



Shelter Stories

Offering transitional shelter and life-reclaiming support to people experiencing homelessness

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. LUKE'S SHELTER

FALL 2007

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Richard's Restaurant

As a senior at Maryland's Bishop McNamara High School in 1987, Richard Frazier was voted "Most Likely to Need Help in 1988" by his peers. The title offended him then, but doesn't now.

"Everybody needs help," he says. "No matter how hopeless it seems, always give back help."

Frazier and his classmates were correct—his academic career was lackluster, thanks in large part to a drinking habit that began at 13. He enlisted in the Army and trained to be a helicopter pilot, but was released from the service just before the 1990 Gulf War.

He spent two years on the streets, using alcohol and drugs, until a fellow addict told him about a Veterans Administration in-patient treatment program. "It worked wonders," he says, and after he wound up as one of the earliest residents of St. Luke's Shelter, newly established in the church's basement.

Frazier says that the shelter's rules

ALL IN ORDER: Former resident Frazier found his calling in food service.

about saving money and staying clean appealed to him, and he credits several people, including volunteer Susan Lepper and then-staffer Robert Brewer, with aiding his recovery. But in early 1993 he returned to some of his old haunts. On February 14, he relapsed, and St. Luke's showed him the door. Frazier is glad it happened, because it reinforced the lesson of personal responsibility.

"St. Luke's felt that I was special enough to provide me with a space in their shelter and to hold me accountable for my actions," he says.

Frazier found a bed at a Georgetown church, stayed clean and eventually got a

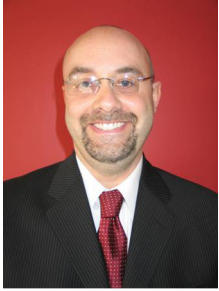
job working at Thomas Sweet, an ice cream shop along Wisconsin Avenue. Among his co-workers was his future wife. He was hired away by a regular customer who ran a restaurant, and he found a niche. "I'm a pretty decent cook, but I don't have a passion for it," Frazier says. "I have a passion for people."

In December 2004 he bought a restaurant in Prince George's County and opened a pizza shop. That business failed, but he had another idea: a place that served home-style food like macaroni and cheese. Last December, he opened Georgie Porgie's. His 3-year-old son, Gabriel, spends some afternoons there.

Frazier plans to attend the shelter's 15th anniversary celebration on October 24 and also to become a dinner volunteer by delivering meals from his restaurant. "I've always wanted to give back," he says. "There's absolutely no way I'd be here without the help and support of others."

—Story and photograph by Derek Willis

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Pastor's Message

As pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church here in Glover Park, I am excited to be a part of the St. Luke's Shelter 15th Anniversary Gala, Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

"Gimme Shelter" will be a joyous cocktail reception and celebration to mark our 15 years of helping people rebuild their lives here in the Washington D.C. area.

The event will include a silent auction, musical entertainment, and a short program recognizing the contributions of volunteers and shelter supporters.

Generously hosted by the Georgetown Savoy, "Gimme Shelter" will feature the outstanding musical talents of legendary composer, arranger, educator, lecturer, performer, and director of the

World Music Ensemble, Brother Ah. Brother Ah has performed with such jazz greats as Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Sun Ra, McCoy Tyner, Max Roach, John Lewis and many others.

A graduate of Howard University, Brother Ah also studied at the Vienna State Academy of Music in Vienna, Austria and the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

We eagerly look forward to Brother Ah and his World Music Ensemble Quartet sharing their gifts and performing for the "Gimme Shelter" Benefit this month.

Please come out to support this worthy endeavor and bring a friend along. May God richly bless you and keep you.

—Rev. Doug Todak

ST. LUKE'S SHELTER

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Shelter Stories is published quarterly.

Editor: Margaret Guroff
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How to Contribute

Along with participating in the Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 17—see our website at www.stlukesshelter.org for details—you can help St. Luke's Shelter by donating meals, time, or money. Here are some easy ways to contribute:

- Through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for federal employees. **Please note that we have a new CFC number this year: 50532.**

- Make a contribution by check or online with a credit card at our website, www.stlukesshelter.org.

- Shop online at iGive.com and a percentage of your sale can be donated to St. Luke's Shelter.

- Share your wisdom by teaching shelter residents about a life skill.

- Become an overnight volunteer and spend a Saturday night in the staff suite at the shelter.

- Drop off a hot meal for seven (six residents and one staff member) at the shelter.

For more information on giving, please contact Shalom Mulkey, shelter director at 202-337-4275 or shalom@stlukesshelter.org.

Sweet Dreams

Just when we thought construction was complete at St. Luke's Shelter, Bill Davies, a Glover Park resident and general contractor with BDC Construction, stopped by the shelter seeking volunteer opportunities. We found a way to put him and his crew to work!

