

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PUT YOUTH ON THE RIGHT PATH

Somerset Home's mission is to provide abused, neglected, homeless, and runaway youth with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services to help them become self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency is a key component to ensure youth are prepared to live and thrive on their own well beyond Somerset Home. Through the Pathways independent-living skills program, youth receive the tools and knowledge needed for success. One of those youth is Benji...

Benji was a resident at Passages. His father was incarcerated and his mother had substance abuse issues. As a result, he and his siblings would go weeks being neglected until they were ultimately put in foster care. After living at Passages for several months, he decided to leave and live with his aunt. Unfortunately, it soon became clear that living with his

aunt was not the best choice. Fortunately however, he knew he could call Somerset Home for help. Benji started in the Pathways program earlier this year. Pathways counselors helped him get a steady job, learn how to budget, and find his own place. He is now working two jobs – in retail and food service - and has saved more than \$2,000.

Until last year, Pathways worked mostly with clients who lived at the Somerset Home residential programs. Since then, the program branched out to serve clients throughout central New Jersey. The expansion has resulted in a steady increase in referrals. This year, Pathways has served almost 60 clients - a tremendous increase from previous years.

Pathways workers assist clients like Benji with obtaining housing,



Pathways clients receive tools and knowledge to succeed in life.

employment, pertinent documents, driver's licenses, and more. "I cannot thank Pathways enough for all your services", said Benji. "The assistance with getting my first apartment and bank account was needed. The Pathways workers and the program are the best!"

THE LIVES YOU'VE TOUCHED: THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

Because of your support, over 1,000 youth* were touched by the programs and services of Somerset Home this year:

- Brahma House Group Home/Shelter: 37
- Bridge House Supportive-Housing Program: 4
- Pathways Independent Living Skills Program: 59
- My Place Transitional-Living Program: 6
- Passages Transitional-Living Program: 13
- Whitney House Transitional-Living Program: 4
- Street Smart Street Outreach Program: 879

*as of October 2015



Resident playing basketball outside Brahma House

SUCCESS STORIES:

Street Smart Street Outreach Program

Because of your support, Somerset Home's Street Smart street outreach program makes a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of youth each year. The Street Smart team works 24 hours a day; 365 days a year; to help combat human trafficking and protect vulnerable youth. Outreach workers provide food, clothing and blankets, access to shelter, crisis intervention counseling, transportation to services, and referrals to health care and social service agencies. They also provide HIV/AIDS and safe sex information, crisis support, substance abuse education, and help finding jobs and housing. Street Smart has offices in Bridgewater and Morristown to serve youth throughout central and northern New Jersey.

Here are the stories of two youth who were recently helped by the program:

When **Jason** called Street Smart, he was homeless and alone. He had told his parents he was gay and they kicked him out of their home. He had no one to turn to and everywhere he went for help told him they couldn't help him. He found Street Smart's number at a laundry mat and called. Outreach workers knew from talking to Jason that he was very depressed. They assured him they would help and worked with him to get him into a transitional living program (TLP). Unfortunately, the only TLP with an opening was in Tom's River and his school was over two hours away.

After working with his school, Street Smart outreach workers made sure he had transportation so he would have a safe environment all while being able to finish school and graduate without transferring his senior year. Today, Jason is happy and adjusting to his new surroundings. He is incredibly grateful for the fact that he finally was able to find someone he could turn to.

Danielle started working with Street Smart in January when she called for help with finding emergency shelter. She also informed outreach workers that she was pregnant and wasn't allowed to stay with her mother due to her pregnancy. Needless to say, she was scared and didn't know what to do.

Street Smart referred her to many shelters along with Mommy and Me programs. Outreach workers also transported her to doctor's appointments and during all this time she was going back and forth from a relative's house to a friend's house. As she got further along in her pregnancy, she and her mother worked out their differences and she was able to move back home. Danielle reached back out to Street Smart to give the news that she delivered a healthy baby boy and to thank the outreach workers for their services and help.



