

A place to call home

RHD supportive housing programs are person-centered, focused on consumers' dignity, stability and recovery

James carries his bike down the stairs from his apartment, and gets ready to ride. He zips away from his place in RHD's Durham Adult Supported Housing in North Carolina seeking — and finding — solace in miles of open road.

"Every day, I'm on my bike," James said. "It's therapy for me. It's like, when I'm going up a hill, I don't have time to think about anything else. It frees up my mind, because I'm just thinking about getting up the hill. I don't worry about anything else. I just want to make it up the hill."

James was not trying to come up with the perfect metaphor for RHD's approach to supportive housing. But he got pretty close, just the same.

RHD's supportive housing programs, utilizing the Housing First model, focus on the respect for the dignity and worth of each individual. RHD believes that housing is a basic

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Kenneth Kauffman | photo

Easy rider: James maintains his own apartment in an RHD supportive housing program in North Carolina, which focuses on life skills and flexible services.



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NONPROFIT RESOURCES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE: Resources for Human Development is a national human-services nonprofit with more than 160 programs in 14 states serving those with developmental delays, mental illness, homelessness, and substance abuse and poverty issues. Established in Philadelphia in 1970, RHD is also a pioneer in the development of socially conscious, for-profit enterprises.

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Kenneth Kauffman | photo

'I feel like I can breathe' At RHD Nebraska, clients like Tony have made a successful transition to living in the community

Tony walks down to the water at Holmes Lake, carrying his fishing pole and tackle box, and casts a line far out onto the water. He's got the lake to himself; the only thing breaking the stillness of the early morning is the geese swimming slowly past him. A fish jumps a few feet out, and Tony eyes the splash and says: "I'm going to get him in a bit."

Fishing is one of the activities Tony loves, and something he can now do whenever he likes in what he calls his "new life" at RHD. Tony is a client at RHD Nebraska, which provides residential supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.

RHD Nebraska specializes in providing person-centered services, assisting individuals as they work toward meaningful and successful lives in their communities. Tony lived at the Beatrice State Developmental

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Finding a new world outside

Clients, volunteers make connections, relationships through CHOC Connect

Harriett could go anywhere. But what she really wants today is to sit, have some coffee, and talk. Just talk.

In CHOC Connect, a volunteer project that connects clients at RHD's Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center with volunteers that help re-establish community connections, offer encouragement and companionship and build relationships, Harriett can do just that. She meets Beverly and David for coffee and a bite to eat, and shares conversation for a while.

"Sometimes it does a person good to just sit down and talk," Harriett said.

CHOC serves men and women experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It includes a 50-80 bed overnight shelter. Director Genny O'Donnell came across this idea after a bowling night for CHOC residents. It was just an evening out of the shelter, rolling at a local alley. But O'Donnell said everyone kept thanking her and saying the same thing: "This is the first time I felt normal in years."

"CHOC is a community; we always say it's like 'Cheers' — it's a place where everybody knows your name," O'Donnell said. "But it is also institutional. And we want people to get out; there is a great world out there. We found that too many people were leaving and then just coming

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Making a connection: Harriett shares coffee and conversation with David (L) and Beverly (R).



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How you can help

More than 35,000 people each year gain the support and encouragement they need to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities through RHD's many human-services programs. Their milestones and successes, large and small, are made possible through the generosity of people like you.

Whether it's a child in need of a winter coat, a single mother trying to escape a life of abuse, or a man with autism whose life is about to change when he is given that first paintbrush, your contribution will help create a brighter future for these men, women, and children who just need a chance to develop their full potential.

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Change lives, families and communities for the better. Help Resources for Human Development help people in need help themselves.

HOUSING

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human right and should not be denied to anyone, and that an individual's primary need is to obtain safe, affordable and stable housing. Other issues that may affect people can more effectively be addressed once housing is secured.

"A lack of housing creates such stress and instability that it really is a barrier to recovery," said Bernard Glavin, RHD corporate associate director. "You take away that barrier by providing housing, and other challenges become more manageable. People can just concentrate on getting up that hill."

RHD works closely and cooperatively with state and local partners to ensure that the best possible services are available to consumers. Staff and participants actively work on fostering positive, productive relationships with landlords, neighbors and other community partners.

From its first supportive housing program for 10 persons in 1995, RHD has expanded this service to include more than 400 persons in nine programs across five states. RHD's supportive housing programs provide services to persons with diverse backgrounds — most notably those who have struggled with homelessness, long-term or frequent stays in institutional settings and years in large congregate settings.

