



Friendship Street Talk



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Greetings from the Executive Director



Eileen Hayes

Greetings:

As I write this letter I am heartened by the hint of spring and feelings of hope and renewed energy I am witnessing all around me. The weather has warmed and the day has been extended with daylight savings. I would like to thank all of the many donors, volunteers, staff and guests who have helped Amos House provide services

throughout the year. This past Christmas we provided toys, clothes and warm blankets to 750 children. We purchased a 10-room house for formerly homeless men and women bringing our bed count up to 110. We expanded our catering business, "More Than a Meal" to Meeting Street School and since September '06 have had over \$50,000 in catering business.

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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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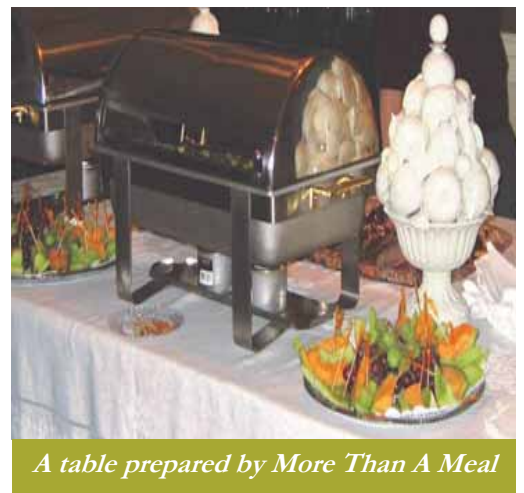
More Than A Meal Catering Soars Business Offers Quality Food And Social Mission

Tom Furney carefully stacked plastic containers onto a table at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. The containers were filled with tasty turkey wrap sandwiches, pasta salad, ripe pears and freshly baked cookies. The menu was prepared by More Than A Meal, where Tom is Executive Chef. Along with feeding 120 people at that conference, More Than A Meal has served over 75 clients since Amos House launched the catering business last September.

"We would like to be the caterer of choice particularly for nonprofits

in Rhode Island," said Alan Harlam, More Than A Meal's Business Manager.

In the last seven months the business has served customers from the Pawtucket Boys & Girls Club and the Family Life Center to Merrill Lynch and Bank of America. Recently More Than A Meal catered a dinner for 250 people hosted by Ocean State Action Fund at Roger Williams

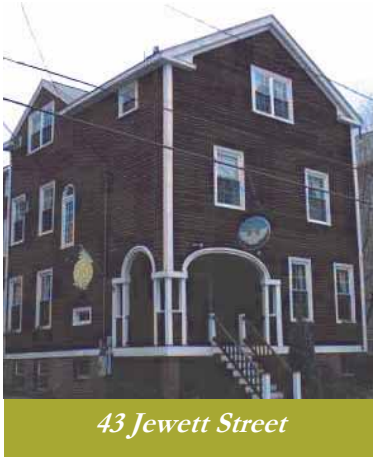


A table prepared by More Than A Meal

Park Casino. High quality food preparation and presentation has earned repeat business from companies, organizations and individuals.

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Did You Know...



43 Jewett Street

New Rooming House

Amos House recently purchased 43 Jewett Street, a magnificent three-story house near the State Capitol that was formerly a Bed & Breakfast. Its ten spacious bedrooms with private bathrooms now provide permanent supportive housing for ten formerly homeless men and women.

Pilot Project

In February Amos House launched a pilot program called the “Good Samaritan Project.” We are partnering with ten local congregations this year to help ten homeless families and individuals secure housing, job opportunities, case management, social services, mentors and a community of support.

Award

Ocean State Action Fund gave Amos House an award for our role in the Voice Your Vote Campaign last fall. Through a grant from the Fund we hired 4 Amos House residents to work as canvassers led by a social work intern. They registered and collected voter pledge forms from 500 people in south Providence.

Greetings continued from page 1

More business means more jobs for our ACE graduates. We added three new positions in the last six months.

Amos House had a wonderful holiday season in terms of donations, thanks to your support. I believe that our fundraising success is in direct correlation to the quality of our work. Our donors are willing to fund us because of the reputation we have earned as a

strong, viable organization.

I wish I could say the need for our services has decreased. Unfortunately, this past year there were 6800 men, women, and children who were homeless in Rhode Island, an increase of close to 1000 from the prior year. The number of people visiting our soup kitchen has increased steadily in recent months, with a greater num-

ber of our guests who are working and cannot make ends meet.

There is no room here to tell you all of the stories of people Amos House has helped. One example is a woman who had been homeless for the past three years. She came in to our 90-day transitional shelter program. When given linens and towels for her



stay, she started to cry and said, “Is this pillow for me? I haven’t had a pillow in three years. Thank you so much.”

Often the things we take for granted are jewels to those less fortunate. This woman gave our staff the gift of gratitude. I extend this gift to you.

Eileen Hayes
Executive Director

More Than A Meal continued from page 1

“We’re proud of our food quality and service, and the jobs we’re providing for people who might not have been easily employable,” said Alan.

