



The Newsletter of Project Hospitality

Coming Home

Fall 2006



Beginning Our
25th Year of Service

An interfaith effort sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry and caring for people with HIV/AIDS

Poor People's Dinner
November 20

100 Park Avenue • Staten Island NY 10302

www.ProjectHospitality.org

HARVEST HOME HONOREES REPRESENT LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO THE GOOD OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



Roberta Doherty



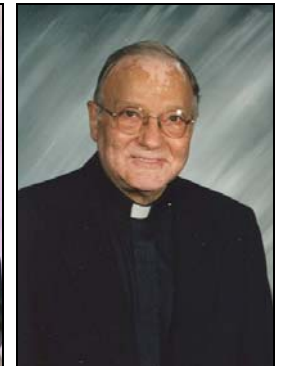
Harry Doherty



Rev. Lee MacCallum



Louise MacCallum



Msgr. John Servodidio

At its *Harvest Home Dinner* held at the Hilton Garden Inn on September 25th, Project Hospitality honored the following for their continuing concern for the well-being of all members of the Staten Island community:

Harry P. & Roberta Doherty are this year's recipients of the *Richard E. Diamond Memorial Award for Exemplary Commitment to People in Need*. Now retired after 40 years of service at SI Bank & Trust, Mr. Doherty is presently chairman of the SI Bank & Trust Foundation. He has led the foundation as it has identified priority needs such as housing and immigrant services. The foundation is the initial and largest private funder for the new Carpenter House. Mrs. Doherty is a retired educator with many years experience in the Catholic schools. She has also been active in the Alice Austen House and other community organizations.

The Reverend C. Lee & Louise MacCallum were given the *Les Trautmann Memorial Award* in recognition of their many years of service to the people of Staten Island. Rev. MacCallum, pastor of Olivet Presbyterian Church, is a founding board member of Project Hospitality, and Olivet has long-served as a women's shelter site and meal provider for the Outreach Center and HIV/AIDS care program. The church also helped develop low-income seniors housing on its property. He has been active in ecumenical and interfaith affairs, helping organize Island-wide

Christian Unity and Lenten services as well as the interfaith *Staten Island Community Days* which has congregations of all faiths working together for a weekend of good works. Mrs. MacCallum, recently retired as an assistant high school principal, has worked tirelessly to forge the Olivet congregation's partnership with Project Hospitality in the shelter and feeding ministries of the church.

Monsignor John T. Servodidio, pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, received the *Eleanor & Paul Proske Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to the Poor* for his life-long concern and action on behalf of the poor, the disabled and ill, and victims of injustice. Currently a member of the Board of Visitors of the Staten Island Developmental Center, he has also provided leadership for Catholic Charities, St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, and the NYC Commission on Human Rights, among many others.

Laray Brown, a Senior Vice President of the NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation, was honored with the *Award for Distinguished Community Service* in appreciation of her efforts to open the *Community Health Center of Richmond*, a new health clinic on Staten Island's North Shore. Ms. Brown spearheaded a borough-wide coalition to identify unmet health needs that led to opening the clinic and launching *Staten Island Health Access* to provide coverage for uninsured working poor and immigrants.



- Photo courtesy Staten Island Advance

Rev. **Terry Troia**, staff members **Kimberly Slater** and the Rev. **Brent Backofen**, and **Gary Rabin**, owner of **Perry's Eatery**, inaugurate **Food First Campaign** food service.

FOOD FIRST CAMPAIGN HELPS KEEP MEALS ON THE TABLE

Asking restaurateurs and caterers to prepare meals to be served as lunch at Project Hospitality's HIV/AIDS care center, a new effort called the **Food First Campaign**, funded by **SI Bank & Trust Foundation**, began over the summer. In the midst of financial cutbacks, the campaign seeks to make sure that some of those most vulnerable to poor nutrition will continue to receive the meals they need. Such meals are one of the most important ways, along with housing and medical care, to keep people living with HIV/AIDS healthy. Participating restaurants so far include:

- Angelina's Restaurant
- Buona Pasta
- Burrito Bar
- Canlon's Restaurant
- Casa Milla Ristorante
- Ciro Pizza Café
- Da Noi Restaurant
- Denino's Pizzeria & Tavern
- Dock's Clam Bar
- Dug Out Pub
- Esca Restaurant
- Espana Restaurant
- Guido's Pizza
- Jimmy Max
- Jody's Club Forest
- Li Greci's Staaten
- Mike's Olympic Grill
- My Girls Grille
- Nucci's
- Perry's Eatery & Catering
- Richmond Diner
- Trattoria Amici

Food establishments interested in taking part in the Food First Campaign should call (718) 448-1544, ext. 115.

