

Northern Home

FOR CHILDREN

Since 1853

CELEBRATING CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

FOSTERING HOPE

Shawnette Fleming is one remarkable woman. Shawnette, a divorced mother of three biological children, one adopted child, and one child for whom she recently received permanent legal custody, has been a dedicated foster parent for Northern Home for over 7 years now and does not regret a single day of it. When asked how she decided to become a foster parent she replied, "I love children and many of my friends were encouraging me and saying that I would be a great foster parent. I felt so bad for the children I saw on the news and thought they deserved to have a good parent, even if it was just temporary." In 2004, after being a foster parent for just a year, she decided to adopt Aniyah, whom she had received when she was just 4 months old. She adopted Aniyah at the age of two and she is now a happy, healthy 6-year-old who is full of life and energy. Over the years, Shawnette has fostered over 15 children for varying lengths of time. Fleming explained, "Fostering children for multiple years can be tough. You get very attached to



Aniyah and Shawnette.

them. I feel that this is why many people are hesitant about becoming a foster parent. But I am happy I am able to help and care for them for the time they are with me." Many of the children she has received have only been a couple days, weeks, or months old.

In 2008, another special little girl came into Shawnette's life. Christianna came to stay with Fleming when she was just over a year old because her mother could not take care of her. Shawnette cared for her like her own for over 2 years and on January 14th, 2011, she was happy to announce she received permanent legal custody

of Christianna. In addition to being a parent and foster parent, Shawnette also works full time as an accountant for Soroptomist International, an organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. We are so lucky that Shawnette has begun to serve on the Board of Trustees at Northern Home. Shawnette has an incredibly big heart and cares for each child as though they were her own. We cannot thank her and all of our foster parents enough for what they do.

**Southeastern Pennsylvania
United Way Donor Option
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Northern Home's Mother/Baby Program is affectionately called "Generations." The name signifies how this program intervenes in the lives of young mothers and impacts their families for generations to come. These young women come

to us after having suffered abuse and neglect in their natural environments and receive guidance and support that is critically needed. Unfortunately, there is a growing population of these teenage mothers and Northern Home is now positioning itself to be able to expand the program on our beautiful campus.

Northern Home's professional and lay leadership have made a commitment to remain on our Roxborough campus and to invest in our infrastructure to ensure that we continue to provide a safe haven of support for the community in years to come. Currently Merrick Hall, the oldest building on campus, is in a critical state of disrepair. The expansion of the Generations Program and the growing needs of our consumers, have made Merrick Hall the ideal location for this program expansion.

In order to accomplish the total renovation of Merrick Hall, we

are about to embark on a Capital Campaign, with Merrick at the forefront of our immediate fundraising efforts. To spearhead the campaign, Northern Home for Children has chosen a fundraising professional with over 20 years of experience to join our team. Karen Krebs-Wellerstein brings a wealth of fundraising experience to Northern Home and has accepted the challenge of leading this process. Karen is currently assessing our capacity and making recommendations for moving forward. We fully expect that we will achieve our goal of providing a new facility on this campus that will allow us to expand our current Generations I program. If you are in the vicinity, we encourage you to visit our campus and speak with Karen about the plans for this facility.

Northern Home for Children will continue to be an agency that identifies and responds to the needs of the community. As its founding charter indicated, 'children in need are a concern for all.' Neglecting these children can and will have a far-reaching impact on society as a whole. We will continue to stay true to our mission of providing safety and security to children who need our support. We welcome your participation in this effort.

Tracey Lavallias, President and CEO

BECK INITIATIVE SELECTS NORTHERN HOME FOR CHILDREN

On Tuesday, December 14th, Northern Home for Children hosted a kick-off luncheon to welcome the Beck Initiative and to begin the implementation of the cognitive therapy model in our outpatient program. Northern Home is honored to have been selected as one of the first agencies to take part in child expansion of the Beck Initiative, a partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and the University of Pennsylvania. The Beck Initiative is an innovative, team-oriented approach to advance the quality of care provided to persons served within the Department of Behavioral Health system. The Beck Initiative places therapeutic tools in the hands of the clinicians through intensive training and ongoing supervision. The program partners include Aaron T. Beck, the founder of Cognitive Therapy, his research group at the University of Pennsylvania, the Center for the Prevention and

Treatment of Suicide, and DBH/MRS.

Northern Home staff will be implementing the Cognitive Therapy Model during individual and family therapy sessions under the direction of Dr. Natalie Bilynsky, Clinical Director, and Dr. Krista Mancarella, Director of Partial and Outpatient Programs. The goal of the initiative is to provide consumers who are in need of mental health treatment access to professionally delivered evidence based treatment. "It is very exciting that Northern Home for Children was selected among the first of the children's agencies to be trained in Cognitive Therapy by the experts and leaders in the field," said Bilynsky.

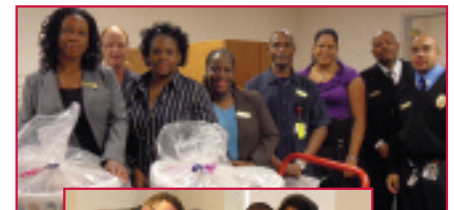
To find out more about the Beck Initiative visit: <http://www.dbhmrs.org/the-beck-initiative>



Lakash

Shire

Thank you to all who helped support our 2010 *Thanksgiving Basket* and *Adopt a Child* holiday gift collections. With your kindness and generosity we were able to donate over 275 Thanksgiving baskets to the families we serve. In addition, we were able to provide over 2,500 gifts to children who would not otherwise have had the excitement of opening holiday packages. We truly appreciate your caring and support and we wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year!



