it was a good experience because it's something I never want to go through again. It made me make the right decisions." He described the Amos House shelter as a "safe environment."

Amos House also helped Porter by providing relapse prevention meetings, job placement assistance, and a community of support. Porter gives back to Amos House by leading the morning meeting where residents from the women's and men's shelters begin their day with an uplifting message. "We're here in the same boat for whatever reason and we're here to help one another. Amos House gives you the vehicle to drive but you have to drive you," Porter explained.

As he thinks about his future he smiles, then offers words of wisdom. "If you don't do nothing about your situation, you'll always be down. But it's possible to come from your deathbed to being a success, being happy with yourself, and being able to appreciate each day," said Porter.

## ACE Shooting Stars

### Edward Walsh



*After spending twenty months in Iraq as an infantry soldier Edward Walsh suffered from post-traumatic stress, a psychiatric disorder that can occur after someone experiences or witnesses a life-threatening event. In Walsh's case, each time he heard a loud noise or a telephone ring, the 36-year-old jumped. Nightmares and flashbacks of the war, including personal injuries, heightened his anxiety. But today he is finding peace, new direction and support as a student in Amos House's Culinary Education Program (ACE).*

*Walsh had served in the U.S. Army for fifteen years in positions from a line cook and mess steward to an infantry soldier. "I like cooking. I tried to go to Johnson & Wales before the Iraq War but I didn't have the time or money to finish," he said. "The ACE program has helped me get my self-confidence back and learn new things I never knew about cooking. It got me to be around a lot of people and not be nervous."*

*Walsh first heard about ACE through the Rhode Island Veterans Administration. He compares ACE to "a family" whose members get along and help one another. His greatest challenge is memorizing information for the ServSafe exam for national certification in the safe handling of foods. "But I've been doing pretty good and that's building my confidence," said Walsh.*

*Walsh plans to graduate from the program on April 6<sup>th</sup> and wants to work in the food industry full-time. The life he envisions is very different from the one he lived in Iraq. Walsh explained: "It took the war to give me a good outlook on life. When life gets you down, you've got to persevere even if the outcome looks bleak. If I can do it, with all I had to go through to get here, I'm sure any person can do it."*

# New Faces



Brian Cardoza



Cynthia Delgizzo



Alan Harlam



Sol Celeste Nani

Since last fall, seven men and women have joined the Amos House team. We are pleased to welcome our new staff members. They include Brian Cardoza, Maintenance

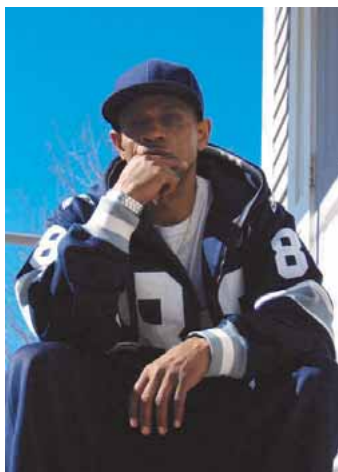
Worker; Cynthia Delgizzo, Receptionist; Alan Harlam, Amos House Works Business Manager; Richard James, House Manager in the Men’s Shelter;

Sol Celeste Nani, Case Manager; and Linda Watkins, Associate Director.

Welcome to Amos House!



Linda Watkins



Sterling Washington

insurance agency and entered the social services arena, teaching classes in non-violence at the training school, life skills classes at high schools and prisons, and now at Amos House. Johnson also has helped to lead marches against violence.

“My motivation was to stop other parents from having to experience what I

## Out of Tragic Losses continued from page 2

had. If I could get one teenager to not pick up a gun and shoot someone else’s child, I would have succeeded,” she explained. To date, her son’s murderer has not been found.

In contrast to Johnson, Washington has worked with at-risk youth for thirty years. When his son Marquis was shot and killed at age 18 in 1998 Washington was a teacher’s assistant at Central High School, where his son was a senior. He was running a program to help identify at-risk students based on their academic performance and absentee rate. For many years he worked for the school system as well as the Providence Recreation Department. In August 2004, he was laid off from his

position at Central High School. A year later, Washington secured a job at the Amos House Men’s Shelter. After two months, he was promoted to Case Manager.

“I want to help people and make a difference in their lives. At Amos House, I really feel like I’m making a difference,” Washington explained.

A single father and recovering addict of fifteen years, Washington envisions running a social service agency one day that empowers homeless persons and drug and alcohol abusers.

“I thank Eileen Hayes for the opportunity to do this kind of work. Amos House reinforces that what I want to do is a good thing,” Washington said.

## 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. For more information call 401-272-0220.

**Donated Items:**

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Hand lotion
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shaving cream
- Razors

Call 401-274-8021 for more information.

