



Oct., November & December 2009  
Volume 1, Edition 2



# Aunt Martha's Quarterly

## Save the Date:



Aunt Martha's  
8th Annual  
Charity Golf Outing

August 14, 2009

More Information to Come...



The 3rd quarter donor newsletter will be available on the website in April of 2009.

## A Note from the Staff:

Due to economic constraints and to continue our efforts to be more environmentally friendly, Aunt Martha's Quarterly Donor Newsletter will be available exclusively online! Please sign up on our website to receive the newsletter and other updates straight to your e-mail inbox!

There are many ways you can reach out and support Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center.

If you would like to make a gift to Aunt Martha's please send contributions to:

*Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center  
Hope for our Children Fund  
19990 Governors Highway  
Olympia Fields, IL 60461*

OR visit our safe, secure website:

**[www.auntmarthas.org](http://www.auntmarthas.org)**

## Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center's Transition to Independence Program and Shelter

Twenty one years ago, Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center developed the Transition to Independence Program and Shelter (TIPS). The program was designed to address the growing needs of homeless youth in Chicago's south suburbs. Now, in addition to providing shelter to youth between the ages of 17-21 years old, the TIPS facility is used as a drop-in center for more than 100 runaway and homeless youth per year. We provide a brief, but safe haven for these youth to eat, shower, wash their clothes and/or use our resources to find an available placement. Aunt Martha's also provides transportation assistance so that the youth are able to secure

the TIPS facility through the strong word-of-mouth referral base, but additionally, street outreach is conducted by program staff so that homeless youth are aware of the program and the services available to them.

The goal of the program is to address the immediate problems facing homeless youth, first, and then address the underlying issues that affect their lifelong development and independence. We provide a safe, stable living environment, creating mutual respect and effective communication, and teach the residents the necessary skills to live successfully on their own. Long stretches of time living on the street or from place to place leave our youth with medical and mental health needs that need immediate attention. Once stabilized, the youth are responsible for going to school and ultimately finding and maintaining employment. Each youth has an individualized self-sufficiency plan.



additional services. As a community based agency, we are a visible organization in places youth frequent. Youth needing assistance often find

The TIPS program provides services to young adults who meet the Housing and Urban

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# Aunt Martha's Updates

## TIPS (Continued from Page 1)

Development definition of homeless. The facility houses up to 12 participants; six male and six female, at any one time. The program also includes a supportive living component (two scattered-site apartments) in the surrounding area for those participants that succeed at the



transitional living facility and need additional support to successfully transition to self-sufficiency. Frequently those youth are young adults who are parenting, seeking secondary education and/or completing a certification program to secure employment paying more than minimum wage. Aunt Martha's provides services to address the needs of the whole person. Our

youth are connected with behavioral health counselors and medical professionals as well as participate in training and groups on job skills, nutrition, life skills, conflict resolution and financial management.

A good example of the type of youth Aunt Martha's TIPS' program help is 17 year old Precious. She had been essentially homeless, living from one place to another for several years when she arrived on TIPS' doorstep. A motivated young woman, Precious was desperate for a stable living arrangement, nutritious meals, medical

examination and assistance enrolling back in school. Once her immediate needs were met, Precious began to excel. With assistance from the program she travels 90 minutes on both buses and trains one way to attend a college preparatory school. She has recently been accepted by two Big 10 schools! Precious demonstrates a working knowledge of all of the

independent living skills necessary to ensure her success.

Funding for the TIPS program was recently cut. The funding helped supplement, support and sustain youth in the program and the community as they acquire the needed skills to be an independent, productive member of society. This program plays a vital role in providing services to youth in desperate need of help in a safe environment where learning is the primary focus. Aunt Martha's is in the process of applying for funding that will help support the program and the participants.

There are things you can do to help. If you are able to help provide our youth with items that help them set up a small efficiency apartment, a job, a mentor, groceries or make a cash donation, please contact us! This program serves youth in your community and is a vital resource for the youth! Without this program, youth like Precious would feel hopeless and helpless.

## Holiday Gift Express 2008

Aunt Martha's Holiday Gift Express gives friends and supporters a unique opportunity to positively impact the lives of the children, teens and families served by Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center. The 2008 Holiday Gift Express provided much-needed hope for more than 3,000 children, youth and families.

This year the Holiday Gift

Express was a huge success thanks to YOU! Your gifts and donations provided hope, healing and happiness for thousands of children, youth and families across 11 Illinois counties during the holiday season. Special thanks to the individuals, friends and families who donated gifts, time and support as well as our corporate helpers who expanded the holiday hope into their communities.



We hope that you will join us again in 2009 to create another hopeful year for those in need. Information will be available in late September.

# Aunt Martha's 5K Walk for Wellness

## Saturday, June 13, 2009

Aunt Martha's is excited to announce the Wellness Walk on **June 13, 2009** and we want you to be a part of it! The Walk will bring the community together to raise funds for our children, youth and teens in order to provide them with healthy, fun activities that promote wellness. It's important that the children at Aunt Martha's have healthy opportunities and we hope you will join us in our efforts!

**How can you help?** Gather your family and friends and organize a team. The team captain can call Sarah Hamilton at (708) 747-7179 and we will mail a team packet! Registration will begin **April 10, 2009**. Encourage your team to set a goal and start raising funds! To help you raise money, we'll provide you with raffle tickets! The raffle is for 5 fabulous gift cards (Winners need not be present). The team that sells the most raffle tickets will receive a special award! Each team captain will receive 150 raffle tickets to sell to your family, friends or co-workers. More raffle tickets will be available! This will be a great way to reach your team goals! (Raffle Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5).

