

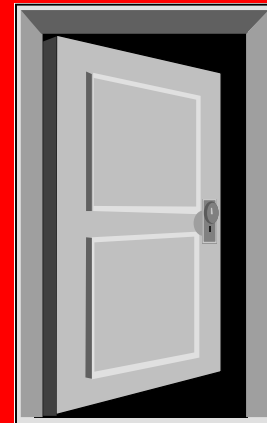
THE OPEN DOOR

The Newsletter of Freedom House

Summer

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

The Conrad Center | The Community Shelter | Greater Richmond Respite | Sean's Place



Be thankful you don't need us. Please help those that do.

Freedom House has used the above statement as a tagline in the past and we would like to take a moment to explain what this means.

Many are still feeling the effects from the downturn in the economy and are making adjustments in the way they live. Imagine trying to decide where to cut back on expenses when you are starting with very little or nothing at all? Making these difficult decisions is the difference between you and those that Freedom House serves.

You too may have changed your spending habits and are making more choices and sacrifices than before. You can cut back on *luxury* items and activities, like eating at home instead of going out to a restaurant or renting movies instead of going to the theater. The people served by Freedom House often have to make choices between buying medication for an illness, paying the electric bill or buying groceries to prepare nutritious meals. How easy would that decision be for you? For those we serve, the programs of Freedom House provide options when tough decisions like these must be made.

For individuals and families that must make these difficult decisions, The Conrad Center is a welcome option. While some that utilize The Conrad Center are there because of ill-advised life choices, we are seeing more and more people that are there because they have run out of options. They are working to their fullest capacity, but simply don't have the means to pay for everyday life expenses. It costs just \$2.25 to serve a meal at The Conrad Center. This means a gift for as little as \$25 can help feed 11 people a hot, nutritious meal.

When making important financial decisions, please remember those that have truly run out of options and must rely on programs like The Conrad Center and the generosity of strangers.

Even if you can't make a financial gift at this time, please consider buying one of the items included in our Immediate Needs list (see list to right) on your next trip to the grocery store.

Thank you for your past and continued support of Freedom House, our programs and those who benefit and need our programs.

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IMMEDIATE NEEDS!

SUMMER 2005

Freedom House is in need of the following items:

- Working washing machine & dryer
- Porch furniture
- Coffee
- 9 oz. Styrofoam plates
- 10 oz. Styrofoam cups
- 12 oz. Styrofoam bowls
- Size #10 cans:
 - ◇ Mixed veggies
 - ◇ Corn
 - ◇ Carrots
 - ◇ Potatoes
 - ◇ Lima beans

Empty Bowls Event **EXPANDS**

Empty Bowls is a unique fundraiser that brings schools, potters and area faith communities together to raise money for The Conrad Center. Local professional potters along with middle and high school students create one-of-a-kind hand made ceramic bowls. Guests are served a simple meal of soup and bread and then keep the bowl of their choice as a reminder of hunger in our community. Local faith organizations host the event and prepare the food. Due to the popularity of Empty Bowls, this year **three** churches will host the event:



Monday, October 17
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
11551 Lucks Lane
(exact times to be determined)

Tuesday, October 18
Bon Air Presbyterian Church
9201 West Huguenot Road
Seatings at 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 19
Seventh Street Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Corner of Malvern Avenue & Grove Avenue
Seatings at 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Tickets will go on sale at the 43rd Street Festival. Tickets are \$15 each - limit ten tickets per person. After the festival, please call 233.4064 ext. 206 for ticket information.

Did You Know?

Following are results from the 2005 Point-in-Time Survey conducted by Homeward, an umbrella organization that coordinates services and collaboration for area homeless service providers. The survey was conducted January 26, 2005 and the results were presented during Homeward's annual Summit held in March, 2005.

- At any given time there are 1,400 shelter and unsheltered homeless persons living in Greater Richmond.
- 76% of adults are males, 24% are females. Most homeless persons are single adults (85%). 15% are homeless persons with families.
- The average is 41.
- 34% report a mental health problem. 22% in the past month, 5% in past year, and 7% at some time in their lifetime.
- 37% have lived in Greater Richmond for 25 years or more.
- 49% have a high school education or a GED, 23% have attended some college, and 8% have a Bachelor's Degree or higher.
- Three of four single men have been incarcerated. One out of every two single men has at least one felony conviction.

Freedom House publishes **The Open Door** for distribution to the public.

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Executive Director
Assistant Director
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Program Director, The Community Shelter & Sean's Place
Case Manager, The Community Shelter
Case Manager, The Community Shelter
Program Director, Greater Richmond Respite Program
Assistant Director, Greater Richmond Respite Program

Freedom House does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, family status or disability.
www.hopeforhomeless.org

BIG SCORE FOR 2005 SOUPER BOWL

Thank you to the 14 area congregations that participated in the 2005 Souper Bowl of Caring. This year, the collections taken during services on Super Bowl Sunday raised more than \$6,500 for The Conrad Center.