## Board Matters: New President Announced

Amos House has a new President. Bill Allen is his name. The retired Executive Vice President of the United Way of Rhode Island is poised to steer Amos House into a bright future. He replaces David Brochu, who led the Board of Directors for three years.

“In leaving I hope that I’ve made some small contribution to Amos House and its future,” said Brochu, President of StrategicPoint Investment Advisors in Providence. “What I’ll remember most are the people, the smiling faces of the ACE graduates, and the friendly employees...I hope to continue in my small way in helping Amos House achieve its mission.”

Allen joined the Amos House



Bill Allen



David Brochu

Board of Directors last year. He currently serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the Taubman Center at Brown University. Allen also is a lecturer at Providence College and Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

The Cumberland resident has served in numerous leadership positions in Rhode Island, including

member of the board of Leadership Rhode Island and a member of the Rhode Island Foundation’s Program Committee. Allen began his career as a caseworker for the Boston Welfare Department and managed a neighborhood employment center for Boston’s anti-poverty program.

“As the new President of the Amos House Board of Directors, I will encourage every board member to be an active and engaged supporter of all that Amos House, Eileen Hayes and her staff do every day,” he said. “Many more need to know that Amos House is transforming lives through programs such as employment training, case management, life skills and supportive services.”

In addition to a new President, Amos House welcomes the following new board members: David C. Caizzi, Treasurer; Richard Anzelone, Esq., Secretary; Patricia Coleman; Bari Harlam; and Jane Jacober.

## Thank You Donors!

*Amos House depends on financial gifts to support our programs and services. We are very grateful for all of our donors. This issue of Friendship Street Talk features and expresses deep gratitude to foundations, corporations, government agencies, organizations as well as individuals that have contributed more than \$3,000 to Amos House during our current fiscal year.*

### Grantmaking Agencies

- Alice I. Sullivan Foundation
- Billy Andrade-Brad Faxon Charities for Children
- Champlin Foundations
- Collis Foundation
- DelPrete Family Foundation
- Feinstein Foundation, Inc.
- Frank Hazard Charitable Trust
- Fred Roddy Foundation, Inc.
- Ida Ballou Littlefield Memorial Trust
- Irvin E. Houck Charitable Trust
- Morning Glory Family Foundation
- Otto H. York Foundation
- Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation
- Rhode Island Foundation

- Sidney Goldstein Charities, Inc.
- The John Clarke Trust
- United Way of Rhode Island

### Corporations

- Amica Companies Foundation
- Brokers’ Service Marketing Group II, LLC
- Cavanagh Company
- Citizens Bank Foundation
- CVS Pharmacy, Inc.
- Goldline Controls, Inc.
- Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association
- New England Gas Company
- StrategicPoint Investment Advisors

### Government Agencies

- City of Providence
- Rhode Island Housing
- State of Rhode Island
- Providence Plantations

### Organizations

- Central Congregational Church
- Christ the King Church

### Individuals

- Joan & Leonard Engle Family
- Estate of Eleanor L. O’Reilly
- Estate of Gladys L. Daniels
- Estate of Madeline C. Grzebien
- The late Robert E. Falvey
- Scott & Tanya Martin
- Terrence & Patricia Moran
- Robert Rotondo
- Daniel & Lorna Wyner

# Amos House

415 Friendship Street  
P.O. Box 72873  
Providence, RI 02907

Phone: 401.272.0220  
Fax: 401.272.2137

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*Helping people help themselves.*



amos house

## Happenings

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

Annual Good Friday Walk for Hunger & Homelessness  
Friday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.  
Starts at seven locations. Call 401.781.7210 for details.

Another Helping Luncheon  
Amos House's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Wednesday, May 24, noon to 1:30 p.m.  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI  
Ticket price: \$125

Harbourside Fundraiser  
Wednesday, June 14, 6:00 p.m.  
Harbourside Lobstermania, East Greenwich, RI  
Ticket price: \$20

Amos House Annual Golf Tournament  
Tuesday, August 15  
Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln, RI  
Call 401.831.9866 for details.

Amos House Raffle  
Wednesday, August 23, drawing at 12:00 p.m.  
Amos House Dining Hall, Providence, RI  
Raffle tickets: \$2 each, 6 for \$10

Walk to D'Feet Hunger and Homelessness  
Amos House's Annual Walk-A-Thon  
Saturday, October 28, 9:00 a.m.  
Temple of Music, Roger Williams Park,  
Providence, RI



## Feinstein Challenges Donors

For the ninth straight year, Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein is holding his \$1 million give away to agencies nationwide that fight hunger.

Financial gifts to Amos House between March 1 and April 30 will qualify for Mr. Feinstein's challenge. At the end of this period, all gifts will be tallied and the total reported to the

philanthropist. He will divide his million dollars proportionately among all participating agencies.

This is your chance to multiply the impact of your gift to support the work of Amos House. We hope that you will take the challenge!