



OPENING DOORS

HEARTH

*Golf Outing Wine & Food Event
Dreammakers*

Spring 2009

KRYSTA'S STORY



Photo by Alicia Photography

After Krysta graduated high school, she took a few college classes but admittedly had no focus. She says, “I went to school, but I really didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life. I didn’t take it seriously because I didn’t have a future goal.” She was living with her father, who was also supporting her financially, so she had little responsibility.

Because she had no focus, she began a slide down a slippery slope. She began to party with friends and lead a lifestyle she now calls “self-destructive and disastrous.” Although her father continued to support her, the relationship between them became strained. Recognizing this situation, her siblings severed ties with her and advised their father to stop indulging her. They saw how she was using him and other people and felt she did not care about anyone but herself.

In July of 2005, when Krysta was 22 years old, she had her son D’Angelo. Now that she had a child, someone else she had to take care of, she knew she had to get her life in order. However, she felt she had done a lot of damage, and she was not sure if she could repair it. To start, she and D’Angelo entered a housing program. D’Angelo’s father was not in the picture, as he went to jail when D’Angelo was three months old. The housing program, though, was not what Krysta wanted, and she told them she planned to move.

Then, the case manager from HEARTH called this other program to refer a client, and the case manager there told us about Krysta! Krysta and D’Angelo moved into Benedictine Place in November of 2006. She chose to enroll in the Paralegal Associate of Science Program at the Community College of Allegheny County. She says, “I had no clue as to how the legal system worked, but it was something I always wanted to learn. I thought the paralegal program sounded interesting.”

In the Benedictine Place program, she worked on several different areas of her life. First, she worked on becoming self-reliant, which included her learning how to budget her money. She never had to be responsible for herself because she knew her father would never turn his back on her; he would always support her financially and open his home to her, no matter how much this negatively impacted his own life. She wanted to learn how to rely on herself and break her habit of seeking help from her father.

Second, she worked on parenting and being the head of the household. Being a single parent, she has all the responsibility of caring for her son. It was difficult, though, for her to balance her time between being a mom, going to school, and taking care of her apartment. However, in the “real world,” these were things she would have to do, so she needed to gain some skills in these areas.

Third, she worked on her attitude towards and relationships with others. She stopped “using” people and began offering her help, including to other program participants. She learned how to maintain healthy relationships with people and interact like a “normal” person. She did become friends with several women in the program and remains friends with them today. As for her siblings, when they saw her stop relying on her father, they began a relationship with her again.

At CCAC, she enjoyed learning and did very well in her program, making the Dean’s List every semester. She graduated in May of 2008 with degrees in both General Studies and Paralegal. She was hired full-time in a downtown law firm in August of 2008, a happy ending in which HEARTH played a part. One of the lawyers spoke to the Benedictine Place program participants about wills and providing for custody of children, and, at the time, Krysta was looking for an externship and gave him her resume.

Krysta and D’Angelo now live in an apartment in the West View area. When she looks back on her experience at Benedictine Place, she says, “HEARTH provided guidance and a cushion, but I had to learn to be responsible for myself and how to make appropriate choices for my future. I am thankful for my experience there.”

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT NEWS

Cyndy graduated from the Medical Claims Processor program at Bidwell Training Center and secured full-time employment with one of the area’s leading health care providers.

Jenn, Ginger, and April S. moved into permanent housing.

FORT PITT CAPITAL GROUP PRESENTS 14TH ANNUAL TEE AND GREEN GOLF OUTING AND DREAMMAKER DINNER

Monday, June 15, 2009 at Sewickley Heights Golf Club

12:00 Noon Shotgun Start

\$1200 per foursome- includes practice time, lunch, 18 holes of golf with cart, and dinner
Various sponsorship packages still available



5 PM- Silent Auction and Hors d'oeuvres
7 PM- Dreammaker Dinner
Reservations for dinner only will be taken
with payment of \$80



Early Bird Sponsors:

Fort Pitt Capital Group - Precision Endodontics - Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.
Savinis, D'Amico and Kane, LLC - Software Specialists - Northwest Savings Bank
Dawar Technologies, Inc./ North Lincoln L.L.C. - Stoltenberg Consulting, Inc.
Metz Lewis LLC - Herbein + Company, Inc. - PNC Bank
Daniel and Leilani Costa/ MFS- Kurt Carlson - TriState Capital Bank - Sisterson & Co. LLP
West View Savings Bank - TBROOKS Financial Services - WDVE and News Talk 104.7

PARKVALE BANK PRESENTS 7TH ANNUAL ART OF WINE AND FOOD



Thank you again to our sponsors in 2008: Parkvale Bank - Clearview Federal Credit Union - TBROOKS Financial Services - Citizens Bank - DRS Architects, Inc. - PGT Trucking, Inc. - Software Specialists - Alpern Rosenthal - 3WS and FM Newstalk 104.7 - North Hills Monthly Magazine - Multi Print Media - Buck Consultants, an ACS Company - The Iannucci Law Group, PC - solutions4networks.

