



<u>Total Shelter Population</u>		<u>Census of Family Shelter</u>	
Adults	20,231	Families	8,084
Children	14,883	Adults	10,710
Total Individuals	35,114	Children	14,883
		Individuals	25,593

Nazareth Housing Presents Workshop at Fordham University's Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty



On Thursday March 19, 2009 Michael Callaghan, c.o., Executive Director and Dorit Margalit, LCSW, Director of Social Services at Nazareth Housing, were invited to present at an all day conference and workshop at Fordham University's Columbus Circle Campus. The Graduate School of Social Service Alumni Association in partnership with the Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty structured the conference on "The Urban Family" to shed light on particular problems faced by New York City families and to encourage and facilitate dialogue among social service providers and various faith family services provided by congregations and faith based agencies.

The workshop presented by Nazareth Housing was entitled: *From Shelter to Permanent Housing: Barriers and Opportunities Experienced by Homeless Families*. During this hour and a half workshop, our Executive Director and Director of Social Services provided participants with an overview of the historic responses religious congregations made on behalf of the homeless families and individuals. The workshop covered the following topics: homesteading, permanent low income housing, shelter services, homelessness prevention, youth and self sufficiency programs, the need for financial literacy and living wage employment. He emphasized that housing will not be effectively addressed if people cannot earn a sufficient wage to pay for their housing. Ms. Margalit addressed demographics, barriers and opportunities for housing as they have evolved over the past 20 years. She explained and gave an overview of the myriad of services provided to individuals and families and how these have helped social service agencies address issues faced by today's homeless families. The organizer of the conference sent an email and this is what he had to say, "Attendees were very pleased and happy with the plenary and afternoon workshops, expressing gratitude for what they had seen and learned. I think this attests to a deep interest in, and increasing need for, an integration of the faith perspective and social service provision, and underscores the important work you have already undertaken" Dale Lindquist, Assoc Dir for the Beck Institute.

For more information on the barriers and opportunities experienced by homeless families in New York City please reference to the article on page 4.

Nazareth Housing VITA Site links Families to a better future

In January 2009, Nazareth Housing launched our partnership with United Way of New York City and The Financial Clinic in order to help low-income families file their taxes and receive financial counseling. As a first year site, we are pleased to announce that we have filed over 400 peoples' taxes free of charge! Additionally, over 130 people have taken advantage of financial coaching services, using their refunds to open interest bearing bonds and savings accounts. As Nazareth Housing enters the ninth week of our twelve week initiative we have filed 5% more taxes than the prior year's site. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the United Way of New York City and the Financial Clinic and look forward to continuing our relationship with the goal of helping low-income individuals and families become more independent financially. We look forward to a strong finish as we near the end of the project.



Michael Callaghan, Executive Director with Michigan State University student volunteers referred by Catholic Charities who spent a day of spring break promoting our free tax filing program MoneyUp.

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Working Together to Overcome Obstacles, Fight Poverty, and Empower Change



Dong feeding daughter Amy

By Stacey Pellegrino,
Nazareth Housing Case Worker

Meet Mrs. Xiao Yan Dong, the client I have had the pleasure of working with for the past month. A courageous, strong-willed woman who has been inspiring other residents and Nazareth Housing staff since her arrival on January 12, 2009.

Mrs. Dong has more barriers stacked up against her than most. She moved to New York City in 2007 from China with her husband and unborn child in hopes of a better life. Within a year of moving to the US, her husband went into surgery for a benign brain tumor that needed to be removed. The surgery left him unconscious with extensive brain damage and the inability to care for himself. Mrs. Dong had her daughter during this time. Not being able to converse in English, being a Mandarin only speaker, and not having any family or friends to help her during this time, she was left in a very serious and challenging situation. Alone in New York with a baby, unemployed, nowhere to live, no financial support, and a husband in a vegetative state at a nursing home, Mrs. Dong and her daughter Amy came to Nazareth Housing.

In the past month, Mrs. Dong has taken tremendous strides to become self-sufficient and fight all those obstacles against her. Lack of access to education and training is the key barrier to employment and opportunities for women. Mrs. Dong did not advance past the eighth grade in China, however her strengths and desire to learn are contributing greatly to her success. Mrs. Dong is very eager to succeed. She completed a 100

hour training course to become a certified Home Health Aide and is actively pursuing a career in the patient and child care field. Mrs. Dong also attends English classes three days a week and is working incredibly hard to master English.

