



SOMERSET

HOME

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Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children • Spring 2013

Meet The New Executive Director

For just the third time in 40 years, Somerset Home has a new executive director.

David Walker, Esq., MSW, joined the agency on May 6, to lead the agency into its fifth decade of serving abused, neglected and homeless teens in New Jersey.

“David has many years of experience helping improve the lives of children and their families,” said Claire Calandra, president of the board of trustees. For the last 10 years, he served as executive director of Morristown Neighborhood House, Inc. Before that he headed Tri-City Peoples Corporation in Newark.

“His organizational skills and passion for helping youth will be a great asset as the agency finds

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David Walker



November 1973
State's First Children's
Shelter Opens
in Bridgewater

October 1984
Pathways Helps Teens
Learn Life Skills

September 1992
Services Expand for
Homeless Teens

APRIL 2013 - SOMERSET HOME MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

A lot has changed in those four decades, but not the need for a safe haven and support services for the abused, neglected and homeless youth in our communities.

Somerset Home started with one house for 12 youth. Today it has multiple buildings for 41 teenagers and young adults.

From the start, the agency has worked with local community groups and the state Department of Children and Families to help teens deal with their difficult family situations, continue their education and learn the skills they need to move forward with their lives.

The staff has grown from two house parents and a few employees to more than 60 people, including case managers, therapists, program directors, full- and part-time youth

counselors, and administrative staff.

Services have also evolved as needs changed: an in-house school, HIV/AIDS education, street outreach, financial literacy workshops, a scholarship fund, and supportive housing for young adults with nowhere to go...all designed to help teens and young adults heal emotionally and learn to live independently.

Somerset Home couldn't have done all this without the support of a caring community, including countless individual donors, businesses and community groups, corporations, government agencies, employees and board members.

With continued support, we will be here for 40 more years, providing a safe haven to all the teens who have nowhere else to turn.





Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children

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Credibility • Integrity • Achievement

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innovative ways to meet the growing needs of its clients,” she added.

With degrees from Stanford, Georgetown and Columbia, David’s experience ranges from expanding programs to increasing funding.

“I’m excited by this new opportunity and look forward to working with the staff, residents and community to meet the challenges of providing support services to Somerset Home’s residents,” David said. “I’m delighted to be part of such a dedicated team.”

Claire also conveyed the board’s thanks to the staff and the interim executive officer, Raymond Fantuzzi, for continuing to move the organization forward during the search process.

David lives in Green Brook, NJ, with his wife and two teenage children.



Business Exec Joins Board

Terrence DeFranco recently joined the board of trustees of Somerset Home.

Terrence has a background in the investment banking field and is the founder and chief executive officer of Edentify Inc., which develops technology solutions for identity fraud.

He served on the boards of other organizations and decided he wanted to be more directly involved in helping youth who need supportive adults in their lives.

“We are pleased to have Terrence join us,” said Claire Calandra, board president. “His background in finance and his business expertise and leadership skills will be great assets. We hope to involve him in projects that directly benefit the youth we serve, helping them them develop into healthy adults.”



Donors Honor Loved Ones

Thanks to those who made a contribution as a tribute to a family member or friend between April 2012 and April 2013.

These donations go into the endowment fund, ensuring Somerset Home will be able to meet the needs of homeless youth long into the future.

For a gift of \$250 or more, we’ll add an engraved brick to our garden walkway as a permanent symbol of your generous support.

To request a brick, you can use the form on the enclosed envelope or contact Lynn Zahn at 908-526-6605 or lzahn@somersethome.org.

In Honor Of

Bobby Caruso
Children & Grandchildren
Jack DiMatteo
Ray Fantuzzi & Family
Hillary J. Gross

Ted & Delores Johnson
Joe & Eleanor Raposo
Zigmund Rodzajewski
Lisa Warren

In Memory Of

Palmer Bateman
Thomas J. Brown
Louis Caruso
Audley A. Ciamporcero
Doris Conway
Betty DiMatteo

Michael J. DiMatteo
George A. Mitchell, Jr.
Mark Padovani
Art Richards
Frances & John Rotz
Cynthia Rudden

Irene F. Schaaf
Antoinette Scrocca
Timothy Stanley
Barbara Ann Winters

Youth Speak Out

If I could change one thing about my life, I would...

...change my relationship with my sister and my family. I would like to communicate more with them without fighting.

– J.W., age 20

...go home and treat my family a lot better than I have and appreciate my life and what I have a lot more than I already do.

– M.C., age 16

...change my age. Being 17 years old is so difficult and complicated. I'm old enough to take care of myself and make my own decisions, but legally my mom still has control of me. I wish I could just be 18.

– E.M., age 17



...not run away, just stay in one place.

– D.H., age 15

...like to be the girl that I was in the past, not the girl that I am now.

– C.S., age 16

...change everything that happened with my foster mom so my brother, my sister and me could be living with my foster mom again.

– D.B., age 14

... "Make everyday a happy day."

– J.H., age 17

..."I wouldn't change anything about my life, because it makes me who I am today."

– R.D., age 18

SUCCESS STORIES

Choosing a New Path

Chaos. Turmoil. Substance abuse. That was the life Tyler knew when he lived with his parents. So it wasn't surprising he was headed down the same path, until the state intervened and placed him at Brahma House.

Away from his home environment, the 15-year-old was able to gain some perspective. Surrounded by caring staff who treated him with respect, he slowly realized he wasn't bound by how he was raised.

"Tyler focused on the things in his life he could change, became open to participating in counseling and receptive to treatment for his own addiction," said therapist David Lutsky.

Like all of the residents, Tyler enjoyed going to the local YMCA. But it became more than just recreation for him. He learned he could use exercise as a coping skill and began to enjoy the natural, healthy high that resulted.

Tyler met his goals at Brahma House, including completing a substance program – he was even a speaker at the graduation. "It was a very moving ceremony, and I was proud of everything he accomplished," David said.

Tyler is now reunited with his dad, staying clean and sober and finishing high school.



Volunteers Show They Care

Somerset Home's kids can always use a hug, especially from these furry friends created by a group of Ethicon employees. Residents got to choose from Princess Kate, Pippin the Bold and many others.



**Somerset Home for
Temporarily Displaced Children**
49 Brahma Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Non-Profit
Organization
**US POSTAGE
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Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for
November 2, 2013
9 a.m. at Colonial Park
Somerset, NJ

Somerset Home's 15th Annual Run for Runaways is a great way for people of all ages to get out and run, walk or sprint; enjoy snacks, massages and games; bid in a silent auction; and raise much-needed funds to provide a safe haven and support services for abused, neglected and runaway youth.

Find out how to register to run, volunteer, become a sponsor or advertiser, or make a donation. Visit runforrunaways.com.



WEBSITE GETS A MAKEOVER

Somerset Home's website has a bold new look, but even better, it gives you a glimpse of how your support makes a difference in the lives of abused and homeless teens. Take a look online: somersethome.org.