"We don't try to force people into a certain approach, like a piece of a puzzle," said Sheila Highsmith, director of RHD's Tri-County Supportive Housing. "Sometimes those pieces don't fit exactly right, and those edges hurt. We make sure our approach is person-centered, and the participants are able to take responsibility for their own lives."

After years of homelessness and behavioral health challenges, James has maintained his housing with RHD in a community residential program that provides flexible services to people with serious mental illness who are coming out of a psychiatric hospital setting. Residents live in a clustered apartment setting with a focus on the full array of life skills essential for consumers to live successfully in the community.

"I realized I had a life to live; I didn't have to go back to the life I was living," James said. "I feel very peaceful. I've got something of my own, and it feels great."

In New Jersey, Leon has maintained his own apartment for four years, living largely independently with the support of a variety of services at RHD.

"You can't make a better choice than RHD," he said. "My experience with them has been compassion, providing the things I need and hoping that I can do better and succeed. Having the support of RHD has made it so that I feel like I'm on level ground with everybody else."

"I've been at RHD for four years. And, man, I'm hoping for 40 more."

Maxine is in RHD supportive housing in Raleigh, N.C.

"I'm grateful that RHD exists," Maxine said. "It's given me a good, stable environment. You have your own place, but the staff is always there if you need them. My mental health is the best it's been in over 10 years."

"I told the staff last week that I love it here so much that if the day ever comes when I have to leave for some reason, I'm going to

.....
**"You can't make a better choice than RHD...
Having RHD's support makes it so that I'm
on level ground with everybody else."**
.....

chain myself to the building."

RHD provides choices for safe, affordable housing that include private homes, scattered-site apartments and clustered apartments, depending on an individual's need and choice. Once housing is obtained, RHD programs wrap ancillary services



Home, sweet home: Leon, who lives in his own apartment in New Jersey, strums his guitar (top); Susannah has transitioned successfully into her own apartment after years of living in an institutional setting (middle, left); Marion goes to school and lives in her own apartment in North Carolina (middle, right); Maxine paints and does creative art projects as a means of self expression in her apartment (bottom).

around individuals to help them live as independently as possible in the community of their choice.

National studies show that areas embracing Housing First see a decline in the use of crisis services that results in millions of dollars in

stabilized in housing because housing enhances self-esteem and a sense of dignity, and individuals are more likely to seek employment and community services.

"I was in and out of the hospital ever since 15 years old," said Marion, an RHD consumer in North Carolina. "Since I found RHD, I haven't been doing that. I never thought I'd have my own place, and now I do. I'm happy when I get up every morning. I'm in school; I can read and I can write poems. I have the words now."

Marion reads her favorite poem, written in her living room of her apartment:

*I have hope, being myself
I have hope, seeing my health
I have hope, looking up above
I have hope, seeing love
I have hope, in being strong
I have hope, in not being alone
I have hope, in seeing my way home*

savings to public systems. Persons in Housing First experience a significant decrease in detox admissions, visits to emergency rooms, incarcerations, and nights spent in emergency shelters. Research indicates that individuals experiencing homelessness are more receptive to treatment after being

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right back, many times because they were not able to live in the community. As much as we want to create a system with peer support and other supports for people here, we don't want to build walls around people.

"It's good to meet with somebody you know doesn't have to write a progress note after every conversation. We don't want people to get used to how it happens in here; we want people to stay connected with how it happens out in the world. We want people to have experiences and social interactions that will help in their transition out of CHOC."

CHOC's Volunteer Coordinator Neen Davis meets prospective volunteers and matches people up based on their personalities and common interests. Harriett had seen Beverly and David before – both had volunteered at CHOC; David and his church group regularly served meals there — but their first real conversation came on their first outing.

"I had to be talked into it; I have a tendency to like to be alone," Harriett said. "But it's always a good idea to be out among people. You don't want to turn into a hermit, you know? You've got to get up and go outside. I'm glad to be at CHOC. But I'm going to be leaving soon, and I was thinking — I haven't been out in the world in a long time. So I'm glad to have them in my life. That helps."

Beverly and David stressed that they weren't "helping" Harriett, as they felt about more conventional volunteer opportunities. They were building a relationship with her — and they said they get as much out of it as Harriett.

"I wanted more of a one-on-one relationship," Beverly said. "I wanted the chance to get to know someone on a personal level."

"It's more enriching to know Harriett, and to hear her story and to know about her life," David said. "I think we both feel very connected to her."

Indeed – they'll even finish each other's sentences once in a while. Beverly noted that her birthday is just two days apart from Harriett's, and they found they had a number of things in common, and she said: "There were a lot of little things ... oh, what's the word?" Harriett said: "Similarities," and Beverly laughed and said: "Similarities, thank you."