She understands her responsibilities and doesn't pity herself. Instead she fights to overcome her educational and socio-economic barriers. After working together to create a resume for Mrs. Dong and applying for several jobs, she proactively followed up by going down to the Extended Health Care Services office to pitch for a job. The employer saw all of Mrs. Dong's potential and strengths and offered Mrs. Dong a Home Health Aide position the same day.

Mrs. Dong is a role model and example of a successful Nazareth Housing resident to all. She follows the rules and regulations, participates in all self-sufficiency life skills and housing workshops, checks in every day, and regularly meets with Nazareth Housing Social Services staff to make sure she is accomplishing all goals being set and advancing towards a bright future for her and her family. She was named March Mother of the Month for her amazing work raising her one and a half year old daughter Amy. Amy is doing beautifully, and it is apparent to all what a wonderful job Mrs. Dong is doing raising her.

In the past month working together, Mrs. Dong has made incredible progress. By attending all appointments and having my support to advocate on her behalf, Mrs. Dong was able to open a Public Assistance case, receive child care, find employment, and will hopefully have permanent housing real soon. Her optimism, hard work ethic, and kindness inspires me daily and I look forward to watching all the progress she makes in order to better the life of her and her family.

Message from the Executive Director

Abraham Lincoln once said: "Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm." At Nazareth Housing we are standing firm in our mission to prevent and end homelessness. I hope that you will continue to stand firm with us.

As our community struggles to respond to the issues facing our economy and the effects on our fellow New Yorkers, I have never been more proud of the work being done by the staff of Nazareth Housing. Each day we receive dozens of calls and emails seeking assistance from families and seniors afraid of losing their housing. Our dedicated staff provides integrated resources, intensive case management and urgent needs assessments professionally and with compassion for those we serve. We have added an additional unit to our shelter apartments and additional beds in several units to accommodate larger families entering the shelter system. Like many shelter providers we are running at full capacity.

The struggles of the general economy are the struggles of the not-for-profit sector as city and state budgets have been severely reduced and private grantors have re-alignments in their portfolios, limiting the amount of support that may be made to important projects. Even in the face of these challenges, I am pleased that The Lily Auchincloss Foundation and The Ann M. Martin Foundation have recently chosen to support our mission with generous grants. This support is critical to helping stabilize families experiencing housing crisis. Additionally, The Celebrate Foundation has provided us a one time challenge grant to match .50 on the dollar up to \$5,000 toward our goal of \$15,000 for Spring Appeal 2009.

My thanks go to Bob and Joan McGrath from the Celebrate Foundation and to all who contribute towards making Spring Appeal 2009 a success.



Executive Director
Michael Callaghan, c.o.

Take Care of your Mind, Body and Soul: Kathy's Day

On Saturday, January 31, 2009, Nazareth Housing hosted the 1st annual Kathy's Day; a health fair for Nazareth Housing shelter residents, clients and families residing on the Lower East Side. We offered free Mammography for 25 women over 40, consultation with Nazareth Housing Board Member Dr. Alice Beal; Asthma Specialist, consultation and free glucose testing with Nazareth Housing Board member Dr. Cassandra Henderson, free blood pressure testing, HPV and vaccine information, mental health resources and referrals, consultation with nurses from Beth Israel Latino Health Institute, and yoga and relaxation techniques. Children participated in a health workshop hosted by NY Cares where they learned about better health and nutrition. This event was dedicated in memory of Kathy Callaghan Badolato, the late sister of Nazareth Housing's Executive Director, Michael Callaghan. We want to thank Dr. Cassandra Henderson, Dr. Alice Beal, The National Kidney Foundation, Ryan Nena Community Health Network, Beth Israel Hospital, The American Italian Cancer Foundation, Beyond The Bridge, NY Cares, and Roberto Clemente Health Institute for their participation. Due to the overwhelming success of this event we are planning to host Kathy's Day every January.



Michael Callaghan, Dorit Margalit with a staff member from The National Kidney Foundation



Dan Holohan, Team Leader for NY Cares Read to Me program with volunteers and participants



Nazareth Housing Staff and members from collaborating health agencies who participated in the event



Dorit Margalit, staff member from The American Italian Cancer Foundation and patient



Elizabeth Gonzalez, Dorit Margalit, Mildred Perez and Michael Callaghan take a break to pose for a picture.



Volunteers and Nazareth Housing L3youth in Nutritional Workshop provided by NY Cares Read to Me Program

A Spring Day With Nazareth Housing by Dan Lane, volunteer

How did you spend your first spring Saturday? Brunch? Walk through the park? Did you sleep in?

