

OpenHouse

A Newsletter from Housing Transitions

FALL 2023

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!



November 28 : Giving Tuesday



December 3: Alternative Christmas Fair at University Baptist and Brethren Church
10:30-2p

December 8-10: Centre County Festival of Trees at CPI
Fri: 4-7 Sat: 9-6 Sun: 12-4

January 2024: Housing Transitions begins our 40th anniversary year!!
Stay tuned for details of our celebrations throughout 2024.



We are so grateful for community support!

The following GRANTS were awarded to Housing Transitions in the past six months:

- The State College Downtown Rotary Club awarded Housing Transitions two grants. These grants have enabled us to update two of our bathrooms at our Centre House Shelter.
- The Giving Circle from Centre Foundation awarded Housing Transitions the Giving Circle Grant AND a bonus Grant. We will be renovating two more bathrooms at Centre House.
- The State College Evening Rotary Club awarded Housing Transitions a grant. This grant meant we were able to update our great room in Centre House.

Thank you to these Grantors. We are honored to be the recipients.

Special thanks to our Sponsors of the Boots, Band & Barn

Boots Sponsor: Ferguson Foundation

Band Sponsor: Arize Federal Credit Union
Northwest Bank
PNC Bank

Barn Sponsor: CNB Bank
First National Bank
Jersey Mike's
Mark Wasikonis of Weinken Wealth Management
Mount Nittany Health

Bale of Hay Sponsor: Nittany Beverage
Spectra Wood

Extra special thanks to the Haffner Farm!

For donating such a beautiful venue for our event.

Thank you to the following for their generous contributions!

Big Springs Spirits, Centre Boot Company, Daniel Vaughn Designs, Jeff Byers, Nittany Beverage, Nittany Valley Woodturners, Pennwood Home & Hearth, Pine Grove Hall, and Rooted Farmstead

We were thrilled with the support of our community for Boots, Band & Barn. The event was a huge success and the proceeds will enable us to continue our work ending homelessness in Centre County. The beautiful barn, gorgeous land, yummy food, great music and line dancing made for an evening full of fun. The planning for BBB 2024 has commenced. We will keep you all posted, so you are ready to **Saddle Up** with us in 2024.



A Housing Transitions Success Story:

One of our recent clients, Ann, was raised in State College. As an adult she relocated to a bigger city and built her own family there. She has two beautiful children, but recently, the father of her children suddenly passed away. Ann needed the support of her family, and made the tough decision to move back to State College. Ann and her children were able to live with family members for a short time, but they encountered tight accommodations and high tensions. She was in a tough situation because she did not really have close relationships back in the city and did not have any friends here in State College. Searching for help, Ann called 2-1-1, the number to call when experiencing a housing crisis, and was added to our wait list. The moment we had a Family Suite available, Ann was interviewed and approved to move into our Centre House Shelter.

Ann and her children called Centre House home for 89 days. During her stay, she made it 100% her home. She cooked wonderful meals for all of the residents and really brought a family atmosphere into our little house. Her children were often found playing hopscotch on our front sidewalks. They enjoyed craft nights, vision board making, and beauty nights in our great room.

With guidance from our case managers, Ann applied for a job in the school district. Everyone in our shelter, staff and residents, celebrated when Ann received her offer! Simultaneously, we all held our breath on the first day of school for the children - waiting to hear if they had a good first day. Hooray!! They arrived at Centre House jumping up and down with excitement at the end of the day. Smiling children are the best.

The next step in her journey was for Ann to be approved for an emergency housing voucher. With guidance from our staff, she made that happen as well, and the family was able to move into their own apartment. We miss this family, but are very proud of how we assisted them and what they have accomplished.

Ann's story is unique to her, but it is common for our residents to come here for similar reasons: they are working to raise families, and make a better life for themselves, but one tragedy, unplanned illness, or car repair can lead to a housing crisis. We are grateful to be their support system when that happens.

Note: Names were changed to protect the identities of our clients

CENTRE HOUSE SHELTER WISH LIST

For groups and individuals who wish to donate items needed at the Centre House Homeless Shelter, below is a list of current needs. They can be mailed or dropped off at 217 E. Nittany Ave, State College, PA 16801. Please call 814.237.4863 with any questions.

****Laundry detergent, dryer sheets, cleaning products, paper towels, toilet paper, CATA bus tokens, shampoo/conditioner/body wash, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, gift cards for gas/groceries****

You can make a lasting impact!
Join our Board of Directors!

For more information, contact:
Morgan Wasikonis, Executive Director
mwasikonis@housingtransitions.org

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Ciancarelli - President	Jessica Ellis
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Morgan Wasikonis - Executive Director
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Catie Harpster - Centre House Shelter Manager
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Shannon Newby - Rapid Rehousing Case Manager
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Amy Werner - Development and Community Relations Coordinator
Shelter Shift Supervisors - Debbie Cascino, Julia Colley, Maci Didyk, Lexi Lingle, Kendra McCartle, Chloe Sheehan, Blake Spennati

www.housingtransitions.org



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www.housingtransitions.org

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YES, I'd Like to Help Housing Transitions **End Homelessness**
in Centre County!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Fall 2023

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift made payable to Housing Transitions

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other: _____

Mail to Housing Transitions, PO Box 1391, State College, PA 16804

or donate online at **HousingTransitions.org/Donate**

Thank you for helping to build a better future for our community!

Prefer to give online?
Scan the QR code to
visit our donation page!



**Centre County
United Way**



HT is proud to be part of the
CCUW Partner Network