



SOMERSET

HOME

Page

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children • Spring 2015 Newsletter

YOUR GIVING GETS YOUTH ON PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Applying for a job, getting your driver's license and securing your first apartment are skills you typically learn at home. For youth who may not have a home or the resources, Somerset Home's Pathways Independent Living Skills program provides a way for them to learn these important life skills. Meet two recent Pathways clients who are taking the right steps to achieving their goals.

Nicole is a 20 year-old former foster youth and a mom of a young daughter with special needs. During the coldest time of winter, she and her daughter found themselves homeless. Cold, feeling alone and helpless, Nicole turned to her social worker who referred her to Pathways.

Nicole wanted to get a job, save money, enroll in school, and obtain her driver's license but needed someone to help. *"The Pathways counselors helped me achieve my goals,"* said Nicole. *"They helped me secure a place to live, enroll at Middlesex County College, and open a bank account which all helped me provide the very best for me and my daughter. I can now be a good example for her."*

Nicole is now studying to be a pediatric nurse and hopes to make a difference as others have made a difference for her.

Patrice is a 19 year-old who at the age of five went to live with her grandparents after being taken out of her home. Patrice was severely neglected because her parents struggled with substance abuse. Her childhood was challenging but when



Tichina Smith, senior independent living skills counselor helps a Pathways client.

her grandfather passed away last year, she felt like the five-year old little girl again whose life was turned upside down. *"I was at a rough place in my life and luckily a friend told me about Pathways,"* said Patrice. *"I learned how to get my driver's license, write my resume, and interview skills to help me get a part-time job."*

Patrice is currently a freshman at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, where she is pursuing a B.S. degree in Nursing. *"Pathways helped me get motivated to do well and now I am on the road to achieve my goals,"* said Patrice.

Many youth like Nicole and Patrice can benefit from Pathways. Through your generous support, other young people can share their stories of getting on the right path to success.

LIVES YOU HAVE TOUCHED



Meet Jared - Jared is a resident at My Place who has been a part of the Somerset Home family since starting out at Brahma House. Like many of the youth we serve, Jared has goals in life and one of those was getting a car.

Thanks to your support, Jared was able to get driving lessons for his license and recently achieved a major goal in life - buying his first car!

PROVIDING BOOTS

ON THE GROUND TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Through your support, Somerset Home is at the forefront of addressing issues that affect homeless and runaway youth. One of the biggest problems homeless youth face today is human trafficking. Within 48 hours of hitting the streets, a runaway will be approached by someone in the trafficking industry; one in seven runaways reported were likely sex-trafficking victims – sold into sex slavery by pimps, organized crime members, or even their parents. Somerset Home’s Street Smart street outreach program works 24 hours a day; 365 days a year; to help combat this growing issue and provide services for homeless and runaway youth. Last year, Street Smart served more than 600 clients throughout New Jersey.

“Street Smart has helped many young people who have been victims of human trafficking by finding them housing and other services,” said Teyeasha Ruff, Street Smart’s outreach supervisor.

“The unfortunate reality is that there are more human trafficking victims out there but often times they don’t want to admit it. Some of them consider it “survival sex” to stay alive while living on the street. Our outreach workers are able to build trust with youth over time and provide them with the help they need. It’s rewarding to know we’re impacting lives and playing a role in combatting human trafficking.”

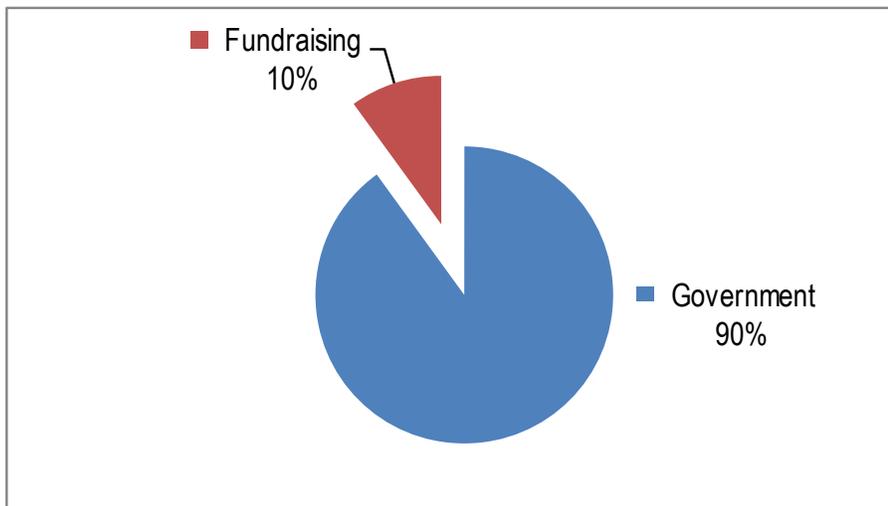
Street Smart was launched in 1998 at Somerset Home’s headquarters in Bridgewater. Because of its successful track record, the program was awarded federal and state grants in 2013 to establish satellite offices in East Orange, Hackensack, and Morristown to assist homeless youth in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, and Union counties.

