



# FOUNDATIONS *for success*

## ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

CHRISTMAS  
2010

# A Year of Discernment and Growth

*By Steve Schwartz, Executive Director*

*God told Solomon: "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon's request was for wisdom... "a discerning heart." So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself... I will do what you have asked." (1 Kings 3:5-12, NIV) Solomon went on to become a great leader known for his wisdom.*

In May of 2009, Brethren Housing Association's board sought counsel to develop plans for growth, plans we now call our 20/20 Vision. We were blessed to connect with Theresa Eshbach, a ministry leader and fundraising professional. She counseled us to first seek wisdom and discernment from the persons and groups that support our ministry. Through this discernment process we refined plans with the collective wisdom of our support base and are now better equipped to launch specific growth efforts.

### The Discernment Process

In 2009 and 2010, in small groups and one-on-one sessions, we heard the following consistently:

- BHA is on the right track, providing support and accountability to break the cycle of poverty in our local community.
- BHA must grow to confront the overwhelming demand for our services.
- Follow-up support is vital for BHA graduates, which we call the Next Steps program.
- Youth and children's programs are needed to end poverty in the next generations.
- We should pursue growth not *in spite of* the difficult economy, but *because of it*. Those who can help will prioritize help to those who need it.

### The 20/20 Vision

Through this discernment, our Board of Directors affirmed a \$2.25 million campaign to implement the 20/20 Vision — a vision celebrating our twenty years of service with the goal of serving more than twenty families simultaneously. The campaign focuses on three goals:

- *Serving More Families:* Doubling our capacity to serve families and deepening our effectiveness to break the cycle of poverty.

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

2. 2009-2010 Annual Report
3. Bianca graduates!
4. Urban Barn raised, Save the Dates, Reasons to Celebrate
5. "We Needed to Pass on the Blessing," one supporter's story

*Foundations for Success* is the newsletter of Brethren Housing Association at 219 Hummel Street Harrisburg, PA 17104  
Phone: (717) 233-6016  
E-mail: [bha@bha-pa.org](mailto:bha@bha-pa.org)  
Web: [www.bha-pa.org](http://www.bha-pa.org)

Editor: Chris Fitz  
Design: Geoff Isley

*continued on page 3.*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

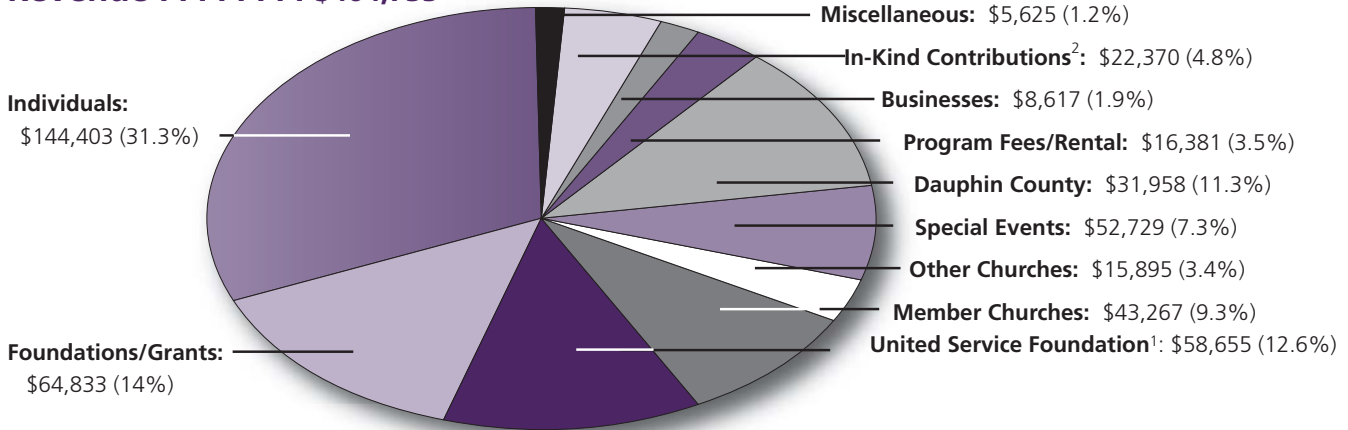
Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2010

**B**rethren Housing Association strives to diversify its funding sources. As evident in the chart below, BHA is funded by a partnership of individuals, churches, businesses, grant makers and local government joining to help homeless families get back on their feet. Funding from special events was especially significant in 2009-2010 due to a very successful 20th Anniversary Banquet with guest speaker Tony Campolo.