WACHOVIA SECURITIES

2005 canalWALK Takes Big Step



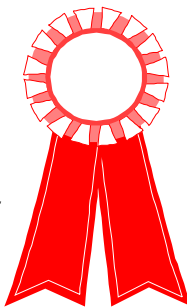
On June 4, 2005 more than 3,000 people gathered on Browns Island to help take a step towards ending

homelessness in Richmond. The event benefited Freedom House and 28 other homeless service providers. The one-day event raised more than \$110,000! Attendees walked and ran in the River District and along the canal. Once returning to Brown's Island, participants enjoyed games, food, music and dance squads. And new this year, Bateau races were held in the canal. The 18th century, 50-foot, wooden boats returned to Richmond for the first time in 200 years. They were originally used to ship tobacco and other cargo from Lynchburg to Richmond along the James River. Thank you to everyone that supported the event and walked for Freedom House. A special thank you goes out to Wachovia Securities for hosting a fabulous event!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Freedom House was pleased to present the *JUDITH ALLEN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD* to Forest Hill Civic Association at our annual meeting held in March. Each year the neighbors pitch in to make sure the two streets that make up the festival grounds are ready for the 8,000 to 10,000 people that attend the festival each year.

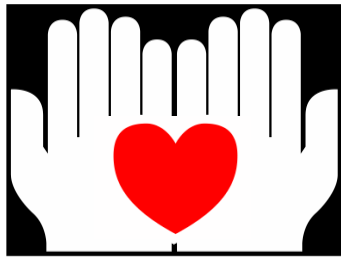
We can't thank the association enough for welcoming Freedom House, the festival, and all the participants into their neighborhood year after year. We look forward to seeing them once again this September.



KUDOS AND THANKS

In the past several months we've had many groups and individuals do service projects. Thanks to everyone for helping Freedom House.

- Area hotels provided us with everything from towels to shower curtains to irons. Thank you Candlewood Suites, Hampton Inn Richmond West and Homewood Suites for these items.
- Thank you to Anthem for painting the outside of The Community Shelter in May. And thanks go to the Wachovia Call Center at Innsbrook for not only collecting paper products and cleaning supplies, but for also sprucing up the lawn at Sean's Place.
- It doesn't matter your age, anyone can pitch in to help Freedom House. The 7th graders at Tuckahoe Middle School held a contest to see which homeroom could collect the most toiletry items for us. Each homeroom was assigned specific items, such as toothpaste or shampoo, and had the month of February to collect as many items as possible. In addition, students participated in a web activity that took them to the Freedom House website to learn about our programs. Thanks to all the students and teachers who also donated towels and wash clothes.
- Duncan Monroe, of Brandermill Church, began coming to The Community Shelter with his parents to help serve dinner when he was just three years old. Since he couldn't read, he served drinks by soda color. Now age 11, he's come up with a new way to help. This year he asked friends and family to make a donation to Freedom House in his name instead of giving him birthday presents. This unselfish gesture shows what a giving spirit Duncan has.
- And finally, we want to apologize for an oversight in our last newsletter. A **BIG** thank you to the Bice Family. Dan, Kitty and Travis Bice prepared dinner for the guests of The Conrad Center Christmas Eve. Not only did they prepare the food, but with the help of a friend, John Bowles, they also served the meal that night.



FREEDOM HOUSE

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people in crisis

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43rd Street Festival of the Arts

The 14th annual 43rd Street Festival of the Arts will be held from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, September 17. Food, music and more than 60 artists will be on hand to display and sell their artwork. The family-friendly event is located at the corner of 43rd Street and Forest Hill Avenue.



See you there!

Want to Get More Involved in the Festival?

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL

There are two levels for the **Friend of the Festival** sponsorships. For contributions of \$100 or more you will receive:

- 10 raffle tickets
- two t-shirts

For contributions of \$250 or more you will receive:

- 15 raffle tickets
- two t-shirts
- two Empty Bowls Tickets

Mail your contribution to Freedom House, 1201 Hull Street, Richmond, VA 23224, by August 15. Please note on your check that the contribution is for "Friend of the Festival". We will mail you a postcard with instructions on how to redeem your **Friend of the Festival** package.

If you would like to **VOLUNTEER** for the event, please contact Susan Sekerke at 233.4064 ext. 206 or via email at sjsekerke@comcast.net by August 15th.

WEBSITE FLASH: be on the lookout for our new & improved website at www.hopeforhomeless.org.