Funds from the state grant Street Smart received will be expiring this June. In order to keep providing these much-needed services, we need your help. Your financial support can help ensure this great work will continue impacting the lives of many and combatting human trafficking.



Teyeasha Ruff, Street Smart supervisor, shares information about the outreach services.

DONOR DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE: 2014 Financial Highlights



Agency Support and Revenue (Sources of Funding)

Without your financial support, Somerset Home would not be able to support youth. While the agency receives governmental funding and grants that provide tremendous support, donations from individuals, companies and service organizations like you make up a significant percentage of the funds needed each year.

Thank you for supporting Somerset Home!

For more information contact Finance Director Ed Kirchengessner, MBA at ekirchengessner@somersethome.org.

DEDICATED DONORS: ROSEANNE AND PETER FARRELL

Somerset Home's donors provide financial support to make a difference for youth the agency serves. Two donors, Roseanne and Peter Farrell of Bridgewater, are two of Somerset Home's monthly donors.

Peter Farrell, managing director at U.S. Trust and Roseanne Farrell, CTFA, senior vice president at U.S. Trust, first learned of Somerset Home through a United Way campaign. They became donors because they believe in the work the agency does to care for young people whose families are in crisis.

"Somerset Home provides a safe haven that allows young people to recover, heal, and become empowered to get beyond their traumatic experiences," said Peter.

The Farrell's became monthly donors because they have children of their own and know a safe and encouraging environment is essential for the development of young people. *"We recognized a need for a safety net for those who are not as lucky as we have been. We feel rewarded we are able to give back to the community and see the good Somerset Home does on a continual basis."*

"Somerset Home is a wonderful organization that plays a crucial role in our own neighborhoods. Children are our future and the organization helps bring safety and opportunity to those in need while developing their self-esteem and ability to excel in the future."

THANK YOU Roseanne and Peter Farrell for your ongoing support of Somerset Home!

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING: FROM HOPELESS TO HOPEFUL

Somerset Home residents were recently asked to describe their life before and after being a part of Somerset Home in one word. Here are some of the responses:

BEFORE SOMERSET HOME

Dark • Confused • Lost • Empty

AFTER SOMERSET HOME

Light • Safe • Home • Hope

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Claire Calandra – President
Madeline Berlin – Vice President
Mark Salandra – Treasurer
Nikkia Miller-Blakes – Assistant Treasurer
Marsha Montgomery – Secretary
Cynthia Chomiak
Terrence DeFranco
Stephanie Durant
Dennis Flynn
Joy Mathiowdis
Melissa Pearce
Carol Suchit-Hudson
Lisa Warren

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Charisse Allington
Robert L. Caruso
Takeena Deas
Raymond Fantuzzi
Sam Morovati
Stan Prater
Patty Ryan
Jaime Santillan
Everton Scott

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 7,000 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.

BOARD UPDATES:

Joy Mathiowdis, a long-time Somerset Home volunteer and Advisory Council member recently joined the Board. Mathiowdis is the director of global marketed product sustainment (technical operations) for GSK Consumer Healthcare.

Cynthia (Cindy) Chomiak, a board member since 2009, recently announced she is moving to Florida with her family. Chomiak is a college admissions consultant and served on the scholarship committee for Somerset Home. She will be missed.



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

Non-Profit
Organization
**US POSTAGE
PAID**
Hillsborough, NJ
Permit No. 113

*Here's the
latest issue
of your
Somerset Home
donor newsletter.*

*Thank you
for your support!*

WAYS YOU CAN HELP: SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Art Expo: You're Invited!

Saturday, May 30, 2015 – Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center; Bridgewater, NJ
– 2:00pm – Somerset Home's Arts and Recreation program will showcase the amazing artistic talents of Somerset Home youth. For more information, contact Lisa Nocera at lnocera@somersethome.org.
The event is open to the public.

1st Annual Spark! 2015 Gala:

Thursday, June 18, 2015 – Park Avenue Club; Florham Park, NJ - 6:00pm - Somerset Home will celebrate the community and the work the agency has done over the past 40+ years. The evening will include a cocktail hour, silent auction, awards ceremony, awarding of the Lisa Warren Scholarship, dinner and entertainment. Honorees include: Raymond Fantuzzi, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies; Ethicon and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Renaissance at Raritan Valley Women's Club, and Dr. Gregory Hirsch and Joy Mathiowdis. Tickets are \$150/person and proceeds will benefit Somerset Home's programs and services.



Tricky Tray & Bingo Event:

Saturday, September 26, 2015 – Hoffman Hall; Chester, NJ – 12:00pm - Proceeds will benefit



17th Annual Run for Runaways:

Saturday, November 7, 2015 – Colonial Park; Somerset, NJ - 8:00am Proceeds will benefit Somerset Home's Arts & Recreation Program.

For more information and details on these events including tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Adriana Gonzalez at agonzalez@somersethome.org or (908) 526-6605 ext. 312.