



Home for Good

Hearth COO Named Health Care Champion



May Shields, RN, MSN

May Shields, Hearth's Chief Operating Officer, has been named one

of two "Nursing Champions" by the *Boston Business Journal* for its annual Champions in Health Care Awards. An article featuring Nurse Shields was published in the August 15th edition of the journal, and she will be recognized at an awards breakfast on Friday, September 26th. Everyone at Hearth offers their congratulations to May, a champion for underserved homeless elders and a strong believer in the essential role nurses can play in eradicating elder homelessness.

The "Art" in Hearth: Art Display at City Hall and Art Show at Hearth



Phelps's artwork is colorful and vivid - with lots of flowers. "Everyone likes flowers," says the artist. "I've never painted so many in my whole life."

Less than two years ago, Peter Phelps, 81, did not have walls of his own on which to hang his artwork. He moved from western Massachusetts to Boston to receive treatment for lung cancer but had nowhere to stay. During the day he received chemotherapy and radiation treatment; at night he slept in a shelter.

However, one of Hearth's

outreach workers helped find Phelps a home, and as you may have read in the May 17th edition of *The Boston Herald*, or seen on NECN, he has been painting ever since.

A sampling of Phelps's paintings is currently on display at Boston's City Hall in the Piemonte Room through September 4.

Then, in conjunction with the United South End Open Studios, Hearth will host a reception and auction at the Anna Bissonnette House on September 20th and 21st from 11am - 6pm. Phelps donated 55 paintings to Hearth as a way of saying thanks.

"Very simply, I believe in giving back," Phelps said. "Hearth has been a great help to me."

Message from Mark

Dear Friends,

It's been a busy summer for Hearth - and I'm sure for you too - so here are a few of Hearth's summer highlights.



- We submitted our application for HUD 202 funding for *Hearth at Olmsted Green*. The staff put a great deal of time into this application, and many agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals wrote letters of support for us. Thank you!
- And thanks to your support, Hearth's line item in the Massachusetts budget was restored and level-funded. The line item funds essential services for our elderly residents. On behalf of everyone at Hearth, I would especially like to thank Assistant Leader Byron

Continued on page 2

Save the Date!

Hearth's Annual Meeting
 Wednesday, November 12, 2008
 5:30 - 8:00 PM
 Nixon Peabody LLP

Social Work Internship Provides Valuable Experience

When I chose my first-year internship as a social work student at Boston University, I had only one requirement – to work with older



*Brynn Thompson
Social Work Intern
Boston University*

adults. In fact, my desire to work with elders is what prompted me to return to graduate school. My internship at the Anna Bissonnette House (ABH) began in September 2007; before that, I had never heard of Hearth or the problem of elder homelessness.

adults. In fact, my desire to work with elders is what prompted me to return to graduate school. My internship at the Anna Bissonnette House (ABH) began in

Growing old is a part of life's journey, yet in America our culture is centered on retaining our youth. As a future social worker I understood many of the obstacles that older adults face, but I was not fully aware of the number of elderly who are at risk of becoming homeless or are currently experiencing homelessness. Interning at Hearth has greatly broadened my perspectives on the challenges that older adults face everyday.

My internship at Hearth was an amazing experience that provided me with valuable clinical skills I will continue to use throughout my career. I greatly enjoyed my time at

ABH and the valuable professional support provided by Melissa Russo, Program Social Worker, and Deborah Cutler, Director of Behavioral Health. I was fortunate to build relationships with the residents and staff at ABH and Hearth. I wish Hearth continued success, and I thank everyone for providing me with such a wonderful experience.

Hearth's Food Pantry

Rising prices at the grocery store are making it even harder for Hearth's Outreach clients to make ends meet.

According to the Department of Labor, the cost of food rose by 6.1% in June. For some basic foods, prices rose much higher: the price of bread

increased by 15.9% and eggs by 23.2%.

Homeless or recently housed, the elders served by Hearth's Outreach Department need our help to ensure that they receive enough food and proper nutrition.

Most popular food pantry items

- Nutritional Drinks
- Soft Cereal Bars
- Individual Servings of Dried Fruits and Nuts
- No-Sugar Foods Specifically for Diabetics
- Pasta, Rice, Dry Beans
- Canned Soup, Chili & Stew
- Coffee & Tea
- Sugar & Artificial Sweeteners
- Pouch Tuna/Salmon and Canned Meats
- Pre-packaged, ready-to-eat foods such as crackers and cheese are simple and quick. They're good for homeless clients who do not have the means to prepare food.