More Than A Meal has provided part-time employment opportunities for ten graduates of Amos House’s culinary arts training program. Through the program, known as ACE, persons with few to no job skills are trained in

food safety, preparation and handling, as well as restaurant management and customer service. They prepare for national certification in the safe handling of foods and experience real-world restaurant training. Alan attributes More Than A Meal’s success to both its social mission and quality service.

“I think people like the

idea of getting an excellent product that they were going to buy anyway that has an extra bonus value of strong community service. As long as our quality remains high, we’ll be successful,” he said.

To date, More Than A Meal has generated over \$50,000 for Amos House. Recently, it opened a café at the new Meeting Street



School.

The catering business is connected to Amos House Works, which provides snacks and meals to schools, camps and senior centers. For more information about our catering menu, call 401.272.0220, x250 or visit the website www.morethanameal.net.

Community Voices



Michael Brown

Michael Brown sees himself in the Parable of the Talents. This Bible story tells of a wealthy man who gives three servants money to invest on his behalf. Two servants doubled their money or talents, but the third buried his talent out of fear. As a result, he reaped no profit.

"He hid the talent he had from the world, like I did for a long time. But given an opportunity, I now want to uplift people," said Michael, who is 32. With the help of Amos House, he has journeyed from a life of addiction and homelessness to sobriety and college.

Michael recalled the dismal day three years ago when his wife kicked him out of their suburban home due to his drinking, drug use and violent temper. He ended up homeless, then in jail with a domestic violence charge. Given the option of prison time or treatment, Michael

chose treatment and made his way to Amos House for help. Through our 90-day transitional shelter program, Michael received substance abuse counseling, life skills training, temporary housing and other support.

"Being in treatment gave me an opportunity to learn about myself. When I was drinking and using drugs, I was lost," he said.

But with self-determination and the support of Amos House, Michael's life has turned around. He has been clean and sober for more than two and a half years, and lives in an apartment owned by Amos House. Seven months ago, with the encouragement of our staff, he gained confidence to enroll in college.

Today Michael attends the Community College of Rhode Island where he has a 4.0 grade point average. He is helping to raise his 8-year-old son and working toward a career in social services to help disadvantaged youth.

"I want more out of life. I don't want to stay stuck because I know my future is bright," he shared.

Recently Michael's story of overcoming addiction and homelessness was included in a national lobbying effort to secure millions of dollars of additional federal funds for services tied to permanent supportive housing.

Go Michael!

ACE Shooting Stars

Janice Dias



Janice Dias was born to cook. At age 16 she was a short order cook at a diner. In college, she cooked in the cafeteria. Recently, the 31-year-old ACE Program graduate landed a job as an Assistant Cook at Sodexo, a major food and facilities management company. She is helping to prepare thousands of hot lunches for 37 schools in Rhode Island. Through a new partnership between Sodexo and Amos House, Janice will also train future ACE graduates who want further instruction in the field.

"I love my job. I love the atmosphere of the kitchen and the creativity of it, and I'm hungry to learn everything that I can," said the Providence native. "It's a foundation for me on which to build and it's all possible because of the ACE Program."

Just nine months ago Janice was struggling with a drug addiction and years of unemployment. She had dropped out of college and her life had reached a standstill. In search of a new beginning, she left Louisiana and returned to Providence with a fresh commitment to overcome her addiction. Janice learned about the ACE Program after visiting Amos House for an ID. She enrolled and later began our 90-day transitional housing program. Last month Janice, who is now drug-free, graduated from ACE as Class President and started her job at Sodexo. Eventually, she wants to pursue a higher education degree, work on a cruise line, and own her own restaurant to train others who need a second chance at life.

Janice said: "It's never the end unless you say it's the end. Take each day at a time. Don't stop until the miracle happens."

New Faces At Amos House



Karen Borger
Director of Marketing & Sales
More Than A Meal



Lydia Brown
Coordinator of the
Good Samaritan Project



Rodney Clements
Senior Case Manager



Cerrie Estrella
Receptionist, Social Services



Donna Hartly
Women's Shelter House Mgr.



Volunteer Spotlight

BUCK CLOSE

A BUSINESSMAN ON A MISSION

Buck Close took a vow seven years ago when he was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church. That vow was to serve all people, especially the poor, weak, sick and lonely. The Little Compton resident has fulfilled his promise in various ways, including donating his business expertise to Amos House.

“When I first wanted to volunteer at Amos House, I worked in the kitchen. But I quickly found out that wasn’t the best way for me to volunteer,” Buck explained.

Perhaps it was divine luck that an Episcopal minister referred him to Amos House early last year as Amos House Works planned to open a café at Goodwill Industries. Buck had worked in the textile industry for 31 years, at a family business and a company he founded. After becoming ordained he worked for the Episcopal Diocese in New York. He merged his company with another and eventually sold it. Buck was later reassigned to a parish in Rhode Island. He brought with him strong business skills and compassion for the poor. The combination was exactly what Amos House Works’

Business Manager needed to help launch the café.

