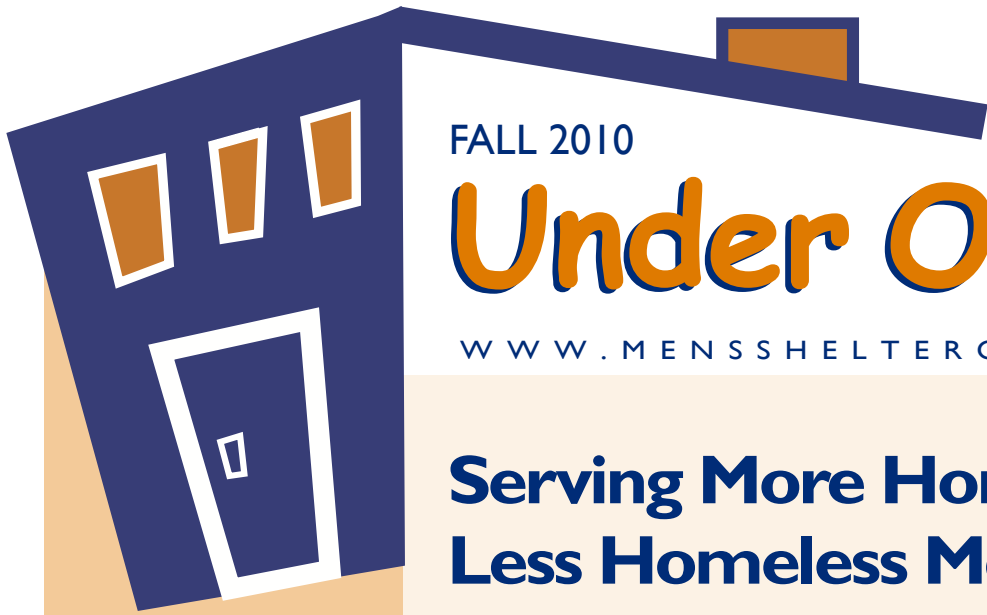


FALL 2010

Under Our Roof

WWW.MENSSHETEROFCHARLOTTE.ORG



Did you know?

As of May 1st, we are providing 500 beds 365 days a year!

MSC served 2,289 men last year.

MSC provided 145,330 nights of shelter and served 165,853 meals last year.

MSC has a Medical Respite Program. Ten beds are reserved for homeless men being discharged from local hospitals.

We are now providing dental services to homeless men and women 6 times/month!

MSC has a  Facebook page! Become a fan today and keep up with what's going on at MSC.

In September, MSC received its 3rd consecutive Charity Navigator "exceptional" Four Star Rating for fiscal responsibility and agency management.



Serving More Homeless Men = Less Homeless Men

It seems counter-intuitive, doesn't it? Wouldn't the fact that we are serving more men mean that there are more homeless men? Since Men's Shelter of Charlotte began offering 500 year round beds, our facilities have been full. With the help of many donors, volunteers and community partners, we served an average of 486 men per night in



"I give thanks to all of the volunteers who take the time to come care for the residents at the shelter."

~Curtiss D. Elston

One thing I would like to say about the shelter is, My life has made a complete difference, with-out the shelter who know where I would be. Maybe dead, or drugz prison, sleeping in the streets, or just some-where, just being mistreated.


Taken from a letter written by Curtiss Elston

July and 512 men per night in August. This means about twice as many homeless men are finding shelter than last year. It also means that we are able to engage and provide services to help end homelessness for twice as many men. Last year, thanks to community support, we placed 125 men into housing. This year, our goal is to help 250 men obtain and maintain more appropriate housing. We can only meet this goal if we continue to bring men in off of the streets, stabilize them, and connect them to supportive services.



"The Shelter has given me hope and wisdom and I do not ever have to use drugs again."
~Bryant Wilson

"Men's Shelter of Charlotte is taking an aggressive approach to reducing the number of homeless men in our community. By opening our facilities year round to provide enough shelter beds to meet the need, we are able to individualize our services to end homelessness for our guests one man at a time," says Carson Dean, Executive

Director. "We welcome all homeless men because our vision is to end homelessness for every man in our community." Everyone at Men's Shelter of Charlotte is excited about partnering with the community to serve more men this year so that we can ultimately see a brighter future for homeless men. 

My View from the Men's Shelter of Charlotte...

