



# Transitions

Summer 2001

1981-2001

## The past meets the future

Spring 2001 was a time of incredible transition for Covenant House. On March 1, ground was broken for the new facility on Shrewsbury Street (see story, page 5). On April 29, comedian Jimmy Tingle was the featured entertainer as friends and supporters celebrated 20 years of Covenant House's service to the Charleston community. (See page 3).



Hoisting shovels at the groundbreaking for Covenant House's new building are Barbara Ferraro, Pat Hussey, Joe Wilson, Board President David Sudbeck, Gov. Bob Wise, Architect Lloyd Miller, original board member Helaine Rotgin, Charleston Mayor Jay Goldman and David Pray of Pray Construction, (which is building the facility at cost).  
*photo courtesy Pray Construction*



Jimmy Tingle



*photos by David Bennett*

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Covenant House is an independent, non-profit organization. It is not affiliated with Covenant House in New York.

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From the desk of the co-directors

# Thanks for all you do!

***“It is in deeds we become aware of what humanity, of what our life really is.***

***“Of our power to help and not to harm, to build or to ruin, to derive joy and bestow it on others, to relieve or increase tension.***

***“What we may not dare to think, we often utter in deeds.***

***“The heart is revealed in deeds.”***

***(Abraham Joshua Heschel)***

We are where we are as the result of many good deeds done by extraordinary people throughout the years. At this time in our history, we are aware that this new building project is truly a community effort. The physical structure is simply not being built in isolation from what we do day-to-day. It reflects past deeds and future dreams. We trust it will rest on a solid and firm foundation—laid on the broad shoulders of many volunteers and good staff who have labored over the years.

We could not do it alone. The Board has made a tremendous commitment to the future mission of Covenant House. Countless people behind the scenes have acted as catalysts for giving. Local foundations have been generous and trusted us to be good stewards with the money which has been distributed. Governmental units have willingly given support. And, individuals exceed our expectations with their continued generosity to all the programs, as well as the building fund. We thank all who have been a part of this project thus far.

We believe the Capital Campaign is one indicator we have faith in each other as a community. While we have been far from perfect during two decades, as an organization we have encouraged those who have had no voice to speak. We have tried to speak and act for those too weak to plead their own causes. We have struggled to live and act in harmony with the insights of our souls—that fairness and understanding are the deepest parts of that which we call humanity.

While differences have occurred politically, and discussions have been vigorous, the diversity of givers to this building project speaks of our willingness to continue the good works which have begun. Together, within and outside of the new Covenant House, may we make wise decisions for the well being of our community.

The heart of the matter is we are all linked together. What we do does affect one another. What we do may seem slight, but those deeds will harm or help, ruin or build our society. No deed can be minimized.

May the new project merely be a symbol of what can be built through our good deeds. May we all strengthen our resolve to erase prejudice and hatred, abolish poverty and intolerance and create a society where justice and compassion are the ordinary ways of our lives.

Thanks again for all you are and do!



# Celebrating 20 years of Covenant House



**T**he wonderful comedian Jimmy Tingle made us laugh, the women of Christ Church United Methodist fed us well, but mostly the night of April 29 was about old friends getting together once more in celebration of the ideal model of service that we strive for at Covenant House.

Each person attending the twentieth year celebration received a memory book designed by Michael Switzer with stories and photographs from the Covenant House archives. A ten-minute video by Tom Burger and Beth Spence also recounted cherished moments from the past and present.

Co-directors Barbara Ferraro and Pat Hussey paid tribute to long-time volunteers Clara Lawson, Joe Wilson (above), Janice Fink (at right), Phyllis Larimer and staff member Beth Spence (above right).



*photos by  
David Bennett  
and  
Becky Ofiesh*



Among the celebrants are, from left, Jayne Britton, Jane Harwood, Mack Tyson, Marsha Galloway and Alphonso and Frances Jones.

# Capital Fund Update

In March we were notified by the Kresge Foundation that Covenant House has been awarded a \$300,000 challenge grant. What this means is that we have to raise or have pledges for the balance of the money needed for the Capital Campaign or we do not receive Kresge's money.