"I tell them what's happening in my life, and I hear about what's happening in their life," Harriett said. "There's no secrets; I learn about you and you learn about me."

The CHOC clients direct the activities, said Davis, a former volunteer at CHOC herself.

"When you come into a shelter, choices are taken away from you," Davis said. "You eat breakfast at a certain time, you eat dinner at a certain time, the TV goes on at a certain time and goes off at a certain time. But people have the right to make decisions about their lives. We want them to decide where to go, what to do — that's how it should be, because that's what life is."

O'Donnell and Davis worked to get partners in the community to support the project, lining up reduced tickets to theaters and community events. The Reading Phillies, the local minor league baseball team, stepped up with reduced packages to games.

"Our clients were doing things they hadn't been able to do for years," O'Donnell said. "They'd never had the money to go to a game, to go to the movies. A lot of times our volunteers get to share someone's firsts."

Sheila went with her volunteers to the movies. Asked when was the last time she'd been able to go out to a movie, Sheila thought for a while and said: "Twenty years ago."

"It was really nice to have that social interaction," said Sheila. "They're about my daughter's age; I think I talk to them like they're my daughters. If I could, I'd like to be a volunteer someday. I'd like to do this for somebody else."

Charles is looking forward to his next outing with Laura and Oscar. They are set to play miniature golf.

"I like going out with people," Charles said. "We all like to have friends to go out with; it beats staying here all the time. You can get to feeling like you're stuck. Just a couple hours; it makes a big difference. To do whatever you feel like doing? That's pretty nice."



Getting out: Charles, one of the CHOC clients who benefit from CHOC Connect, relaxes in the courtyard outside the shelter.

Outsider art showcased in Midwest's largest show

RHD's art programs for people with developmental disabilities featured at the St. Louis Outsider Art Fair

The St. Louis Outsider Art Fair was a great success, featuring work from RHD's creative arts programs for people with developmental disabilities from all over the country. RHD art studios in St. Louis, Fine Line Studios and Blank Canvas Studios, were a big part of the organizing committee that helped build the St. Louis Outsider Art Fair into the largest Outsider Art show in the Midwest.

James Huffman, director of Blank Canvas Studios, said the inspiration came from RHD's invitation to appear at the Sanford Smith Outsider Art Fair in New York, the largest Outsider Art show in the country.

"We thought it would be great to have a show like that in Missouri," Huffman said. "We thought, well, no one is going to do it unless we do it, so ..."

The St. Louis Outsider Art Fair came to life at the Koken Art Factory, attracting more than a thousand visitors and showcasing artists from around the country.

"The biggest thing we wanted was for people to have the opportunity to be seen," Huffman said. "We wanted more of a raw look to it, where folks could come in and see what people who live in their community could create. It was an opportunity for people to display their work who might otherwise have never had that chance."

RHD currently supports arts programs in five states: Blank Canvas, Fine Line and Imagine That! studios in Missouri, Outside the Lines in Boston, Second Site in Rhode Island, Live Yes in Nebraska, and Oasis and the Center for Creative Works in Pennsylvania. All had work featured at the St. Louis show, and some were able to bring artists to the event to show off their work.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for our clients, and an honor to be invited to appear at this show," said Lori Bartol, director of the Center for Creative Works in Lower Merion, Pa. "It's an important moment for our participants in showing that they have unique skills and something to say."

The show had a carryover effect for the clients and artists at the programs, which offer people an outlet for creativity and self-expression, and provide individuals with the supports to define themselves as artists.

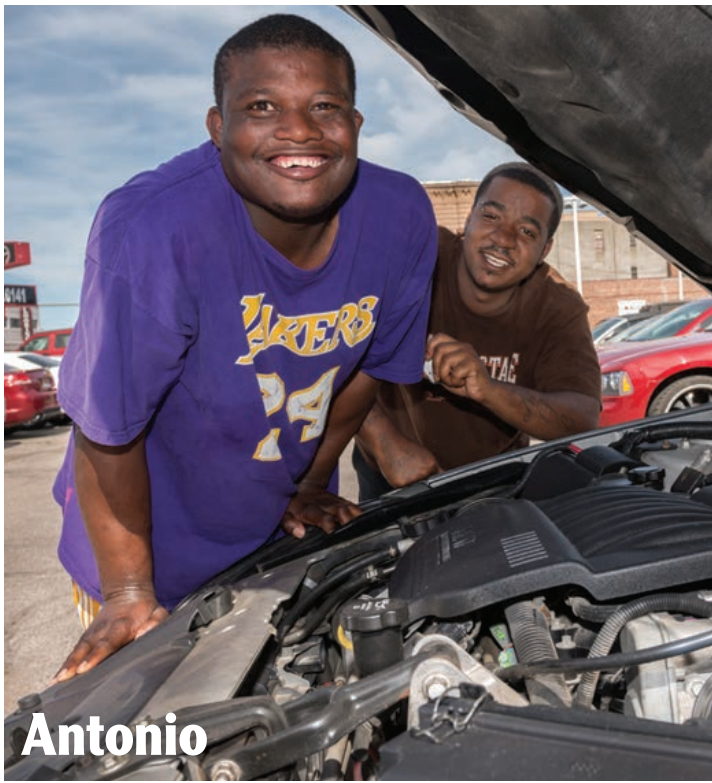
"A great deal of self-esteem comes from displaying your art in that kind of venue," Huffman said. "Even artists who didn't sell things were excited to be displayed. There is a lot of pride taken at the idea that your work is hanging in a gallery in St. Louis. It's exciting, and it's motivating for our artists."



