

The Newsletter of
ASAP Homeless Services, Inc.
Summer 2007



HOMEWORD

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ASAP is registered with
the state of Florida
(SC-2560) and has
complied with Florida
State Solicitation of
Contribution Act. Call
800-435-7352 to confirm.
87.6% of contributions are
maintained for program
service costs.

HOLIDAY HOPE 2007

Cheri and Geordie Jenner have graciously opened their Snell Isle waterfront home to us the evening of **Friday, November 2 for our annual Holiday Hope fundraiser.**

LeeRoy Selmon's Restaurant will provide a sumptuous dinner of appetizer, grilled salmon and ribs, rice, vegetables, Caesar salad, and peach cobbler for dessert. There will be complimentary bar and valet parking.

Music will be by the ACT III band—back by popular demand from Holiday Hope 2006.

The silent auction will feature new and different items for sale. We will happily accept donation of an item or gift certificate that can be auctioned or an ad in the program book. One of the raffles is a cruise to the Western Caribbean.

Support ASAP's major fundraiser for the year and join us for a fun-filled evening of good food and entertainment. If you can help with this event or become a sponsor, please call Lisa Glonek at 410-4573.

Client Success Story

Dear Karen and ASAP,

In the summer of 1999, I was volunteering at ASAP, bringing in some clothes to the Drop-In Center, leaving my van in the alley—unlocked, with my purse inside. The purse was stolen and I had to get all new credit cards, drivers license, etc. Later we noticed two checks for a total of \$375 given on my bank account that were not in my handwriting. I went to the bank who said they would not charge me for the money since they had let the check go through the bank. I went to the police and the woman who gave the check was identified as she had used her thumbprint to cash the check! As far as I was concerned that was the end of that.

Earlier this month, I received a letter from Lisa Elee. She is the woman who had written the checks. She actually served some time for writing the checks. Evidently it was her "then boyfriend" who had stolen the purse. She had been on drugs and really wanted the money.

Now what a change! We met Lisa at Starbucks recently where she paid me back the \$375. She is off drugs and really turning her life around. She is at Resurrection House studying to be an RN. She has a little boy with a hair lip and she is working with him and feels this is her life calling. We asked her to send us an invitation to her nursing school graduation. She feels she must pay me back the money. I, of course cannot keep the money.

Another strange turn of life. . . . At one point Lisa was in crisis and you, Karen Butler, were called—this was before you came to ASAP. Lisa felt you saved her life that day so it seems only proper that ASAP should have the check, which is enclosed. It is truly a privilege to be able to write this letter and to see another back on her feet succeeding. I don't believe we could stop her success even if we tried. She is determined! This is truly wonderful!

Blessings,
Ann D. Myers

Mission Statement: ASAP's mission is to provide housing and basic necessities to homeless single women, men, and families through the Drop-In Center, Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Housing programs. Our focus is to guide individuals toward achievement of self-sufficiency and independent living, collaborating with the Florida Coalition for the Homeless, and local nonprofit and government agencies.

From the Director's Pen

In the past six months there has been a lot of focus in our county on the homeless people who erected tent cities because they felt they had no other options or resources. We give thanks to the city and other organizations who provided individuals with temporary housing vouchers. Yet every night in our county 4,800 people lack a place to sleep.

ASAP continues to provide emergency housing to single women, women with children, men with children, and families. These services are provided unconditionally to whomever needs them, including shelter, food, clothing, personal hygiene items and many other services as needed. In the Drop-In Center Monday through Friday ASAP provides 50 to 70 homeless men and women daily with showers, clean clothing, and nourishment.

In fiscal year 2005/6 our emergency shelter served 329 individuals ranging in age from birth to 70 years

(the majority being children). In fiscal year 2005/6 the Drop-In Center served 862 individuals.

Today ASAP's future looks dim because our grant funding may be cut considerably or be cut altogether. Sixty percent of our funding comes from city and county grants; 40 percent comes from foundations, donors, churches, and supporters. In order for ASAP to maintain and keep its doors open we are depending on our supporters who have been here from the very beginning and on new sponsors who recognize the critical need to help the homeless.

My heartfelt thanks to you who continue to support this great cause. I am now in my third year as Executive Director of ASAP Homeless Services and I will continue to give you more than 100 percent of my time because our people are worth it.

Sincerely,
Karen Butler

Grants in Progress

Karen Butler continues to work tirelessly to apply for and successfully receive grants to keep ASAP afloat.

The first is CDBG, Community Development Block Grant, for \$112,000 (pending).

The second is City Social Action Grant for \$43,680 (pending).

