



Steven's House News

Spring 1999

An Intermediate-Care Facility

Volume 5 Issue 1



BURN, BABY, BURN — Executive Director James Griffith burns the mortgage on Steven's House at a ceremony marking the payoff of the mortgage with the help of a matching grant from The Meadows Foundation. Many Houston organizations (listed in the article below) helped Steven's House obtain the funds that made the matching grant possible.

Matching grant from Meadows Foundation completes purchase of Steven's House

HOUSTON, March 1, 1999-- Steven's House, a community residence of men and women living with HIV/AIDS, has been awarded a matching grant from the Meadows Foundation of Dallas. The matching funds will be used to complete the purchase of the current Steven's House facility.

Steven's House opened in August of 1994. The facility accommodates six residents at a time. Steven's House provides 24-hour supervision and a safe, clean, drug and alcohol free environment, while offering its services free of charge to its residents. It provides persons living with AIDS, who might otherwise be homeless, a secure place to live while aligning the services necessary to move towards independence.

The Meadows Foundation is among the most recognized private philanthropies in the country. It has received numerous awards for both its philanthropy and its manage-

ment. Foundation grants support work in the fields of arts and culture, civic and public affairs, education, health, and human services. The Foundation has particular interests in imaginative, innovative ways to solve community problems through projects leading to organizational self-sufficiency and in capital plans that enable projects to flourish.

Many Houston organizations assisted Steven's House in their endeavor to obtain the matching funds from the Meadows Foundation. Among the organizations that contributed either direct matching funds, renovation funds, or assistance with operating costs are: Miss Camp America Foundation, Houston Endowment, The Krewe of Olympus, Don Gill Productions, Outrage, The Hollyfield Foundation, The Montrose Softball League, The Garden Party, The Gray Party, Bunnies on the Bayou, Houston Invitational

Bowling Tournament, Art Colony Association, Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA), Asians and Friends, and The Executive & Professional Association of Houston (EPAH)

The Passionist Community headquartered in Chicago, and Dan Sheppard and Jean Clark of Western Paging and Voice Mail Systems assisted with purchase, opening renovations and with matching funds to Steven's House that helped garner the Meadows Foundation Award. We are most appreciative to our regular contributors whose names appear in our newsletter and to all those who support the above named organizations with the contributions that allow them to be so generous.

And now that the current facility has been purchased, Steven's House can look forward to growing to accommodate those men and women who are on its waiting list, which usually equals or exceeds the current facility capacity.

Director's Corner by Jim Griffith

One of our goals is to publish a newsletter every three months. Obviously, I am a bit late. But as you will see a lot has been happening in the last few months. The biggest news is we are finally debt free. The Meadows Foundation of Dallas awarded us a matching grant that allowed us to pay off our debt. Please note that article to see the many organizations that assisted with this major undertaking by either contributing directly to the match or assisting us with funds for projects and operations that allowed us to save for the match.

Thanks to those who came to help us burn the mortgage. The board now begins the awesome task to plan our growth for the future. We have asked for and will continue to seek ideas from the organizations, and individuals that assisted us in reaching our goals thus far.

SARAH'S GENEROUS SPIRIT

I also call your attention to the article acknowledging Sarah Zomper. She again proves young people can make a difference. Last issue we told you about Jason and his generous use of time and talent. This time we share with you Sarah's special way of sharing her energy, generous spirit and creativity. Sarah is the daughter of Fran Brochstein, one of the Steven's House Board members, and has been involved about the house for sometime. She chose a passage moment in her life to make a big difference for a lot of people.

MORE FAMILY ALBUMS

I have heard folks enjoy the pictures we publish to get a real feel for the Steven's House family, so we will again share some of the family album. Since we published the last photo of the staff, there have been some changes. We have a new administrative assistant and a house manager. I have asked one of them to use this forum to introduce themselves to our readers. In the next few issues we will take the opportunity to meet more of the staff.

CONGRATULATIONS, ED:

Congratulations to Ed Glaser for capturing the title of Mr. Prime Choice 1999, and for choosing Steven's House as one of his beneficiaries as he fulfilled requirements for the title. He put together a

number of shows benefiting us as well as other charities. They were creative and fun. Thanks to all who participated and to the community who donated so generously.

