



Inside the May Newsletter:

- Find out more about the Mother's Day Tea event, p.2
- A staff member reflects on her time at PHH, p.3
- Read about the Tea Ladies Group, p.3
- Check out the PHH Wish List, p.4

by Sr. Marie Bernadette, CSC

*The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from
heaven,
Upon the place beneath: it is twice
blest,--
It blesseth him that gives and him that
takes:...."*

**You are witnesses of mercy and
compassion with its special blessings.
At Providence Hospitality House that
gentle rain from each of you touches
us—**

*"...And earthly power doth then show
likest God's,
When mercy seasons justice."*

We know about the gentle drops of rain in Seattle! The rain reveals God in many different ways for each one of us. It awakens our senses and it is an incredible and magnificent sign of the presence of our God. The image in Shakespeare's *Mercy* reflects you, **our larger community**, of Providence Hospitality House where there is that gentle and reciprocal giving and taking of mercy, seasoned with justice for all.

When we open the door and welcome our mothers and their children we know that we are not alone. We depend on the mercy and love of so many who help make the guests' stay a special time—they know that they are loved and cared for by the "village." Together we strive to bring out the miracle, the truth that God dwells within them and model a home full of truth and love.

While our families are here there are guidelines and helps for them. Each mother is assigned a team member who meets with her regularly and makes long-range goals and weekly goals, discussing and sharing ways most

beneficial for finding housing and direction in her life. Hopes and dreams are included in our goals, along with the practical, such as obtaining and completing applications for housing, and any health or educational needs or concerns. All goals are written down and evaluated. Childcare resources are available and the team works hard to network with many agencies that provide housing and social services.

In addition, the mothers are required to attend three mandatory meetings a week with a qualified facilitator. One evening they review a life-living skill, such as handling conflict, budgeting, disciplining or discussing other immediate needs of the mothers. Another evening, classes pertain to addictions in life and appropriate decision-making. The third is a family evening and a facilitator helps the mothers and children with artistic activities. This is a time to be together and get to know one another in a relaxed environment.

Your financial help, donations and support help us serve our families, respecting their dignity. At our door we greet friends who drop off clothes, shoes, household items and supplies. Magnolia Moms bring clothes, diapers and other needed items for babies. Some help us with supplies from Costco and other grocery items. Friends of the Needy bring us vegetable, dairy products, bread and delicious pastries. Parishes and businesses donate food, clothing, furniture and gift cards. Our seniors give our bedrooms and living room beauty and warmth with their homemade quilts. Others have prepared care packages for their rooms.

---- Continued on Page 2 ----

Mother's Day Tea

by Sarah Culbertson

"This celebration of Mother's Day holds an extra special place in our hearts as we are celebrating the very essence of our home."

On May 7, 2006, Providence Hospitality House will host its first annual Mother's Day Tea. This celebration of Mother's Day holds an extra special place in our hearts as we are celebrating the very essence of our home. With the advent of this luncheon, we hope to recognize all the mothers that have walked through our doors, while helping to raise the funds necessary to keep our home open to thousands more. We will be inviting hundreds of past donors and guests, and we hope to see many of you there!

learning a little bit more about what we do. Several guest speakers, including a former PHH mother, will be speaking to the issues of homelessness in Seattle, as well as what we as a community can do to help. Tea, of course, will be served, as well as a delicious lunch and deserts. Additionally, PHH will be raffling off some wonderful prizes. A good time promises to be had by everyone, all while hoping to reach our fundraising goal of \$10,000, which would help to support a small family for an entire year.

As you well know, we live off what we have, and often what we have is a direct result of generous donations from people such as you. This Mother's Day Tea is another way that you can help support Providence Hospitality House and its guests. This event is a wonderful opportunity to honor those important in your life, mothers, sisters, brothers, fathers, daughters, while

The Mother's Day Tea will be held at St. Joseph Parish Hall in Capitol Hill on Sunday, May 7th, from 1-3pm. Tickets are \$50 for an individual, and \$500 for a table of ten. If you would like some more information about the event, please contact Sarah Culbertson at (206) 322-2107 or staff@providencehospitality.org

- Continued from page 1.



Young people and seniors have made warm hats, scarves, and dolls with cute outfits. Other gifts and support in many ways witness the mercy and compassion of God.