Also, a special thanks to our entertainment- Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh, Alexis Hartung (wine tasting demonstration), and Massage Envy!

Due to the renovation of the National Aviary, the 8th annual event will be held at The Children's Museum on Thursday, September 24, 2009, and Parkvale Bank will once again be the Presenting Sponsor. Regular tickets are \$60, and VIP tickets, which include valet parking and early admission, are \$85. Receive \$10 off each ticket if purchased by Friday, August 28 at 4 PM!



Parkvale Bank

For more information about or tickets for either event, visit
www.hearth-bp.org or call (412) 939-2302.

MARTINIS AND MORE EVENT

We will not hold our Martinis and More event this year. If you attended in the past, please consider attending one of our other events or making a monetary donation.

KENNYWOOD TICKETS FOR SALE

HEARTH will sell Kennywood FunDay passes for \$20 starting in May. If purchased at the park, they would be \$33.99. They are good any day in May, June, or September and weekdays in July and August. You can use them on Saturday, July 11 without an additional charge. However, if you use them on any other Saturday or Sunday in July or August, you will be charged an additional \$10 fee. Call HEARTH at (412) 939-2302 to purchase. Only 100 tickets are available, so be sure to get yours early!

DREAMMAKERS NAMED

Dreammakers are individuals or companies whose monetary donations to HEARTH have reached \$10,000.

Dr. Matthew and Carmela DiAndreth Matt says, “We were invited by some friends to HEARTH’s golf outing years ago and heard one of the women speak. We were hooked right then! The education piece of the program changes the whole lifestyle of the family and gets them moving in the right direction, toward becoming self-sufficient.”

Fort Pitt Capital Group

“HEARTH has a tremendous success ratio moving families from a bad spot to a good spot. Very few non-profits are run with that kind of mindset. They have a mission; they have accountability; and they demonstrate success,” says Doug Kreps, Principal/Managing Director.

Parkvale Bank

Lin Mikelas, Sr. Assistant Vice-President, says, “Parkvale is a community bank, and our Board is very committed to employees volunteering. In 2002, our President, Mr. Robert J. McCarthy, Jr., asked our bank teams to adopt a charity and fundraise and volunteer for them. My team chose HEARTH. We helped start HEARTH’s first wine and food tasting event, and we have been sponsoring it ever since!”

Eric Springer

of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.

“Benedictine Place is such an innovative program. It just makes sense to support it. I like walking through the halls of Benedictine Place, seeing the kids playing, laughing, and thriving. The women are provided the tools to take care of their children, and it’s nice to see that the kids can have a ‘normal’ life.”

Patricia and Hayes Stover

Pat says, “I am a big advocate of education. It’s a vital piece of the program and the basis for the women becoming self-sufficient.”

Join us in honoring these Dreammakers at our Golf Outing and Dreammaker Dinner on June 15.

It's easy to donate to HEARTH
through your employer:

United Way Donor Designation
#3384

Combined Federal Campaign
#45153

BENET WOODS UPDATE

We are very excited to report that the construction of HEARTH at Benet Woods has continued through the winter, and we are still on target for opening in July or August of this year!

Jerry Drozynski, the Board President of Benet Woods Housing Corporation, says, “Work was slow over the winter because of the cold. With the ground frozen, it was hard to get much done. We did manage to clear trees, level the ground, and dig the foundations.”

The construction project required one of the six acres of ground to be cleared of trees, still allowing for a highly wooded environment. The duplexes will be built within the first 100 feet off the road.

Jerry adds, “As we started digging, we were holding our breath, waiting for a problem to occur but hoping it wouldn’t! We were especially afraid of finding underground water, which would’ve needed to be addressed and would increase the cost of the project. Luckily, we haven’t encountered any major problems, and construction has proceeded on schedule.”

The foundations were started in March. When building starts, the duplexes will be stick-built, meaning that everything will be built on site as opposed to large pieces being constructed off site.

The construction team has been hard at work selecting items such as garage doors and kitchen cabinets, while the design team, led by volunteer Kathy Stewart, has selected the coloring of the exterior walls and doors.

HEARTH Executive Director Judy Eakin comments, “Each duplex will be colored differently. Some are tan; some are green; and some are blue. Every door of the entire community is a different color. We didn’t want residents to have to refer to their home as the fifth duplex; instead, they can say the blue duplex with the red door.”

Each unit has its own building permit, so when finished, a family can move in. This way, move-in will be staggered; everyone will not move in at the same time.