OUR CHANGING CLIENTELE

I was reminiscing with Althea Thompson, one of the charter members of the Steven's House board at the mortgage burning party. We have come a long way since we began. We began our services by caring for very ill men, whose primary need was physical assistance and care. We cared for three of them till their end time. As medications helped to improve health and the face of AIDS changed to include women, children, and people of color, we changed to meet the challenge of housing the new population.

Now a number of our clients come to us homeless, dealing with other issues besides with HIV/AIDS. Many have histories of abuse of all kinds, and are working very hard to not only to live with HIV/AIDS but to deal with the responsibilities and realities connected to reestablishing an independent life.

We now must offer many other services to assist them. We have a weekly outside facilitated support group; we assist them in attaining private counseling; we help them understand medical treatments and their personal medications; we assist them in attaining their GED's; we work with other programs that offer chemical dependency counselors and we work with them to maintain a life of sobriety, and assist them in obtaining gainful employment.

It seems more difficult at times, yet so much more rewarding when a resident moves to their own apartment with their own job and feeling like they have a new lease on life, and a new life to live. It is about living with AIDS after all.

MANY THANKS

I want to thank all of you who have walked with us on our mission and have supported us with your prayers, your funding and in-kind donations, your referrals, and kind words. All of the residents are aware that we are able to do all we do because of all of you. If you have ideas about our growth please let me know. We would be most interested. Enjoy reading.

A Journey Begins with One Small Step

Sarah Zomper recently turned 13 years old and became a Bat Mitzvah at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism on December 18 and 19, 1998. Deacon Jim Griffith, C.P. participated in the service on the pulpit by thanking Sarah for all the work she had done on behalf of Steven's House.



SARAH ZOMPER

A Bat Mitzvah is a female who performs the commandments of adulthood in Judaism. In preparing for this rite of passage into Jewish adulthood, Sarah spent many hours over the past years studying Hebrew, Jewish history and Ritual practices. In addition, she committed to doing mitzvot, or good

deeds, assisting those less fortunate and promising to help make a better world. Sarah has volunteered at Steven's House along with her mother, Fran, for the past year. Additionally, she asked that friends and family donate money to Steven's House or to her synagogue in lieu of giving her a Bat Mitzvah present. To date, she raised over \$1,148.00 for Steven's House.

Sarah's mother, Fran, feels that Sarah has learned a valuable life lesson in asking people to donate to Steven's House. When Sarah was picking a mitzvah project, she was concerned because there was not much she could do because she was only a child. Her mother

explained that every journey must begin with one small step. Sarah has been amazed that her request could generate such an outpouring of donations for her chosen charities. She has learned the power that one person can have on her community.

Needless to say, her family is very proud of her. Sarah is the daughter of Steven's House board member, Fran Brochstein and Larry Zomper.

Fran feels that Sarah has learned a lot from volunteering at Steven's House. She has met a wide variety of people and the experience has opened her eyes and her heart. She has developed a special bond with Brian W., a previous resident now currently on staff.

Sarah is a 7th grade honors student at the Trafton Academy. Also noteworthy, Sarah's uncle, Eddie Zomper, has been a Steven's House volunteer for over a year.

Steven's House

T-Shirts and Mugs available!



\$10
Gray with
Green logo

Indicate quantity and T-shirt Size: M L XL

T-shirts: X \$10.00 = \$ *

Mugs: X \$7.00 = \$ *

*Includes Shipping and Handling



\$7
White with Blue
and red logo

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Send your check or money order along with this order form to:

Steven's House, PO Box 131303, Houston, TX 77219-1303 (713) 522-5757

Bunnies on the Bayou celebrate 20th Anniversary

The residents, staff and Board of Steven's House are most grateful for the generous donation from the Bunnies on the Bayou awarded Sunday April 11. This award is made after the annual Easter party. This year's party was really fun, and despite the slight rain, everyone I talked to had a great time. I have been attending for years and each year it gets better.

The hard work and dedication of the Bunnies is to be commended. We are most grateful for the check in the amount of \$3,000.00.

I also enjoyed representing Steven's House at the awards party with the other organizations that were beneficiaries of this Easter's event. It was good to socialize and network with them.

Some of the money will help to defray the cost of private tutoring for one of our residents. We will also use the money to replace some of the used furniture and mattresses we now have. Thanks to the help of the Bunnies last year we carpeted almost the whole house and shored up a few spots in the sub floor. Thanks also to all that attend and make the annual event something to look forward to each year.