Street Smart outreach workers assist a client.

E-HELPERS GRANT NEEDS AND SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH

With the support of Somerset Home's E-Helpers, more than \$2,500 was raised this year to help meet the immediate needs of youth. E-Helpers are community members who have agreed to receive email requests when residents are in immediate need of items such as lessons to gain independent life skills or support extracurricular activities.

The needs of the youth that were met this year by E-Helpers included driving lessons for five youth and boxing lessons for one young man. With the driving lessons, the youth were able to gain a life skill that will help them on their road to independence and self-sufficiency. A couple of youth were then able to work over the summer to save up funds and purchase their first car. The boxing lessons were perfect for the resident who has a passion for the sport and wanted to improve his skills.

To sign up to be a Somerset Home E-Helper, visit somersethome.org/change-lives/be-an-e-helper. Somerset Home will email you when a resident has a special request and you can donate online or mail a check. It's quick and easy and a great way to do something special to meet a specific child's need.

GIVING OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS:

Volunteer Groups Support Somerset Home

Somerset Home would like to thank all of the companies, organizations, houses of worship, and individuals that volunteered their time and services this year to Somerset Home (*as of October 2015*).

- **Affinity Federal Credit Union** – year-round volunteer support; financial literacy for Pathways
- **AT&T and the AT&T Pioneers** – year-round volunteer support
- **Depuy Orthopedics (Johnson & Johnson)** – painted, cleaned and planted flowers at My Place
- **Financial Resources** – made spirit boxes with residents at Brahma
- **First United Methodist Church of Somerville** – provided lunch for the residents
- **Girl Scout Troop 86** – cleaned and organized the Brahma garage
- **Harvest of Hope Ministries** – provided brunch at Brahma and brought journals and photo frames
- **Hyatt House Bridgewater** – painted Passages Boys
- **Merck** – year-round support for Pathways
- **North Branch Reformed Church** - painted the Whitney House basement
- **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (Omicron Chi Chapter)** – resume writing/mock interviews/ attire workshop with clients
- **Rutgers University** – painting at Passages
- **Sai Center Young Adults Group** – ongoing leadership workshops



Employees from Johnson & Johnson at My Place



Youth at Passages

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE (SOMERSET) HOME

For more than 40 years, housing has been one of our most important services. Youth who are abused, neglected, homeless or run away from home, come to us to help meet their most basic needs; food, clothing and a place to live. Somerset Home provides a safe and stable environment that supports youth in their effort to become self-sufficient adults.

Somerset Home's team provides 24-hour support for youth living at Brahma House or in one of the transitional living programs; My Place, Passages, Whitney House, and Bridge House. The staff provide care to make sure our youth feel they have a place to call home. Some of the residents came to us because they aged out of foster care and had nowhere to go.

Robert jumped from friend's house to friend's house after being abandoned by his own family. He was able to stay at a local shelter until he graduated from high school. Somehow he kept his grades up and graduated even though he did not have a stable place to live. After graduation, he was homeless once again – until he was referred to Somerset Home. Robert became a resident at My Place. He was excited to be able to have somewhere stable to live that was walking distance from employment opportunities and right around the corner from Raritan Valley Community College. With the help of his case manager and resident advisors, he applied for and was accepted into college.

"My dream was to continue my education and by having a roof over my head and help from the staff, I was able to study," said Robert. *"Focusing on my goals instead of focusing on where I'm going to sleep allows me to help make my dreams come true."*

MENTORING WORKS!

The Power of Meaningful Connections

Somerset Home's mentoring programs; Journey to Manhood (for young men) and Lotus (for young women); show the impact caring adults can have on at-risk youth. Through the programs, at-risk youth ages 14 to 21 meet in a group setting with adult mentors. Through one-on-one interaction and group discussions, youth are encouraged to; develop leadership skills, learn effective communication, practice sound decision-making skills, learn how to form healthy relationships, and develop positive self-esteem.