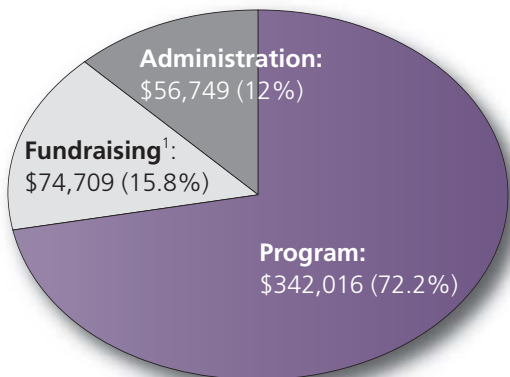
A copy of our full audited financial statements are available to anyone upon written request. For a complete list of contributors, visit [www.bha-pa.org](http://www.bha-pa.org) and click on Documents > Annual Report Ending March 2010 > Donor Listing. Sharing our donor list this way reduces our printing costs and environmental impact.

*The official registration and financial information of Brethren Housing Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## Revenue . . . . . \$464,733



## Expenses . . . . . \$473,474



### Program Breakdown

Staffing . . . . .	\$206,871
Utilities . . . . .	\$37,991
Depreciation . . . . .	\$17,509
Public Relations . . . . .	\$18,420
Program Expenses/ Supplies . . . . .	\$14,662
Interest . . . . .	\$11,050
Office Equipment/ Supplies . . . . .	\$6,653
Repairs & Maintenance . . .	\$6,048
Insurance . . . . .	\$5,396
Next Steps Rental Assistance . . . . .	\$2,975
Office Rent (In-Kind) <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	\$9,000
Other . . . . .	\$5,441
<b>Program Subtotal . . .</b>	<b>\$342,016</b>

### Administration Breakdown

Staffing . . . . .	\$41,735
Accounting/Audit . . . . .	\$8,900
Office Rent (In-Kind) <sup>2</sup> . . . .	\$1,800
Utilities . . . . .	\$1,053
Office Equipment/Supplies . .	\$844
Depreciation . . . . .	\$283
Other . . . . .	\$2,134
<b>Administration Subtotal . . . . .</b>	<b>\$56,749</b>

### Fundraising Breakdown<sup>1</sup>

Staffing . . . . .	\$49,155
Events/Mailings/ Supplies . . . . .	\$21,732
Office Rent (In-Kind) <sup>2</sup> . . . .	\$1,200
Utilities . . . . .	\$564
Office Equipment/Supplies . .	\$483
Mileage . . . . .	\$1,575
<b>Fundraising Subtotal . .</b>	<b>\$74,709</b>

### Notes:

**1.** BHA was awarded a three year grant in late 2007 from the United Service Foundation. The grant funds a full-time Director of Development to undertake the fund development necessary to grow the number of families we serve. The USF grant is listed separately here from other Foundation/Grants to indicate its focus. It is also listed as such to explain why the percentage of fundraising expenses as part of overall expenses is higher during this time of preparing for program growth.

**2.** Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren graciously provides donated office space to BHA as part of their membership in the Brethren Housing Association. For accounting purposes, our auditing firm placed an in-kind value on this donation and listed it as both a donation and off-setting expense in our audited financial statements. The remaining in-kind donations consist primarily of donated furniture and household goods provided to BHA families.

## DISCERNING THE VISION

continued from page 1

- **Restoring Our City Block:** Renovating a former crack house to provide new housing, rebuilding our service facility and block-wide efforts to improve community space and security.
- **Investing in Youth and Long-Term Collaboration:** Impacting the next generation with new children's programs and youth mentoring with neighborhood partners.

### 20/20 Vision Materializing

While we planned and prepared for major elements of the 20/20 Vision, we were busy launching some of the initial projects and programming.