Tim Gibson serving as new House Manager



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tim Gibson and I am the new House Manager of Steven's House. Duties include: Working

close with the clients assisting in any way to help the clients achieve their goals, providing a ear for listening and a push when needed.

I monitor clients when setting up their medications and help them with the routine of taking them on a regular schedule. I am also responsible for the overall maintenance and good running of the house. For this task I enlist the assistance of the residents, teaching them responsibility and other life skills. I also oversee duties designated to staff and volunteers.

My background: I am a Registered Massage Therapist, licensed by the state. I have an Associates

Degree in Marketing. My previous job was with Texaco Corporation under contract with American Express. I held the position of Quality Control Manager and was responsible for International documentation and Travel requirements.

I sign for Deaf persons and speak some Spanish. I plan to further my career soon and start Nursing school. I was born in Sydney, Australia. Due to a military family, have extensively traveled the world.

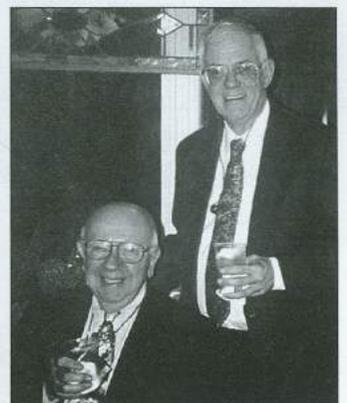
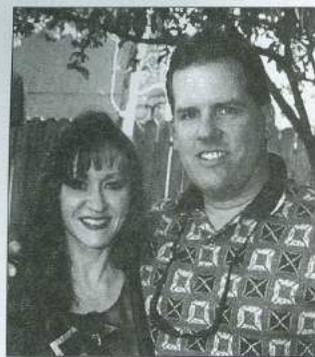
Editor's Note: As you can see, Tim's talents and his fun-loving personality provide a great addition to Steven's House. Welcome, Tim.

Want to Make A Difference??

Steven's House, a Montrose-area HIV/AIDS Transitional Living Home, needs volunteers to help with shopping, yard and house work and interaction with residents.



Steven's House FAMILY ALBUM Spring 1999



Together, We Can

That was the title of the TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION President's show Sunday, May 2nd. It was a chance for the TGRA membership, the community and those of us who were chosen as beneficiaries to come together to celebrate the dedication and hard work of all those involved.

Steven's House was very honored to share the spot light with AVES, Colt 45's, Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, Houston Challenge Pantry, PWA Holiday Charities, The Pride Committee of Houston, and the Rainbow Ranglers. It was a fun evening filled with energy and entertainment. TGRA president James Robert Smith (a.k.a. Jame` Roberts) put together a great evening with not only royalty entertaining but each of the above mentioned agencies supplying an entertainer. Wend Bennett (Ginger Snap) commanded the stage for Steven's House, and after the performance we received our check for **\$2,851.93**.

TGRA was founded in 1983 to elevate the image of women and men in the sports field of rodeo. The organization promotes and stages an annual rodeo in Texas, and engages in charitable activities by volunteering services or raising money to give to charities voted on by the membership. Currently there are five chapters in the state of Texas. TGRA members and royalty have raised and donated over \$1.5 million to Texas Charities. If you are interested in sharing your talent or expertise, you can receive more information by contacting a chapter of your choice. For more information, write P O Box 130585 Houston 77219 or e-mail codesign@compuserve.com.

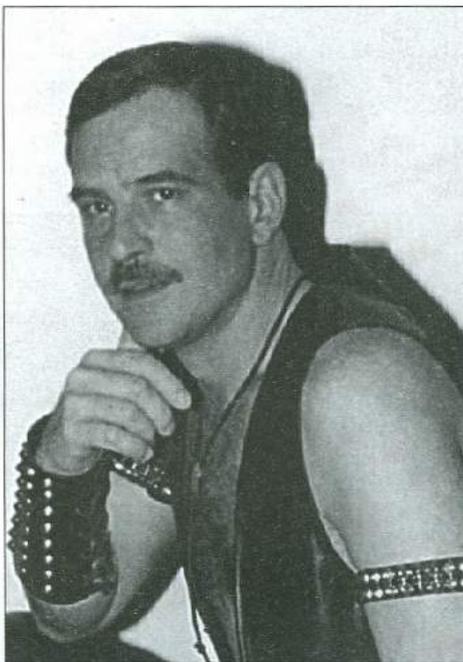


Congratulations, Ed Glaser

The contest for Mr. Prime Choice was held on April 17, 1999. After the tabulations were completed Ed. Glaser was declared the winner and now holds the title of Mr. Prime Choice.