GOOD NEWS FOR EYEOPENERS YOUTH ANTIVIOLENCE PROGRAM

A citywide competition led to a \$25,000 award from the **New York Life Foundation** for the support of the **EyeOpeners Youth Antiviolence Program**. The award is for incorporating cultural diversity and leadership development in a youth program. EyeOpeners joins youth of many backgrounds together in group building and civic activities. It grew out of a concern in the community about growing intra-group violence. EyeOpeners is part of El Centro de Hospitalidad, a community center for Latino day laborers and their families which is a joint effort of the **Latino Civic Association**, **Project Hospitality**, and **St. Mary of the Assumption RC Church**.

CONGRESSMAN VITO FOSSELLA, COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE QUINN, & FEDERAL OFFICIALS VISIT PROJECT HOSPITALITY



The Reverend **Terry Troia**, Representative **Vito Fossella**, and Deputy Secretary **Roy A. Bernardi** of the US Department of Housing & Urban Development with symbolic check representing funds for New York City from the **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS** program y for homeless housing for people living with HIV/AIDS.



New York City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn** stands with Councilman **Michael McMahon** on visit to Project Hospitality's Community Services Center to tour food pantry, soup kitchen, and HIV/AIDS nutrition program.



Rev. **Terry Troia** with visitors from the U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, the NYC Department of Health, and the Health Research Services Administration at the food pantry.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR PROJECT HOSPITALITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS; SIXTH TO SERVE



Beverly Garcia-Anderson, new president of Project Hospitality, prepares to speak at the Shelter from the Storm Spring Luncheon in March 2006

Beverly Garcia-Anderson, a prominent New York educator, was installed in April as the sixth president of the Project Hospitality Board of Directors. Ms. Garcia-Anderson is the first woman to hold the office. She replaces **Donald E. Reilly** who is retiring as president after sixteen years and will remain on the board, focusing on development and fundraising.

Ms. Garcia-Anderson has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Project Hospitality board for five years and has been chair of the board's Program Committee, giving her an intimate knowledge of client program needs.

Ms. Garcia-Anderson comes to the position with many years of experience as a high-level administrator in the New York City schools and as a civic-minded Staten Islander. Presently a consultant for start-up and conversion high schools, she retired from the NYC Board of Education after serving as deputy superintendent of Community School District 15, principal of Ralph R. McKee High School and previously of East New York Family Academy, as well as other classroom and administrative positions. She also serves on the boards of Skylight Center, the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, and the Friends of the College of Staten Island.



Project Hospitality consumers and community supporters, joined by members of the Faith In Action group from Pella IA, rally across from the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in support of continued funding levels for HIV/AIDS services.

CONTINUED EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN RYAN WHITE FUNDING FOR HIV/AIDS CARE

Visits to legislative offices, walks to Washington DC, letter-writing campaigns, and rallies have continued over the last year in the hope that funding levels for HIV/AIDS care in New York will not be reduced during the reauthorization process for the Ryan White CARE Act. **Because of attempts to reallocate funding, as much as \$24 million is at stake statewide.** The changes would also affect how funds can be used, drastically curtailing support services that are essential for keeping infected persons alive. Congress is expected to act on this legislation during the next two or three weeks. Congressman **Vito Fossella** organized the New York

delegation in the House to vote against the changes. Senator **Charles Schumer** and Senator **Hillary Clinton** also oppose the changes, and calls are being made to them to stop the bill as written in the Senate. The Reverend **Terry Troia**, Executive Director of Project Hospitality, believes that "The language of the reauthorization leaves people out, and it will cost lives. Many of our HIV/AIDS care programs will be devastated. Also, it unfairly penalizes states like New York that have done so much over the years."

