

Building Hope, Transforming Lives

Plymouth NEWS

Plymouth HOUSING GROUP

FALL EDITION 2008

www.plymouthhousing.org

Award-winning journalist Dan Rather inspires guests at Plymouth's annual "Key to Hope" luncheon

Nearly 1,000 luncheon attendees helped raise over \$420,000 in support of Plymouth's programs and services

Taking care of our community's neediest people in tough times was the central message of the inspiring address given by award-winning journalist Dan Rather at Plymouth Housing Group's annual "Key to Hope" luncheon held on Thursday, September 25th. Mr. Rather's powerful remarks were the highlight of Plymouth's

most successful lunch to date: over \$420,000 was raised in support of Plymouth's programs and services.

Filling the Westin Hotel's Grand Ballroom to capacity, nearly 1,000 guests listened as luncheon speakers Seattle Mayor



Plymouth Board members (left to right): Tracey Wickersham, Jill Zaremba, Executive Director Paul Lambros, Lyn Krizanich, Lynn Beck, Keynote Speaker Dan Rather, Craig Neyman and Leslie Christian.

Greg Nickels, former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, Guest Emcee Margaret Larson, and KeyBank Community Banking President Bruce Murphy all spoke eloquently about the need to support and protect our community's most vulnerable citizens even as our nation's recent economic crisis casts a shadow over our own fortunes.

In his keynote remarks, Rather characterized himself as a "reporter who just got lucky" and went on to share his thoughts and observations on poverty, justice, and the role of the involved citizen. He recounted his own experience of growing up in rural Texas during the Great Depression and how it was normal, and expected, for everyone to share what they had with the less fortunate. He noted the changes in our country since the inception of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty in the 1960's and



"It is crucial to recognize the ways in which we are all connected—poverty, hard times, and homelessness affect us all."—Dan Rather

commented that while the middle class may feel the pinch today, it is important not to forget "those who find themselves in jeopardy." He commended the lunch audience for "supporting this valuable, important, compassionate work" and encouraged them to "be humble, do justice and give mercy."

THANK YOU to all the generous sponsors who helped make this year's event an overwhelming success!

PRESENTING SPONSOR: KeyBank

PLATINUM SPONSORS: WaMu, MasterCard Worldwide, and Safeco Insurance Foundation

GOLD SPONSORS: Boeing, Marpac, NEF, and United

Way of King County; SILVER SPONSORS: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Effective Design Studio,

and SMR Architects. We also would like to thank all our other luncheon sponsors, including individual Table Sponsors, for joining us this year.

TEAM PHOTOGENIC

TEAM PHOTOGENIC

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For some Plymouth residents, regular employment is the road to health and dignity

People often ask me whether we find jobs for Plymouth Housing Group residents after they come to live in our buildings. That's an important question, but not always an easy one to answer in the affirmative.



Paul Lambros

The truth is that most of Plymouth's residents are not able to work a 40-hour a week job. Years of homelessness and bad health have taken its toll. Many of our residents struggle with major

challenges such as mental illness, severe medical disabilities, or HIV/AIDS. Others are elderly and are essentially retired.

But for some, regular employment is the path to health and dignity. At Plymouth, we work hard to find appropriate employment opportunities for them, and some are right here in our own organization. Plymouth staff understand the challenges that formerly homeless people face and support our residents as they "try on" and train for certain types of jobs through our On-Call Employment Program. Ultimately, some of our residents are hired into full or part-time positions at Plymouth (see article on the opposite page about one of our employees, Percy

Adams). This is a win-win for everyone—we get great employees and residents get opportunities to develop job skills and establish an employment record.

Our goal in the coming year is to develop even more possibilities for residents who want to work by reaching out into the community for partners and support. If you have any thoughts for us on this issue, please let me know. Thank you for all you do to help end homelessness—it makes a great difference.

Warm Regards,

Paul Lambros, Executive Director

Path with Art helps Plymouth residents connect with their creativity

A belief that art has the power to heal and foster the personal growth necessary to maintain a self-sufficient and stable life is the principle that guides *Path with Art*, a unique Seattle non-profit dedicated to helping homeless people explore their creative talents.

Path with Art teachers recently helped some Plymouth Housing Group residents learn new forms of artistic expression in two summer workshops. At the end of the classes, participants shared their work with the wider public at two gallery exhibits.

Four residents of the Pacific Apartments exhibited works that ranged from painting

to photography to poetry at the Blank Space Gallery in Seattle's Pioneer Square on June 13th. In August, a number of residents of the St. Charles participated in a sculpture workshop that ended with a September gallery show at City Hall Park.

