

Housing Initiatives of Princeton



Housing Initiatives of Princeton, LLC, is a program of
Princeton Outreach Projects, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization

News

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Harvest for Home



Above Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem perform their unique synthesis of traditional, swing and contemporary folk music. **Left** Our catalogue cover featured a quilt by Sandy Merritt.

Meanwhile, our silent auction was humming along. This year, items for sale included a number of quilts by local quilt makers (including one custom made for us by Sandy Merritt and featured on our invitation), a week in a large private villa in Italy, a wardrobe consultation by Vogue editor Sally Singer, dinners and discussions with local authors Gina Kolata, Elaine Pagels and Betty Fussell, a custom ice cream flavor designed by The Bent Spoon, and goods and services offered by our friends in and around Princeton. Food was catered by Whole Foods and served up by Emilia Tosic-DiSanto.

Below Asher Muldoon and William Kuenne sell Rackett shirts and CDs at Harvest for Home. **Below left** Paul Muldoon and Rackett provided 'three car garage' rock.



Cookbook author Betty Fussell demonstrates *Quenelle de Poisson* at a Harvest for Home fundraising event, hosted by Chris and Leslie Kuenne.

The day was, in a word, magical, and it was wonderful to hear from our guests, many of them returning from the previous year, that Harvest for Home is beginning to take its place in the Princeton calendar: a family-friendly event to salute the harvest, extend a hand to our neighbors, and acknowledge the importance of "home" for all. In the end, we raised over \$23,000. for Housing Initiatives of Princeton, a significant increase over last year.

Harvest for Home's silent auction had something for everyone, from Italian villas to author events.



HIP's Year in Review 07

2007 was a year of important lessons learned at Housing Initiatives of Princeton, as our client families—and, by extension, the HIP board—faced new challenges. We were gratified by the support of the community at our annual Harvest for Home fundraiser in September, and were delighted to rally around our hardworking chairwoman, Ruth Thurmond Scott, as she was honored for her volunteerism by the Mercer County Commission on the Status of Women. Prestcott House, the house we lease our building at 11 Mercer Street, continues to serve two working mothers and their school-aged children, and we benefited richly from a new association with Jewish Family and Children's Services.

Accomplishments & Opportunities

- In February, HIP board members held its annual retreat to assess the prior year's achievements and to begin a strategic planning process to ensure alignment between the HIP mission, resources available, and the profile and needs of families facing housing crisis. The in-depth process will continue during the next 12-18 months.
- To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of delivering individualized social services to client families, we contracted with Jewish Family & Children Services for a LCSW case manager. We continue our association with HomeFront.
- We sought and received from the Vestry of Trinity Church a renewal of the leases for the use of Prescott House. Current leases run through June, 2009.

September 30th provided us with a made to order day for our second annual Harvest for Home fundraiser, serving up a clear blue sky and warm Indian Summer breezes on the grounds of the D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center. The day's events unfurled with a performance of Princeton's own 3-car garage band, Rackett, featuring Princeton professors Nigel Smith and Paul Muldoon, who performed in a clearing behind the barn. They were followed by two student groups from Princeton University, the improv comedy troupe Quipfire and the a cappella group Tigressions. Finally, our featured act, Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem (returning, by popular demand, for their second year) took the stage, lit brilliantly by the now sinking sun, to astound us with beautiful songs from their new album, Big Old Life.



Caption to come

Year in Review continued...

- We participated in community and area activities such as Communiversy, Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, and Congregations' Fairs/Homecoming, resulting in greater awareness of our organization and mission.
- We strengthened HIP's financial position through expense management, grants received, a successful fundraiser, and our generous donors, both existing and new.

Finances

We ended the year with a cash balance of \$117,323 dollars, up from \$85.9 thousand

dollars at year-end 2006. We received income in the amount of \$73,626. from a variety of sources, including grants from J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trust and The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation, our "Harvest For Home" fundraiser, contributions from board member congregations, Nassau Christian Center, and individual donors. We had expenses of \$42,233, including \$16,800 rent payments to Trinity church, \$12,670 for utilities and maintenance, and the remainder for professional case manager services, insurance, fundraising/publicity, printing and modest operating expenses.



Notable Donations

Housing Initiatives of Princeton gratefully acknowledges J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trust's donation of \$15,000. Curtis W. McGraw Foundation's gift of \$2500., and a donation of furniture from Kathy Quigley, valued at \$3000. We thank Tom and Vivi Knobel for their continued support.

Board Additions and Departures

This year, our board said farewell to three dedicated members: Mary Ellen Marino, one of the HIP original board members and a tireless advocate on behalf of families facing homelessness; Sylvia Temmer, a board member from early in HIP's formation, who generously gave ideas, sweat equity and her coveted apartment in Paris (for fundraising!); Catie Newcombe, who served as the HIP treasurer from 2004-2007.

We welcomed three new members: Anthony Scaturro, treasurer, Le' Roi Gill and Rev. Joy Kulvicki. Each of these embraced the HIP mission, and generously gave of their time and skills to make an impact in our community.

Board Member Profile

Ruth Thurmond Scott

On November 1st, 2007, HIP Board Chairwoman Ruth Thurmond Scott was named a Mercer County Woman of Achievement by the Mercer County Commission on the Status of Woman in recognition of her volunteer work. A healthy contingent of Ruth's friends, fans, and fellow board members attended the award lunch in Trenton.

In 2001, Ruth, who spent 21 years as a sales and marketing executive for financial products at Prudential, decided that she was ready for a "change of season" in her life, and took advantage of Prudential's "Bridge to Retirement" program. Since she was not yet old enough to join AARP, her goal was to take "a couple of years of time out to contemplate and plan" her next career. Ruth's well-honed organizational skills and professional tenacity were well known, however, and she was invited to join several local organizations, including HIP, even "before the 6:25 Amtrak train stopped ringing in my head each morning." Board chairwoman since 2004, she has led with such pragmatism, dignity and optimism that her fellow board members dread her eventual return to full time employment.

In accepting her award, Ruth said: "Five years ago, when I started to tiptoe into volunteerism, a friend shared her philosophy with me. She said, 'Do what you can, with



what you have, where you are.' That simple statement has remained with me and is what I have tried to do. Working collaboratively with talented and dedicated peers, we get results."

Ruth earned her bachelors and master's degrees in finance from the University of Illinois, Urbana. In addition to board chair for HIP, Ruth serves as a member of Princeton Township Affordable Housing Board, a member of the board for Princeton Outreach Projects, Inc., an active volunteer in her church, Trinity, Princeton, and Mercer County Board of Elections.

Ruth's belief is that volunteer work, like professional work, should be as productive as it is fulfilling. HIP has indeed been fortunate to have had her steady hand at the helm.



You can help...

We thank our supporters for their goodwill in the past. All donations are eagerly and gratefully accepted! You can support our ongoing efforts by making a tax deductible contribution to HIP to help offset expenses [rent, utilities, maintenance] to operate Prescott House.

Make check payable to:
Housing Initiatives of Princeton.

Mail to:
Housing Initiatives of Princeton
33 Mercer Street
Princeton, NJ 08540



Housing Initiatives of Princeton's board members and friends attend the ceremony honoring HIP Chairwoman Ruth Thurmond Scott. Back row, l to r: Sally Weisman, Anna May Feige, Ruth Thurmond Scott, Rev. Anne Marie Richards, Margie Ravindranath, Sally Oppenheimer; Front row, l to r: Jean Hanff Korelitz, Joy Kulvicki, Nancy Metcalf, Catie Newcombe