Ending homelessness. Sounds daunting? Sounds like “pie-in-the-sky” optimism, doesn't it? To me it sounds like a reasonable goal for our community. Our mission at the Men's Shelter is *helping homeless men*. The critical first step is to make sure that all homeless men seeking shelter have a safe place to go that meets their basic needs. But that's only the first step. Shelter is important, it's life-saving. But shelter alone does not change lives. Offering hope by providing services that helps someone address their mental illness, find a new job, or obtain disability income, in addition to shelter and food, begins to change lives. But even that isn't enough to help men move beyond homelessness. At the Men's Shelter, we are committed to helping all homeless men find safe shelter, address barriers to self-sufficiency, and obtain and maintain more appropriate housing. It is a daunting task, but we have a dedicated staff working twenty-four hours a day, 365 days per year, helping 500 men per night begin their journey beyond homelessness. We have dozens of community partners and countless volunteers working with us to accomplish our mission. However, there is more to do in building this foundation into a reality, and we need increased community support to make this happen. For each man who moves out of the shelter and into a place of his own, we, *the community*, have ended homelessness. Doesn't sound so “pie-in-the-sky” now, does it?



Carson Dean, Executive Director

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Executive Director

Levine Foundation Gives \$200,000 to Shelter

The Leon Levine Foundation has pledged \$200,000 to MSC over the next two years. This generous donation kicks off MSC's Major Gifts Campaign,

which focuses on raising \$1 million annually over the next three years to pay for the extra 240 year-round shelter beds now offered to homeless men in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community due to the merger of the Uptown Men's Shelter and Emergency Winter Shelter this past year.

Started in 1980, Mr. Levine and wife Sandra head up the foundation. In addition to the generous gift itself, support from the Levines has served as a catalyst for other large donations, including a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor who serves on the MSC Board. “The Levines have set the pace for the campaign by demonstrating that multi-year support of our mission is critical to providing and maintaining better services for these men,” said Carson Dean, MSC's Executive Director.

Leon Levine started Family Dollar Stores, Inc. in 1959, growing the chain into nearly every state with thousands of locations by his retirement in 2003. After retirement, Mr. Levine began his second career: building The Leon Levine Foundation into one of the country's largest and most impactful philanthropic organizations. Always charitable, Mr. Levine says he started the foundation because he felt compelled to give back to the community that had helped him become so successful.

Bringing his talent for spotting promising enterprises and growing them into successful operations, Mr. Levine takes an active role in determining what community needs will receive funding. Directors and staff learn early that every dollar with which they are entrusted must be considered for its best and most effective use. Mr. Levine's sense of expansion and leverage can be seen through the numerous challenges and collaborations he engineers for grant programs, large and small. Combining his talents and vision with his compassion and desire to help his fellow community members, the Levines have improved and will continue to improve the lives of thousands in our community. 🇺🇸



With a Little Help From My Friends



Gerald Robinson (center) with Case Manager, Pam Neal.

Gerald Robinson was in trucking for 39 years. While in the business, he moved Aretha Franklin and Alan Shepard. He also made sure that he always took time to do some sight-seeing after a long haul, Mt. Ranier and Mt. Rushmore being two particular stand-outs. Born in Great Falls, South Carolina in 1938, his family moved to Chester, SC when he was boy to work for Leroy Springs textile manufacturing. At 17, Robinson became a medic in the Army. After the service, he became interested in furniture-making and re-modeling and got into the furniture business. Eventually he got into the trucking business. "I've done a little bit of everything," says Robinson, who, still spry at 71, walks three miles each day.

Robinson first came to the Shelter in 2000. He had been hit by a car and hospitalized for a long period of time, and upon release, found himself with no place to go. He did find employment, however, stating "I worked the entire time I was here." Robinson is not alone; about 50% of Shelter guests work throughout their stays.

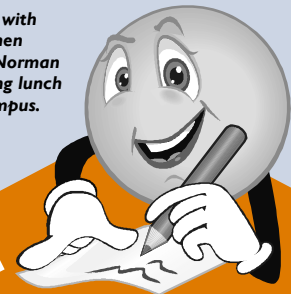
Robinson returned to the Men's Shelter in September 2009, after an illegal eviction from his apartment complex. This time, he entered the FOCUS Program. Case manager, Pam Neal began to support him through this down time and help him get back on his feet. "The MSC staff are my angels," said Robinson. "I owe the staff everything." Neal helped Robinson secure housing, and he left the Shelter on March 19th. He loves his new apartment, he says, and continues to meet weekly with Neal for support and guidance. 🇺🇸

