



RPC Quarterly

A Publication of the Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company, Inc.

Winter 2010

Ballston Spa, New York

Rejoin Society as a
Productive Citizen

Permanent Housing

Re-Connect with Family

Gainful Employment

Address Medical and
Mental Health Issues

Case Management

Advocacy

Transitional Housing

*Seven Steps To End Homelessness
With Our Veterans*

This Issue:

Focus on Success Stories
of Formerly
Homeless Veterans

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Message from the Executive Director



Dear Supporters and Friends,

2009 was a very productive and satisfying year for the Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company. As a result of fund raising efforts and the generous donations of our friends and supporters, the Guardian House Project for Homeless Women Veterans fund reached the \$120,000.00 mark, one year after we announced our intentions. A list of the organization, corporations, foundations and individuals contributing last year can be found in the this newsletter.

The male veteran home on Church Avenue, Ballston Spa, also benefited from the generosity of our supporters; new flooring, new bedding, a flat screen TV and a complete landscaping makeover were made possible by donations to the house. Thank you.

During 2009, we housed 32 formerly homeless veterans (and families) either in our transitory house, our apartments in Wilton or our two-family house in Ballston Spa. We were fortunate to have experienced several successful “graduates” from our transitory house (see their stories on pages 4 & 5).

We enter 2010 with the objective of opening the Guardian house for Women this year, increasing the number of veterans securing meaningful employment through our Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and expanding our efforts to serve the housing needs of the low income residents of Saratoga and Washington Counties.

As always, I continue to be overwhelmed by the support and generosity of this region towards our veterans – our sincere thanks!

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Executive Director

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SCRPC PROGRAMS

Veterans Employment

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration and Placement Program is designed to assist rural homeless veterans in locating long term employment; assistance includes, interview skills training, job coaching, job placement and follow up to monitor job progress. 885-0091, ext 208 or 209.

Veterans Advocacy

This program is designed to assist the homeless veteran in securing benefits, in developing a successful recovery program that covers a wide range of issues and secure transitional and permanent housing. This program is staffed by two case workers and a part time social worker. 885-0091, Ext 211.

Transitional Housing For Homeless Veterans

RPC maintains a ten bed facility for Homeless veterans at 36 Church Avenue, Ballston Spa, New York. Employment and advocacy assistance is available to the residents. 885-0091, ext 211

Permanent Housing for Formerly Homeless Veterans

RPC owns a 12 unit apartment complex in Wilton, New York for homeless, formerly homeless veterans or those veterans living in substandard housing. In addition, RPC has a two family home in Ballston Spa for disabled homeless veterans and their families. 885-0091 ext 202.

Section 8 Rental Units

RPC manages the federally funded Section 8 program for all of Saratoga County, with over 250 families receiving subsidies each month. Program includes the highly successful Family Self-Sufficiency Program which helps families in achieving economic independence. 885-0091, ext 204 or 212.

Guardian House Project: A place for homeless women veterans

RPC is working towards the goal of establishing a transitory house for homeless women veterans. The program will follow the same model that PRC is employing with our current facility for male veterans. 885-0091, Ext 203.

Home Rehabilitation Program

RPC provides moderate home rehab, up to \$25,000.00, to qualified home-owners in Saratoga County. 695-3344.

Handicap Accessibility Program

RPC provides funding to qualified homeowners to make their homes more handicap accessible. This program is available to residents of Saratoga and Washington Counties. 695-3344.

From Homelessness to Self Sufficiency

The following success stories describe the journey five recent “graduates” embarked upon when they entered our program.

JG (U.S. Air Force Veteran, Vietnam)

JG arrived at our transitory home in April 2007, homeless and with only the clothes on his back. He had been recently released from Stratton VA Medical center after completing their 28 day rehab program to treat alcoholism and substance abuse; JG had a long history of abusing alcohol and drugs, costing him his job, his home, his health and his family. Over the course of 32 months, JG addressed his dental and health problems through the VA Medical facilities, remained sober, secured benefits through the VA for military service connected injuries and was successful in securing benefits for him and his children through Social Security. Unable to work due to his disability, JG volunteered at the VA hospital three times a week, helping other veterans to rebuild their lives. By the time JG was ready to move on, he secured permanent housing for himself and his visiting children who were able to re-establish a meaningful relationship. We are happy to report that JG continues to lead a productive, fulfilling and sober life on his own.