No matter what, I don't think you could have possibly had more fun than me. I got stickers all over my sweater (one said "I'M SUPER!"), went to the public library, ate pizza and watched The Story Pirates, a group that makes plays for kids. But best of all, I made some new friends... the kids of Nazareth Housing.

I was introduced to Nazareth by my friend Stacey who works there. The organization provides a mix of services, including transitional housing, self-sufficiency education and youth programming to homeless families. The kids I met on Saturday are too sassy, smart and beautiful to be described. Upon entering the room I was immediately stickered by an array of bold youngsters. My partner for the day Sharonda, who was at first a skeptical pre-teen, turned out to have as much fun as anyone walking through the spring sunshine to the library and helping pickup the pizzas afterward.

The Story Pirates got the kids to make up amazing stories (which are currently being transformed into a stage play). Sharonda's sister Lashonda, told me the protagonist in her story was a little girl snake. When I asked her what the snake wanted she said "Well... she wants a tootsie roll and real home." All I could think about was what two simple requests those were. She got a tootsie roll from the candy basket.... but is still living in the temporary housing Nazareth provides.

At the end I made paper airplanes for Sharonda and her two sisters. I told them there were two rules.... 1. Don't throw them outside, because they will go into the road and get squashed. 2. To make your plane fly, you have to laugh.

As I walked away from the building I turned to see 3 little girls running down the sidewalk, their little voices bellowing "hahahaha" as they tossed their paper airplanes.

If you need a reason to end homelessness, I have three.

**Nazareth Housing
Professional Staff**

Michael J. Callaghan, c.o.
Executive Director

Dorit Margalit, LCSW
Dir. of Social Services

Cynthia Barton
Housing Specialist

Mildred Perez
Homelessness Prevention Specialist

Stacey Pellegrino
Case Manager

Melissa Beniquez
Operations Manager

Owen Stemmer
Staff Accountant

Lynette Cintron
Programming Assistant

Ivan Becker
Technology Manager

Matthew Fabricant
Coordinator for Mission
and Development

**Mission Statement of Nazareth Housing
Our Vision**

**To empower individuals and families to overcome barriers to
safe and secure housing**

Our Mission

**Nazareth Housing is committed to the promotion of
housing stability and economic independence among
poor families and youth of New York City, through the
provision of:**

**Transitional shelter
Homelessness prevention
Self-sufficiency education
Supportive housing
Youth programming**

**Our Values
We believe in:**

**Compassion
Family Well-being
Responsibility
Integrity
Self-Sufficiency**

**Nazareth Housing
Board of Directors**

Steven M. Edwards
President

Mary Beth Hogan
Vice President

Bennette D. Kramer
Secretary

Daniel T. Condon
Treasurer

Monica Alvarez

Alice Beal, MD

Christine Hamner

Cassandra E. Henderson, MD

Mary C. Kilbourn

Judith Norton

James Ryan

Leonard Shavel

Hey friend, can you spare.....some time? By M. Perez, Homelessness Prevention Specialist

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty reports that in the last 10 years, NYC homeless shelter population has increased by 65%. It is reported that over 75% of New Yorkers are living paycheck to paycheck. Homeless people face many problems beyond the lack of safe and suitable housing. Imagine being homeless and looking for a job. What address and phone number to use as a contact? How to supply a housing history for a prospective landlord if there is no recent reference with an address and a landlord? These are things we take for granted but they are real concerns for the homeless. A person may be dismissed as unemployable because his appearance is unkempt and clothes are worn. Chronic mistreatment often adds to feeling despair and reinforces issues of low self esteem and unworthiness. The stereotypes placed on homeless individuals can create tension between the homeless and the people in the community. Homelessness is a pervasive and growing reality with many root causes to which growing numbers of New Yorker's are becoming susceptible to in these challenging economic times. Unemployment, foreclosure, high rents are pushing many families to the edge and more and more are falling over that edge. A weakened economy and growing social needs indicate that we will see more people becoming homeless. We are doing our part at Nazareth Housing. If you are interested in making a difference and ending homelessness, please consider volunteering in support of our mission. Please contact us at 212-777-1010 or visit our website at www.nazarethhousingnyc.org to learn more about our programs.

**Volunteer Positions: Housing Intern /// Administrative Assistant
 Furniture Donation Service Coordinator**

Keeping Our Vision Advancing Our Mission Living Our Values

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