Volunteer Spotlight

Hilton Whitaker was and still is a contender. After a 17-year boxing career, he is a boxing judge who travels the world to judge professional fights. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Whitaker grew up amidst gang violence. The 68-year old says that while he definitely learned how to fight, he wanted more out of life. He served in the Army from 1960-1963 and joined the US National Boxing Team afterwards. In 1966, he was crowned "New Jersey State Champion" after winning the title fight. After retiring from professional fighting in 1972, he worked for New Jersey Transit as a bus driver for 30 years. When his wife passed away in 2009, Whitaker moved to Charlotte to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren. Between judging fights and babysitting, he finds time to volunteer at Tryon Street Campus three times weekly to help prepare breakfast and lunch. Whitaker shows up at 4:30 a.m. sharp on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. "God just put it in my heart that I needed something to do after I retired," says Whitaker. And, the guests and the staff at MSC are very glad about that. Kitchen Manager Chuck Thompson and Sylvester Huff call Whitaker "Chef" and "let him run the show." "They act like I'm doing them a favor, but it's the reverse," says Whitaker, who says he feels very humble and eager to give back. Whitaker says the best part of volunteering at MSC is the reception he gets from the men who stay here. "The men are so grateful," he says. "The Shelter is their lifeline and they don't take it for granted." In addition to helping in the kitchen, Whitaker provides guidance and support by listening "when they just need to blow off steam." Whitaker heads to Atlantic City and South America to judge fights this Fall and MSC guests and staff will give him a hero's welcome upon return. 🇺🇸



Hilton Whitaker (right) with Chuck Thompson, Kitchen Manager (center) and Norman Hemphill (left) preparing lunch at the Tryon Street Campus.



WISH

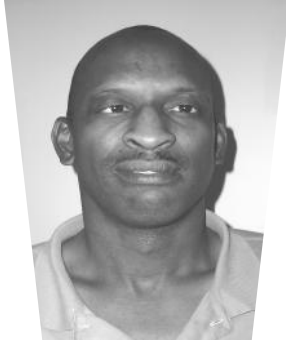
LIST

- Bath Towels
- Bar Soap
- Deodorant,
- Shampoo
- Shaving Cream
- New Socks
- Skin Lotion
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Triple Head Disposable Razors
- New Underwear- Boxers or Briefs (L-5 XL)
- New or Gently Used Men's Clothing (L-5XL)

Thank you for your compassion and generosity in helping homeless men. Questions? Call 704.334.3187, ext. 111.



Look inside & see what's **Under Our Roof!**



From "Gray" skies to a bright future...

Tryon Street Campus:
1210 N. Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28206

Statesville Avenue Campus:
3410 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28206

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 36471
Charlotte, NC 28236



Anthony Gray (left) with MSC's Life Skills Coordinator, John White.

Meet Mr. Gray...

To know Anthony Gray is to like him. Soft-spoken and articulate, Gray first came to MSC in 2009 after getting out of Hope Haven right in the middle of the economic down-turn with employment nowhere to be found. He stayed at MSC for four months, hit some snags after he left, and returned this past June. Gray was determined to turn his life around for good. Finding support in 12-step fellowships, a few local churches, and MSC's Life Skills Class taught by John White, Gray has gotten on the right path, and is working hard to stay on it.

Raised by a single mother, the 40-year old grew up in Salisbury, enjoying fishing, school, and time spent with his grandparents. "They were dedicated Christians. They taught me good values, manners, how to be respectful and to stay connected to myself in a positive way." In his later teens, Gray says he got off-track, started using drugs and sunk into many years of addiction.

In August, Gray started the Green Skills Technology program through the Pathways Employment Program at CPCC. He attends class from 8:30-5:30 four days a week, and studies when he's not in class. In four months, Gray will have his certification; however, he is eager to further his education and get his degree. "I'm trying to stay motivated and give myself an opportunity," says Gray, attributing much of his ability to build a better and positive mindset to White. In addition to teaching participants about money management and good values, the class teaches them about "staying connected to our inner selves and not getting caught up in negative environments," says Gray. He also says it motivated him to do something with his time while at MSC. "It inspired me to try to achieve success and to grow from where I am at this present time."

In addition to his own goals for the future, he says giving back is equally important. "I want to stay committed to my present journey so that I can benefit others, to help them change." And while Gray candidly admits that "sometimes it seems like it might be too much to bear," he is diligent, willing to work hard and push through the stumbling blocks, things he says he learned a long time ago from his grandparents. "They taught me that tomorrow can be a better day," Gray says. And, talking to Gray, it is very clear that tomorrow has come today and that his future is even brighter. 🏠

How Can I Volunteer at Men's Shelter of Charlotte?

Men's Shelter of Charlotte offers a number of volunteer opportunities for a variety of life stages and abilities!

- Meal Service
- Data Entry/Reception
- Clothing Closet
- Computer Lab
- Facility Projects
- Or share a talent of your own that can be beneficial to our guests!

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Linda Miller, Volunteer Coordinator, at 704.334.3187, x111 or Linda.Miller@MensShelterofCharlotte.org