



# Bethany Hill School Newsletter

89 Bethany Road  
Framingham, MA 01702  
508.875.4663  
Www.bethanyhillschool.org

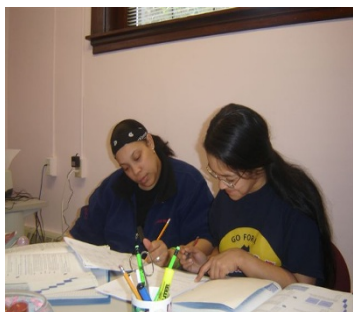
"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world; indeed, that is all that ever has."  
Margaret Meade

The Mission of Bethany Hill School, a living and learning community of neighbors, is to provide affordable, independent housing with educational opportunities within a climate of respect, inclusion and acceptance. Residents are empowered to progress toward their goals and to be their best selves in a safe, supportive environment.

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2008

## You Did It...School is in Session!



Pilly Perez & Pierina DeJesus study for GED

Because of your continued generous support, Bethany Hill School just opened an Adult Learning Center in what used to be Roy's maintenance office. What does this mean to our residents at Bethany Hill School? It means **privacy** as they are learning a second language or struggling

through the difficult lessons required before taking the GED exam. It means that resource and reference materials can be located in one place and not dragged and gathered from many. But more than that, because you, our faithful donors, continue to believe in the mission of Bethany Hill School, it means that the residents feel that they have **dignity** and are **worthwhile!** Your support provides not just the physical construction pieces, but allows new hope to be born in the lives of people desperately trying to make

a new and better life for themselves! Mary Mitchell, assistant to Sr. Denise and tutor extraordinaire, has moved out of the cubby hole she was sharing with a copy machine and into an office/mini-conference room where she can teach and tutor both individually and in small groups. Roy, our maintenance man, now has a converted office/workspace in the hall between Bethany Hill School and St. Joseph Hall.

This great new space was also made possible by the generosity of our friends at TJX Co., Inc.

### Board of Trustees 2008

Catherine Mesner, Chair

Paul Connolly, Vice Chair

Anna M. Edge, CSJ, Sec./ Clerk

James Hanrahan, Director Rep

Ann Colangelo

Maureen Doherty, CSJ

Maryann Enright, CSJ

Blaise Flynn, OP

Donna M. Gallo

David Jackowitz

Robin Johnson

Sean P. O'Beirne

Carol Ann Powers, CSJ

Peggy Rooney, CSJ

Jerome R. Rossi

Peter Papavasiliou

Theresa Jardin, CSJ, Rec. Sec.

### STAFF

Sue Johnson, Reg. Mgr.

Emilie Kaden, Prop Mgr.

Denise Kelly, CSJ, Prog. Dir.

Denise Sheppard, Dir. Of Dev.

## Life After GED

I had the opportunity to speak with one of Bethany Hill School's most recent GED graduates, Walter Bachelder, and ask him about his life before and since arriving at Bethany Hill School. Walter has been at Bethany Hill School since 2002 and is a resident in the New Beginnings, a program for people who have AIDS/ HIV diagnosis. He was referred from a shelter after years of "ripping and running." Originally Walter was simply looking for a place to live and to re-connect with himself. In spite of this his first year was a great struggle. While he knew he wanted to get his GED and set some goals for himself, Walter continued to make excuses about missing tutoring sessions with Sr. Jane. In hindsight, he knew he wasn't really ready. The good news is that neither New Beginnings nor Bethany

Hill School puts residents on a time table for progress. Walter had the time and support that he needed to reach his goals and is incredibly grateful.

After the first year, Walter became stable in recovery and began getting familiar with the programs offered at Bethany Hill School. He also reconnected with his two children, a son and a daughter. His son (31) lives in Maine with his girlfriend and his daughter (32) recently moved to a nearby community with her four children.

When asked about some of his favorite programs at Bethany Hill School, Walter did not hesitate: the financial workshops, and photography, his great hobby. As a result of the series of financial workshops, Walter found out his credit score (which was horrendous!) and learned how to clean it up and to budget his money. He now has good credit, pays his bills on time, and has a credit card.

Walter had been working full time for the past three years at Bickfords, but recently gave up that job to become a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) to one of the housemates in the New Beginning's program. This also is a 40 hour a week position.

I asked Walter what was next for him. He spoke of his desire to attend Mass Bay Community College and study for a career in the health field. He sees this as a way to "give back" for the many blessings that have been given to him. He also spoke of applying for an apartment at Bethany Hill School (but not in New Beginnings). He knows this is his life now, as a part of the BHS community, and these people are his family, the people he loves.

## Reuse, Renew, Recycle



With the coming of Spring, residents began once again to think about their gardens and how they could build upon the successes of last year. The first session of a three-night workshop offered by Sr. Barb Harrington, OP, brought out fourteen residents excited about learning the intricacies of composting and the value it is, not only to the garden, but to the Earth. The session was on composting using red worms, and the role they play in creating new topsoil, a much needed resource. The next two sessions will investigate soil, preparing the garden, and outdoor composting.

### NEWS in BRIEF

- Molly Danforth & Nick Fillman, our two high school seniors, have both been admitted to their first choice colleges. Kudos to both of them!
- Leon is heading back to UMass/Boston for certification in Counseling.
- Kim Bianchin & Walter Bachelder, our two recent GED graduates, recently visited Mass Bay Community College and met with a counselor to discuss their future career plans in health care.

Comments or suggestions may be sent to:  
denise.sheppard@csjboston.org or  
89 Bethany Rd. Framingham, MA 01702

### SAVE THE DATE:

JUNE 19, 2008

5:30-7:30

DONOR THANK YOU RECEPTION  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW @  
[WWW.BETHANYHILLSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.BETHANYHILLSCHOOL.ORG)