DC (U.S. Army Veteran, Vietnam Era)

DC had a long history of alcohol abuse before coming to our home in August 2008; he had recently completed a 28 day rehab program at Stratton VA Medical Center and was scheduled to complete a 16 week Outpatient Program at the VA; homeless at that time, he needed a stable temporary residence and transportation to complete the much needed program. As a result of completing the program, DC has continued to remain alcohol free. In addition, he was able to address his medical and dental needs to slowly regain his physical health. As he progressed, we helped him obtain meaningful part time employment, through our Homeless Veterans Re-integration Program (HVRP), at the Saratoga Automobile Museum, where he continues to work. He has re-established relationships with family and friends and, after just 13 months with our program, secured permanent residency in the community; seven months later, DC is still on program!

JM (51 year old U.S. Navy Veteran)

JM was a product of undiagnosed behavioral problems that had plagued him for 15 years prior to arriving at our home. After he lost his job and the ability to maintain permanent housing, he went to a local shelter for the homeless for a brief stay, when he became aware of our program. He joined us in January 2009 and was immediately put into a regular counseling program through the VA, where medication was prescribed to address his behavioral issues. As a result of the successful treatment regimen enacted, Jack was able to reconnect with his children, attend to serious medical issues and receive benefits through Social Security. In September 2009, JM was able to leave our program as a successful graduate, after only nine months and move to Colorado, where he is now caring for his brother who has multiple sclerosis. JM is a prime example of “paying it forward!”

NW (22 year old U.S. Army Veteran, Korea)

Upon completing his active duty tour, NW was unable to meet his basic financial obligations (rent, food, utilities) due to a very low paying job. He soon became homeless and came to our home in June 2009. With the help of credit counseling and his ability to find a better paying job through our HVRP employment program, his debt was reduced through a manageable payment plan. Once he established a solid work record and maintained his debt reduction plan, we secured permanent housing for NW through the VA’s Subsidized Housing Program. NW left our home in October 2009 and is still gainfully employed and has his debt in order.

LV (55 year old U.S. Air Force Veteran)

LV came to our facility in May 2007 by way of a local homeless shelter after leaving his home in South Carolina. His long time bout with alcoholism resulted in a sporadic work history, some entanglements with the legal system and estrangement from his wife and child. Being from this area originally, he reconnected with his Mother, Brother and Sister each of whom extended their support. During his time at our home, LV made valuable contributions through his leadership and handyman abilities. He eventually secured meaningful employment, once his other challenges were addressed and quickly made a positive impression on his employer, winning several awards. As a result of this stability and regaining his self esteem, LV has re-united with his wife and daughter and has secured permanent housing for his family.

2009 Contributors to the Guardian House Project

(Transitory House for Homeless Women Veterans)

PLATINUM LEVEL

(\$15,000 and above)

**VFW Post 358 American Legion Post 234
Broughton Foundation**

GOLD LEVEL

(\$5,000 to \$14,999)

**Kennedy Family Foundation
State Employee Federal Credit Union**

SILVER LEVEL

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

**BPOE 1403 American Legion Post 490 American Legion Post 1450
American Legion Post 490 Riders American Veterans Care
Adirondack Trust Ballston Spa National Bank KAPL Nova Society
VFW Post 420 Quilt North Guild Saratoga Harness Racing, Inc.**

BRONZE LEVEL

(\$500 to \$999)

**Disabled American Veterans American Legion Post 1644 American Legion Post 574
Eagles Lodge #2586 American Legion Auxiliary Post 490 Knights of Columbus #246
Ballston Area Senior Citizens Eagles Lodge Auxiliary #2586 VFW Auxiliary Post 358**

SUPPORTERS

(\$200 to \$499)

VFW Auxiliary 6196 Anonymous VFW Auxiliary 420 ITAM Post 35 Preston L. Jenkins
 R. Guyer Saratoga Springs Fire Fighters BPOE #61 John & Joan Phelps
 Principessa Elana Men's Society

FRIENDS

(Up to \$200)

A Merle & Marquerite Bonthuis
 Adirondacks Post 2475 Inc
 America Legion Aux 235
 American Legion Aux 337
 American Legion Aux 1450
 American Legion 234
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 Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corp
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 Budd Mazurek
 Catholic Daughters
 Community Foundation
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 Dawn Perry
 Denise F Polit
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 Donald Little
 Eagle Scout Troop 24
 Ellen Ward
 Eric Beckjord
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 Glens Falls Post 223
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 Southern Saratoga County Woman's Club
 Stephanie Mabb
 Steven Green
 Suan D'Alessandro
 Sue Hillman
 Sue Stewart
 T. Jurcsak
 Tara Brennen
 Terry Clare
 The Mendez Team, Inc
 Thomas Harris
 Tom Ratsep
 Van Zwisohn
 VFW Post 1653

Our apologies if you were not included on this listing - Please call us at 885-0091 to correct this oversight.

**Saratoga County
Rural Preservation Company**
36 Church Avenue
Ballston Spa, New York 12020



RPC Veterans House