

BRICK BY BRICK

The Haven Newsletter

THE GRATEFUL ISSUE

Our Wall of Building Contributors

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In a time when the operant phrases in too many places seem to be “not in my backyard,” “not out of my pocket” or “not my problem,”

Transylvania County is one place where the word community still means something — where people are attentive to one another's needs and have their eyes and minds open to what can and should be done. When citizens in Transylvania County realized that every day there are people here facing the lonely desperation of having nowhere safe to spend the night — or worse yet, nowhere safe for their children to do so — they were determined to develop an alternative, and a good one. That's how we've come to build The Haven, and we're using this issue to say *Thank You!*

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WE'LL BE ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS IN OUR ANNUAL REPORT.

A LOOK BACK

How Far We've Come

▪ Late 2008 – A Need Is Recognized

Less than three years ago, homelessness in Transylvania County was almost literally hidden in the woods – people with nowhere to go often sought refuge there. But some vigilant souls among us took notice, and sounded the alarm. Michael Collins, Director of The Bread of Life and a front-line veteran of helping people with food security, reported to his board on a disturbing increase in the number of homeless individuals and families seeking food assistance.

▪ January - August 2009 – A Plan

At the urging of The Bread of Life Board, a task force studied the need for and feasibility of an emergency overnight shelter. A broad spectrum of organizations, including the Department

of Social Services (DSS), SAFE, Sharing House, the United Way, The Children's Center and local churches, contributed. The task force concluded that an open-plan facility – configured to safely house up to 18 men, women and children – could be optimally utilized. It would need to operate 7 nights a week, and combine the immediate assistance of temporary shelter with appropriate referrals to other agencies that could help the residents get back on their feet.

▪ September 2009 – February 2010

The Haven of Transylvania County was organized, incorporated, and granted 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status. A location was sought within walking distance of other community services, such as Sharing House, The Bread of Life, the DSS and medical services. The Bread of Life offered a 40-year, \$1-a-year lease on a portion of its South Caldwell Street property as the construction site.

▪ March – December 2010

A design took shape for a 1400-square-foot facility, and fund-

raising began. Local architect Sam Brewton was engaged to finalize the plans, the Brevard Technical Review Committee approved them, and Transylvania County issued a building permit. Ken Brown was selected as the contractor. By December, \$163,000 of the \$230,100 cost had been pledged toward the project.

▪ January – July 2011

Ground was broken for the building on January 13, and progress was steady. Fundraising for construction was complete by May; securing resources for operations has become the new priority. Structural elements are complete; the exterior and interior are painted by volunteers.

▪ Today

- Installation of fixtures and appliances is pending.
- With half a year's operating funds raised, a search is in progress for an executive director.
- With the goal so close, a ribbon cutting event is being planned for early this fall – watch for an announcement of the date!

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

A Community Comes Together



On your mark, get set, Run for The Haven!

In addition to the significant financial contributions acknowledged on the front of this newsletter, everything from building materials to beds has been donated to The Haven, so that the facility will be well-equipped to feel like home. Businesses, churches, service organizations and government entities have also loaned space, materials, equipment and other resources, given free professional consultations, and provided prizes for fundraising efforts.

The Young People

Most people are familiar with the Biblical quotation “a little child shall lead them.” Indeed, the young people of this community have been at the forefront in recognizing the difference the Haven can make in lives, and finding ways to support it. A few examples...

- **Brevard Community Church Fun Run:** On February 27, participants were challenged to pick a goal (number of laps) for the course at Pisgah Forest Elementary School, and *run for it*. Chris Schlender, Children's Pastor at the church, recalls: “We realized the fun run could help our kids see tangible ways to meet needs of people in our com-

munity, by asking the kids who participated to seek sponsorship for running in the event.” A decision was made to donate the proceeds to help make The Haven a reality. “The kids were excited to know they could be helping the homeless in this area.” Their efforts resulted in a significant donation to The Haven.

- **Quilts by Second Graders:** For five years, second graders at Brevard Elementary School have been learning the tradition of quilting and how it can tell the story of the natural and human history of our region. Children from First United Methodist Church Bible School have also participated in this project, in which the completed quilts are donated. This Spring The Haven was presented with a number of these unique, heart-felt, handmade gifts. Thanks to all the young quilters, their teachers Jennifer Cuniff, Vicki Denton, Kyle Malmin, and Sonya Morris, and quilting mentors and assemblers Ginny Rush, Pat Wahun, Loretta Raser, Pat Crawford, Bernice Barringer, Thelma Erickson, Carol Preston, Gail Heseltine and Chairperson Phyllis Beason. Our appreciation also goes to Rebecca Suddeth of the



Budding quilters with their quilts at First United Methodist Church



BHS Chess Club member (the cat in the hat) presents his worthy opponent with a winner's coupon from Jet's Pizza.



Volunteer painters pose at the southwest corner of their canvas.

Transylvania Heritage Museum, where the quilts will be displayed until The Haven opens its doors.