Outside In: The St. Louis Outsider Art Show drew a packed house over its weekend show, as visitors viewed and purchased artwork produced at RHD studios from around the country (top left). RHD artists from Blank Canvas Studios and Fine Line Studios in St. Louis and Imagine That! in Kansas City attended the show, including Heidi (top right) and Yamada (bottom).



Tony



Antonio



Heather



Kris



NEBRASKA

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Center (BSDC) from 1999 until coming to RHD in 2011. He now lives independently in his own apartment, works at a local restaurant and plays music in RHD's Live Yes Studio day program. Staff describe him as upbeat and helpful — he starts the day by helping Sharon, an RHD client in a wheelchair, from the van into the studio and ends it by helping her from the studio back to the van — and Tony says he's grateful for his independence and the peace it's given him.

"I feel like I can breathe," he said.

RHD Nebraska has seven clients who once lived at BSDC. All are now living successfully in the community, transitioning from the institution to living in their own residences with support from staff.

Kris, the first client to walk in the doors at RHD Nebraska, often struggled with his behavior at BSDC. Today Kris attends Live Yes Studios, RHD Nebraska's creative arts day program, where he paints and sings in the music room. He's transitioned successfully into living in the community, where he held a job at a local restaurant for a time and hopes to have another job soon.

"I like it because people support me and care about me," Kris said. "I'm getting my act together!"

Kris learned — and learned to act on — his coping skills by developing a rap.

"I use my coping skills," he raps, as Live Yes staffers set a beat behind him. "Stop ... Think ... Action ... Review ..."

The room cheers when he's done. Kierstin Reed, RHD Nebraska director, is there and gives Kris a high five.

"Kris' behaviors were pretty severe," said Nancy Handy, Kris' mother. "But through all the work, and all the staff, and everyone working together, we have seen significant progress in Kris. My husband and I are very confident that Kris is in a good, safe environment, and that he is working toward being as independent as he can be. I know that he will never have to go back to an institution. He will be OK here in Lincoln. I know that; that he will be OK."

Heather used to stop into a McDonald's restaurant near the RHD Nebraska offices. She saw employees behind the counter, working amid the hustle and bustle of the day — and then she noticed that the restaurant was hiring. One year later, Heather is still employed at the restaurant as a dishwasher. She also works on the maintenance crew.

"My life is so much better," Heather said. "I have freedom. I'm working on more freedom. I'd like to be able to live by myself, but I know I have a lot of work to do before I get there. I'm working on it."

"I didn't think I would ever have a life like this. I was hoping and dreaming, you know? Now I have it, and I'm not letting it go."

Brittnee likes to go for walks; it's become one of her coping skills at RHD Nebraska. Long walks through the community are calming and restorative, and she likes to visit a local church she admires for its interesting architecture. With staff in tow, sometimes



Craig



Brittnee

RHD Nebraska: Specializing in providing person-centered services and assisting individuals with developmental disabilities as they work toward meaningful and successful lives in their communities, RHD Nebraska supports a diverse group clients such as Tony, Heather, Antonio, Kris, Craig, Britnee and Larry. RHD Nebraska emphasizes education, life skills and creative opportunities for personal expression and growth. Clients like these have made a successful transition into the community due to their own motivation to reach their goals with the support of RHD staff. Many RHD Nebraska clients also attend RHD's Live Yes Studio, an alternative arts-based day program for adults with developmental disabilities that celebrates the unique abilities each person brings to this open and creative environment. **For more on RHD Nebraska, with videos of the clients seen here, please visit our website at: www.rhd.org**



Larry



Live Yes

chatting amiably with Brittnee and sometimes walking along in silence, Brittnee strides purposefully around the city. Since coming to RHD Nebraska from BSDC, Brittnee says she feels much happier.