- **Urban Barn Raising:** We tore down a dilapidated storage garage and built a new service facility in its place. Several churches partnered in

the effort and a barn raising was held June 12, 2010. (see page 4)

- **Launching the Fast Track Program:** Fast Track is a four-month rapid rehousing program for persons losing their job in this economy and who might not need the longer-term Transitions program.
- **Launching the Next Steps Program:** Through Next Steps, we help families find their own housing in the community and provide follow-up case management support. Priority is given to BHA graduates to ease their transition to independent living.
- **New Children/Youth Programming:** We hired a Youth Mentoring Coordinator whose focus is to transition our Monday evening childcare time (so moms can attend our support group) from childcare to a more comprehensive curriculum based mentoring time.

- **Allison Hill Mentoring Partnership:** We launched a partnership with five other local organizations to share resources and facilities, increasing the educational opportunities available to the youth in our programs and the community at large.

The 20/20 Vision is seeking committed volunteers to help reach local churches and coordinate renovation projects. You can get involved in the 20/20 Vision by contacting Christopher Fitz, Director of Development at (717) 233-6016 or [cfitz@bha-pa.org](mailto:cfitz@bha-pa.org). ■

### Save the Dates

#### ■ Work Days

Jan 7-8, Jan 27-29, Feb 3-5

#### ■ Spring Thaw Bike Tour

April 30

#### ■ Golf Tournament

May 13

## In Prayer & Praise

■ In October, a tragic fire in Harrisburg claimed the lives of five people, four of them children. The victims were close family members of a woman in our program. Please pray for this family as they work through the grief from this tragedy.

■ Thank God with us for the tremendous team of volunteers who are giving leadership to the 20/20 Vision Campaign. They are working hard to help BHA grow, to serve more families and provide vital programming to help break the cycle of poverty.

■ Lift up our capital city of Harrisburg. The city is experiencing an ongoing budget crisis while its citizens face an outbreak of street violence. Yet, there is also good happening: neighborhoods being restored, people reaching out to neighbors. Ask God to help us shine a light on Allison Hill.

■ Thank God for daily provision in our work at BHA. We operate on a

tight budget. Some months are tighter than others, but we see God's faithfulness as we complete another year of ministry, especially a year with so

much growth and excitement. Pray for continued bold generosity amidst our supporters. ■



*Bianca graduated with her GED in October. Her victory is not only for herself and her future, but for her sons as well. Here they celebrate with mom, family and friends.*



## RAISING HOPE TOGETHER

### Urban Barn Raised!

**O**ur Urban Barn Raising project was a huge success! The building is complete and in use. Tremendous thanks go to:

- The Hanoverdale Church who tore down the old building
- The Conewago Church of the Brethren (COB) who laid block and poured the foundation
- The Mount Wilson COB who contributed in numerous ways by building the new barn, most of the work done as a barn raising on June 12, 2010!

Then, over the summer, youth from around the country through two denominational work camps as well as youth from the Grantham Brethren in Christ (BIC) Church assisted with finish work. ABC Fuel Oil donated and installed the heating system free of charge.

We also thank the Josiah and Bessie Kline Foundation, Grantham BIC Church, and the Church of the Brethren Youth and Young Adult Work Camps for their donations

which made the construction of the building possible.

The final project is opening our new Laundry Facility (and all the women in the program just shouted "AMEN!"). This is going to be such a blessing to our families to have a safe, clean environment to take care of their family needs.

The commercial laundry equipment was the biggest single expense of the project. Rev. Wally Landes (Pastor of Palmyra COB) took it upon himself to raise the \$11,000 we needed for the laundry room equipment. At his initiative, we've raised the needed funds and the washers and dryers should be installed and operational sometime around Christmas. Thank you to the following groups who contributed to the laundry room project:

- Palmyra COB and many individual members in honor of Wally Landes



- 25th anniversary as Senior Pastor
- Caring Community Church of God
- Chiques COB Good Shepherd Sunday School Class
- Ridgeway Community Church and its members
- Spring Creek COB Vacation Bible School
- And several individuals

Special thanks to everyone who supported this project in any way! From the start, our Urban Barn Raising project has been a clear example of what the Brethren Housing Association is all about — an association of individuals and churches partnering in outreach ministry to the homeless. ■

