



HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Birthdays	6
Congratulations	7
Endowment Fund	6
Gala	1/2
Garden	5
Graduates	3
Home Improvements	7
Recreational Activities	4
Save the Date	1



Annual Bingo Fundraiser is set for Sept. 23.

If you wish to donate to Stephen's Place go to our web-site: www.stephens-place.org to make your donation online or by mail; 729 Ridge St. Bethlehem, PA 18015.

All donations are tax deductible.

Gala: Fund for the Future

"I will take their hearts of stone and make them hearts of love" Ezekiel 11:19



"Stephen's Place hopes to facilitate the healing of their hearts, that their hearts will soften and their consciences will be awakened. Stephen's Place has been a source of hope and healing for non-violent offenders with histories of drug and alcohol abuse, helping them to rehabilitate and rebuild their lives."

Sister Virginia Longcope

Stephen's Place Inc. hosted the Fund for the Future event on April 15 in celebration of its 25th anniversary with director Sister Virginia Longcope. The event took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Marian Inn and also celebrated 25 years of breaking the cycle of addiction in the community. We are excited to announce that we surpassed our goal of raising \$25,000 during the 25-hour event with about 121 people in attendance. The Fund for the Future is an endowment created to carry Sister Virginia's legacy and Stephen's Place's mission into the future.



Sister Virginia with Msgr. Sacks

Ashley Russo, the president and executive producer of ASR Media Productions emceed the event, and the ASR Media team produced a video celebrating Sister Virginia

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and her relationship with Ray, one of the program graduates who Sister Virginia greatly impacted. This video was featured on the weekly program **The PEAK** which airs on WFMZ on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. You can view this video by going to our website (www.stephens-place.org) or by visiting our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StephensPlaceBethlehem).

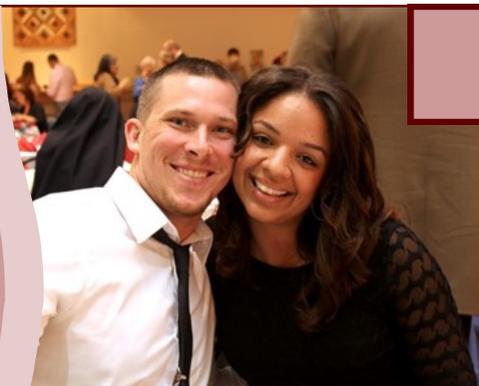
Many dedicated supporters from the community were in attendance, including the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart based in Reading, PA, Northampton County Drug Court Judge Craig Dally, Msgr. Edward Sacks from Our Lady of Perpetual Help, who generously allowed us the use of Marion Inn, and Father Patrick Lamb, pastor of Our Lady of Queenship of Mary Parish, as keynote speaker.

We would like to recognize the following honoree's for their dedicated service helping to make Stephen's Place the organization that it is today: MSC Sisters, Tim Munsch, Mary Breidinger, David Shook, Rev. Msgr. Edward Sacks. There will be a tree planted at the house in their honor along with a dedication plaque.

Brooke McIntyre presented Sr. Virginia with a citation from Pennsylvania State Representative; Steve Samuelson. Pennsylvania State Senator; Robert P. Casey sent a letter formally congratulating Sister Virginia on her 25 years of service directing Stephen's Place.



Randy Kemmerer and girlfriend, Shanelle Tirado



Graduate Testimony

We were honored to have Randy Kemmerer attend our GALA in April. He lived at Stephen's Place a total of 14 months; Sept. 2008 to Nov. 2009. After leaving Stephen's Place Randy moved into his own apartment in Allentown. Having his own place made it easier for him to co-parent his son R.J., who

at that time, was 6 years of age. We supported Randy financially through our Rental Assistant Program. He continued to come to our Thursday night meetings and participate in our holiday activities. Randy made a decision that he did not want to work as a laborer or warehouse worker the rest of his life. This motivated him to enroll in Lehigh Carbon Community College with the goal of becoming a Physical Therapist Assistant. In May 2015 he accomplished that goal and graduated with his degree. During that time, Randy also worked on paying down his DUI fines, which were a total of \$10,000. Getting to school, work and other activities presented a challenge because he had to depend on public transportation and rides from friends since he did not have a driver's license. By the beginning of 2017 he was able to pay off most of his fines, which made him eligible to get his driver's license. Randy now has a car and is gainfully employed as a certified Physical Therapist Assistant! Randy addressed the guests at the Gala, thanking Sister Virginia and his friends, but mainly God for all that he has today. We are all very proud of Randy and wish him God's Blessings as he continues to work at making more of his dreams come true.

Congratulations are in order. . .

First Phase Program



Rob, Sister Virginia and Nick

We recently had three gentlemen enter into our first phase program all within two weeks of each other. We are excited to congratulate all three gentlemen; Rob, Shawn and Nick, on graduating from our first phase program!