Throughout the week, volunteers from Seattle University and several high schools help us by assisting the mothers and the children, helping with cooking, cleaning and other important household tasks. We have a volunteer who comes every Friday and cooks a gourmet meal and using available foodstuffs creatively. He has come for many years and the mothers, and the older children, not to mention the staff, learn from him. As our families are out from

9AM to 4PM Monday through Friday the evenings provide regular routines: dinner, meetings, play and just being together.

We are blessed with many surprises and events that "droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven...."

Thank you to each one for being that gentle rain of mercy and compassion at Providence Hospitality House.

Staff Reflection

by Liz Meter

It has been such a full seven months that I think I have barely reflected on what it means to me to work at PHH. I have thought about each part of my role and all the learning that has come with them. Not often do I think of my experience as a whole.

Today I was walking in the freezing wind wondering where the spring weather went, and I remembered that almost a year ago I thought of working at Providence as a way to give back the same blessings I have received in my life.

There was a time a few years ago when I needed a home. It wasn't just shelter I sought, but also a place with support, comfort and security, somewhere I could let myself be helped. It was my time of greatest need, and I

had family I could call. For others who can't lean on family or friends, it is a relief to me that places like Providence exist- support where there is none other. I'm grateful to contribute.

I give in the ways I can with my presence, but as I have learned and grown into the role of Team Member, I have found I receive much more than I can give. In the past several months I have been blessed to share moments with every child who has taken a first step here (3), family that has found longer-term housing (13), hour of playtime (thousands), vegetarian meal (100), showing of Finding Nemo (uh), book read, talent show, holiday meal, piece of furniture moved, early morning, late night, worry, joy, and laugh (countless).

"For others who can't lean on family or friends, it is a relief to me that places like Providence exist - support where there is none other."

The Power of One

by Maggie McArthur

The Power of One is a fictional novel about a young man who comes to realize that a single individual has the inner power that can change the world for the better.

The "Tea Ladies" is a group of five friends who hope to show what the power of one x five can do to help the women and children at Providence Hospitality House!

We get together once a month to share tea, conversation, and lots of laughs. During the past year, the Tea Ladies became aware of the mission of PHH and wanted to help. Some of the ladies make financial gifts, and all have collected other items that are needed. The Tea Ladies tell other friends about PHH and those friends are inspired to support the mission too - the power of one increases with each new contact! It has been heartwarming to see how these women are moved to action when they learn about the moms and children at PHH.

When asked why they choose to support PHH, this is that the ladies said:

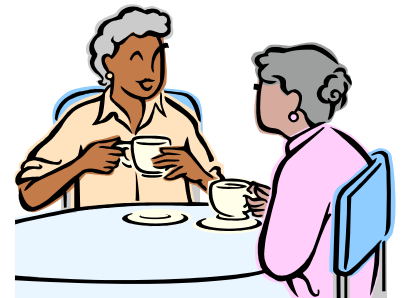
Chris - "It makes me feel good and I hope it makes them feel good too."

Ann - "Motherhood is wonderful and exhausting. If I can help a mom make her day a little less exhausting and a little more wonderful, than I want to do that."

Barb - "We are a hands-on giving circle. We are excited to give to this special organization and to receive the support and friendship within our group."

Mary Ann - "I admire the courage of the women who take this step to insure not only their own well-being, but that of their children. I know that all of my donations will be used wisely and to the best advantage by the staff."

Maggie - "I love being one of the Tea Ladies... it's fun and gives me the opportunity to, in some small way, give meaning to the words of Gandhi, to 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.'"



STAFF

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MISSION

To provide a temporary home for women with children in crisis. The guiding principles are compassion, respect, justice, advocacy, and a family-like environment. PHH is sponsored by the Sisters of Providence. The Sisters of Providence are Catholic women of faith who respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable through education, parish ministry, health care, community service and support, housing, prison ministry, pastoral care, spiritual direction and retreats, and foreign missions.

PHH Wish List

For those who can give the little things that help keep normalcy in the lives of families in crisis:

Food: Chicken, hot dogs, pork/ham, cheese, assortment of teas

Clothes: Boys' and girls' age 7-11, maternity, women's coats

A Little Something Extra-

Please sponsor some family fun by donating movie passes through Fandango.com. The fun and luxury of a trip to the movies is a value to all our guests. We can give passes to whole families and use them for our Mom's Night Out occasions.

Simply go to:

<http://www.fandango.com> and follow the links to Fandango Bucks.

Recipient Information:

Name- Providence Hospitality House

Email- staff@providencehospitality.org

Fandango emails the passes that we can then print out and give to our moms to use!

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