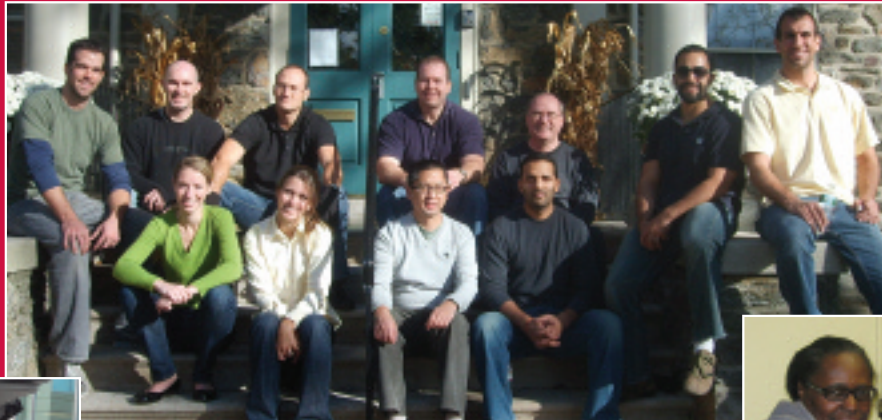
Gap

Philadelphia Downtown Marriott

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE! THANKS FOR CARING ABOUT OUR KIDS!

(R.) **Ally Financial** volunteers spent their day of caring sorting and organizing donations on our campus.

(Below) **Ally** employees gathered 772 pounds of food for our Thanksgiving Basket collection.



Prudential Fox and Roach spent their annual day of caring pruning, planting and making our campus look beautiful!



U-Store It volunteers spent the day on our campus cleaning, prepping and painting new offices for our development team.

Thank you **Timberlane** Middle School students for nearly 130 holiday gifts for our children!



Thank you to the entire **Unisys** team for collecting over 150 gifts for our children this holiday season!



Thank you to **Wawa** employees who collected over 75 holiday gifts for our children!

Thank you to **Murray Kia** for the generous donation of coats for our children.



Thank you **PAIAPP** for the wonderful holiday party for our kids!



The **Gallagher Benefits** team spent the day on our campus cleaning our kitchen, sorting donations, and distributing holiday gifts.

To view photos of all of our volunteers, please visit our website at www.northernhome.org.

BRIGHTENING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

What once was a long, dark, cold “tunnel” connecting the buildings on our campus is now a bright, warm, safe breezeway — thanks to the kindness and talent of Lakash Constructors Inc. The Ambler-based construction company, comprised of Neil Dolinsky, Brian Huber, and Steve Milliken, is no stranger to supporting Northern Home; however, this time they wanted to do something different. Dolinsky, Huber, and Milliken came to Northern Home back in September to discuss ways in which they could become more involved and how they could use their construction skills to help make the campus better for our children and staff. “We recognized that we had the capability and the means to do this and Northern Home needed it done,” said Milliken. After discussing multiple construction projects with Dan Trent, Director of Buildings and Grounds at Northern Home, they came to the agreement that the “tunnel” would be the best



L. to r.: Brian Huber, Steve Milliken and Neil Dolinsky of Lakash Constructors.

project. “This is a project that we have wanted to do for some time now but we never had the funds or the resources” said Trent. The plexi-glass windows that line the breezeway had not been replaced for over 30 years and the film on the glass greatly darkened the path-

way, making it seem more like a tunnel. Lakash, along with the help of Robert Sean Construction, Olde City Millwork, Philadelphia Fire Retardant, and Tanglewood, donated their time and materials to remove and replace 54 plexi-glass windows, install four new security doors. They will also be putting a fresh coat of paint on the entire breezeway. The dark tunnel has now been transformed into a welcoming, safe path for hundreds of children and staff who pass through daily. “We feel that we have been blessed and this was just the right thing to do”, said Milliken. Thank you Lakash Constructors from all of us at Northern Home. You have truly brightened the lives of the children we serve!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL NORTHERN HOME BENEFIT GOLF OUTING

Tuesday September 27, 2011 • Philadelphia Cricket Club

For more information and pricing, please contact:
Donna Bolno at 215.482.1423 Ext. 1216 or e-mail dbolno@northernhome.org

www.northernhome.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP



TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send your tax deductible contributions to:
Northern Home for Children, 5301 Ridge Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19128, Attn: Karen Krebs-Wellerstein.

Or visit our website at www.northernhome.org.

REMEMBER NORTHERN HOME IN YOUR WILL!

To leave a bequest in your will and leave a permanent legacy in your name, please contact Karen Krebs-Wellerstein, Director of Development by mail, e-mail, or phone:

Karen Krebs-Wellerstein, Director of Development
kwellerstein@northernhome.org • 215-482-1423 ext. 1164

Please come for a visit!

Northern Home
FOR CHILDREN

Founded 1853

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Northern Home for Children is to foster the development of self confidence, resiliency and other life skills in at-risk children, youth and their families primarily through the provision of behavioral health, child welfare and preventive services.

Follow us:



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Northern Home for Children

Newsletter Editor

Mary Fran Riffel

For further information:
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