



Board chooses new name for the Shelter of the Cross Inc. Program

The mission remains unchanged to provide transitional housing support, and services for elderly (58+) homeless men and women in the Greater Danbury Area.

Donations provide improvements to "This Old House."

- St. Stephens Church in Ridgefield — Heating Duct Cleaning
- Union Savings Bank — Environmental improvement —
- New Fairfield Press — Marketing/Branding design
- NY/Conn Electrical — Wiring repairs
- The Otto Co.— Removed old Furnace and replaced with new
- Roger Electric — Wiring repair
- Saving Bank of Danbury — Basement upgrade
- Leigh D. Overland, AIA — Architect



On October 16, 2009 a crew from Intel — you know, “Intel Inside” on most of our computers — arrived in early morning. By 10 AM they had removed the dilapidated fence on the east side of the yard of Renewal House. They then erected a new vinyl paneled fence in its place. There were twelve people from the local Intel office as well as from Bos-

ton and Stamford. Additional work done at Renewal House by Intel makes a long list that includes:

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Painting
- Decorating
- Organizing
- Flooring



President’s Corner

This is a season of change for this Organization, and thanks to wonderful people teaming together, the change is good! Our new Executive Director, David Lias is doing a good job keeping us productively engaged with new projects. Not surprisingly in these hard times our program enrollment has been strong, and in keeping with our mission’s focus we are helping more people than ever. Our Program Manager, Judy Sheridan notes with satisfaction that more people have been matriculating through the program, graduating from being desperately homeless to having their own place. Our program challenges each person who enters it to change some attitudes, actions and habits necessary for their long-term success.

After much reflection, we have named our program and residence “Renewal House” *rebuilding older lives by restoring independence, one life at a time.* Our program is about

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New Staff Getting Older

Judy Sheridan, LCSW was appointed Program Director and Case Manager for Renewal House in December of 2008. She is responsible for intensive counseling and day to day guidance with our residents — helping them set and achieve goals to prepare for and obtain permanent homes.

Most recently Judy served as executive director of a Domestic Violence Agency in Litchfield County.

David Lias joined Renewal House as executive director in February of 2009. His responsibilities include administration, community relations and financial development.

Dave brings 30 years of experience in major gift development and not-for-profit administration to this part-time role.

The Board of Directors of the Shelter of the Cross is confident that Renewal House is staffed to move forward with plans for future.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

John D. Van Houten has spent over 17 years in the consumer goods industry where he has held leadership roles in Sales, Trade Marketing, Category Management, Business Planning and Account Management for companies such as **Beiersdorf Inc., Playtex Products, The Gillette Company/Oral B & Revlon Cosmetics and Fragrances**

Mike Gilles serves as an Assistant Professor of Education & Educational Psychology at Western Connecticut State University. Part of his university role is to manage the internship program for aspiring counselors and has assigned someone to Renewal House each semester.

Both gentlemen stepped directly in the Board Members role with enthusiasm and valuable input.

To: Renewal House
%Shelter of the Cross, Inc.
P.O. Box 622
18 Aaron B. Samuels Blvd.
Danbury, CT 06813

I (we) _____ want to be a Renewal House Partner to help maintain this important program for older men and women who have become homeless to acquire a permanent home. I (we) pledge to contribute \$_____ to support the cause.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email address: _____ Telephone: _____
I want more information, please contact me: _____

Presidents Corner continued

renewal. We have never been an overnight shelter, and have always served people of all beliefs coming to our door who want to work to change their lives. We are finding Renewal House is less confusing to prospective program candidates and donors. More to follow.

More change, our house received some much needed updates this year as fabulous people have graced our path. We improved our infrastructure to lower energy costs thanks to assistance from Union Savings Bank, Danbury Savings Bank, The Otto Co. and Associated Refuse which provided numerous dumpsters to support our projects. A wonder team of people from Intel have helped with house upkeep, and recently replaced our broken fence along our eastern border. Leigh D. Overland, AIA prepared plans & specifications to improve access to the first and second floors. We are now raising funds to install a handicap accessible front entrance, and raising the balance of funds to match an individual's 50% offer to cover the estimated cost of \$16,000 to improve access to the second floor.

More change, John Van Houten & Mike Gilles recently joined the Board (see profiles). As we welcome them, we said good-bye with much thanks to Janice Wiggins, Past President, along with Ed Carola, following the end of their many years of good service and steady work on behalf of elderly homeless people. Our program offers people the opportunity for productive change. Please contact me at (203) 733-7269 if you would like to contribute to our evolution.

Best Regards,
Scott Senete