### Reasons to Celebrate:

- **Liz and Dianne** moved from BHA to their own apartments!
- **Liz** is nearing completion of beauty school.
- **Bianca** graduated with her GED.
- **Dianne, Shyrese** and **Bianca** maintained good jobs with benefits!
- **Brandy** passed a job training exam on customer service
- **Dinecia, Enjoli, Iquaila, Brandy, Tameika, Taticca** and **Tasha** got jobs.
- We welcomed **Taticca, Felicia** and **Shamika** to the program.
- We're supporting **seven families** living in the community through our new Next Steps program.
- We celebrated together and were inspired by **Ken Medema** at our Concert of Hope in September.
- **Supporters** gave more than \$10,000 to outfit the Laundry Facility with commercial washers and dryers.



Welcome Christopher Fitz, who became Director of Development in August. Chris takes over from Heather Kelly in that position and is responsible for fundraising and outreach, including coordination of the 20/20 Vision Campaign.

Welcome Jill Kane, our new part-time Childcare Coordinator. Jill is responsible for childcare and education, primarily during weekly Support Group meetings and monthly Bagwash Circle nights.



## FOUNDATIONS OF STEWARDSHIP

### “We Needed to Pass on the Blessing”

Janice L. Ruhl, 20/20 Vision Steering Committee Co-Chair

When she first stepped on to the block of the Brethren Housing Association, Janice Ruhl knew that she was in a special place. The former elementary school teacher saw the potential to impact children and families in BHA’s community setting. As an experienced leader in numerous organizations, she recognized a winning formula in the way BHA combined housing rehabilitation with service to homeless families.

“God spoke to me in that visit,” Janice said. “I wanted to invest in the people here.”

“Because of my husband’s health, we were never able to go to the mission field,” she related. “One of his doctors once said, ‘Don, stay at home; you can give for someone else to go.’ That became our call to sharing. I have tried to be faithful to that vision. As God blessed us, we needed to pass the blessing to others.”

Janice learned about BHA through her grandson’s marketing project at Messiah College. She had heard little of BHA

since her East Fairview Church of the Brethren congregation related more to outreach in the Lancaster area. But in two and a half years, she’s become an integral part of the 20/20 Vision Campaign, now co-chairing the steering committee.



“I can see more opportunities for churches to get involved here,” Janice said, “mentoring children and encouraging BHA families to build up the community around them.” She has designated her 20/20 Vision campaign pledge toward children’s programs to help break the cycle of poverty.

Her giving is not without sacrifice.

“I can’t say that the economy has not affected me,” she related. “I am not receiving some of the income that I expected. But that is strengthening my faith. If we are faithful to God, He is always faithful to us.” ■

*Janice Ruhl is a member and past Moderator of the East Fairview Church of the Brethren. She also has served on the boards of Elizabethtown College, Bethany Theological Seminary and Brethren Village. She is a former Board Chair of Ruhl Insurance in Manheim.*

**Our Concert of Hope** was a tremendous success. Special thanks to everyone who came to the concert and those who contributed their talents and financial gifts to make the evening so meaningful. We especially want to acknowledge the following sponsors:

**Lead Event Sponsor:** Eastern University

**Housing Sponsor:** Final Focus Productions

**Opportunity Sponsors**

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren  
Hollinger Services, Inc.

**Promise Sponsors**

An Anonymous Friend  
Fredericksburg Family Eyecare, P.C.  
WJTL – FM 90.3  
Janice Ruhl  
Elizabethtown Crystal Pure Water

**Encouragement Sponsors**

St. Jude Tree Farm  
Amanda Gish House



**Special thanks** to Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren for hosting our event and providing our dessert reception.

**Special thanks** to the Amanda Gish House for providing accommodations to our guest Ken Medema and his assistant Beverly Vandermolen.



BRETHREN HOUSING ASSOCIATION

# FOUNDATIONS

*for success*

*Share love,  
give hope,  
change  
lives.*



## *Celebrating Hope:*

Brethren Housing Association participants and supporters joined in the Concert of Hope with Ken Medema in September. The event officially launched the 20/20 Vision Campaign and raised more than \$18,000 for our ministry for homeless families.

**CHRISTMAS  
2010**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
Enclosed**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

219 Hummel Street Harrisburg, Pa. 17104

BRETHREN HOUSING ASSOCIATION



NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO. 571