Plymouth Case Manager Marilyn Mitchell considers the workshops a great success.

"What an amazing experience for our residents to not only realize their

artistic abilities, but to be acknowledged in a real artist showcase as well," Mitchell commented. Future *Path with Art* workshops are in the planning stages.

"What an amazing experience for our residents to not only realize their artistic abilities, but to be acknowledged in a real artist showcase as well."

—Marilyn Mitchell,
Plymouth Case Manager



GEORGIA NICON

Plymouth resident and board member Carol Ann Hiller paints her self-portrait sculpture during a Path with Art workshop.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Paul Lambros

©2008 Plymouth Housing Group
All Rights Reserved

2113 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121 > 206-374-9409 > 206-374-0602 FAX > email@plymouthhousing.org > www.plymouthhousing.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Leslie Christian, PRESIDENT
Lynn Beck, VICE PRESIDENT
Angus Cunningham, SECRETARY
Craig Neyman, TREASURER

Ken Carter, IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.
Stephanie Bowman
Stuart C. Campbell
Barbara Congleton

Tyrone Edwards
Carol Ann Hiller
Paul Ishii
Reed Keeney

Tim Kerr
Lyn Krizanich
Donald Mitchell
Charles Rosenberry

George D. Smith
Mary Stevens
Tracey Wickersham
Jill Zaremba

Plymouth employment programs help residents learn new skills

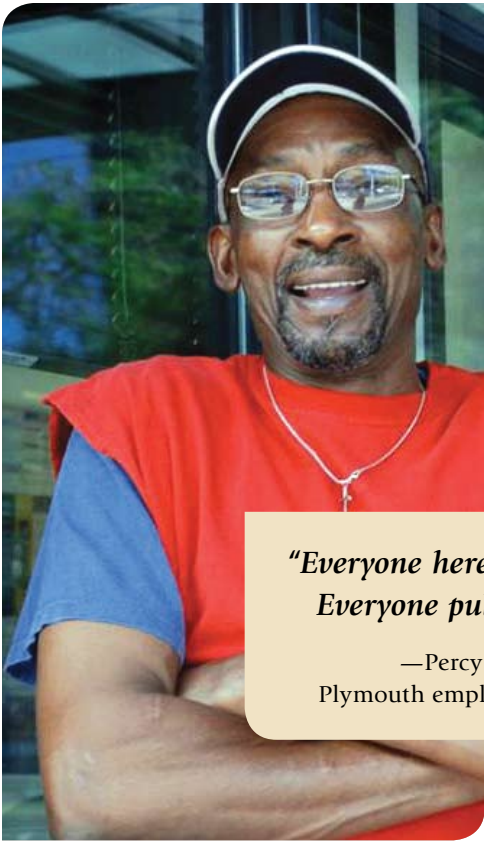
Finding employment after being homeless can be tough, but Plymouth residents like Percy Adams are taking advantage of opportunities right here at home

How he keeps the stainless steel elevators shiny and streak free is a trade secret, but how he feels about his career as the custodian at the Simons Apartments is something Plymouth resident Percy Adams is quite eager to talk about. "I love working at Plymouth," he says with his ready smile. "Everyone here is like family. Everyone pulls together."

Percy was staying at a shelter three years ago when he heard about the subsidized apartments available at Plymouth on Stewart. Then he discovered that he could apply to our On-Call Employment Program. Adams, now 55, went through a complete training program where he spent time working at each of the 10 Plymouth residences before being hired at Plymouth's Pacific Apartments.

When the Langdon and Anne Simons Senior Apartments (for veterans and individuals over 55) opened in January 2008, Percy applied to be the new building's first custodian. He won the job and has become an integral part of the community.

Percy is enjoying not just the job, but the benefits that come with employment. Paid vacation has made it possible for Percy to visit his family back in Dayton, Ohio for the first time in many years. Other benefits include health coverage and membership at the downtown YMCA. Percy says he hopes to continue with Plymouth until he reaches retirement age. "My plan is seven more years here," he says. "I've found a job I really love."



"Everyone here is like family. Everyone pulls together."

—Percy Adams,
Plymouth employee & resident

MARIANNE PAINTER

Builders of Hope: A Plymouth donor group dedicated to ending homelessness

When you make a gift of \$1,000 or more to Plymouth Housing Group, you become a member of Plymouth's new giving circle, *Builders of Hope*.

Dedicated to providing Plymouth with annual operating support, *Builders of Hope* make a difference by giving us the "bedrock" support that keeps the doors open and our on-going programs thriving.