Steven Neblett, Life Skills Counselor, speaks to Journey to Manhood participants

Jennifer, who is a resident at Whitney House, heard about Lotus and decided to see what it was all about. She was hesitant to participate at first because she has dealt with trust issues in the past. She eventually opened up and began bonding with the mentors. Jennifer learned about getting along with her peers, setting goals, and the importance of self-worth. She also learned there are people who care.

Jennifer is finishing her senior year at Bridgewater-Raritan High School and applying to several four year colleges. She is also working and saving money for her education, has obtained her driver's license, and even purchased her first car. *"I learned a lot in Lotus and want to use what I learned to help me do well,"* said Jennifer. *"I also hope I can take what I learned and one day come back to mentor other youth like me."*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Somerset Home's Board Of Trustees*

As with any nonprofit, Somerset Home's Board of Trustees plays a pivotal role to ensure the agency's present strength and future vitality. Somerset Home's Board includes 12 exceptional members of the community who volunteer their time and talents to help the agency thrive and meet the needs of the youth we serve.

Leading the Board is **President Claire Calandra**, who is serving her second term as president and has been a member of the Board since 2008. Claire, who is the founder and principal of the CLC Group, brings years of experience as an attorney and business executive as well as a passion for helping youth succeed.

The other members of the Board of Trustees include:

- Madeline Berlin – Vice President; Madeline Berlin Consulting (member since 2006)
 - Mark Salandra – Treasurer; Vlocity (member since 2011)
- Nikkia Miller-Blakes – Assistant Treasurer; Johnson & Johnson (member since 2010)
- Marsha Montgomery – Secretary; OnCourse Consulting, LLC (member since 2000)
 - Stephanie Durant; Johnson & Johnson (member since 2011)
 - Dennis Flynn; Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (member since 2000)
 - Dr. Gregory Hirsch; Peace & Delivery OB/GYN (member since 2015)
 - Joy Mathiowdis; GlaxoSmithKline (member since 2015)
- Melissa Pearce; The A. Harry Moore School of New Jersey City University (member since 2007)
 - Carol Suchit-Hudson; Janssen Pharmaceuticals (member since 2011)
 - Lisa Warren; Johnson & Johnson (member since 1985)

Somerset Home is grateful for the leadership and commitment of these individuals as they work tirelessly to make sure the agency is governed properly to continue serving youth and the community.

DEDICATED DONORS - DONOR PROFILE (CHRISTINE FEORINO)



Providing a home and a hopeful future for youth would not be possible without support of the dedicated donors of Somerset Home. These individuals, companies, foundations, and organizations provide financial support to help make the mission a reality. One of those donors, Christine Feorino - Six Sigma Black Belt Project Manager and member of the AT&T Pioneers - has been a longtime donor to Somerset Home for more than 20 years.

Feorino first learned about Somerset Home when she was working on a project that involved the health and well-being of children. She believed in the mission and got involved as a volunteer and a donor. *“Every child needs a healthy environment to blossom and Somerset Home provides that environment for youth,”* said Feorino. *“The organization helps youth grow while providing them with life skills they may not have obtained otherwise.”*

Feorino knows firsthand about children and youth in the foster care system. She and her husband are foster parents and know the impact a stable and loving home can have on a child. *“As foster parents, we can only take so many teens into our home. By working with Somerset Home, it gives us a way to help better the lives of more teens than what we can do personally.”*

As a longtime donor, Feorino has given of her time as well as her funds to Somerset Home. She participates annually in the Buy a Brick campaign, makes monetary and non-monetary donations, and mentors and volunteers through work and personal support. *“Donating to Somerset Home is an extension of what we can do in our own home. We don’t think about how it makes us feel; it’s more about the feelings of the residents. We didn’t decide to become long-time donors, it was a natural fit. I will always support this wonderful organization through my volunteering and donations.”*

ARTS & RECREATION

Activities Provide Priceless Experiences for Youth

Access to arts and recreation provides our youth with experiences and activities they would not otherwise be afforded. This exposure opens up ways to improve health, build self-esteem, and allow for self-expression. Last year, Somerset Home’s Arts and Recreation program expanded to include youth who participate in Pathways and Street Smart – not just the residential programs. Since the expansion, the program has continued to thrive and provide visual and performing arts and recreation opportunities.

