This year, HEARTH is excited to celebrate 25 years of serving our community! As we prepared for our milestone anniversary, we started to re-think how to describe our program. HEARTH is very unique with many moving pieces. This means we needed to develop a clear way to explain what exactly our program does for homeless women with children.

This year we will take the time to delve into each pillar. Our goal is to present you with quarterly information on each of these topics. This will help us to reminisce on our past and look to our future.

The Four Pillars of HEARTH are:

1. Housing
2. Supportive Services
3. Economic Self-sufficiency
4. Relationships

Each Quarter we will delve deeper into each pillar, highlighting how that topic pertains to the families at HEARTH. Currently we are focusing on the first pillar… Housing!

HEARTH is excited to announce the first of several new videos premiering during our 25th anniversary! This Valentine's Day, we wanted to shine the spotlight on Rachel, a former HEARTH program participant because her story shows us the power of change a mother's love can make.

Rachel came to HEARTH in 2001. She shares with us a powerful story, detailing her struggles from an abusive situation, memories about her time at HEARTH with her young son, and where she is today. Click the button below to catch-up with Rachel!

Click here to see Rachel’s Story!

* Thank you to Ryno Production, Inc. for capturing and producing Rachel's story.
A letter from our CEO: Judy Eakin

I love my house, my neighborhood and my neighbors. It’s where I feel safe, where I can relax, and where I feel loved. My house is a home - a safe haven, a place to unwind after work or school, a place to raise children, a place where I feel safe at night.

We know that a home is so much more than four walls and a roof. But what if your house didn’t feel like a home? What if it didn’t make you feel safe and loved?

What if instead of love, every day you were yelled at and degraded? What if instead of being safe in your home you were actually in grave danger? What if the person you trusted the most abused you? This is what a house can be like for our program participants before they come to HEARTH. We say it time and time again, but homelessness happens at the intersection of violence and poverty. This is why at HEARTH we are working everyday with our families to re-imagine what home means.

At HEARTH we believe a safe place matters. That’s why our direct services coordinator works with each family individually to develop a safety plan. This helps our moms and children to work through their anxieties and fears to develop a safe feeling in their new space at HEARTH and in their new home in the community when they leave HEARTH.

We know that schooling or skilled training coupled employment helps our families achieve economic self-sufficiency. Economic self-sufficiency means you have choices. Money doesn’t buy happiness but it buys choice – where you live, how you live, and how you live within your home. Children learn to play without fear, mom can rest easy at night knowing that HEARTH’s facility and the skills that she is learning keep her and her family safe at night.

Once families leave our facility, mom has the skills, employment and confidence she needs to support her family without worry.

I would like you to think about what home means to you. What is your safe place? Please share those answers with us at info@hearth-bp.org.
Get Involved at HEARTH!

*Please note, our Volunteer Coordinator does work part-time and will respond as quickly as possible.*

Contact Harriet Riley for volunteer information
hriley@hearth-bp.org

Looking to make a difference in a child’s life?
HEARTH is looking for volunteers for our Monday Night Child Care sessions. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. Clearances are required for volunteers 18 and older. There is an orientation prior to the start of volunteering.

Volunteer Day opportunity—HEARTH will be hosting a volunteer day on Saturday, April 4, 2020. The volunteer day will include various spring cleaning of our facility.

Interested in touring our facility?
Please contact HEARTH at least 4 days prior to the tour date to be scheduled. Contact: trmaziarz@hearth-bp.org or 412-366-9801x.3913

Thursday, March 12, 2020– noon
Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – 6 pm
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – noon
Thursday, April 16, 2020 – 6 pm

Walk to support HEARTH and maintaining a healthy community:
http://hcf.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=3085&pg=entry

Community Fundraisers

To keep up with our ever growing community fundraisers, visit our website at
www.hearth-bp.org/ community-fundraisers

Women Empowering Women Luncheon-
Hosted by Zonta Three Rivers North. Proceeds benefit HEARTH. Sunday, April 19th at Diamond Run Golf Club, 12 pm to 3 pm.

Craft and Vendor Fair to benefit HEARTH -
hosted by Harmar Village Care Center and Amber Woods. Friday, April 24th at 715 Freeport Rd. Cheswick, PA, 1 pm to 5 pm.

Interested in hosting a third party fundraiser for HEARTH? Contact Special Events and Development Coordinator, Morgan Ceschin at mlceschini@hearth-bp.org or 412-366-9801 ext. 3912

HEARTH’s Amazon Wishlist

Did you know HEARTH has an Amazon Wishlist? If you are looking to give an in-kind donation please go to amazon.com , click wishlist and type in HEARTH

Amazon Smile

Don’t forget your “amazon smile” for HEARTH by making your amazon purchase through www.smile.amazon.com. Choose HEARTH as the charity of choice and the agency will receive 0.5% from your purchase.
This month, I want to dig a little deeper into some of the statistics that are relevant to the families we serve at HEARTH. The women we support are juggling raising their children on their own, their work and/or school obligations, their children’s educational needs, and all the usual household tasks that keep a home running smoothly – all while working to heal from trauma and abuse, and often with no friends or family to support them.