For a complete list of the best items to donate for our elders, please visit www.hearth-home.org/donate/food_drives.html.

Message from Mark

Continued from page 1

Rushing, Representatives Frank Smizik, Elizabeth Malia, Linda Dorcena Forry, and Kay Khan; Senators Cynthia Creem, Diane Wilkerson and Steven Panagiotakos for championing us during the process and to Governor Deval Patrick for his unwavering support.

- We will be recognizing Leader Rushing for his many years of Distinguished Service at our Annual Meeting on November 12th.
- Before that, on September 20 and 21, Hearth will host an art show and an auction of Peter Phelps's paintings (see page 1 story). I hope you can make it to one or both of these events
- Last, but certainly not least, our research report, sponsored by the Boston Foundation, will be released this fall.

As you can see, a lot of good things are happening, and I hope these good things will keep happening as 2008 progresses. Sincerely,

Mark Hinder

Invaluable Volunteers

Volunteers are invaluable members of the Hearth community - and we can't thank you enough! We currently are looking for more individuals to donate their time and talents to: lead evening activities at our sites, help residents with grocery shopping, play piano or provide other musical entertainment, act as concierge, and organize collection drives for our Outreach clients.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jennifer Hibbard at jhibbard@hearth-home.org or 617-369-1565.



Pet Pal Kaylie and her owner Noreen Glynn Sheehan bring lots of joy and laughter to the residents of Ruggles Assisted Living Community.

At the Invaluable Volunteer Awards in May, awardees included Board of Visitors member Donna Kent (right, with Gale Druga and Mark Hinderlie) and Hearth residents Dorothy Robinson and Freda Hardy (above center, with Site Director Bob Jordan).

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care's Customer Service Department has partnered with Hearth for a year of volunteering and service. Groups visit monthly and help out in every way - from painting to landscaping to hosting a cook-out! Hearth is also very grateful to the employees who applied to the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation for mini-grants to help fund the projects.



The Center for Collaborative Communication enjoyed a morning of gardening at the Burroughs Street House. Hearth depends on volunteers to keep our sites in bloom.

Visit our website at
www.hearth-home.org



HEARTH

1640 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02118

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit #52869

Mission Statement

Hearth is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of homelessness among the elderly. This mission is accomplished through a unique blend of prevention, placement and housing programs, all designed to help elders find and succeed in homes of their own. To this end, all housing operated by Hearth provides a creative array of supportive services that assist residents to age with dignity, regardless of their special medical, mental health, or social needs. Hearth believes these goals are best accomplished through respect for staff and elders, with the desire to see both achieve their highest degree of potential.

Board of Directors

Officers

Mary S. Parker, *Chair*
Kevin McCall, *Vice Chair*
Ellen Feingold, *Treasurer*
Myrna Putziger, *Clerk*
Pamela Jones-Sampson,
Assistant Clerk

President and CEO

Mark Hinderlie

Members

Alan Abrams, M.D.
Greg Ansin
Anna M. Bissonnette
Jennifer Davis Carey
Susan M. Forti
Glenn Frank
Bob Halloran
Gene Miller
Rebecca Ridley Nazareth
Karyn Scheier
Irma M. Schretter
Judith Waterston

Board of Visitors

Pamela Anderson
Frank Badger
Robert Bickford
Frank Capezera
Varun Chopra
Hannah Cohen
Julie Connelly
Jennifer Coplon
Lisa Davis
Sheila Devine
Robert Frank
Diana Garmey
Wendy Grew
Bob Houlihan
Chobee Hoy
Sue Kaufman
Suzanne Kenney
Donna Kent
Brenda King
Joyce King
Gary Lamson
Melanie L'Esperance
Carol Lobron
Greg Manousos

Judith McDonough
Susie McMillan
Marilyn Miller
Doug Mohns, Sr.
Tabor Mohns
Judi Mullen
Mamadou Ndiaye
Michael Neel
Ellen Nolan Gard
Christina Nordstrom
Carmen Panacopoulos
Ann Raider
Erica Raine
Deidre Robinson
Linda Roemer
Ruth Schwartz
Johanna Smith
Sue Straley
Bruce Taylor
Shirley Thorne
Jim Wayman
Gretchen Woodruff