The third is Pinellas County Community Foundation grant for \$35,000 (pending).

The fourth is Emergency Food and Shelter Program grant for \$25,000 (pending).

The fifth is Blowitz Ridgeway Foundation grant for \$10,000 (pending).

Letter from a Client

Dear Miss Karen,

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your compassion and giving me and my little boy a safe place to live. We had just arrived in town and fell on unexpected hardship leaving us in a very hopeless state. Your assistance made it possible for us to stay here in Florida and become productive in the community.

My son was 13 years old at the time and he is now about to turn 16. He is a two-year volunteer at All Childrens Hospital, is 1½ years in the Air Force Auxiliary, and in the summer nursing program at SPC.

I have since started a successful carpet care business and we love living in Florida thanks to ASAP.

Ricky Lee Sr. and Jr.

New ASAP Board Member

Lynette Theisen is an anthropologist and has worked as a substance abuse program coordinator and environmental health specialist for the past 30 years. She has lived and worked in Honduras, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. The rootless nature of an anthropologist's life has resulted in periods of personal homelessness. She has learned the value of dignity and respect as she came to know homeless people who taught her humility and survival skills (chief among them, humor). She volunteers at Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, the American Red Cross, American Stage, Studio @620, and Tampa Bay Funders Forum.

Message from the President

Dear Supporters of ASAP:

Thank you so much for your support these past few months. The media coverage of the tent city that sprung up in our downtown focused all of us on the hardships that the homeless lead. But, just as our attention became focused on the ways of helping our fellow citizens, the city's budget for funding social service agencies like ASAP, is under serious threat.

The Florida legislature ended the special session to find ways to give homeowners relief from high property taxes. And we hope and trust our politicians will bring the relief that homeowners need. But there is an effect to the medicine of tax relief that we need to consider. Recently, city officials have given notice to social service agencies like ASAP that severe budget cuts in city revenues may result from this legislative action, and those lowered revenues will force reductions in

city spending on agencies like ASAP. The city currently provides ASAP with about \$80,000 a year—approximately one-third of our annual budget. That money pays for our insurance, utility bills, repairs and maintenance, and all the things that ASAP uses to support the women, children, and men who come to ASAP for assistance. We ask that you remember that your tax dollars provide a hand up from social agencies like ASAP. Without the city's support, we would rely entirely on your generosity.

Here at ASAP we are proud to say that we provide thousands of nights of shelter per year, thousands of meals, and a mighty amount of relief on a shoestring budget. We will continue to do all that we can with the dollars that you generously entrust to us to provide care for others.

Sincerely,
Anthony Russo

Time to Remember

This column provides an opportunity to recognize celebrations and sorrows.

In Honor of . . .

Lisa D. Elee

—Ann D. Myers

The birth of **Morgen Gerald Palmer**, son of Dusty and Bill Palmer

—Robyn Fiel

The birth of **Ashley Christine Coviello**, daughter of Christopher and Darlene Coviello

—Robyn Fiel

The birth of **Reece Ellis**, daughter of Stacey and Robbie Ellis

—Robyn Fiel

In Memory of . . .

Kim Dymond's mother

—Robyn Fiel

Bob Wagner, a dear friend

—Blair and Marguerite Shirk

All donations are gratefully accepted. ASAP accepts credit cards. Funds received will be earmarked each month for special needs:

A Time to Remember, c/o ASAP
P.O. Box 3910,
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-3910

Adopt-a-Room Program

The ASAP Homeless Services Adopt-a-Room program continues to have success with the following shelter rooms adopted in 2007:

Mane G. Drew has adopted Rooms 1 through 5.

Foresters has adopted Room 5.

We invite you or your organization to adopt a room in one of our shelters. During holidays and special events you will be invited to tour the facility and your adopted room. Visit our Web sites for information: asaphomeless.org or asaphomelesstravel.com

Giving Back

Company Matching Gifts. Make a contribution to ASAP and check with your employer to see if they will match it. Spouse and retiree contributions may qualify.
Appreciated Securities. Give appreciated securities such as mutual funds or shares of stocks to ASAP and avoid capital gains taxes and deduct the value of the securities.

Income-Producing Gifts. Some plans such as charitable gift annuities and trusts can provide you fixed payments for life. These plans provide tax-free income and tax benefits.

IRA Rollover. This is an attractive charitable giving tax incentive. At minimum age 70½ you can give ASAP up to maximum amount allowed in 2007 of \$100,000.

Your Will. Stipulate the amount (a percentage or dollar amount) of your estate ASAP is to receive.