For years, in the old shelter and in the renovated shelter, we have wanted to build permanent partitions in the sleeping area for our residents to afford them more privacy. With a rough design sketched five years ago by volunteer Dennis Soiberman and fine-tuned for our new space by Rosie Aguilera from Monarc Construction, Bill and his crew had a blueprint to make our vision a reality.

Using materials purchased through a grant from the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C., Bill and his employee Jerman spent 10 days working on- and off-

site to create a new living environment for residents. Now, each resident has a seven-by-eight-foot semi-private space to use as his own.

If you're curious about how you can use your special skills to help the shelter, please contact me at shalom@stlukesshelter.org.

—Shalom Mulkey



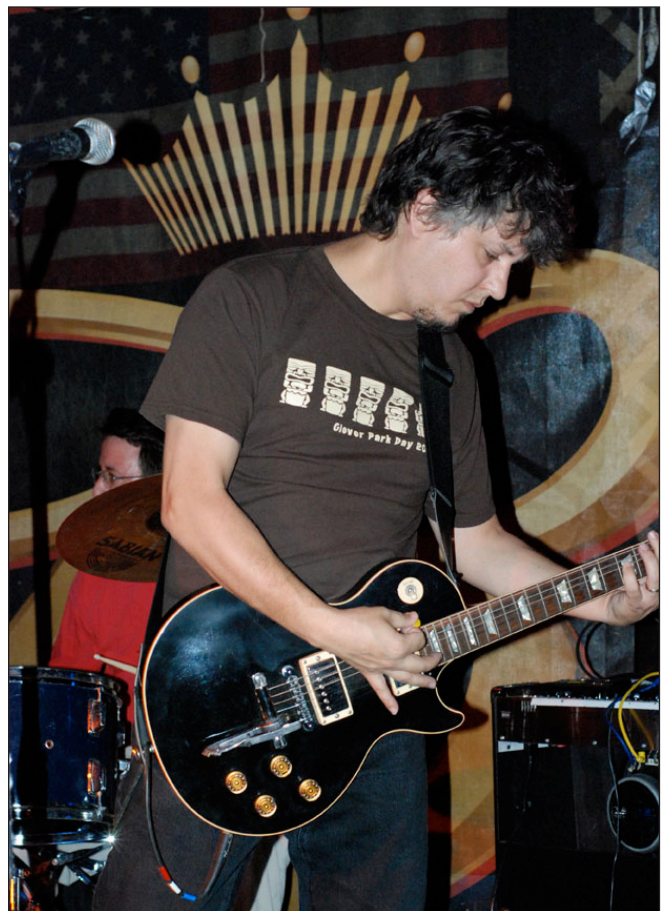
*WORK IN PROGRESS:*Ten days of volunteer labor created sleeping partitions—and dignifying privacy—for shelter residents.

Fall Fun

It has been a busy autumn for shelter supporters. The annual Labor Day picnic brought together 50 shelter staffers, residents, friends and supporters for barbecued main dishes and potluck-style side dishes and desserts.

And about 75 fans of the shelter and/or rock music turned out for Charm Aid 2007, a fundraiser held in mid-September at Grog & Tankard on Wisconsin Avenue. The Drive-In, an alt-country band featuring local dads Dean Hill, Matt Langan, and Rick Schneider, opened the show. Then came The Charm Offensive, featuring Glover Park native Geordie Grindle on guitar (and newsletter editor Meg Guroff on bass). In all, the event raised more than \$600 for shelter programs.

GARDEN OF DELIGHTS: Below left, Residential Supervisor Saeed Woodall takes in the scenery at the shelter's Labor Day picnic. Below, guitarist Geordie Grindle of The Charm Offensive (with drummer Alex Daniels in the background) rocks against homelessness at Charm Aid 2007.



15th Anniversary Gala

Help us celebrate 15 years of service by attending our anniversary gala on Wednesday, October 24 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Savoy Suites Hotel, 2505 Wisconsin Avenue. Tickets start at \$25, and the last day to order is Monday, October 22. (To read about our featured performer, the jazz great Brother Ah, see the Pastor's Message, page 2). Delicious food and a silent auction featuring donations from local merchants and other supporters should make for a festive evening with shelter friends old and new.

For more details, see the shelter's website, www.stlukesshelter.org.

November Walkathon

Each November, thousands gather on the National Mall for a three-mile stroll to raise money and awareness for homeless services programs throughout the region.

Once again, the shelter is participating, and we need your support! The more walkers who designate St. Luke's as their beneficiary, the larger our share of the donations from corporate sponsors.

Please walk with us or sponsor a walker! Details are available at www.stlukesshelter.org.



SAY AH: Composer, flautist, and French horn player Brother Ah has played with jazz greats of the 1950s and 60s. His combo will provide the music for the shelter's 15th anniversary gala on October 24 at the Savoy Suites Hotel.

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St. Luke's Shelter, a collaboration between a community of faith and a community of neighbors, provides life-reclaiming support to homeless individuals.

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