When the proposal was submitted, we needed \$975,000. To help meet the challenge, BB&T has given us a grant of \$50,000 and General Anesthesia Services donated a house, which has been purchased by the state for \$92,000.

Several congregations have agreed to pay for rooms in the new building. One couple has pledged \$30,000. This leaves us needing \$490,000 to qualify for the Kresge money.



## AIDS play continues to appeal to students

The cast of "...Gone Tomorrow" was back on the gym floor for the third time this season for the last of six performances for the high schools in Harrison County, this time at Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg.

Performing before more than 750 students in two performances, members of the 2000-2001 troupe worked the audiences to stunned silences and standing ovations.

The cast included Nick Griffith, Melissa Harris, Ashley Laton, Carrie Smith, Meg Dickey and Mary Beth Griffith. They represented three high schools and the home student population.

"There were kids lined up around the information booth after the first show," said one of the RCBHS Peer Educators. "They were all asking for information about where they could be tested. We've never had that kind of response to a program before."

"...Gone Tomorrow" has been performed before more than 1,800 students during the 2000-2001 school year, with the cast having traveled over 800 miles. Written and still directed by Dan and Penny Kehde, the play has been seen by an estimated 21,000 West Virginia high school and college students during the past five years.

### *Oops!*

In our list of volunteers, we failed to mention Norma Hastings. We apologize to Norma for the oversight.

### *In memoriam*

**Hayes Browning**

father of staff member Linda Martin

**Harold Graves**

original board member of Covenant House

**Eleanor Wade**

**Jerry Lacy**

(his broad smile will be missed)

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

# Ground broken for our new home

"It's a tiny spot in downtown Charleston with a heart so big it beats throughout the state. After helping rebuild lives for 20 years, Covenant House is building a new home," wrote *Charleston Daily Mail* reporter Charlotte Ferrell Smith.

Gov. Bob Wise and Charleston Mayor Jay Goldman were among the dignitaries and supporters who gathered at Simpson United Methodist Church on March 1 for a service prior to breaking ground for the new \$2 million Covenant House.

The governor quoted Matthew in describing the work of Covenant House. "I was hungry, and you gave me meat. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was naked and you clothed me."

Mayor Goldman spoke for many supporters when he said, "I hope the day will come when everyone has a job and does not need the services offered at Covenant House. But in the meantime, it will be a safe haven."

Pat Hussey, co-director, paid tribute to the many individuals, congregations and businesses that have supported Covenant House through the years.

"The way the new structure is being built, with so much community support, is like what we do from day to day. This is not being built in isolation. It rests on a solid



photo courtesy Pray Construction

**Covenant House Co-directors Barbara Ferraro, above left, and Pat Hussey, chat with Gov. Bob Wise, second from left, and David Pray, owner of Pray Construction, following the ground-breaking ceremony in March. At right, Pat Hussey is interviewed by a WCHS-Radio reporter.**



foundation. It shows we have faith in one another as a community."

Also participating in the day's event was David Pray, president of Pray Construction, whose firm is providing construction services without profit for the 13,000 square foot building.

Pray participated in the symbolic ground breaking, together with Joe Wilson, Pat Hussey, Barbara Ferraro, Helaine Rotgin, David Sudbeck, Lloyd Miller, Mayor

Goldman and Gov. Wise.

Other speakers at the service included Connie Weaver, Covenant House board member; David Sudbeck, board president; Robert Rodecker, first board president of Covenant House.

The Rev. Karl Ruttan, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, spoke on behalf of the present church supporter and neighbor.

Welcoming Covenant House to the new neighborhood were the Rev.

Paul Dunn, pastor of First Baptist Church; the Rev. Judy Fisher, co-pastor of St. Marks United Methodist Church; and the Rev. Anthony Arrington, pastor of Simpson United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Arrington said, "We extend a hand of friendliness in good times and in bad times. We pray that not only bricks and mortar will be changed, but lives will be changed at the new building."

# A center for social justice

A lot of activity has taken place in and out of this little building during the past twenty years, and we hope that when the history of this era is written, Covenant House will best be remembered as a center for social justice.

Those who are here regularly, who have served on the board, who have volunteered, who have given to Covenant House through the years, know much of the story.