"I have a lot more freedom to do the things I want to do," she said. "I appreciate that." Brittnee's behaviors often presented a challenge. But a program was created that addressed those challenges, and she is able to live in the community with the assistance of supportive staff. Jen Lewis, RHD Nebraska program coordinator, says: "She can be the sweetest person, and she's so loving with our older clients."

Brittnee does artwork at Live Yes Studios, RHD Nebraska's creative arts day program. Brittnee sings in the music room — she particularly enjoys Mariah Carey covers — and works on projects that she uses to decorate her own apartment. Brittnee works hard to achieve her goals, and has seen a documented decrease in her challenging behaviors.

"All the staff is nice, and caring," Brittnee said. "They help me out."

Antonio has intellectual disabilities, and displayed challenging behaviors that make social interactions in the community particularly difficult. But in the time since he left BSDC and moved to RHD Nebraska, he's lived successfully in the community. Antonio sings in the music room at Live Yes Studios, plays basketball at the local YMCA and points toward his weekly visits to the lot at RPM Motors, where he walks through the lot, inspecting the different models.

He slides behind the driver's seat, and Jason Klement — RPM's co-owner — pops the hood so Antonio can check out the engine. Klement gives him the chance to sit behind the wheel of each one.

"If it makes his day to come out here and look at the cars, that's an easy one for us," Klement said. "Every time he comes down, he's got a new favorite car. He grabs a business card, every day. He's got so many that when I run out of business cards, I can go get some from 'Ton. It's a good place for him to come to, RHD really works well with him, and it's good experience for us. He does his thing, he enjoys it; he's a nice kid."

Several clients at RHD Nebraska not only engage in activities in the community, they've been able to maintain employment. Tony, for example, works at Valentino's restaurant as a dishwasher.

RHD Nebraska emphasizes education, life skills and creative opportunities for growth and personal expression. Clients like Tony have made a successful transition into the community due to their own motivation to reach their goals with the support of the staff at RHD Nebraska. To illustrate Tony's journey, Reed retrieves Tony's last evaluation from BSDC and reads: "Depressive mood may increase" as he "from time to time becomes preoccupied with the desire to live in the community."

"Well ... yeah," Reed said.

When Tony walked into his first apartment after coming to RHD, he walked around the space wide eyed for several minutes. Finally he turned to Reed and said: "You did this for me?"

"That was," Reed said, "one of my favorite days at RHD."

"I can do what I want; I can ride my bike, I can watch a movie," Tony said. "I know what it's like to not have freedom. It's quiet here. I have peace. I can go out and get fresh air, if I want. I can go to the store by myself. I love it. I'm staying."

Something to build on

RHD's Brothers' Keepers program, supporting returning citizens as they rejoin society after adjudication, partners with a local construction company to transform homes ... and lives



Bob Fishman, founder and CEO of Resources for Human Development

Ishmeil walks three miles every day to get to the construction site of the house he's helping to rehabilitate in North Philadelphia. He arrives early every morning, ready to work and eager to learn. Ishmeil is in RHD's Brothers' Keepers program, which offers individuals returning from prison reintegrate into society, and is part of a new RHD venture with Monarch Enterprises that joins skilled laborers with Brothers' Keepers employees. Together they'll transform blighted, abandoned properties in the community — and transform the people working on them, too.

"It's a great experience," Ishmeil said. "I've learned a lot, and I'm still learning a lot. I look forward to it every day. When they approached me with this opportunity, I was elated. I was pretty much running to get on board."

Monarch Enterprises worked on the construction of an RHD health center in York, Pa., and the experience spurred an interest in partnering with RHD on other projects. That led Monarch to Brothers' Keepers — an RHD program that offers individuals returning from prison employment, training, support and hope. Brothers' Keepers is a general contracting program that provides employment to marginalized populations, including ex-offenders and adjudicated youth. Aaron Camara, president and owner of Monarch Enterprises, offered to take on returning citizens from Brothers' Keepers and pair them with Monarch's skilled laborers to mentor them and teach marketable job skills.

Wellington, a returning citizen with Brothers' Keepers, described the experience this way: "A year ago, I was homeless and living in my car. Now I'm helping re-build a house that I'm going to live in. It's a great job. These guys at Monarch and RHD, the patience they show, the time they give you, how much they care, it's just a blessing for me to be here. The guys we're working with, you couldn't have better teachers. They take pride in what they do. I'll tell you what — they've saved my life, basically. They saved my life."

