



# Annual Report

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

**25 YEARS OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

June 23, 1983 - June 23-2008

Our mission is to embrace those in need or in crisis and to welcome them into a stable and supportive environment where self-sufficiency and independence may be achieved.

Dear Friends of Freedom House,

While the economic downturn over the past twelve months created hardships for all sectors of our society, those individuals and families which lost jobs and supportive services faced the most significant challenges. For 26 years, Freedom house has served a critical role in the Richmond community by providing food and shelter for those in crisis. The need for a warm meal (Conrad Center) and a safe place to sleep (Community Shelter) was never more apparent in 09-09. Years like this one remind us that the distance between our "familiar" lives and homelessness is much closer than we might think.

Fortunately, Freedom House continues to persevere, supplying not only food and shelter, but dedication and encouragement to those who are enduring "touch times". Much of our organizations' success goes to the energetic, compassionate staff who embrace our mission. From the vitality of the Director of Community Resources, Christy Ellis, to the empathy of the Conrad Center's Supervisor Theo Woodson, and so many more, we are truly blessed to have these human resources.

The "rocks" of Freedom House are the area businesses, foundations, faith-based organizations and individuals who continue to provide both time and treasure in order to help us meet our goals. We are forever grateful for our support. No matter what the state of the economy, there will always be those in crisis. Freedom house remains committed to giving people the freedom to change and to feeding the hungry of Richmond!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hayes", written in a cursive style.

Stephen Hayes  
President, Board of Directors



Last year at the Conrad Center, over 48,000 meals were served to homeless and working poor adults and children. We experienced an 18 percent increase in the number of children served and referred over 672 individuals and families to housing, veteran's services, health screenings and social services benefits.

Ninety percent of the Conrad Center staff members are former clients that are now productive members of society. They provide the motivation for many of their former peers to seek the road to recovery. Central Intake, the single point of entry for homeless services, is located at the Conrad Center, so all clients accessing the meal program now have access to housing and case management services.

In 2008, 126 men and women were provided shelter and case management at the community Shelter. Also provided were 780 hours of in-house professional mental health and substance abuse counseling. Over 60 workshops were held on topics such as money management, resume writing, interviewing skills, life skills and health education. All residents entering with a substance abuse history attend three Narcotics Anonymous/alcoholics Anonymous meetings per week.

Of the residents remaining six months or longer at the Community Shelter, 81 percent have secured permanent housing.



At Sean's Place, 16 adults received shelter and support services last year. Ninety-five percent of Sean's Place residents are graduates of the Community Shelter and are now living independently, securing permanent housing upon completion of the program.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We cannot express enough gratitude for our gracious volunteers. Without them, we could not provide the support and services that has helped change so many lives.

Some facts about our volunteers:

- ⇒ They collected over 5,500 rolls of toilet paper and over 2,000 rolls of paper towels
- ⇒ 248 volunteer members from churches, community organizations, businesses and school groups prepared and served 265 dinners and 107 weekend and holiday lunches to Community Shelter residents.
- ⇒ 527 volunteers provided 13,321 hours preparing and serving meals at the Conrad Center.

- ⇒ 91 individuals volunteered at our Empty Bowls, 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Festival and Bizarre Bazaar fundraising events.
- ⇒ 32 SUPERVALU volunteers prepared and served food provided by SUPERVALU Corp. to 515 guests at Christmas Dinner.
- ⇒ Countless members of the community donated food, hygiene products, clothing, shoes, house wares, appliances, furniture and holiday gifts for the benefit of Freedom House clients.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

Freedom House utilizes and refers clients to a multitude of regional social service agencies that offer needed support services. Partnerships with community non-profit organizations, churches, businesses and schools are critical to the success of our clients as they move from a life of crisis to a stable, self-sufficient life. Freedom House is a founding member of Homeward's Executive Directors Network and has worked in partnership with other homeless services providers to develop and implement our community's 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. We work collaboratively with local drug and alcohol treatment programs such as Rubicon and the Healing Place to help pave the road recovery for those we serve. Freedom House strongly believes that building partnerships and working collaboratively is the most efficient and effective way to deliver services to those experiencing homelessness. We thank all our partners for their spirit of cooperation and community!

# **FREEDOM HOUSE STAFF 2008-2009**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Melba Gibbs – Executive Director  
Kathy Crouch – Director of Operations and Communications  
Cindy Barton – Grants Administrator  
Christy Ellis – Director of Community Resources

## **THE CONRAD CENTER**

Theo Woodson – Program Director  
Howard Robinson – Kitchen Manager  
Kitchen Service Staff: Melvin Alfred, Harrison Carter, James Winston

## **THE COMMUNITY SHELTER**

Ken Roth – Program Director  
Monte Montenegro – Case Manager  
Vanessa Guillery – Case Manager  
Shift Supervisors: Melvin Alfred, Michael Grooms, Katie White, Fletcher Johnson

## **SEAN'S PLACE**

Ken Roth – Program Director

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## *Executive Board*

Stephen Hayes, *President*  
WTVR TV 6 General Sales Manager

Anne Hines, *Co-Vice President*  
Thomas Hines Antiques-Interiors

Jane Conrad, *Co- Vice President*  
Community Volunteer

Carolyn Grady, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Public Defenders Office

## *Board Members*

Charles Ajemian  
MediaFlux

Brett Lewis  
Iron Works

Dirley Ball  
Heart of the Community

Glenn Mitchell  
Carter Machinery

Erin Hurly-Brown  
CRT/Tanaka

Pat Peregoy  
Retired, Bank of America

Cynthia Cecil  
Altria

Claire Shaffner  
REMAX Commonwealth Realty

Mark Cipolletti  
Mondial USA

Evan Silverstein  
Snap Partners

Brandon Walters Davis  
WellPoint/Health Management Corp

Nancy Warman  
St. James Episcopal Church

Fletcher Johnson  
Martins Supermarket

David Wade  
Retired, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Financial Statement July 1, 2008-June 30- 2009

**REVENUE**

Individuals	\$451,201
Organizations	2,400
Contract for services	46,823
Foundations	60,914
United Way	32,583
Government	71,916
Businesses	27,170
Other	27,324
Faith Based	76,243
Fundraisers	36,163
Program Fees	97,800
	\$930,537

**Expenses**

Community Shelter/ Sean's Place	\$343,329
Conrad Center	358,115
Administration	168,952
Fundraising/Volunteer Coordination	87,949
Administration	168,952

Total Program	\$975,197
---------------	-----------

**Financial Overview**

Total Revenue and support	\$930,537
Program Expenses	701,444
Management and General	168,952
Fund Raising expenses	87,949
Ending net asset balance	(27,808)