## Rural Echoes

Covenant House is the story of people who have been without homes, without jobs, without family, without hope.

But it also is the story of people who came for help and had their spirits uplifted, their lives changed. It is the story of people who have been recipients of the goodness of others and have reinvented themselves so that they can be on the giving end of help.

It is the story of the continuous battle for services vitally needed by those who can't fight for it for themselves: a food pantry, a clothing closet, a free health clinic, a shelter for women and children, decent housing, welfare rights.

It is also personal stories such as that of two mentally challenged men who received support for the one thing they most wanted – the ability to maintain their friendship.

It is the Lincoln County woman who came to Covenant House-sponsored classes and proudly worked for and received her GED, saying she felt that she could do anything now.

It is the story of the rural family who moved to a brand new house because of a non-profit Covenant House helped establish. The mother said her son was doing much better in school because “he thought he was as good as anyone

else” when the family moved into the new house.

Covenant House also is the story of the young man in the early days of the AIDS epidemic, cast out by his family to die alone. He said he felt like a human being because he had a place to live.

It is the story of the men of Harts who held their heads high as they designed and built a house for a family in need – low-income men who knew they could make a contribution if given a chance.

It is the story of people across West Virginia banding together to change an education system that often discriminates against poor rural children.

It is the story of the single mother who got her college degree because of the support of Covenant

House – the help with housing, with an occasional utility bill, with Christmas gifts for her child, with a listening ear when things got tough.

It is these stories and many more that make up the fabric of Covenant House, the tapestry of what we have been and what we strive to become. As our good friend, the Episcopal priest Jim Lewis, said so many years ago, “We don't know who the next target group will be, but Covenant House will need to rescue them.”

Rescue them, help them get on their feet, help them organize so that they can change the world around them. That's what Covenant House has done and will do, no matter our location.

– Beth Spence

## Did you know. . .

- It's a boy for Covenant House staffer Julie Britton Haden and husband Davy. David Edgar Haden III was born May 3. Mother, father and son are doing fine.
- The West Virginia Housing and Advocacy Coalition has an active caseload of more than 350 persons living with HIV.
- Since April 1, 2000, the Covenant House AIDS Program (distinct from the Coalition) has given assistance to 72 new people. Seventeen of these new referrals are women.
- Covenant House is part of a county-wide program of the Kanawha Valley Collective to address the needs of persons who are homeless. Five other agencies collaborate efforts in outreach and service delivery across the county. David Bennett has taken an active role in the group of six.
- Rhonda Connard, a social work student from WV State College, has been doing her internship in the Drop-in Center. She will be leaving us after working hundreds of hours during her 14 weeks. The staff and many visitors to Covenant House will miss her smile, personality and great work ethic. Before she says her final farewells, Rhonda is working two days a week in the AIDS program while Julie Britton Haden is on maternity leave.
- Co-coordinator Linda Martin and three Challenge West Virginia fellows presented a workshop at the Appalachian Studies Association's annual conference at Showshoe Resort in March.

# *Special Gifts* (through April 4, 2001)

Louis Michael Covey in honor of Becky Ofiesh  
Geoffrey & Belle Haddad in honor of Sue Price's birthday  
Pat & Barbara in memory of Linda Martin's Dad,  
Hayes Browning, and Jim Lewis's mother  
Helaine Rotgin in memory of Greg Proctor's  
mother Evelyn Badner  
Clare & Philip Ciampa in memory of  
Gerald William Lawson and Carl Jacobson  
Becky Ofiesh in memory of Ernie Donahoe  
Betsy U. Haight in memory of "Peggie" Winkoff  
Margaret Kilmartin in memory of Anita Kilmartin  
Mary E. Welch in honor of  
Massachusetts Congressman John Moakley

## **In memory of Harold Graves**

Helaine Rotgin  
Becky Ofiesh  
Charleston Interdenominational Council  
on Social Concerns  
Barbara & Jim Eychaner

## **In memory of Jack W. Gillenwater, Sr.**

Dolores & Bill Wilkes  
Pray Construction Co.  
Bill & Vickie Lyons  
Janet Couvillion  
Larry Doig  
Ken Samuels  
Ken Joyce  
Paula & Jason Gardner  
Jay & Paige Hill  
Ann Plants  
Norbert & Carolyn Janik  
Thomas & Michelle Janik  
Judie Smith  
William Lyons