In addition to the unique mentoring opportunity, one or more Brothers' Keepers workers will have the opportunity to rent the property when it's finished. They're also equipped with more than knowledge — Monarch presented each worker with his own complete set of tools that they'll keep, reasoning that getting a feel for this work is harder if you're borrowing someone else's tools to do the job. Ishmeil said he was surprised when he tried to return his tools at the end of the first day, only to hear Project Manager Brian Doud tell him: "Your tools are your tools."

Camara said the project has been wonderfully successful — but added it has turned out differently than he'd thought.

"We went into this thinking we'd be helping them — but we're learning from them just as much," Camara said. "The way they've shared their experiences with us, we've learned a lot about the things we take for granted."

"The thing you either have or you don't is the willingness to try. And these guys have that in spades. They're eager to learn, they're motivated, they're so excited to take advantage of the opportunity. They just want a chance, and they're willing to work for it."

When the project started, Thomas Wiley, a laborer with Monarch who would work on the site, walked around the house taking a cell phone video to show what a stark "before" picture the group was looking at.

"It was a lot. I just thought: There is no way," Wiley said. "But the way it's come together is great to see. The guys here, they're willing to learn, they're excited, they're here on time every day and they're the last to leave."

Wiley is paired with a Brothers' Keepers returning citizen named Angel, while Ishmeil works with Doud. Wellington is paired with Monarch's Tony Mohr. While there is plenty of interaction on the site, setting up in pairs increased communication and trust and made for a distinct mentoring relationship.

"It's really Q & A training," Doud said. "Ishmeil watches, and after he shadows me through a couple applications, he does it and then we review. He's a quick study. What you're really looking for is work ethic — and these guys have it."

As the group talks about the way the house is coming together, they make a lot



Men at Work: Ishmeil (top) handles the wiring in an upstairs bedroom while Wellington (bottom, right) paints in the kitchen. Ishmeil, Wellington and Angel (bottom, left) are Brothers' Keepers employees learning new skills.

of "before" and "after" comparisons. It is not lost on Ishmeil that there will be an obvious "before" and "after" look to his life as well.

"It's night and day," he said. "With the skills and the knowledge I'm learning now that I didn't have before, I can look far ahead in my life."

Asked what he sees, Ishmeil smiled and said: "Possibility."

Brothers' Keepers has developed a housing rehabilitation model that advances its social mission, as rehabbing a vacant house provides an environment for returning citizens to learn about the full range of building systems — electrical, heating, and plumbing — as well as dry walling, tile work, and carpentry. Trainees learn how to function as a team, meet deadlines and resolve conflicts.

Brothers' Keepers has demonstrated, on a small scale, the feasibility of helping returning citizens rebuild their lives and reduce recidivism rates by providing hourly employment, training and support services to more than 250 returning citizens. A 2012 analysis of 107 returning citizens employed by Brothers' Keepers showed a recidivism rate of less than 5 percent.

Angel, laboring happily in what will soon be his own living room, said projects like this one will help returning citizens successfully transition back to the community because the group takes special pride in turning an abandoned property into a home.

"It was such a good opportunity," Angel said. "It makes me feel good, because I'm achieving something. I couldn't have expected this before, but now I feel good about myself."

CHANGING LIVES, MAKING HEADLINES

For these stories and more news about RHD's innovative programs around the country serving people of all abilities, please visit the media center at www.rhd.org.

RHD awarded federal Navigator grant to champion health insurance coverage

Resources for Human Development has been awarded a federal Navigator grant that will help provide health insurance enrollment assistance in the 10 counties in Pennsylvania with the highest rates of uninsured people. The counties — Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, Chester and Delaware, Allegheny, Lancaster, York, Berks and Lehigh — account for 53 percent of uninsured Pennsylvanians. RHD will target specific groups and individuals such as low-income working people and their families and others who traditionally have had poor access to health insurance.

RHD, a national human services nonprofit with corporate headquarters in Philadelphia, is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through a cooperative agreement to provide Navigator services in those 10 counties. RHD and its collaborating partners are deeply embedded in each of these counties. Together the collaboration will implement a multi-level outreach and communication effort that will reach approximately 576,000 individuals.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced a total of \$67 million in awards to 105 Navigator applicants in 34 Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces.

Forbes Magazine, TED Talk, ABC-TV feature RHD's Equal Dollars Community Currency

RHD's Equal Dollars Community Currency was featured in Forbes Magazine, comparing a number of community currencies around the country in a piece by Kelly Phillips Erb titled "Funny Money Or New Economy? Alternative Currency Raises Tax, Other Challenges."