All three men have built a solid foundation in their lives and their recovery. One gentleman is already being considered for a Kitchen Manager position at his place of employment! They all have truly put their recovery first and are living proof that we do recover! We are extremely excited about their fantastic progress!

Drug Court Graduation

Stephen's Place works closely with Northampton County Probation & Parole and has for many years. With the advent of the counties Drug Court program in 2015, Stephen's Place has worked with men from the high accountability program since its inception. We have had the composition of the house range from 25%-75% drug court clients over the last approximately two years. Drug Court is a very rigorous program meant for those who would otherwise be receiving a state prison sentence. The program ranges from 18-24 months in length and involves reporting to the courtroom in front of the Judge, typically Judge Craig Dally, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc. depending on which phase of the program someone is in.

We are excited to share that Stephen's Place graduate Zach K. has successfully completed and graduated from the Drug Court Program! We would like to extend special congratulations to Zach on his success and encourage him to keep up the great work now that his time of being supervised by the county is coming to an end.

Congratulations and good luck Zach!



Zach with Sister Virginia

Recreational Activities

One of the important tenants of our program at Stephen's Place is the engagement in monthly recreational activities for all of our residents. Part of developing and permanently settling into a life of recovery from drug and alcohol abuse means learning how to have fun without the



presence of mood or mind altering substances. These activities also create a safe space for our residents to have fun, laugh, and create long term friendship bonds with one another. At Stephen's Place we find success for our residents in creating a family environment that offers support and accountability. So far this year we have gone Go-Karting, bowling, to the movies and most recently, to an Iron Pigs baseball game.

We are extremely appreciative for Linda and Robert Johnson with Voices For Change for providing tickets to the recovery night out Iron Pigs game.

Thank you so much Linda and Robert for all you do! Pictured here is our trip to Lehigh Valley Grand Prix.



Gathering at the Trivet Diner after our Easter egg hunt.



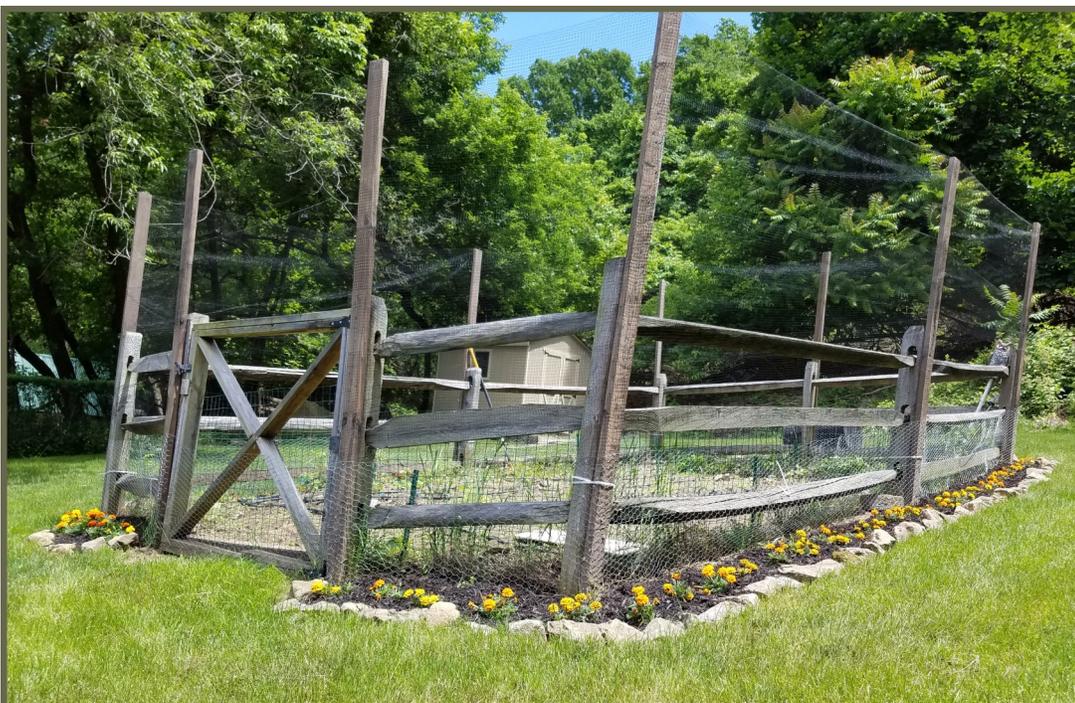
Our residents are looking forward to our annual beach trip to Ocean City, NJ. Our residents have the option to bring their children along for this trip, if that can be coordinated with the custodial parent. We will share with you about this trip in our next newsletter.

