



St. Luke's Shelter

YEAR END APPEAL

December 13, 2007

Dear Friends,

For a transitional shelter, St. Luke's Shelter has quite a bit of permanency. Yes, its residents come and go, most measuring their stays in months. The same is true of some of its supporters, who move onto new cities and opportunities. But for a handful of people, the Shelter is anything but temporary: it is an ongoing cause to which they dedicate their time, material and financial support.



Shelter supporters gathered at the Savoy for our 15th Anniversary Gala.

If you were at the Shelter's 15th anniversary gala at The Savoy in October, you saw many of those committed volunteers in attendance. Or maybe you just saw their raised hands, when I asked who had been involved with the shelter for at least 10 years. Given the rapid pace of Washington life, and the changes that have occurred in the life of the Shelter since its creation, it's all the more remarkable that many of the hands that went in the air belonged to people who are still among our most active volunteers.

Not all of the people in room knew each other, or had even met before. But the Shelter's volunteers, who come from many backgrounds and perspectives, had this much in common: they believe in the Shelter's mission, and in the staff and residents who try to move it forward.

Some of our long-time volunteers have devoted themselves to specific tasks: Bobbie Carr's work scheduling dinner volunteers, or Susan Lepper's efforts in building support in and around Glover Park. Then there are people like former Community Advisory Council chair June Kress, who has filled just about every need, from fundraising to diplomacy. "Time after time, and way after way, June was able to see that those relationships were smoothed," Lepper told the anniversary gathering. The work of volunteers—and the Shelter's dedicated staff—help create a stable environment in which our residents can go about the work of transforming their lives.

Perhaps that's one reason former residents come back to help celebrate the Shelter's achievements, as they did in October. The three men who spoke at the gala each had different stories, but they all credited St. Luke's for being a turning point in their journeys.



Richard Frazier, former Shelter resident and current owner of "Georgie Porgie's" restaurant, with 3-year-old son Gabriel, shares his thanks for the Shelter and its supporters.

Helping men journey out of homelessness since 1991

A truly great thing about the Shelter's supporters is that they help bring in new volunteers while welcoming back old friends. At the anniversary gala, there was Kory Burkley, a new member of the Community Advisory Council, who currently spends one night a month staffing the shelter as an overnight volunteer. But at the same time there was John Marshall, a retired public health service official who spent hours renovating the original shelter space, making sure that it could open that first winter season. There was Kory Burkley, a new member of the Community Advisory Council, who currently spends one night a month staffing the shelter as an overnight volunteer. Another old friend, Robert Brewer, the Shelter's first paid employee, marveled at what a program born of the efforts of a few has become: "This ward has done something," he said.

With your help, support and prayers, we continue to do something for homeless men in our community. As I told the crowd gathered at the Savoy, "You are the lifeblood of the Shelter." We thank you for your dedication and generosity.

As we embark on another year of touching lives in our community, we invite you to continue partnering with us in the journey. Your support truly does make a difference in people's lives.

Peace and Blessings,

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

Shalom Mulkey
Shelter Director