Equal Dollars, a non-interest bearing currency that promotes the exchange of goods, services and labor through a membership network, has become a national leader in the alternative currency movement. In a July TED talk on alternative currencies, Paul Kemp-Robertson mentions RHD's Equal Dollars as one of the non-government currencies gaining consumer trust in this economy at the TED national conference. That same month Equal Dollars was featured on WPVI Channel 6 news in a piece by Action News reporter Nydia Han.

Launched by RHD in 1995, Equal Dollars distinguishes the local businesses that accept the currency from those that do not, building stronger relationships and a greater affinity within the community. The people who choose to join and actively use the currency make a conscious commitment to buy within the community first.

RHD's Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement attends Brave New Voices Festival in Chicago

RHD's Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement selected its 2013 Slam Team at the PYPM Slam Poetry Finals at the Philadelphia Art Museum, as dozens of incredible Philadelphia youth poets competed for six spots on the 2013 PYPM Youth Slam Team to represent Philadelphia at the annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam in Chicago.

PYPM was created to give young people their voice in an effort to promote social change, cultural and ethnic diversity and positive self-esteem.

"Young people come up the stage and they're very supportive of each other — those kids have their own space," PYPM founder and Executive Director Greg Corbin told *The Philadelphia Tribune*. he said. "We want adults to come and see what they're doing, to see the power of love that comes with them. We need more of that. It's very powerful ... it teaches communication skills they may not ever learn in school."

RHD's Philly Youth Poetry Movement was recently featured on CNN's "Black In America" with Soledad O'Brien. This year PYPM was eliminated in the semi-finals as they competed against 50 other youth poetry teams from around the world. PYPM finished second at Brave New Voices last year, and finished as World Champions in 2011 and 2007.



Brave New Voices: RHD's Philly Youth Poetry Movement gets ready to board the plane to Chicago for Brave News Voices 2013.

Generocity.org profiles RHD & CEO Bob Fishman: 'Generating Human Energy'

Generocity.org, Philadelphia's online platform for social good, did a Q & A with RHD CEO Bob Fishman: *Bob Fishman, the CEO of Resources for Human Development, does things a little differently. In the last four decades, the extra-large organization, headquartered in Philadelphia, has grown substantially while foregoing top-down leadership and creating its own non-interest bearing currency. RHD was founded in 1970 and has grown to manage and incubate over 160 human service programs, including nonprofits and social enterprises, in 14 states.*

You may have heard of some of them: Philadelphia Public School Notebook, Philly Youth Poetry Movement, One Step Away, and the GunCrisis Reporting Project to name a few.

We talked to Fishman, an author, grandfather and sage, about what it means to be in the business of empowering people and why he thinks RHD offers a model that more nonprofits should look to:

"The mission is really to prove that [RHD] is the result you get when you start to trust people and decentralize decision making, and that's what's happening. When we're working at our best, it generates human energy, and human energy is about contributing to the common good."

International recognition

Overcoming homelessness with RHD's One Step Away, Neal is an INSP finalist

Neal McLaurin, a vendor with RHD's *One Step Away*, was a finalist for a 2013 International Street Newspaper Award in the Vendor Essay category for his essay titled "Things Can Change."

One Step Away is Philadelphia's first street newspaper, produced and distributed by people experiencing homelessness and published each month by RHD.

Neal wrote about his journey in overcoming homelessness, from living on the street to working with *One Step Away*, which allowed him to attain housing and follow his dream to be an actor. Neal is one of five finalists for the INSP Award, chosen by the International Network of Street Papers from submissions by vendors at more than 120 street papers around the world.

Neal's essay was an INSP runner-up; "Our daily bread," by Andrea Hoschek of Austria's *Apropos* won. The other finalists were from Norway, Australia and Nashville, Tenn.

Neal's story was featured on the cover of the *Philadelphia Daily News* in August, in a story titled: "Word on the Street: City's homeless newspaper helps man find his voice as a writer, actor."

"We're very honored by this nomination, and just thrilled for Neal," said *One Step Away* Director Emily Taylor. "It's a hard thing to open up and tell your story, and walk through some things that are really personal. Neal was very brave to do that, and the result was something that was striking and raw.

"It also has a great ending — Neal earned enough money working with *One Step Away* to not only maintain his own housing, but to be able to take theater classes and attend acting workshops. Today he's appearing in local plays and following his dream."

In his essay, Neal wrote:

"As I was laying on the sidewalk at Broad and Arch, a woman walked by with a small child who had to be no older than about six or seven. The child caught eyes with me, then turned to his mother and said, 'What's wrong with that man, why is he sleeping right there?'"

The woman said nothing to the child. She just looked at me and grabbed the child and walked by real fast like I was a bum or something. I could not believe it. Was I a bum? How could this happen to me? How did I get here? As a child I would have looked at a homeless person as a bum, but was I a bum or what?

