

## Youth Development Programs



Apple picking trip with Parish of the Epiphany

### Spread the Word: A Peer to Peer Mental Health Campaign for Teens

It's a struggle at any age to admit to a problem, but it's even harder for a teen to ask for help. "The most challenging thing teens deal with are emotions," says Iyana, a Peer Leader in the Spread the Word Campaign. "There's a communication gap between adults and teens. Teens deal with so many emotions and we often take many wrong turns trying to learn to deal with them in a healthy way."

The 'Spread the Word' campaign is a collaboration with the Boston Coalition for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. The goal is to de-stigmatize mental health, prevent violence and substance abuse, and improve access to services.

Teens at Brookview want to have a voice in matters affecting their health and safety. As participants in the campaign, they will conduct community assessments, receive peer leader training, and teach their peers about mental health and emotional wellness. Iyana says, "Our voices should be heard. The violence in our community affects our mental health. Teens should help find the solutions for problems that affect us. Working on this campaign with the Coalition will spread the word about mental health resources and help us support our peers."

### Youth Development Programs - 217 School-Age Participants

#### The Next Generation: A Teen's Perspective

By Jason V.

The institution of poverty is maintained by systems of inequity. I myself am one of those people afflicted by poverty. Here is my story...

My mother is an immigrant from Latin America. Marrying my father gave her the opportunity to come to the U.S., where I was born. Growing up I witnessed a lot of violence. My father was killed 5 years after my birth leaving my mother, who was already disadvantaged by not knowing English, alone — without money, no education, no work experience, and no job opportunities.

The father of my youngest sibling was a drug dealer who made enough money to take care of us and fulfill our every wish. But his luck ran out when he was caught selling drugs. The police raided our house where they found more drugs. After

his arrest we were evicted.

With no place else to go, we were homeless for about 6 months, bouncing from one relative's house to the other. My mom's only choice was welfare. We finally ended up at Brookview House.

We spent nearly 2 years at Brookview House before we moved into our new home in Roxbury. Roxbury is considered a poor community, where jobs are limited and the homicide rate is high. Today, my mother continues to struggle because her wages are low and the cost of living is high.

Adding to the challenges I have faced so far in life is that I went to a school where most teachers didn't really care if students like me were learning or trying to better themselves. As the oldest of three children, I had to help my mother with the children in the morning and then still try to

make it to school in time on public transportation. Many times I would get to school late and get denied entry. The doors were locked and I would get into lots of trouble for trying to enter the building.

Many of my friends gave up hope. They dropped out and gave up on the idea of getting an education. They spend their time on the street with nothing to do and plenty of opportunities to get into trouble. Many wind up incarcerated, which to me feels like quadruple jeopardy. No education, a criminal record, nearly impossible odds to attain a legitimate job, and an unending cycle of poverty. This combination of circumstances forces many to resort to selling drugs, which only serves to keep them trapped in the penal system and isolated from society with no hope for a better life. Sandwiched between an unfair educational

system and a prison system that does not rehabilitate its inmates. These systems put all who are there deeper into the pit of poverty. As a result, while the population is growing, it is not progressing.

This is ironic because the door of change at which we all now stand puts us in a race for better living. Yet those affected by poverty are going the wrong way. What is our collective responsibility?

*Jason is a former resident of Brookview House. He attends classes at Wheelock College, is a member of The Philanthropic Association of Youth, and serves as a peer leader for the Spread the Word Campaign.*

# Brookview House, Inc.

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*"Helping Families Achieve Personal  
and Economic Self Sufficiency"*

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# Thank you

# Brookview House, Inc.



Spring 2009

**ANNUAL REPORT**

## Brookview House, Inc.

2 Brookview Street  
Dorchester, MA 02124

617-265-2965

[www.BrookviewHouse.org](http://www.BrookviewHouse.org)

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- The Next Generation: A Teen's Perspective
- Letter from the President

### Mission

*Helping Families Achieve Personal & Economic Self Sufficiency*

Established in 1990, the agency's mission is to help homeless and at risk families learn the skills necessary to break the cycles of homelessness and poverty. With sites in Roxbury and Dorchester, we provide a safe, community setting with customized services to give homeless moms and kids the help and skills they need to succeed.

### Board of Directors

Ann R. Maxwell, *President*  
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Peggy Kutcher, *Clerk*  
Carole Allen Scannell  
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## *Transitional Housing – 29 moms and 72 children*

### Reclaiming Our Lives: My Purpose.

**M**y name is Tammy. I am 28 years old. I am a single mother of two wonderful kids. A girl who is 10 and a boy who is about to be 3. Before I got to Brookview, my kids and me were homeless — moving from house to house. I was lost.

