

Yo Wazzup



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Finding Stability at Hope House II

By Sarah Bennett
Communications Assistant

Rhonda Sommerville was living with three of her children at her mother's house, but she knew she would have to leave before winter.

"My mother didn't really put me and my children out, she just doesn't have a furnace," Sommerville said. "She doesn't have heat."

After repeatedly calling 2-1-1, Delaware's information and referral service for people seeking shelter and other social services, she was able to move into Hope House II in November 2016. Since moving in, she has obtained employment; she works at a temp agency, she's a certified flagger, and she works as a housekeeper at Hotel DuPont. She is saving her money to buy a house for herself and her children.

"When I first got here, it was rough. It was really rough. Not only for me, but for my boys, because this is something that teenage boys don't want to go through. This is embarrassing for teenage boys," Sommerville said. "I am grateful for a program like this because it not only puts some stability within me and my children, but it made me introduce to them the type of guidelines that we have to abide by no matter where we are."

Sommerville appreciates her case manager, Holly. Not only does Holly give good advice, but she makes herself available just to talk. "She's very supportive," Sommerville said.

When asked about her future goals, Sommerville replied that she wants to get to "the point where I can make the right choices, so I will not see myself back here again. ... I want to go back to school for forensics."

She also hopes to obtain her driver's license this year.

"I wish there were more programs like this," Sommerville said. "The Ministry of Caring, to my knowledge, is the best program in the tri-state area. Because they have so many different other pockets of programs that will help each individual try to maintain and be successful, being able to sustain on their own."



Rhonda Sommerville came to Hope House II in 2016

News and Notes

- **Chef Xavier Teixido** and his family marked their 30th annual International Night Spanish dinner last month. News Journal reporter Patricia Talorico was there, and raved about the paella in the March 9 issue of the newspaper.



- The **Milk Run/Walk 5k** will be held May 13 at Middletown High School. Please note this is a change from the original date and location. The race benefits EDR. More information is available at www.races2run.com.
- **Raffle tickets** for the Emmanuel Dining Room Auction are available now! Tickets cost \$100 each, and the grand prize is \$10,000. If you'd like to purchase one individually or as a group, contact EDR associate program director Dorine Menchhofer at 652-3228.
- **The Appreciation Dinner** will be held Thursday, April 27, at Talleyville Fire Company Memorial Hall, 3919 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803. At this event, MOC staff, especially those celebrating milestone anniversaries, are celebrated. Contact chairperson Marie Keefer with any questions at mkeefe@mistryofcaring.org.

Lighter Snow Brings Donations

When a major snowstorm is forecasted, Delmarva Power prepares for the worst. Preparations include sleeping arrangements and food for staff during the few days after the emergency as the line crews work around the clock to get power back to customers. One recent snowstorm was less severe than anticipated and the line crews finished repairs quickly. The extra food ordered was donated by Delmarva Power to the Ministry of Caring. Brisket, macaroni and cheese, chickens, green beans, salad and more packed the MOC van. We offer our thanks to Delmarva Power and their caterer, High Point Events!



Bob Egan, President of High Point Events, on right, with assistant at the Delmarva Power Conference Center

Upcoming Birthdays



3/31 -Charnele Glasco	4/24 -LaRonda Savoy
4/3 -Sarah Viscount	4/25 -David Brake
4/6 -Gordon Corbitt	4/26 -Manasia Purnsley
4/11 -Nicole Allen	4/26 -Angela Smith
4/15 -Ashley Quailes	4/26 -Shannon Mayhew
4/16 -Danielle Washington	4/29 -Tricia Clouse
4/20 -Inez Rodriguez	4/29 -Ardella Smith
4/22 -Leonidas Torres	5/2 -Randall Law

In Your Prayers

Please pray for the health of these members of the Ministry of Caring community: ; Fr. John LoSasso, OFM Cap., continues to face health challenges; Gene McLaughlin, a former program director, is ill; Deacon Ed Lynch has been experiencing serious health issues; John Loy, a benefactor, is in poor health; Jim McManus, husband of HOJ II administrative assistant Rosemary McManus, is dealing with health issues; Stan Bartowski, whose wife Marty helps organize the Polish International Night, is suffering from Parkinson's Disease; FXN Chef Bill Bradley's two nephews, Eugene and Sean Bradley, are recovering from a successful kidney transplant; Sr. Bernadette Breen's father is very ill; former employee **Sr. Marie Albert Walsh, OSU**, suffered a fall recently.

Please also pray for those who have died: **Sr. Stephanie Wilson**, OSU, former MOC employee and former Superior of the Ursuline Sisters in Wilmington; **Patricia Knodel**, a former employee who worked as executive secretary and grants coordinator; **Charles Glasco**, father of Sacred Heart Village I housekeeper Charnele Glasco; **Kitty Dedman**, former Guild member; **Riley Boright**, cousin of Sacred Heart Village II manager Sr. Margaret Mary Graney.

Blessed Are Those Who Die in the Lord

Barbara Stewart, Jan. 1; Mary Finlay Rickert, Jan. 13; Fr. Achilles Cassieri, Jan. 19; Peter Emmet Curtin, Jan. 26; Howard Duker, Jan. 31; Charles Thompson, Feb. 1; Wilmer O. Reiter, Feb. 3; James McCole, Feb. 6.; Elijah Carroll, February; Reese Long, Feb. 11; John Edward Dougherty Jr., Feb. 15; Marion Wynder, Feb. 26; **Patricia Knodel**, March 7; **Charles Glasco**, March 13; **Kitty Dedman**, March 13; **Riley Boright**, March 26; **Sr. Stephanie Wilson**, OSU, March 29.



It's a wholesome thing to pray for the dead.



Br. Ronald reads the winning Grand Raffle ticket at the 2016 EDR Auction.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, April 6, 6pm — **Guild Membership Dinner**, Cranston Heights Fire Company Memorial Hall.
- Wednesday, April 27, 5:30pm — **40th Anniversary Appreciation Dinner**, Talleyville Fire Company Memorial Hall.
- Saturday, April 29, 5pm — **EDR Auction**, Barclays Bank.
- Thursday, May 11 — **Recognition Dinner**, Francis X Norton Center.

Staff News

- Pete Kennedy is resigning as Communications Director, effective March 30.
- Rebecca Klug has joined the Ministry of Caring as Communications Director, effective April 3.

Staff Vacancies

- Full-time assistant teacher at CCC
- Full-time teacher at CCC
- Part-time assistant teacher at CCC (afternoon shift)
- Part-time assistant teacher at GACC (Fridays and closing shift Monday – Thursday)
- Part-time curriculum coordinator to support all child care centers
- Part-time cook (weekday hours) at HJ II
- Full-time C.N.A. at HJ II
- Weekend staff persons at HH I and HH II
- Staff assistant at Samaritan Outreach/Distribution Center (part-time one year AmeriCorps service opportunity)
- Substitutes: shelter staff (all), childcare (all) and C.N.A.

**Have news to share?
Want to write for Yo Wazzup?**
Send MOC photos, notes and story ideas to
rklug@ministryofcaring.org.