



## GROUP HOME'S HELPING HANDS REACHING OUT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

*MISSION STATEMENT: Our purpose is to offer financial and personal support and encouragement to the unique needs of the residents and the staff at the six Group Homes. Our goal is to have open communication and interaction with the staff. We strive for communication, networking and support of each other as we experience similar life situations. We are committed to promoting the Beverly Farm community to friends, strangers and politicians.*

**Introduction:** This is our first Group Home's Helping Hands *Reaching Out* newsletter which we plan to send out twice a year. The purpose is to reach out to all family and friends who have residents living in any of the Group Homes. We would love to see you at our meetings which are held before the Foundation meeting on Sundays of the Spring and Fall weekends. Previously this group was called "Group Homes Parents' Group." However, due to the uniqueness of our group it was time to make a name change. Many members of the group are parents but others are siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends of our Group Home residents.

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**History:** We want to share some history so that families and friends of residents of the Group Homes are aware how we have evolved over the past 20+ years. When the Group Homes first opened there were two Parent Groups split by Group Homes 1-3 and 4-6. Each group had their own treasury and officers. At some point the Group Home staff asked that we combine the Parent Groups since some had responsibility for Group Homes in each Parent Group. Our

treasuries were combined and new officers elected (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer.) Each officer serves a two year term with the Vice President taking over the President's position and a new Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer elected every two years. Typically our elections take place at the Spring meeting and become effective in the Fall.

Our current officers took over effective 10/09:  
President: Glenn Tiller  
gstiller@charter.net  
Vice President: Willie Herndon  
314-727-7255 williamsherndon@hotmail.com  
Secretary/Treasurer: Shawn Durand  
812-230-3433 durand5@aol.com

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**Purpose and Accomplishments:** Our Mission Statement above outlines the purpose of our group. However, with that purpose comes a dedication to supporting our residents, the Group Homes' staff and Beverly Farm. We look to the staff to make us aware of any unique needs of the Group Homes that are above and beyond the budget allowed by Beverly Farm.

Also, family members and friends try to be attentive to the needs of the Group Homes.

Sometimes our accomplishments are small like purchasing soup spoons for a Group Home to help those residents with physical challenges. A larger issue was identifying the need for better outdoor lighting along the walkway. We were able to work with Beverly Farm and have it come out of their budget. Another identified need subsequently picked up by Beverly Farm is the storage sheds. When the Group Homes were first built the storage space in them quickly became overburdened. We identified that issue and Beverly Farm agreed to purchase the sheds.

At a more personal level, the group has sponsored 2-3 residents to attend Camp Beverly for the past few years. The staff identifies the residents in need and rotates their attendance. Also, we have always tried to support the Group Homes' staff in some way. We tried attendance and performance incentives previously but decided the past few years to provide a \$25 Gift Card to each of the 56 staff members at Thanksgiving. Our feedback has been very positive!

Group Homes' Staff create a "Wish List" every Spring and Fall. These are items that are worn out and need replaced, activity items for the residents or simple things like Crock Pots. We review the Wish List and people donate the extra money to purchase the items, state they will purchase them or we vote to pay out of our treasury. At our Fall Meeting attendees covered the \$1,390 Wish List.

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**Finances:** Money is never an easy subject to discuss since we all have obligations above and beyond the Group Homes. Our treasury is managed by the accounting team at Beverly

Farm and all dues and donations are totally tax deductible. Voluntary dues are \$50 for each resident per year. However, paying dues is not a requirement to attend and participate in our meetings. Additional donations are appreciated since expenses are always more than we expect. The President approves larger expenses that may come up between meetings. Typically expenses for smaller items are purchased by the staff on a trust basis. The invoice is turned in for bookkeeping purposes. A full accounting is presented at each Spring and Fall meeting.

Treasury status as of October 2009:

Spring balance \$1,693

Current balance: \$1,821

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**Thank you for being part of Beverly Farm and trusting the Group Homes' staff to care for your resident. If you have any questions you can contact the Helping Hands contacts below:**

Group Home 1:

Nada Carrigan/Kara Foster/Lana Vehovc  
217-498-0157/217-306-8352/217-546-1080  
carrigan@att.com

vehovcl@clinicalradiologist.com

Group Home 2:

Yolanda Castro  
618-466-0378 (ask for GH 2)  
grouphome2@beverlyfarm.org

Group Home 3:

Shawn Durand  
812-230-3433 durand5@aol.com

Group Home 4:

Willie Herndon  
812-230-3433 williamsherndon@hotmail.com

Group Home 5:

Terry Carlton  
270-575-9383 tcarlton@bellsouth.net

Group Home 6:

Virginia and Conrado Abinajos  
314-882-4000 VFA789@yahoo.com

*Newsletter created and edited by:  
Lana Vehovc, Kara Foster, Nada Carrigan*

**Minutes from Fall Meeting October 4, 2009**

“Group Home Helping Hands”

Minutes Submitted by Shawn Durand

Glenn Tiller (President) and Willie Herndon (VP) opened the meeting. Did not have minutes or treasury report available so we tabled that and decided that we would email them to everyone. (Check the website instead the minutes are now posted there.) We were asked to verify our emails. Introductions of staff and families.

Rachel gave GH updates

Group Home updates-

- No mandatory overtime
- GH 3 and 4 had public health survey, which had a couple of issues that have been taken care of
- College of Independence will be reinstated, but only 6 residents can go.
- Computers may be available soon for the residents
- Red Hat Ladies chapter is active

Thank you to Carlton’s for the wonderful lunch we had at GH 3. Update on Board from Dave and Ed. Bike storage conversation (again)

Rachel looking into possibilities.

Wish list for Group Homes- 10 families covered the entire \$1,390 list. Thank you for your generosity.

New Business:

- Computer discussion from Glenn
  - Website- Group Home Helping Hands (we are there, please check for minutes.
  - Possible Newsletter to Group Home Families. Minutes would be included. History of Group Homes and this group. Share and exchange ideas.
  - Dues \$50 year. Financial Support is only one way for you to be involved in the Group Home Helping Hands
- 6 Volunteers, one for each GH
1. Nada Carrigan, Lana Vehovc, Kara Foster, 2. Yolanda,
  3. Shawn Durand, 4. Willie Herman, 5. Terry Carlton, 6. Virginia and Conrado Abinajos

*HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
AND BEST  
WISHES FOR  
A GREAT  
2010!*