

Open Doors



housingtransitions.org

The Housing Transitions newsletter • Spring 2025

W

hen we say we serve some of the most vulnerable populations in our community, you may picture someone you have seen living on the streets or in a car stuffed with blankets and supplies.

You may imagine people who have mental health or addiction concerns. You may not imagine an elderly woman who lost her house because her husband died, and her stepchildren inherited it and kicked her out. You may not picture the young adult who was rejected by their family because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, nor someone with an intellectual disability who struggles to earn enough money to support themselves. It might be even harder for you to think about a family with young children having no place to go, but these are the vulnerable populations we serve. They are members of our community, and they are struggling. They come to our doors when they have nowhere else to turn.

Housing Transitions provides the guidance and support to help them successfully overcome barriers, connect with resources, and find long-term and stable housing solutions. Just as each of us cannot navigate challenges without the support of others, be it our friends or family, the people we serve need support. Our organization needs help too. About 44% of the funding for our annual budget comes from federal grants designed to address homelessness in our communities and another 20% comes from state and local government.

This funding is under scrutiny right now even though we know that the kind of support we provide to people experiencing homelessness today helps them build housing security for tomorrow.

Community support is always so important to us. Your donations, funding from the Centre County United Way, and other grants from private foundations help us keep our shelter doors open, and our programs thriving. ***Together we can end homelessness in Centre County.***



Morgan Al Washonis

Executive Director

Housing Transitions and The HOME Foundation celebrate our 2025 Rose Cologne Volunteers



Todd Ciancarelli is a life-long Centre County resident, who graduated from the Bald Eagle Area High School before obtaining two degrees from The Pennsylvania State University and his *juris doctor* from Penn State Law. Todd has actively sought out opportunities to volunteer, contribute, and otherwise give back to the community that he and his family call “home.” An email in law school and an hour of an evening board meeting almost a decade ago opened his eyes to an organization whose dedication, depth of impact, and importance rivals that of any other organization in Centre County, but whose name is far too often as unknown to others as it was to him. It is that very dedication and impact by Housing Transitions that inspired him to volunteer in an effort to open the eyes of others to the organization working tirelessly to ensure that everybody else in Centre County can find and maintain a place to call “home,” too. Todd has been making an impact on Housing Transitions for close to nine years. His dedication, leadership, and kindness is very much appreciated by the Housing Transitions team!



Andrew Maguire has dedicated over a decade to advancing affordable housing initiatives in his community. He recently completed a 10-year tenure as Board Chair of The HOME Foundation, where he worked alongside passionate staff and board members to support the organization's mission. Prior to this role, Andrew

Helen Keller's insightful words:

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

served three terms on the board of Housing Transitions, THF's sister organization, advocating for individuals facing homelessness and housing insecurity. When he's not engaged in volunteer work, Andrew stays busy as an engineer and an avid runner.

Andrew has been making an impact on The HOME Foundation and Housing Transitions for two decades. His dedication, leadership and kindness is very much appreciated by The HOME Foundation team and Housing Transitions.



HOUSING
Transitions

Call for Volunteers

How can my volunteer group assist?

- Plan and execute a fundraiser with proceeds benefitting Housing Transitions
- Organize a group of 5–6 people to cook and enjoy a meal with shelter residents
- Gather local gift cards and donate them to Housing Transitions

For more information: awerner@housingtransitions.org



2025 CALENDAR

MAY 14 **Centre Gives**
May 14, 8am, until
May 15, 8pm
36 hours!

MAY 21 **Annual Meeting**
May 21
5:30-7:00pm
Held at the State College
Borough Building

JUN 1 **"Home Sweet Home" Brunch**
June 1
10:30am-1:00pm
University Wine Company

JUN 7 **Pride Parade**
June 7

OCT 3 **Boots, Band & Ballroom 2025**
October 3

*We give individuals and families
the building blocks for a brighter and more
secure future.*

*Donate to Housing Transitions
during Centre Gives.*

Our Power Hour is May 14th, 2-3 pm



Please join us for...

"Home Sweet Home" BRUNCH

- **June 1, 10:30-1:00 at University Wine Company**
 - Food by Brown Dog Catering
 - Bottomless Mimosas
 - Music by Urban Fusion
- **To purchase a ticket for \$50:**
<https://www.housingtransitions.org/home-sweet-home-brunch>





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Dustin Schoening

YES, I'd like to help Housing Transitions end homelessness in Centre County!

Contribution

☐ \$500 ☐ \$50
☐ \$250 ☐ \$25
☐ \$100 ☐ other \$

■ To pay by check

Make check payable to Housing Transitions
and return with this form to:

Housing Transitions
PO Box 1391
State College, PA 16804

■ To donate online

Visit www.HousingTransitions.org/Donate



Name(s)		
Address	State	ZIP
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Thank you for helping to build a better future for our community!