



# HELPLINE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

“When you are through changing, you are through.”  
*Bruce Barton*



## Supporting the Community to Give and Receive

### A Message from our Board President



Change is a fundamental part of all of our lives and I'd like to share some changes taking place at Helpline House.

Susan Vincent As a Helpline Desk Volunteer for the last seven years, I have seen many changes in the people who seek our help. Recently there have been more callers and visitors with desperation in their voices and on their faces, and we are seeing and hearing from more individuals and families with multiple needs. They are looking for help with not just one but with many of the services that we offer. During these challenging times when many federal, state and county agencies are being forced to reduce their services, Helpline House continues to evaluate and focus on the current needs of our neighbors.

One big change is in Clothing Connection to Clothing Works. This program remodel offers us the opportunity to assist a larger portion of our community that we are now serving in a limited way. We are going to be able to help people with developmental disabilities to be on the road to employment while also serving our community members who need clothing, towels and bedding. See Donna's column for more information.

Staff changes include Clara Manny's retirement. We wish her well in all her new adventures, as we welcome Susan Loggins, who joins Marilyn Gremse in the Volunteer Manager's office.

The one thing that has not changed is the support we receive from our compassionate and generous community members. Your ongoing support is truly appreciated and allows Helpline House to continue its mission.

### Your Support Makes a Difference!

Doreen\*, a 68 year old woman living with her grandson, came in for rental assistance. Doreen had a long record of employment as the manager of a local motel until the motel was sold and the new owners dismissed her. In 2001, she suffered a stroke that left her nearly blind and with a balance issue that requires her to use a walker. In April of 2011, Doreen's husband of 26 years died which left her unable to pay the rent on the house they shared. She spent all of her savings before Doreen's sister brought her to Helpline House and we assisted her with \$750 of her total rent of \$1,350. Doreen acknowledged that she indeed needed less costly housing and by having Helpline pay a good portion of her rent, she could get her deposit and first month's rent from St. Vincent de Paul which would allow her to move into affordable housing.

Nita\*, 61, came to Helpline House after losing her job as an activities coordinator. She has a Bachelor's degree from Evergreen State College and had been employed until now. She will be receiving unemployment compensation but it hadn't started in time for her to pay her current rent. Nita's husband and daughter died in a tragic house fire a decade ago, leaving her with ongoing issues related to grief and loss. During the interview, she began crying softly because it was the same month as the death of her daughter and husband. Nita has had a difficult time getting a new job because of her age and current market conditions. She has worked with Helpline House's career specialist to get ideas on how to promote herself and understand the new job market. We helped with her rent so she wouldn't have further upheaval and could devote her time to getting employment.

*\* Clients' names have been changed to protect their identity.*

### Our Busy Food Bank

	Households Served	Food Bank Services
Aug 2008	310	1,638
Aug 2009	367	1,863
Aug 2010	352	1,991
Aug 2011	386	2,071

**315 New Households registered since January 2011**



### Can you do the Turkey Trot?

**Jennifer Campbell and Ann Browning** are again putting together Bainbridge Island's second annual Turkey Trot—run/walk around Battle Point Park on Thanksgiving morning. Proceeds are designated for Helpline. Great sponsors for a great cause. See [www.bainbridgeturkeytrot.org](http://www.bainbridgeturkeytrot.org) for more information and to register.

## Clothing Works: A clothing bank and vocational training program

The long standing and popular Helpline House clothing bank will undergo a transition this fall. The clothing bank will still welcome community donations of gently used clothing, bedding and towels for use by neighbors who are facing challenging times. Community members will be referred to other sites that accept household items.

One major change will be more opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities to work onsite for pre-vocational assessment and skill building. Helpline staff member Donna Dahlquist is an experienced professional working with this population, and will be organizing and managing this new program.

The volunteers with developmental disabilities will work side-by-side with county-contracted job developers to build skills and relationships. Our agency has long provided such volunteer work experiences to a number of adults, and will now be able to expand its involvement with such community partners as the Bainbridge Island High School Independent Living Program, and regional supported employment service providers.

Clothing donations will be accepted again starting October 1 and the new Clothing Works will open for services on October 24.



Starting October 24, Clothing Works hours will be: Monday and Wednesday; 9:30am to 12:30pm. Appointments are necessary—Please contact Donna Dahlquist at 206-842-7621 ext. 30 or [ddahlquist@helplinehouse.org](mailto:ddahlquist@helplinehouse.org)



Helpline House  
282 Knechtel Way NW  
Bainbridge Island WA 98110  
206-842-7621

Another way to contribute this fall is through **One Call For All**. Use the RED envelope that you receive in early October. Respond and feel good about living in your neighborhood.

**You Care!!**

**All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.**



## Goodbye



Volunteer Manager Clara Manny will leave Helpline after 21 years of employment and additional years of volunteer service. She will move on to enjoy more hours in one of her favorite activities—being a grandmother!

## Hello



Susan Loggins moved to Bainbridge Island from the San Francisco Bay Area about seven years ago and soon after the movers left and the furniture was arranged, she was introduced to Helpline House by her realtor. A warm welcome and two wonderful mentors later she was a weekly volunteer and a Board member. After several years, her job at UW Medical Center took her to live in Seattle, but she was fortunate to be able to continue as a volunteer on the Fishline Desk—first weekly, then bi-monthly and then as a substitute. It seems she just could not give it up—but as Susan says, “How could I, with the mission of the agency so clear and the staff and volunteers dedicated to making a difference? “

## Holiday Happenings

Help local families celebrate Thanksgiving with gusto through our Project Wishbone. Last year we served more than 194 families. *Watch to see how you can participate in T & C's holiday promotion.* Wishbone donation day is Saturday November 19, 10am to 2pm. Distribution will be Monday and Tuesday November 21 & 22.

Donate new gift items for our Holiday Store for children, ages infant through high school by December 12th to stock the store generously. Check out our website for further details.

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Bainbridge Is  
WA  
PERMIT #3228

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

*John Andrew Holmes, Jr.*