

Our Voice

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR HOUSE

SPRING 2004

www.ourhouseofportland.org

503.234.0175

Our House Launches a New Vision; Receives \$1.3 Million HUD Grant

Nancy Sellars, Executive Director

On January 14, the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that Our House would receive a \$1.3 million grant over three years! I'm sure you can imagine how honored and thrilled we are by this news.

While this announcement may come as a pleasant surprise, it is really the result of a business planning process that our board and staff began more than two years ago. At that time, we began considering how and when to renovate this 1959-built facility. It quickly became apparent that we first needed to examine the emerging needs of people living



J Ryland, Our House CNA, and Judith Rizzio, Director of Community Relations, celebrating at Crush.

rely on disability income to live their lives. In addition to the stress of finding affordable housing, we realized that only a minimum of in-home services are currently available in our community. These services are key to helping people with AIDS maintain their health.

This housing/service gap not only affects people now living in the community, it also has a negative impact on Our House residents. In recent years, some residents have regained their health to the point where they can discharge back into the community. Instead of getting settled back into their own home, they are placed on a waiting list for an affordable apartment. And even

when they get settled in, they need ongoing supportive services to preserve their health.

To address these chronic problems, Our House developed the Neighborhood Housing and Care Program (NHCP). This was accomplished through a collaborative effort of our staff, board, representatives of community organizations, and key consultants.

Here are five of the most commonly asked questions about the HUD grant and this project.

How will Our House utilize the HUD grant?

Our House now has the unique opportunity to expand services both at our facility and within neighborhoods for those living with advanced AIDS. Specifically, we will be able to:

- Rehabilitate the existing building. We will expand from 10 to 14 single rooms, add more resident living space and upgrade the building so that it will last as long as necessary

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**"Congratulations
on the grant! Great days
are ahead. WOW!!!!"**

DIANE TUTCH
Management Consultant

with AIDS at the beginning of the 21st century. Only then could we develop a new vision for Our House.

Our research uncovered a gap in our local AIDS service continuum. Specifically, we found that the shortage of affordable housing in Portland places a huge burden on people with AIDS, most of whom

**"Nancy, I was so
relieved and overjoyed to get
your message! A celebration
is certainly in order.
Great job!!!"**

E. ANN HINDS, MANAGER
Risk Education Dept., Outside In

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- Provide rental assistance for people who discharge from Our House or for people already in the community whose housing stability is in jeopardy
- Provide direct, onsite care to residents who don't need 24-hr services but who cannot maintain health in a totally independent living situation (This includes nursing, social work and occupational therapy services)
- Provide 6 workshops of caregiver training—two of which will be outside of the Portland EMA. We want to equip caregivers, especially in rural areas of the state.



Volunteer Barbara Ford helps to celebrate the HUD grant announcement.

up is, "Where will all the residents go during construction?" As soon as we have a construction schedule, we will be looking for other locations to house our residents and staff. I know that this seems like a daunting effort but we are confident that the right location will appear at the right time.

When will you break ground for the rehabilitation?

We anticipate signing a contract with HUD this spring and breaking ground sometime in 2005.

In this climate, we feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to serve even more people living with AIDS. We know that the loyal support of our donors and the larger community makes this moment possible. Our hearts are full and ready to tackle this project.

"I told you it would happen!!!! I am so thrilled for you, Our House, and the people you will be able to help in the future. Great job Nancy."

LIORA BERRY, MPA
Housing Services &
Development Manager
Cascade AIDS Project

Does the HUD grant cover all the expenses for this project?

The \$1.3 million grant from HUD is a fabulous start. We allocated more than half of this money to cover the rental assistance and direct care services. We will need to raise more money to cover the total cost of the facility rehabilitation and to create a sustainability fund. We are working to secure additional money and in-kind donations of materials to help defray the actual expenses of construction.

Will the HUD grant pay for existing services?

No. It is important to note that not one dollar of the HUD grant will cover any of the existing operations

of Our House. We will continue to rely on our dedicated donors to support our current services. The HUD grant gives us three years of expanded services. Because we are committed to the long-term viability of the NHCP, we will soon develop a plan to sustain these services beyond the three year HUD grant period.

"I wanted to congratulate you on your HUD grant. This is wonderful news for Our House and the HIV community. This will further strengthen the wonderful work you and your staff are doing!"

GRAHAM HARRIMAN
Mental Health Therapist
Project Quest

Does this affect the current residents and services?

Life at Our House should be the same until construction. Of course, with the current cuts in Oregon Health Plan, we could expect more need for our services. The big question that has quickly popped

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For Love & Money
a success.**

HOW?

If you can help secure any of these auction packages, please contact our development office at 503.234.0175 or events@ourhouseofportland.org

- Fine painting or sculpture
- Air miles, airline vouchers, or just plain old plane tickets
- A cruise—Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean
- Villa vacation
- Pure bred puppy
- London or New York theater vacation
- Golf package vacation
- Southeast Asia vacation

OUR HOUSE Celebrations

Lorea snuggles under her new Christmas blanket.



Kevin Coulson, OH Development Associate and Kathryn Siebert, OH Director of Volunteers.

Crush Celebration



Kristin Durham, OH social worker and Lori Gobel, OH occupational therapist.



Larry takes a moment to smell the roses at Our House.



A heart felt smile from Michael.

Holiday Party

David finds comfort Christmas morning.



Ben as our Halloween bride-to-be.



Al sends peace to all!

Lonnie as Willie Nelson during this year's Halloween party.



Halloween

SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH



SAVE THE DATE

A BENEFIT *for* OUR HOUSE OF PORTLAND

- Featuring Mistress of Ceremonies Daria O'Neill and entertainment by Julianne Johnson and rock violinist Aaron Meyer
- Now downtown at the Portland Hilton
- For more info call: 503.736.9276 or email events@ourhouseofportland.org

You're
Invited

Our House 16th Anniversary Celebration



 Sunday, March 14, 2004 

2727 SE Alder Street

2-4 pm

Food, refreshments, Heartfelt Awards
and Remembrance of those who
lived and died at Our House this past year.

Family and Friends Welcome!

 Visit our new website: www.ourhouseofportland.org


Caring for
People With AIDS

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