I started to cry ..."

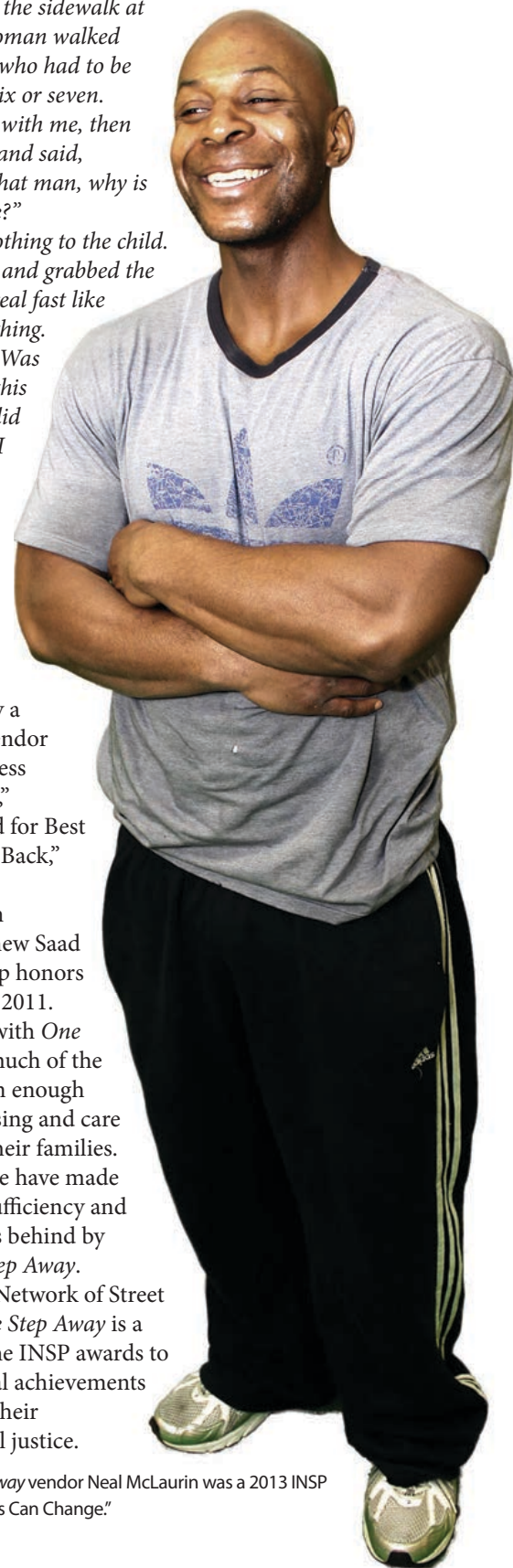
This is the third INSP nomination for *One Step Away*, which was previously a finalist in 2011 for vendor essay ("Philly Homeless Help Haiti Homeless," Claudell Edwards) and for Best Interview ("Fighting Back," Jose Espinosa).

"Fighting Back," an interview with Matthew Saad Muhammad, took top honors for Best Interview in 2011.

Vendors working with *One Step Away* produce much of the content, and can earn enough money to attain housing and care for themselves and their families. More than 500 people have made strides toward self-sufficiency and leaving homelessness behind by working with *One Step Away*.

The International Network of Street Papers, of which *One Step Away* is a member, launched the INSP awards to highlight the editorial achievements of street papers and their contribution to social justice.

In the finals: *One Step Away* vendor Neal McLaurin was a 2013 INSP finalist for his essay "Things Can Change."





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Back to school — again

Jamail takes a break from his multiplication tables at RHD's Stepping Stones, which provides specialized education services that help children with behavioral or mental health issues reach their goals and return to their neighborhood schools. Stepping Stones recently lost its computer lab, which provided multi-level instruction, self-paced learning and personalized education plans. Replacing the lab will help inspire students to overcome learning challenges and experience a sense of accomplishment. Children in RHD programs like Stepping Stones, Family House, Woodstock Family Center and many more work hard to keep up their schoolwork even with challenges at home. To find out how you can help, please visit us at www.rhd.org



6 RHD's Brothers' Keepers project transforms homes and lives



1 RHD Nebraska: Living successfully in the community

3 RHD Missouri showcases Outsider Art

About Resources for Human Development

A national human services nonprofit founded in 1970, Resources for Human Development serves tens of thousands of people of all abilities every year with caring, effective and innovative programs addressing intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health, homelessness, addiction recovery and more. In partnership with local governments and those we serve, RHD builds better lives, families and communities.

Plus more ...

1 RHD Supportive Housing programs focus on dignity, respect, hope