The Arts and Recreation program hosted its 1st Annual Art Expo on May 30th at the JCC in Bridgewater. The community-wide event showcased the amazing works of art created by Somerset Home’s talented youth. The types of art showcased included: photography, sculptures, paintings, sketches, poetry and video.



Somerset Home has been fortunate to receive donations and have community volunteers help build the arts and recreation program.

Additional program highlights in 2015 include: summer trips to theme parks, the beach, fishing and hiking; bowling and glass-making events; New York Giants pre-season games; Somerset Patriots games; trips to museums, Liberty Science Center, and the Aquarium; and quarterly issues of the publication, Catch The Tea, the newsletter developed by the clients. Volunteers provided yoga, dance lessons, personal training workshops, cooking lessons, and art projects with youth. Residents had individualized activities including boxing lessons, karate lessons, yoga, Zumba, guitar lessons and basketball clinics.

Events Raise Awareness and Funds for Somerset Home

On June 18th, Somerset Home held its 1st Annual Spark! Gala: A Hopeful Future for Youth. The event, which was held at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park, raised more than \$60,000 to support Somerset Home's programs and services including temporary housing, arts and recreation, combatting human trafficking, counseling, life skills training, and more. The evening included a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner, and an awards ceremony.

Honorees included: Ethicon, part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Corporate Partners); Raymond Fantuzzi, Jr. (Community Leader); the Renaissance at Raritan Valley Women's Club (Community Partner); and Dr. Gregory Hirsch and Joy Mathiowdis (Dedicated Volunteers).

Two of the agency's former residents served as keynote speakers and gave powerful accounts of how Somerset Home made a difference in their lives. The Lisa A. Warren Scholarship was awarded to a Somerset Home client. Janssen Pharmaceuticals,

was the Gold Sponsor and Old Republic Construction Program Group was the Bronze Sponsor for the Gala. Planning is already underway for the 2016 Spark! Gala on June 9, 2016.

1st Annual Spark! Gala



Honorees and members of the planning committee at Somerset Home's 1st Annual Spark! Gala.

Tricky Tray and Bingo Event

Street Smart, Somerset Home's street outreach program, hosted a Tricky Tray and Bingo event on September 26th at Hoffman Hall in Chester. Attendees had more than 100 baskets and prizes to win from including handbags, gift certificates, jewelry, watches, and much more. The planning committee included members of the community and members of the Morris County Advisory Committee for Street Smart. More than \$5,000 was raised to benefit Street Smart.

17th Annual Run for Runaways

Somerset Home hosted its 17th Annual Run for Runaways event on November 7th at Colonial Park in Somerset. The 5K Run included a fitness walk, kids' sprints, food, entertainment, and lots of fun. Proceeds benefitted Somerset Home's Arts & Recreation program.

Special thanks to all of the sponsors and individuals who helped make these events a success.



DONORS CHANGE LIVES FOREVER

THANK YOU to the companies, foundations, and service organizations that have made generous monetary contributions this year to help support Somerset Home and the homeless and runaway youth the agency serves.