Now that I am with Brookview I feel like I have done a complete turn around. I attend classes for my GED (high school equivalency). Someday I would love to get my Ph.D. and work with kids and teenagers as a social worker.

Let me go back and tell you a little about what I've been through. I lost two of the most important people in my life. My mom passed away. Then a year and a half later my nana passed away. I was a lost teenager, using drugs. That was the only time I appeared to be happy. But deep down inside I was so depressed, crying for help. No one was listening to me, so I tried to commit suicide a few times.

I always questioned, 'What's my purpose for being here?' I had no hope for myself and saw no hope in the future. I used to pray at night, "Let me go, don't let me wake up. I have no purpose, just let me go." The day I was told that I was pregnant was the beginning of my purpose for being in this world. I want so much now that I found my purpose. But I take one day at a time... I am searching for and waiting for permanent housing.



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[www.BrookviewHouse.org](http://www.BrookviewHouse.org)

## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Moms and children are suffering. Layoffs, a shortage of affordable housing, and escalating food costs are forcing more and more families out of their homes. Families are losing their housing in unprecedented numbers. Family shelters are overflowing. The need has never been greater.

State emergency aid budgets are stretched and can't deal with the magnitude of the problem. However, implementing punitive measures to reduce the numbers and thereby 'solve' the homeless crisis is reprehensible. Eliminating access to the state's safety net is unjustifiable. Moms and children living on the street is not an option.

The challenges homeless moms tackle are real and mounting. Their children are hungry and malnourished. Their children are sick more often than others. Their children have difficulties in school. Sleeping in cars or sleeping from place to place is dangerous.

The thought of not knowing where their children will sleep is heartbreaking and overwhelming. For the majority of women, home-



lessness came unexpectedly. Something they never could have imagined. And for all, homelessness has brought unique and painful challenges. Homeless moms tell us about their struggles, their depression, and their isolation.

They express feelings of shame and guilt, continually grappling with the belief that they have let their children down.

Challenging times teach us something about ourselves as a community. Although it is still early to figure out the full lessons of this difficult time, we know that no one will be reluctant to help. If past experience is any measure, the spirit of generosity that we come across daily at Brookview will take us a long way.

Brookview is committed to ending homelessness and ensuring the well being of poor children and their families. We know that all of our supporters — through creativity and resourcefulness — have the capacity to act in an immediate way to make a difference in the lives of homeless families.

Together, we can accomplish extraordinary things.

## A Place to Live and So Much More

*Support Services – 253 individuals received services*

The need for support services has reached an all time high. Many households who never asked for help are now facing layoffs, and struggling with soaring food prices and home foreclosures. Every night thousands of moms and kids go to bed with no place to call home. They go to bed without the dream of a better future.

Brookview helps women and children thrive and achieve their dreams. Brookview is a place where women find support for making life changes. At Brookview, committed staff support motivated and capable women and children. They form relationships that transform the lives of women and children. They help women and children develop confidence and character.

India, a current resident states, "I expected the housing search, but not everything else that came with it. Brookview helped me find what I want to do with my life. I want to go to college and work in the real estate business. I want to help women who need a place to live."

Brookview provides customized services and support, addresses basic needs — food, clothes and a place to live. Brookview helps families search for housing and helps families at risk of homelessness stay in their homes. But most important, Brookview helps families follow a new path to self-sufficiency.

Housing and Housing search. Education and Training. Advocacy, Mediation and Counseling. These are the elements that help moms

develop skills so they can support their families. Youth development programs help kids succeed in school.



*Brown Middle School Students Donate Holiday Gifts.*

*Join Educators, Behavioral Health Practitioners, and Community Partners for a day long series of workshops and panel discussions. The objective is to share resources and identify strategies that help homeless children succeed in school.*

## “Educating Homeless School-Age Children: A Community and Clinical Response”

April 24, 2009  
8:30am – 4:30pm  
WHEELOCK College  
Brookline Campus  
43 Hawes Street Brookline

### Keynote

Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover Sr.  
Chairperson  
Boston School Committee

### REGISTER ONLINE:

<http://www.BrookviewHouse.org>

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) provided

*Please Help Us Spread the Word!*

There are many ways you can spread the word, generate excitement and drive attendance to this event and we appreciate your support.