Our Garden

Stephen's Place summer garden is underway! Part of being a resident at Stephen's Place means contributing to the everyday chores and maintenance of the home. This is not only necessary for Stephen's Place but also an opportunity for our residents to learn the importance of structure and responsibility. Our intent is to teach them how to live so that they may eventually depart from Stephen's Place with the skills and habits necessary to become independent and contributing community members. One of the more rewarding chores is tending our garden, which results in healthy produce grown in our very own backyard! The residents at Stephen's Place take care of all the maintenance of the property, trimming the hedges, mowing the lawn, mulching, etc. These tasks are always done well and avoid the need for professional landscaping personnel. We would like to thank the Northampton County Medical Society Alliance (NCMSA) for making Stephen's Place a recipient of their H.E.L.P. award this year. This support aided us in our garden project this year as well as launching our recovery based health and wellness program. Thank you NCMSA for your support!



Squeakers protecting our garden from critters



There were string beans and spinach seeds sown in our garden this spring. We also planted the following plants; summer squash, zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants and bell peppers. In addition to those we potted a variety of herbs. We share the produce with Plant-a-row and St. Vincent de Paul Society at Incarnation Church.



Happy Birthday, Sister, Rob, Shawn and Zach! Here’s to another year of growth and sobriety and making dreams come true.

On June 6 Sister Virginia celebrated her 80th Birthday. However, three other residents celebrated their birthdays in the first week of June as well. She doesn’t remember ever having that happen before so she wanted to do something special to celebrate. She was able to negotiate with the manager of the Edge, a restaurant in downtown Bethlehem, for a nice dinner for a price that we could afford. Their hospitality, service and food could not have been better. Everyone enjoyed this special treat. We owe a big thank you to the manager, Karen Widrick for making our birthdays a special occasion. That Sunday night we all enjoyed a birthday cake and everyone got a card.



Sister Virginia’s birthday cake

**Endowment Fund:
Fund for the Future**

Stephen’s Place has been blessed to have grown and developed into the stable organization that it is today. It is through the attentive and committed leadership of Founder and Executive Director Sister Virginia Longcope that Stephen’s Place has been able to provide such great service to our clients and the community. In continuing this trend of growth and stability Sister Virginia and the Stephen’s Place Board of Directors have established a formal endowment fund, entitled Stephen’s Place Fund for the Future. This fund has been established in order to see that Sister Virginia’s mission and legacy of Stephen’s Place carry on into the future indefinitely.

More Congratulations are in order. . .

Rob was a resident at Stephen's Place from 2001 to 2003. Since he did not have a driver's license he spent a lot of time on foot. He used to take a short cut to the house down Packer Avenue, past Lehigh University. He used to say to himself, "Someday I will go to that school." Well, that dream, from about 20 years ago, finally came to fruition. On May 21, 2018 he graduated from Lehigh University with a Master's in Business Administration. Rob always worked full time as he strived to further his education; first with an undergraduate degree and now with his Master's degree. He also is married with a child and owns his own home.



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY.

Rob shared with me that if it wasn't for the two years he spent at Stephen's Place, which gave him an opportunity to ground himself in all facets of his life; he would not have achieved all that he has today. We are very proud of Rob and wish him success as he continues to grow as a person, a husband, a father and also in his career in the corporate world.

Rob was only 22 years old when he came to Stephen's Place. He came with his own personal struggles but took advantage of every form of help available to him. He bought into the Stephen's Place program and as he will say, it changed his life.

Home Improvements



Stephen's Place applied to the R.K. Laros Foundation to install a new front basement door to Stephen's Place. The purpose of replacing the original cellar door was two-fold; to provide an energy efficient structure as well as provide an attractive structure to the community. This door will contribute to lowering our energy bills as well as preserving the structural integrity of the house. We try to maintain a safe and attractive home for multiple reasons. One reason is to model the proper behavior for our residents who will take these habits with them into their own families impacting the community through their change. We also keep the home safe and attractive for visitors of Stephen's Place. Promoting a warm and welcoming environment encourages interaction with the community and works to change the stigma some of the residents face while healing and re-entering the community.

We would like to thank **Chappell Home Improvements** for building an attractive and energy efficient door for our front basement entrance.



STEPHEN'S PLACE
729 Ridge Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone:(610) 861-7677
Website: www.stephens-place.org

Stephen's Place Mission Statement

Stephen's Place believes that men coming out of prison should have a safe, spiritual environment in order to address early recovery issues from substance abuse as well as develop personal life skills. Therefore, Stephen's Place provides a Half-Way House to help these men transition back into the community as productive citizens.



All donations are tax deductible.

The official registration and financial information of Stephen's Place may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1(800)732-0999.

Supported by Northampton County

Board of Directors

*Sister Virginia Longcope, Executive Director
Daniel Massaro, Program Director*

*Tim Munsch, Chairman
Mary Breidinger, Vice Chairman
Peter Nebzdoski, Secretary
Peter Saunders, Treasurer*

*Dr. William Urbine
Sue Paden
Rev. Dr. Janice Young
Carmen Barbosa*

I would like to pay a special tribute to our Board of Directors. Their support and input, empowers Stephen's Place to grow and develop.