- *At the 2010 downtown Halloweenfest* sponsored by the Heart of Brevard, the Brevard High School Chess Club donned chess-piece costumes and set out to “Keep Homelessness in Check” at their festival booth. A poster of surprising facts about homelessness was on display, and for a \$10 donation to the Haven, visitors were invited to challenge a member of the chess team to a game. Winners received a coupon for a free Jet’s Pizza.
- *In November, 2010*, the Chess Club joined with members of the Brevard High School Interact Club, National Honor Society, Environmental Club, Cheerleading Squad and Leadership Class for the annual Rent-A-Student day. Students put their energy into jobs for donors, with significant proceeds directed toward The Haven.
- *The Brevard College Community* has also been actively involved in our efforts. In April our tech-savvy friends, through the Institute for Women in Leadership, organized a fabulous auction. Included were lithographs, paintings, cookbooks, glass and metal art objects, tickets for Brevard Music Center and Porter Center, sports tickets, tennis and yoga lessons, and the ever-popular rental of volunteer student work crews — all for the benefit of The Haven.

The Volunteers

Church groups and service organizations have contributed direct labor to the completion of the facility, including painting both the interior and exterior of the building. Pictured at left are volunteers from the Pisgah Forest Baptist Church Men’s Group and The Bread of Life, who painted the building’s exterior on May 21.

Volunteers have also envisioned and orchestrated events to raise the visibility of The Haven as well as funds for its operation, and worked diligently to enlist sponsors...who have responded generously.

- *“Zumba for Zing, Haven for Hope”* was coordinated by Zumba enthusiasts Renee Bruce and Cyndy Lorry. The temperature was sky high, but so were the spirits of the dancers during these two hours of dynamic and joyous exercise led by Hiro Martin, Rachael Thiel,

Angela Arellano and Al Rowe. The event was hosted by the Transylvania County Department of Recreation, with major sponsorship from Curves of Brevard, Horseshoe & Hendersonville. Kiwi Gelato (dispensed by owner Richard Coadwell), Dolce Regina, Do More Bars and Poppies’ Market provided refreshments.

A wide range of businesses donated appropriately-themed auction items, including Annatas Hair and Art Studio, A Place to Relax, A Touch Better, Bear Arms, Brevard Health Club, Charm and Glamour Salon, Curves of Brevard, Horseshoe & Hendersonville, Brevard Health/Racquet Club, Brevard Yoga, Body and Soul Massage, Center for Natural Healing, Davidson Rafting, Hallelujah Natural Foods, Healthy Harvest, Hypnotism by Carol McAllister, Elements Spa, Fitness Factory, Full Circle Massage, Ginger M Salon, Healing Oasis, Highland Books, Hub of Back Country, Hunters and Gatherers, Judy Wolf Massage, Kempo Karate, Linda Brook’s Juice Plus, Looking Glass Outfitters, Mountain Man Nuts/Fruits, Perfectly Polished Nails, Pisgah Stables, Singing Birds Massage, Sherri Summers of Skin Care Traditions, Sycamore Bicycles, Walgreens RX, and Zero Gravity. Support for printing and promotion came from UPS, Emily Lowery, Barbara Donithan from Insight Web Design & Photography, Copy-Works and Hiro Martin Zumba Classes. Everyone went home tired but happy, and The Haven reaped a significant financial benefit. We hope to do it again in cooler weather!

The Haven Board

The Haven could never have come so far so fast without its volunteer board, which is relentlessly dedicated to moving the project ahead, and working to make that happen every day:

Sarah Pooser, <i>President</i>	James Outlaw
Earle Rabb, <i>Vice President</i>	Don Rogers
Renee Bruce, <i>Secretary</i>	Ron Schieve
Joan Bliss, <i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Shular
Jane Adkinson	John Vanderschaaf
Beth Branagan	Amber Zachary
Anna Galloway	

A LOOK AHEAD

What You Can Do, Still

Interested in volunteering?
E-mail Earle Rabb at info@thehavenshelter.org

There is, of course, much more work to be done. Once The Haven is up and running, we'll need to keep it staffed and supplied. The same spirit of collaboration and imagination that has brought us this far will continue to play a role in The Haven's future.

Consider a volunteer commitment to the Haven.

Operations:

The facility will need volunteers to operate every day and night of the year. Two volunteers will stay over each night to oversee the residents' needs. Couples, friends, or individuals can volunteer for this duty, and training will be provided. There will also be a two- or three-person crew that prepares the facility for each night's residents.

Administration:

More help is needed for volunteer coordination, and telephone, mailing and special events support. Committee members are also needed for operations, finance, fundraising, publicity, and human resources.



Rockin' & Swingin' for The Haven

Saturday, August 20

Rockin' and Swingin' for the Haven

Glen Cannon Country Club, 7:00 – 10:00 PM.

Tickets: \$45/person, through Rockin' Robin and Main Street Ltd.

Come celebrate with us! Show your support by joining us for an exhilarating evening of dancing to the jazz, swing and 50's sounds of The Dangerous Gentlemen and Friends. Refuel with heavy hors d'oeuvres and the cash bar, and try your luck with some wonderful raffle items. Invite your friends for a great summer evening and a worthy cause! All proceeds go to The Haven; \$25 of your ticket purchase is tax-deductible.

Can't come? We will miss you, but please consider a donation in any amount to help us meet our goal. For more information call committee chair LaTrelle Renaud at 828.508.6764.

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THE HAVEN OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY • P.O. BOX 25, BREVARD, NC 28712

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