- LIST OR LINK ON YOUR WEBSITE

List the Conference on your website or with a direct link to: <http://www.BrookviewHouse.org>

- E-MAIL INFORMATION TO FRIENDS

# Balance Sheet

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	61,989
Accounts and grants receivable	103,735
Current portion of due from affiliate	20,000
Prepaid Expenses	10,242
Total current assets	195,966
<b>DUE FROM AFFILIATE</b>	<b>138,896</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net of</b>	
Accumulated depreciation	1,998,859
Total assets	2,333,721
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	
Current portion of notes payable	21,865
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	56,617
Total current liabilities	78,482
<b>NOTES PAYABLE, net of current portion</b>	<b>634,914</b>
<b>DUE TO AFFILIATE</b>	<b>5,002</b>
<b>CONTINGENT NOTES PAYABLE</b>	<b>476,711</b>
Total liabilities	1,195,109
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>	
Unrestricted -	
Operating	177,243
Property and equipment	865,369
Temporarily restricted -	
Time and purpose	96,000
Total net assets	1,138,612
Total liabilities and net assets	2,333,721

# Statement of Activities

	TOTAL
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT:</b>	
Contract revenue	860,289
Grants and contributions	234,526
Program Fees, and other	89,573
In-kind donations	72,647
Net assets released from restrictions -	
Total revenue and support	1,257,035
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	
Transitional Housing	231,840
Supportive Services	486,576
Youth Development	298,913
Management and General	140,454
Fundraising	72,455
Total operating expenses	1,230,238
Changes in net assets from operations	26,797
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>	<b>1,111,815</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<b>1,138,612</b>

## Your Opportunities

Support our youth, housing, education and training programs with a gift to Brookview House.

Gifts to Brookview House help the agency fulfill its mission of helping homeless and at risk families in developing the skills necessary to break the cycles of homelessness and poverty. Your gifts enable moms and kids like those profiled in this annual report to reach their full potential.

To learn more about giving opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or to join the development committee, contact Mercedes Tompkins, Chief Development Officer at (617) 265-2965 x207 or [MTompkins@BrookviewHouse.org](mailto:MTompkins@BrookviewHouse.org).



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End of Summer Sizzler at Ashmont Grill

## Building Bridges Across Communities

Julie Dalton builds bridges across communities. Urban and suburban. Affluent and poor. Secular and non-secular. Homeless families and families living in homes. Poor kids and affluent kids. She wants to dissolve barriers and break down stereotypes. Julie is a role model, advocate, organizer, fundraiser, and philanthropist. She is a wife and mother of four. What sets Julie apart is the depth and longevity of her commitment to Brookview and her understanding of the broader issues related to homelessness and poverty.

Julie's connection to Brookview started in 1998 with a clothing donation. She chose to be a stay at home mom and wanted to donate her work clothes to an organization that helps moms. When she came to visit Brookview, she was hooked. She felt a spiritual connection to the moms and kids. "These moms are no different than me. Only their circumstances are different," says Julie. Since her initial donation of clothes hundreds of women, men and kids from the Parish of the Epiphany and the town of Winchester have been drawn into Julie's orbit. "When people see me coming, they know the conversation will be about Brookview, not about me," says Julie.

Julie doesn't just ask for a check or a donation. She wants people to make a commitment, make connections, get involved. She wants communities to come together, meet, mix and find their commonalities. She raises funds, organizes social events, and coordinates activities. Apple picking excursions, spaghetti dinners,

movies, holiday parties, furniture drives, holiday gift drives, blanket and clothing drives, and moving day packages. These are just a few of her activities. She markets, promotes and "channels" Brookview wherever she goes 365 days per year.

Julie proudly communicates her values and models the behavior that she wants her kids and others to emulate. Her daughter taught knitting during her winter break and is a staunch advocate for ending homelessness. A women's group at her church came together to knit sweaters, caps and blankets. Without any prodding from Julie, a third grade class in her community sponsored a clothing drive. A young girl held a mitten drive and one 8 year old asked his friends to bring gifts for Brookview kids to his birthday party.

What sets Julie apart is the depth and longevity of her commitment and her understanding of the broader issues. She knows that everyone benefits when communities come together. Her greatest challenge came in 2008 with the economy spiraling downward and the numbers of homeless families escalating. But this did not deter Julie from her mission because all of her hard work is done on faith. She describes losing sleep the night before an event because she feels she didn't sell enough tickets or recruit enough people. But her church and her community always come through. Every event has been a success.

It is Julie's faith that has her talking about how 2009 will be even better than last year.



**Brookview House is grateful for the support of the following individuals and small groups who contributed during fiscal year 2008**

## INDIVIDUAL/SMALL GROUP DONORS

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Boston Foundation	Swanson Automotive Service
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Citizens Bank	United Way of Mass Bay & Merrimack Valley
Clipper Ship Foundation	Wainwright Bank & Trust
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*Members of Parish of the Epiphany*