We have signed a property management agreement with NDC, and once we determine program participant guidelines, they can start interviewing qualified individuals and families.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND SPECIAL DONATIONS

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their contributions and on-going partnerships:

- Deloitte Parents Network for purchasing a gift card for each child at Benedictine Place to get his/ her hair cut for the new school year.
- Glenshaw Century Club for “showering” HEARTH with a variety of new household items, such as towels and saucepans.
- Treasure House Fashions for gift certificates for each of our women.
- Spotlight Costumes for donating Halloween costumes for the kids at Benedictine Place.
- WYEP for supporting HEARTH through their Alternative Souper Bowl event.
- Sts. John and Paul CCD and David Currie for organizing a huge paper products drive!
- Parkvale Bank for donating a grocery store gift card to each family for Thanksgiving.
- Verizon employees for donating new and gently used books through their Seasons Reading program.
- Christopher Bowman for coordinating a coats, scarves, hats, and gloves drive.
- The Watson Institute for the cash donation from a basket raffle.
- Payless ShoeSource for donating a gift card for a pair of shoes to each of the children at Benedictine Place through the 2008 Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids Program (pictured).



- Alpha Gamma Delta at Duquesne University for taking our children to lunch and to Build A Bear on December 6.
- Gamma Sigma Sigma and PAEYC at Duquesne University, The Pittsburgh Project, and National Junior Honor Society at North Allegheny High School for volunteering in child care this school year.
- Lab Ratz Science Club (pictured) and The Society for Contemporary Craft for doing special activities with the children in child care.



- Sponsors for Benedictine Place families during the holidays - Ingomar U.M. Church Missions Committee, Citizens Bank employees, Doug and Connie Kreps, Perry Highland Jr. Women’s Club, Raymond and Maggie Kern, Carrie Burnham, Amy Nagler, Cindy Patterson, Anne Mlecko, Mellon Capital Management, Kimberly Lewis, Kristi Lenahan, Liz Amelio, and Scott Fichter.



- McCandless Rotary and Parkvale Bank (pictured) sponsored Angel Trees for our program participants this past holiday. Alicia Dal Lago of Alicia Photography took family portraits of our families and gave them each a package. The Norwin High School Show Choir hosted a holiday party for the families complete with entertainment and gifts from Santa. Lynda McDonough and friends (pictured) hosted a Santa Shoppe for the children so they could choose gifts for their family members.



- Other holiday “necessities” provided by: Jean Arendosh, Christy Kosakowsky, The Waronek Family, Maureen Passage and daughters, Susan Courtad and children, The KDKA Turkey Fund, Pinnacle Group, Christ Episcopal Church, Jim and Jackie Eakin, Julie Walko and children, Mrs. James Bly, Bradford Woods Women’s Club, North Hills Community Outreach, Sts. John and Paul Women’s Guild, Northgate Church Hilltoppers, Elissa Uram, St. Mary’s PTT, Kathy Then, Girl Scout Troop 51366, Barb Smith, and Blake and Rosalie Howell.
- Christ Episcopal Church for donating Easter baskets for all the children.

GRANT UPDATE

Anonymous	\$50,000	Operating (Benedictine Place)
The Bank of New York Mellon	\$25,000	Benet Woods Housing Corp.
Citizens Bank	\$2,500	Operating (Benedictine Place)
Thomas Marshall Foundation	\$15,000	Benedictine Place and Benet Woods Housing Corp.
North Hills Community Outreach	\$5,000	Mom as Your Mentor Program
A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust	\$10,000	Operating (Benedictine Place)

HEARTH HAPPENINGS

Judy Eakin, the Executive Director at HEARTH, was recently named the Business Woman of the Year by the Northern Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce. The award is presented to individuals who exemplify professional excellence, outstanding community involvement, and a commitment to improving the quality of life in our community.

Jerry Drozynski, the Board President of Benet Woods Housing Corporation, recently received the “Home is Where the Heart Is” Business Leader Award from Community Human Services. The award is presented to a select group of local leaders who have advocated for and worked on behalf of the homeless of Pittsburgh. Jerry is also a member of the HEARTH Board of Directors.

Welcome to the HEARTH Board: Lisa Carey of Northwest Savings Bank; Raymond F. Herron of Sisterson & Co.; and Jim Loeffler of InTune Business Advisors.

Committee Volunteers are needed for four committees. Finance Committee Members need knowledge of accounting and finance. Wine and Food Event Committee Members are needed with restaurant or wine purveyor contacts, connections with businesses who will donate silent auction items, and event planning and marketing skills. We need Golf Event Committee Members with knowledge of the game, event planning and marketing skills, and connections with businesses who will donate silent auction items. The Communications/ Resource Development Committee needs members with writing, marketing, and fundraising skills and connections to potential donors. Each committee meets monthly. For more information, including specific meeting dates, contact Cherie Hugh at (412) 939-2302 or cahugh@hearth-bp.org.