One of the qualifications for this award is community fund raising. Ed hosted numerous benefit shows during the months preceding his title. With the help of many supporters including, Felicia Flesheater, Sean Carter RSICSS, the Sambuca Sister and Lone Star Houston over \$12,000 was raised for his campaign. The funds raised were distributed to Steven's House, Colt 45's - Stone Soup and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

The support that Ed showed to



the community is most impressive. Steven's House is most grateful that we were chosen as one of his beneficiaries receiving nearly \$5000.

Grocery shopping Share Cards make contributing easy

At KROGERS, simply present the Kroger card for Steven's House. If you need another card just let us know. It will be in the mail that day. Every bit helps. A phone call will put a new one in the mail.

At RANDALL'S our number is 1619. By simply visiting the courtesy booth you can declare Steven's House as the recipient for a new or existing card.



Krewe of Olympus Does It Again!

The Krewe of Olympus continue to raise money for their chosen charities, promotion of good will in the community and to preserve the Mardi Gras traditions.

In 1999 the Krewe raised over \$16,000.00 during their "Games People Play" theme gala. The gala was a major production held at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center with over 800 people in attendance.

During the black tie event and at other parties sponsored by the Krewe, monies are raised for chosen recipients. Included in the 1999 chosen charities were Steven's House, Thomas Street Clinic, PWA Holiday Charities, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and the Dallas Housing Project.

The Krewe has become a close knit family group of caring individuals. They work tirelessly all year long to be able to promote the fellowship necessary to produce such a major event. The members pay many of the expenses associated with the production personally.

Invitations to the ball are much sought after, as the Krewe of Olympus Ball is one of the major social occasions held in Houston. Each member of the Krewe is given a table, which accommodates 10 guests. These 10 invitations are given to friends and family of that Krewe member at no cost.

The Krewe was originated in New Orleans and



moved the organization to Houston in 1991. With much hard work the Krewe has 60-plus members.

Steven's House is most grateful to the Krewe of Olympus for their continued support. Thanks to the Krewe and the folks who support them Steven's House received \$4,000.00 to assist in our growth. Not only has the Krewe chosen Steven's House the last few years as one of their charities, but also members of the Krewe personally dedicate their time and talent to assist us. A.J. Simpson has joined the Steven's House Board of Directors and Wend Bennett is on our staff. For more information, see the Krewe website at <http://kreweofolympus.home.mindspring.com>

Thanks, Outrage, for your generosity

Outrage is a non-profit group of individuals first organized in 1983 to put on a Halloween event. When the presence of the HIV/AIDS crisis became known, Outrage turned its focus to raising funds via the annual party.



Outrage The Halloween Party has become one of Houston's premiere events, raising in excess of \$94,000 for local charities. For more information about Outrage and the Halloween event, call 713-706-2508 or visit their web-

site at Outrage@newsoft.com. Steven's House is very grateful to *OUTRAGE* for their generous support in the past. We were so pleased to be chosen as one of the recipients of their charitable works this year.

WISH LIST

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Towels | Twin Size Comforters | A small apartment in the Montrose area to use for an office and lodging for resident's families. |
| Sheets | Twin Size Sheet (Extra Long) | |
| Soft Drinks | | |
| Copier Paper | | |
| Cleaning Supplies | Volunteers, especially a Handy man for light maintenance | |
| New Bed Pillows | | |
| New Ironing Board | | |

Run the Marathon in January 2000 and raise money

Feel like a run? **Houston's** next annual **marathon** will take place in January 2000. We are looking at forming a group to run the marathon and raise dollars for Steven's House. Can you think of a better way to bring in Y2K? If you have interest or know of someone who does, please contact board member Paul M. Ringlaben: 713.864.4599.

Help Steven's House through Another Way Texas Shares

Steven's House is part of Another Way Texas Shares. If you give at the workplace, look for Steven's House as a possible recipient of your gift. Some of the employers participating are State of Texas, Houston Independent School District, the Federal Government and other corporations. Check with your human resources department to see if your company is part of AWTS.

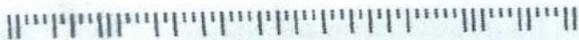
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Compassion, working in the community, to help others. **Won't you join us?**



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Steven's House



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