“I did everything from opening the café and waiting on customers to shopping for equipment and food, and doing accounting. At the end of the year, I was asked to work on developing a profit and loss statement for Amos House Works,” Buck said.

The husband and the father of three grown children is currently designing a tool to measure the business’ performance on a monthly basis. At the same time, Buck directs the George Hunt HELP Center, a drop-in center for homeless persons in downtown Providence. The center provides clothing, toiletries, coffee, a resting place and a community of support for homeless people during the day. Buck credits Amos House and the center for helping him learn about the homeless population.

“Amos House is doing the kind of frontline service to human beings with real immediate needs that interests me,” he said. “Be open-minded and flexible. There are many ways to volunteer here.”



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.

Board Matters

Four Join Amos House Board of Directors

Amos House welcomes Rhea Brooks, Heidi Loomis, Traci Maceroni and Kevin McDevitt to its Board of Directors.

Rhea Brooks is a professional volunteer and resident of Providence. She serves on our board's development committee. Rhea was attracted to Amos House's holistic and caring approach to serving the homeless. "I've been involved in programs for the homeless, but none of them offered the services that Amos House does. It's a full package," she said "and Amos House treats everyone with dignity."

Heidi Loomis is Co-Owner and Chief Financial Officer of Bernardo Manufacturing, a jewelry manufacturer in East Providence. She joined our board because of Amos House's positive track record. "I've seen success stories at Amos House. And when you see that

for life situations that seem so sad and depressing, it excites you and makes you want to be a part of it," Heidi said.

Traci Maceroni, Co-Owner and Chief Executive Officer of Bernardo Manufacturing, recently rejoined the Amos House board and serves on the development committee. In February she hosted a booksigning at her home that raised \$5,400 for Amos House.

Kevin McDevitt is Senior Vice President of the Special Assets Group at Bank of America. A banker for over 25 years, he joined our board's finance committee. "I hope to assist Amos House with financial planning, budgeting and forecasting," said Kevin, "and to spread the good news about great works Amos House accomplishes each day."



Courageous Amos House supporters gather for our rained out Walk-A-Thon



Children enjoy free food and toys at the Amos House Christmas dinner



Donors enjoy author Robin Aronson at *The Skinny* booksigning

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, call Miriam Kimball at 401.272.0220.

Thank You Donors!

Last fall and winter marked a stellar fundraising season for Amos House. Thanks to hundreds of individual donors we were able to raise \$203,500 toward our 2007 budget of \$2.6 million. With the support of corporations, foundations and government grants, an additional \$725,000 was secured. Amos House is so grateful for your donations of money, clothing and toys, including gifts given in honor of others. Because of financial partners like you, this year we will continue to meet the emergency needs of thousands of poor men, women and children. Thank you donors!

Recent Fundraising Initiatives

Walk to D'Feet Hunger and Homelessness
\$50,400

Coast 93.3 Radio-Thon
\$20,000

Year-End Gifts
\$203,500

Holiday Parties
\$10,000

Christmas Program
Gifts for 161 families, including 750 children

The Skinny Booksigning
\$5,400

Amos House

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We're on the Web!

Go to www.amoshouse.com

Helping people help themselves.



Happenings

Annual Good Friday Walk for Hunger & Homelessness
Friday, April 16, 9:00 a.m.
Starts at nine locations. Call 401.781.7210 for details.

Volunteer Dinner
Friday, May 11, 6:00 p.m.
Amos House Dining Hall, Providence, RI

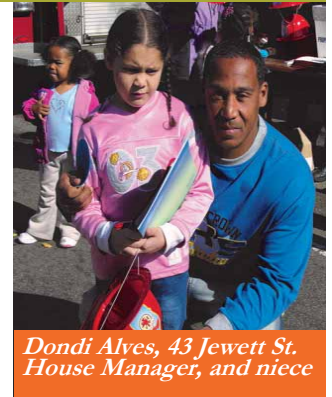
ACE Program Graduation
Thursday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.
Amos House Dining Hall, Providence, RI

Harbourside Fundraiser
Tuesday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.
Harbourside Lobstermania, East Greenwich, RI
Ticket price: \$20

Amos House Annual Golf Tournament
Tuesday, August 14
Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln, RI
Call 401.831.9866 for details.

Amos House Raffle
Wednesday, August 22, drawing 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 27, 9:00 a.m.
Temple of Music, Roger Williams Park
Providence, RI



*Dondi Ayles, 43 Jewett St.
House Manager, and niece*

Feinstein Challenge

Spring is in the air, marking the season for the Feinstein Challenge. Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein is holding his \$1 million give away to help fight hunger nationwide.

Financial gifts to Amos House between March 1 and April 30 will qualify for his 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.

We hope that you will take the Feinstein Challenge by giving to Amos House this season. In doing so, you will multiply the impact of your gift to support the work of Amos House.