## **In memory of Charles A. Ferraro**

Ernst & Young, Dallas, Texas  
Don & Ellen Zimmerman  
Rose & Buddy Tobin  
Frances J. Bonacci  
Barbara & Lawrence Le Brun  
Carolyn Critchfield  
Carolyn Gilroy-Brown & Thomas Brown  
Janet Hollum Pace  
International Power Devices, Inc.  
Michael & Kelli Ventling  
Louise Wyant  
Joseph Chiu  
Judith Parsons  
Janet & Richard McAllister  
Mrs. Ginny McCabe  
Ellen Archibald  
Dorothy M. Schade  
Linda & Walter Lewis  
Math Department, Andover High School  
Helen & Tom Dukeman

Pat O'Leary  
Mary Marra & Peggy Duddy  
Mary Russell  
Siemasko & Verbridge, Inc.  
Mindy & Bill Young  
Mary Frances Burnette  
Russell M. Khederian, CPA  
Thomas & Linda Taylor  
Tom Spitsnaugle  
Philip & Kathleen Doherty  
David & Lynn Leonardo  
Edward & Donna Ogribene  
The Rosenberg Family  
The Staff of Covenant House  
Cynthia Eckroth  
John Briston & Mildred Sullivan  
Carolyn, Matthew & James Redmond  
Andover High School  
Charles Schade  
James & Barbara Long  
Catherine & Alexander Devito  
Rita Johnson & Leah Whitten  
Deborah & Bob Rodecker  
Connie Weaver  
Barbara Hafer  
Pat Jardine  
Margaret Keefe  
Judy & Don Corvelli  
Bruce & Kendra Cooper  
Helen F. Thalheimer  
Dan & Kay Cedrone  
Kathleen & John Vaccaro  
Bruce & Carol Copeland  
Sandie, Walt, Robert & Katherine Hussey  
Grace Whitehair  
Lynn & Connor Flahive  
Karen & Kristin Hokanson  
Susan & Eric Dupont  
Sheri O'Dell  
Janet Chapin  
Charles Boll & Kim Pauley  
Walter, June & Michael Hussey  
C & S Taxes (founded with the encourage-  
ment and great love of the late Charles A.  
Ferraro) Mary Conley & Janet Salvatore  
Ann Patterson  
Robert and Barbara Lawson  
Sheila Doran Benyon

## **In memory of Francis "Bud" Patterson**

John & Betsy Chapman  
Barbara & Webb Arceneaux  
Lloyd & Chris Kenney  
Keith & Emma Davis  
Sue and Jim Chase  
Bruce & Carol Copeland  
The Bridge Club  
Myrtle May Clarke



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Covenant House Programs

### **Drop-In Center**

Provides a safe space with showers, laundry facilities, access to a free telephone, mailing address and crisis intervention.

**David Bennett, Philip Hainen** 344-8433

### **Emergency Assistance**

Helps those in extremely difficult circumstances with rents, utilities, travel and medicine.

**David Bennett, Philip Hainen** 344-8433

### **Food Pantry**

Food distribution center located at First Presbyterian Church. Volunteer coordinator: Virginia Cooper

**Manager: Claude Churchwell**  
**David Bennett, Philip Hainen** 344-8433

### **Clothing Closet**

Clothing distribution center operated out of St. Marks United Methodist Church. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Coordinator: Judy Snyder** 343-3744

### **Challenge WV**

A statewide organization committed to maintaining and improving small community schools and reforming state education policy so that every child has the opportunity to receive the best possible education.

**Beth Spence** 756-9191  
**Linda Martin** 744-5916

### **AIDS Residential and Resource Program**

Maintains residences for people with AIDS who are homeless and provides support services and emergency services. Supports and offers performances of "Gone Tomorrow," an educational play aimed at a teenage audience.

**Julie Britton, Susan Ledsome** 344-0530

### **Counseling Program**

Offers family, individual or pastoral counseling by a certified licensed counselor. Fees are on a sliding scale.

**Barbara Ferraro** 344-8053