"Plymouth Housing Group provides so many rays of hope in this community, and that's why my wife, Robin, and I enthusiastically make one of our most significant contributions to Plymouth each year," commented Seattle attorney Charley Rosenberry, long-time Plymouth supporter and board member.

If you have already made a *Builders of*

Hope gift this year, you are invited to attend Plymouth's annual Donor Recognition Evening on Thursday, November 6 at the new Arctic Club Hotel in downtown Seattle.

If you are considering making a gift this fall, please do so now and join us in November as we celebrate our generous supporters and all they do to support this important work.

For more information on how you can become a *Builder of Hope*, please contact Plymouth Housing Group's Resource Development Director, Marianne Painter, at 206-374-9409, ext. 143 or email: mpainter@plymouthhousing.org.

PLYMOUTH'S ANNUAL DONOR RECOGNITION EVENING WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 6TH IN THE DOME ROOM AT THE NEW ARCTIC CLUB HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE



ARCTIC CLUB HOTEL

OUR MISSION

Plymouth Housing Group works to eliminate homelessness and stabilize homeless and very low-income people in housing by preserving, developing and operating safe, decent affordable housing and by providing opportunities for homeless and very low-income people to improve their lives.

WE CARE

Newsletter printed on a 10% total recovered fiber and all post-consumer fiber paper.



2113 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121
www.plymouthhousing.org

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT #22

Pillow Fight Against Homelessness

Save the Date!

THIS YEAR'S "EVENING OF HOPE" GALA WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Seattle Hotel Association's 12th Annual "Evening of Hope" Gala and Auction to benefit Plymouth Housing Group will be held at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

This year the theme of the Seattle Hotel Association's gala event will be A Pillow Fight Against Homelessness. Join us for an elegant evening of delicious wine and food as well as a bedtime fashion show and one-of-a-kind live auction items such as Washington winemaker dinners, sporting events, unique vacation packages, and a wide variety of unique experiences. Dare to wear your fanciest caftan, silk pajamas or velvet smoking jacket.

If you are interested in attending the event or would like to donate an auction item please call Mary Ann Treder at 206-374-9409, ext. 144 or email: mtreder@plymouthhousing.org.

Make the holiday season a bit warmer for a Plymouth resident

The holidays are coming and it's a wonderful time to make life better for one of Plymouth's almost 1,000 residents. Here are some ways you can help:



- **DONATE FOOD FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER ON NOVEMBER 27**

Each year Plymouth residents look forward to a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings shared with their fellow residents. We will be accepting cooked turkeys, stuffing and gravy, side dishes, salads, breads and dessert on Thanksgiving morning from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Please call Georgia Nicon at 206-374-9409, ext. 135 or email: volunteer@plymouthhousing.org to arrange for drop off on Thanksgiving Day.

- **DONATE ITEMS FOR CARL'S TENANT SUPPLY CLOSET**

We are always in need of household items for our residents. New or gently used items like dishes, sheets, towels, pots and pans, dinnerware and kitchen utensils are welcome. Items can be dropped off at Plymouth on Stewart at 116 Stewart Street, Seattle, 98101, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call Georgia Nicon at 206-374-9409, ext. 135 or email volunteer@plymouthhousing.org with any questions.

- **VISIT SEATTLE'S HOTEL 1000 DURING THEIR 12 DAYS OF COMFORT, JOY AND CHEER STARTING DECEMBER 1ST**

This holiday season Seattle's Hotel 1000 and BOKA Kitchen + Bar on First Avenue is teaming up with Plymouth Housing Group and other non-profits to raise funds for our community's neediest citizens. Hotel, spa and shopping packages will be available for purchase as holiday gifts and a portion of the proceeds will come to Plymouth in support of our programs. For more information, call Mary Ann Treder at 206-374-9409, ext. 144.

How you can help Plymouth Housing Group

Your support will help Plymouth continue to transition homeless people from the streets into permanent supportive housing. Here is what you can do to help:

- Advocate for putting an end to homelessness by learning all you can about the plight of Seattle's homeless.
- Donate household items to Plymouth's Carl's Tenant Supply Closet.

- Plymouth relies upon your generous gifts to fill our annual funding gap.

If you are thinking about making a year-end charitable gift, please consider Plymouth Housing Group.

To donate online, go to: www.plymouthhousing.org or call 206-374-9409, ext. 143.

For more information about how to make a gift

Please contact:
Marianne Painter
Resource Development Director
206-374-9409, ext. 143
mpainter@plymouthhousing.org