

## **Martha's Vineyard Hospitality Homes**

Martha's Vineyard Hospitality Homes has now completed its first season. Many good people have brought their gifts and insights to meet the issue of homelessness. We are in a time of planning and raising funds for next winter's shelter and the specific form it will take.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a classical piano performance by Charles Whitehead at the Whaling Church in Edgartown. Doors will open at 7:00 so that you can look at & bid on the silent auction items. The performance is at 8:00. Tickets will be \$20.00 in advance, and \$25.00 at the door. If you are interested in purchasing tickets prior to the event, contact me at [caroleearly@gmail.com](mailto:caroleearly@gmail.com) or call at [508-693-7914](tel:508-693-7914).

Some background information the HH program might be helpful. Hospitality Homes was formed by the Island Clergy Association. This was an initial response to the homeless studies conducted and reported on in 2015.

Initially a call for volunteers for HH went out. Over 180 volunteers showed up for training and discussion sessions. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church's Father Chip Seadale acted as facilitator and guide. Originally three churches came forward to offer their parishes or fellowship halls and kitchens for the program that ran from January 1 through March 31, 2016. These churches were St. Andrews and Federated Church of Edgartown, and Grace Episcopal of Vineyard Haven. Grace Church had to withdraw and ultimately, only the 2 Edgartown churches were used. We want to thank the Hebrew Center for the financial help which they gave last year.

Each night volunteers took one of two shifts to cover the 7am to 7pm shelter hours. There were two volunteers per shift with a weekly coordinator over-seeing and problem-solving any issues that came up. The shelter housed twenty males and three females over the course of the winter with 7 or 8 regulars. Weekly shower facilities were provided by the Airport Tennis and Fitness Center. Dinners were provided by Community Supper Programs and served by the evening volunteers who worked from 6:30pm-10:00pm. Breakfast was prepared and set out by the overnight volunteers that covered 9:30pm-7:00am.

Hope you can attend the performance on July 9th at the Whaling Church. If you would like to purchase tickets now, you may call me at 508-693-7914 or email me at [caroleearly@gmail.com](mailto:caroleearly@gmail.com). With your help, we hope to raise money for the upcoming season. Checks can be dropped off at my house (call first). They should be made out to MVUMC & in the notation, write Island Clergy Association - Homeless Fund.

Carole Early

assistant event coordinator

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