St. Margaret's House

Report to the 2004 Diocesan Convention

The beginning of a new year is not necessarily tied to the calendar. For St. Margaret's House, a new year began on November 20, 2003 with an Open House and Dedication of the first and second floor renovations. This marked completion of the major work of our Capital Campaign, renovation of the first and second floors and handicap accessibility for the entire building. In the months which followed, we have been arranging, rearranging, and generally making ourselves comfortable in the new House.

The benefits of the additional space are realized in many ways. Private offices for staff, a second play area for children, expanded clothes closet, additional work/meeting rooms - all of these, upstairs, have opened up seating for meals, expanded laundry facilities and reception area downstairs. Again we served lunches to record crowds during the summer - now, at least, most of them can sit down to eat! We have received a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Mishawaka which will be used for improvements on the third floor. A security system has been installed. Programming continues to include sessions on effective parenting, health issues, job readiness and arts and crafts, spirituality and emotional support. You may be interested to know that St. Margaret's, as a Jubilee Center, will be receiving a $2,000 grant for our art program from the Jubilee Office of the National Episcopal Church.

Winter Walk 2005, already in the planning stages, is set for Sunday, February 13, 2005. Each year has brought new and enthusiastic walkers and we hope to welcome many of you to our numbers in 2005. In 2004 the Winter Walk raised $42,000 toward St. Margaret's operations. Also in 2004, St. Margaret's was one of 70 agencies (out of 140 applicants statewide) to be awarded Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) state tax credits. Our award was $25,000, which will leverage contributions of $50,000. We are well on the way toward that goal.

Most of you know that St. Margaret's was one of the beneficiaries of Father Bradley McCormick's estate. We are deeply grateful for Father McCormick's faith in the ministry of St. Margaret's, and plan to use these funds in ways that will help to secure our financial future and ensure that St. Margaret's can continue to carry out its work in the community and diocese.

As always, we take this opportunity to invite you to visit St. Margaret's, especially if you have not seen our updated quarters. You are always welcome.

Kathryn A. Schneider, Director

Mary Pyles, Board Secretary