AmazonSmile Foundation	Merck Foundation
Apple Food Services NJ	Midway Transmissions
Arc Foundation, Inc.	Morris County Girls
Ashland, Inc	Nisivoccia LLP
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AT&T Pioneers	Novartis
Bank of America	Old Republic Construction Ins.
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	OnCourse Consulting, LLC
Bernards Lions Club	Our Lady of the Mount Church
Black River Roasters	Pfizer
Bound Brook Garden Club	Phillips-Van Heusen Foundation
Bridgewater MOMS Club-West	Pillar College
Bridgewater Raritan Board of Education	Pottersville Reformed Church Guild for Christian Service
Broad Reach Benefits	Princeton Wealth Advisors
CNA Charitable Contributions	Provident Bank Foundation
Christian Fellowship Club of Concordia	Raposo Kaiser Associates, LLC
Chubb & Son	Readington Reformed Church
Community Foundation of NJ	Reformed Church at Finderne
Dave's Suburban Disposal Service, LLC	Renaissance at Raritan Valley Women's Club
Deutsch Bank Americas Foundation	Riker Danzig, LLP
Dombal-Vogel Foundation	Ronald McDonald House Charities
Dover Reading Circle	Rotary Club of Morristown
Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP	Rotary Club of the Palisades NJ
Empower Somerset	Sacchitelli Landscape Concepts
Ethicon, part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies	Schilke Construction Co., Inc.
Field & Higgins, PC	Shake Shack (Bridgewater)
First Energy	Shake Shack Enterprises, LLC
First Energy Foundation	Shop Rite Village Supermarket
Hillsborough Reformed Church	Siemens
Hoosie Martin Foundation	Somerset Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles
Hope Church House of Prayer & Evangelism	Somerset Hills Shopping Center, Inc. (Carol Scancarilla)
House of Prayer Church of God in Christ	Somerville Elks Lodge BPOE 1068
IBM	Somerville High School
Ideal Auto Body	South Jersey Energy Solutions, LLC
Ideal Disability Advocates	Strength Condition
In Focus Vision Center	St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Infusion Pharma Consulting, LLC	TD Charitable Foundation
Investors Foundation, Inc.	The Benevity Community Impact Fund
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Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc	The Congregational Church of Bound Brook
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**Donors as of October 2015. Donors after October will be listed in the next newsletter issue.
Individual donors will be listed on the website.*



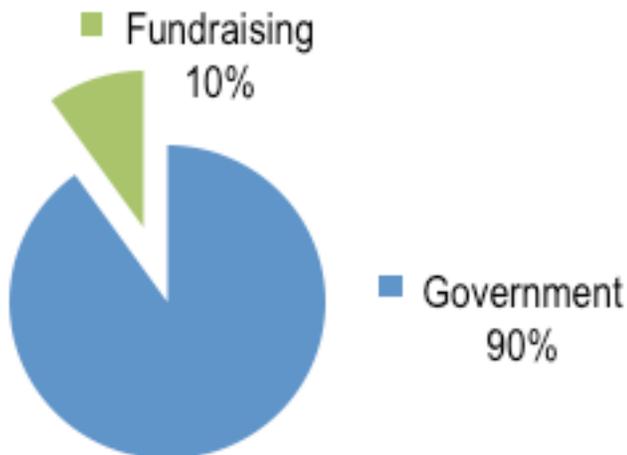
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Temporarily Displaced Children
49 Brahma Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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*Here's the year-end issue
of your Somerset Home
donor newsletter.
Thank you for investing
in the future of our youth!*

YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR YOUTH: *Donor Dollars Make a Difference*

Agency Support and Revenue (Sources of Funding)



Without your financial support, Somerset Home would not be able to provide programs and services to help our youth. Although the agency receives funding from the government and grants – both of which provide tremendous support – donations from individuals, companies and service organizations are vital. Your support makes up a significant percentage of the funds needed each year.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and clients of Somerset Home,
THANK YOU for your continued support of Somerset Home and
investing in the youth we serve!

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children provides abused, neglected, homeless, and runaway youth with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services that guide them in becoming self-sufficient. Since 1970, over 8,000 youth throughout New Jersey have come to seek shelter, food, clothing, and support services. The agency provides seven programs for adolescents and their families: Brahma House crisis intervention center; Passages, My Place and Whitney House transitional-living programs; Pathways independent-living skills program; Street Smart street outreach; and Bridge House supportive-housing for homeless young adults. For more information, visit somersethome.org or contact Executive Director David Walker, Esq. MSW at dwalker@somersethome.org.