ISLAND CLERGY THANKED FOR SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY SHELTERS



Reggie Miller of the **Partnership for the Homeless** meets with and thanks clergy leaders whose congregations host and support Project Hospitality's emergency shelters located at Christ Episcopal Church, Holy Rosary RC Church, Olivet Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. Joachim/St. Ann's RC Church, St. Philip's Baptist Church, and the Unitarian Church of SI. If you want to know more about hosting a shelter, call the Rev. Terry Troia at (718) 448-1544, ext. 103.

FAITH IN ACTION VOLUNTEER GROUPS COME FROM NEAR AND FAR TO HELP



- Photo courtesy Staten Island Advance

Volunteer honorees, from left, Wendy White, Angelo Farciert, the Revs. Andrew Meckstroth & Lynette Delbridge (with their daughters), Eunice Hodge, Kelcey Stack, and Ramon Nunez.

PROJECT HOSPITALITY CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS

Over 200 people gathered at Temple Israel on Sunday, June 11, to celebrate the difference that volunteers can make in the lives of Staten Island families who don't have enough to eat or are not adequately housed.

The recipient of the **Brenda Clarke Memorial Volunteer Service Award** this year was **Eunice Hodge**, who often volunteers four days a week to keep the emergency food pantry shelves stocked and in good order. The **Project Hospitality Group Volunteer Award** went to the **Staten Island Moravian Churches**. The churches have a community garden where they grow fresh produce for Project Hospitality. They also conduct clothing distributions and prepare meals.

The **Project Hospitality Youth Service Award** was presented to the **Air Force Junior ROTC** of the **Michael J. Petrides School**. The unit serves meals, conducts supermarket food drives, and helps out at special events. The **Eye Openers Leadership Award** went to **Angelo Farciert**, a student at Susan Wagner High School, for his leadership in the Eye Openers Youth Against Violence Organization. The **Paul Browning Peer Outreach & Education Team Excellence Award** was presented to **Ramon Nunez** for his continuing volunteer efforts in support of El Centro de Hospitalidad.

Special recognition was given to long-term volunteer intern, **Wendy White**, from the Reformed Church in America Adventures in Mission program, and to **Kelcey Stack** on assignment to Project Hospitality through the Americorps VISTA program.

Coming Home, the Newsletter of Project Hospitality, is published on a seasonal basis, and is available free of charge. Please call (718) 448-1544, ext. 115, or contact us at the address below, if you have any comments or questions about items appearing in the newsletter or wish to be placed on the mailing list.

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Beverly Garcia-Anderson, President
Reverend Terry Troia, Executive Director

Project Hospitality's *Faith In Action* program, sponsored by the **Reformed Church in America**, continues to attract volunteer groups from all around the country to spend a week helping in a variety of ways. Volunteers prepare and serve meals; stock shelves and assist shoppers in the food pantry; paint, clean, and do light maintenance work all around the agency; fix up apartments and help with client moves; help with recreation in the family shelter; and more as need arises. Some groups have talents or skills that allow for special projects, such as building cabinets, or providing musical entertainment.

Through workshops, conducted by our **Peer Outreach & Education Team**, the visiting groups learn about issues such as hunger, homelessness, poverty, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse. There is also time to explore the great urban context of New York City in which we work.

We thank these groups who have recently taken part in the *Faith In Action* program:

American Reformed Church (Orange City IA)
Blessed Sacrament R. C. Church (Erie PA)
Church of the Nativity (Huntsville AL)
Cranesville Reformed Church (Amsterdam NY)
Firestone Park Presbyterian Church (Akron OH)
Good News Presbyterian Parish (Columbiana OH)
Grand Valley State University (Allendale MI)
Michigan State University (East Lansing MI)
New Era Reformed Church (New Era MI)
North Park Reformed Church (Kalamazoo MI)
Pitcher Hill Community Church (North Syracuse NY)
Pultneyville Reformed Church (Williamson NY)
Second Congregational Church (West Newton MA)
Second Reformed Church (Pella IA)
University of Scranton (Scranton PA)
University of South Florida (Tampa FL)



Faith In Action volunteers from North Park Reformed Church getting ready to serve lunch at soup kitchen.

To find out more about the Faith In Action program call **Wendy White**, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at (718) 448-1544, ext. 165, or go to the volunteer section of our website at www.projecthospitality.org.