In the United States there are over 13 million single parents raising more than 22 million children. Over 80% of single parents are women. About 50% of them work full time. Despite this, 30% of single mothers and their children live in poverty, often due to the challenge of finding adequate paying employment while balancing child-rearing responsibilities. Only 44% of these parents receive the full amount of child support to which they are entitled. About 48% of these families receive some type of government assistance (e.g. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to help make ends meet.

To compound the situation, in the US nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused. This equals over 10 million people per year. One in four US women will experience intimate partner violence. One in five children will witness intimate partner violence each year. These experiences can cause significant physical harm, which often goes untreated; lead to depression, anxiety, and suicide, as well as risky behaviors in both children and adults; and can cause absenteeism and “school failure” in children.

These are the challenges the families at HEARTH cope with. Our staff, board, volunteers, and donors work tirelessly to provide not just safe housing but the supports and skills our families need to leave our program and thrive in the community.

A well-known theory in psychology, Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, depicts five level of needs that he felt drive human motivation. At the most basic level a person needs their Physiological needs met – shelter, clothing, and food. Moving up the hierarchy is Safety, such as one’s health, employment, and other necessary resources to be personally secure. Next comes Love and Belonging, whereby a person needs to feel emotionally connected to others. The next layer is Esteem, meaning one feels respect, recognition, strength and freedom. Finally, Self-Actualization is realized when a person has a desire to be all they can be.

To me, this model fits HEARTH’s program and goals well. We strive to wrap around our families will each type of support. Judy’s newsletter talked in detail about these types of supports HEARTH provides as we work with families to find safety, heal physically and emotionally, connect as a family and with peers, and ultimately to leave HEARTH with stable employment and housing.

Estimates put the success of supportive housing nationally between 60-90% and myriad factors affect the success of different types of programs. At HEARTH, we know that 81% of our families go on to stable housing and we believe our focus on providing holistic supports to women and children is a large part of that success.

HEARTH’s Signature Events

Friday, March 20, 2020
Nova Place
100 S Commons, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Click here to purchase tickets

Join us for our 10th annual ‘Hops for HEARTH’! This year we have some exciting new additions, including an exclusive HEARTH 25th anniversary beer, facilitated by First Sip Brew Box and Lincoln Avenue Brewery! You don’t want to miss this! Get your tickets today! To learn more about our event and our vendors, Click here.

Sponsors
Presenting – Federal Home Loan Bank Pittsburgh
Collaboration - First Sip Brew Box & Lincoln Avenue Brewery
Microbrewer - Deloitte,
Homebrewer - Standard Bank, TriState Capital Bank
Bar Patron - BDO, Christopher Borsoni, Mark Minnerly
Ticket Package - Bridgeway Capital, Arnett Carbis Toothman, LLP,
Sentinel Construction, North Suburban Tree, Langan,
Julie and Robert Vuillemot
Media - WYEP 91.3, Yelp! Pittsburgh

HEARTH is excited to announce the name and style of our special anniversary beer! The beer is a collaboration effort between First Sip Brew Box, Lincoln Avenue Brewery, Bedillion Honey Farm, CNC Malt and HEARTH!

This year 10-25 HEARTH a honey pale ale will be unveiled at the 10th annual Hops for HEARTH event! The beer takes it's name from two important milestones in HEARTH's history, 10 years of Hops for HEARTH and 25 years of HEARTH in the community.

Read City Paper's Article about this special effort by clicking here!

What does this collaboration mean to us? Check out special events and development coordinator Morgan on First Sip Brew Box’s The Daily Sip for her thoughts on this momentous occasion!

The Daily Sip - Featuring Morgan Ceschni!

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Target Homelessness for HEARTH

TBD Fall 2020

To volunteer, sponsor, or participate in these upcoming events, please contact Special Events and Development Coordinator, Morgan Ceschini at mlceschini@hearth-bp.org or 412-366-9801 ext. 3912
THANK YOU for your continued interest & support! If you’d like to make a donation, please visit our website or you can mail a check to HEARTH PO Box 318 Glenshaw, PA 15116

Contact us:
Phone: 412-366-9801

2019’s ‘Purses with a Purpose’ raised over $63,000! We are so grateful to LeMont Restaurant, our Emcee, KDKA’s David Highfield, our dedicated committee, and of course our volunteers for making 11 years of ‘Purses with a Purpose’ so successful!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor

Gold Sponsor

Silver Sponsors

In Memory of Julie and Robert
Jim Eakin Vuillemot