**Where:** Vollmer Road Grove  
(On Vollmer Road just between Cicero & Crawford)

**Register Today!**  
**Collect Donations!**  
**Organize a Team!**  
**And Make a Difference!**

**REGISTER ONLINE @ [AUNTARTHAS.ORG](http://AUNTARTHAS.ORG)**

**Why:** To give the children and teens in Aunt Martha's programs an opportunity to participate in healthy recreational activities.



**Fundraising:** Ask family, friends, classmates, co-workers and neighbors to support you by contributing to Aunt Martha's Walk. They can contribute and donate to you directly on Aunt Martha's website! Ask contributors to pay before the Walk and to make all checks payable to: Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center.

### Walk Day Schedule:

8:00-9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Warm-Up, Music & Raffle Drawing
9:30 AM	Kick-Off, Start Walking!
11:00 AM	Walk ends with a celebration, music, snacks and prizes!

- Food, refreshments and restrooms provided
- Walk is held rain or shine

Contribution forms and money will be accepted at the Walk OR anytime before the walk at Aunt Martha's Administration building. Avoid the line on Walk Day by sending your contributions to:

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center  
Communications Department  
19990 Governors Highway  
Olympia Fields, IL 60461



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## Tribute Gifts

*Aunt Martha's is proud to extend thanks and appreciation to those who generously gave a gift on behalf of a friend or loved one.*

*Madeline Santangelo:*

In Memory of Angela Leofanti  
In Memory of Mary Anastasi

*Mr. & Mrs. Harold Himmel:*

- Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bachrach on a new great-grandchild
- Anniversary Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Dan Snyder
- Birthday wishes to Mrs. Alan Hertz

*Marlene Cannon:*

In Memory of Nancy Leverenz  
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In Memory of Matthew Ferraro

*The previous donors contributed financially to Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc. & Healthcare Network from September 25, 2008 through December 31, 2008. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and generosity of all our friends, volunteers and donors. For more detailed information on your contribution or for any corrections or omissions, please contact Sarah Hamilton, Communications & Development Liaison, at (708) 747-7179 or via email at [shamilton@auntmarthas.org](mailto:shamilton@auntmarthas.org). Thank you for making a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth and families served by Aunt Martha's.*

## Behavioral Health Update

Aunt Martha's Behavioral Health Division has been awarded a grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation to expand primary and mental health integration in our Vermilion Area Community Health Center. This project will involve the primary care provider directly in the care of a child's mental health care. It will increase the capacity of the mental health system and integrate physical health and mental health services while embracing a medical home model for children.

In collaboration with the Vermilion County Mental Health Board, the Center for Children's Services (CCS) and Crosspoint Health Services, a new process will initiate a school triage program for children ages 6-14. Two full time mental health therapists, funded by the County Mental Health Board, will help school personnel



throughout the county identify students experiencing behavioral/emotional problems that may need mental health services, but not require crisis assessment and services delivered through the Screening Assessment and Support Services (SASS) system. The new program will establish a referral process within the local school districts, provide triage services to children referred to the program and talk with parents to help them

determine the services their children need. Parents can be referred to schedule a medical appointment at the Vermilion Area Community Health Center for further mental health screening and assessment. The school triage program will facilitate the appointment, including attending the appointment with the parent and child if possible.

Based on the primary care providers own assessment or the assessments completed by the Clinical Social Worker or psychiatrist the provider will recommend the appropriate level of care which may include:

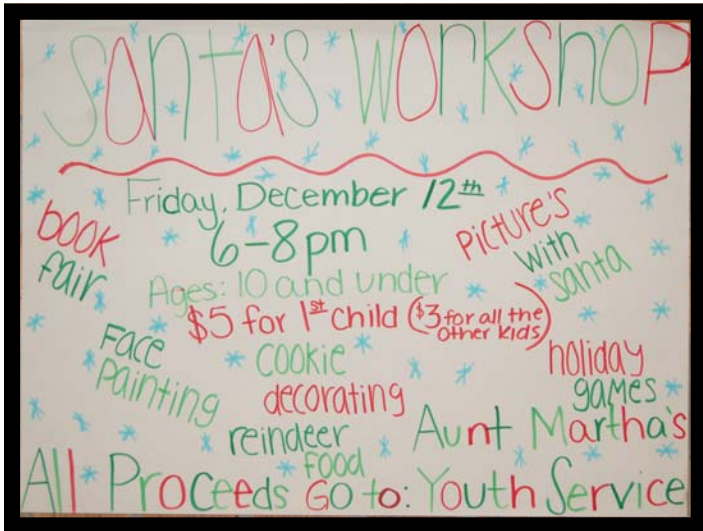
- ✦ Medication management by the primary care provider.
- ✦ Therapy services (individual and/or group) by the Behavioral Health LCPC/LCSW or the Center for Children's Services therapist
- Psychiatric evaluation and medication management by the Aunt Martha's child psychiatrist for high risk patients.

Aunt Martha's will be able to hire a full time licensed clinician, an additional Care Manager and receive funding to help build out space at the Vermilion Area Community Health Center that will include five offices and a conference room to provide treatment and educational sessions. The targeted start date is March 1, 2009.

This grant represents another milestone in the Behavioral Health Division's mission of providing increased access to mental health services throughout our service region.

## THANK YOU!

# Photos



**A special thanks to all the students and faculty who made the Drauden Point Middle School Santa's Workshop a HUGE success!**



**Students and staff from Coretta Scott King Magnet School in University Park, IL sorted gifts and were a great help during the Holiday Gift Express!**



**On a cold winter day, Chiro One Wellness Centers delivered a truck full of gifts with Santa to help! Chiro One was instrumental in making this year's Holiday Gift one of the best yet for many of the children, youth & families in Aunt Martha's programs!**