



News from home...

Volume IV, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 2010

The HomeStretch Mission

"HomeStretch guides homeless working families with minor children in North Metro Atlanta toward increased self-reliance and stability by providing life skills training, mentoring and supportive housing."

♪♪ What A Day For A Golf Game! ♪♪ The 9th Annual HomeStretch Golf Tournament

It was a leap of faith, but everyone showed up despite the weather. Moments before tee-off time, the rain stopped, the tornado watch had recently expired, and it became, what was later described as perfect golfing weather!

The players began tee-off at 11:30 a.m. that Monday, October 25, 2010, and the 9th Annual HomeStretch Golf Tournament was on. By late afternoon, the competition was over. Everyone gathered for refreshments and to receive awards and recognitions. Nearly 35 people had participated with several winning raffle prizes. Two awards were given for the longest drive closest to the pin, and golfers loved playing a new game called Poker Hand.

Thanks to Patty Conard and all participants for making this event so successful!



These yellow-shirted Ernst and Young employees worked earnestly and energetically on our Millbrook Circle property on September 30, 2010.

HomeStretch Graduation Dinner

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

What could be better than recognizing individuals for singular achievement and perseverance in pursuing goals? **Nothing!** It was a grand and glorious night last August as seven HomeStretch graduates were honored with dinner, diplomas, and yes, dessert. Several of them mentioned their family mentor teams and how important the teams have been to their success while at HomeStretch. It also was heartwarming to hear from a teenager of one graduating family, who lauded his mother for her very hard work and for the values that she has instilled in her children – values that will continue to be instrumental to that family's future success, and values that the graduating families have in common. Staff members Monifa Watson and Monica Dubur planned and delivered a most meaningful event for the graduates and for all those in attendance. (See article on the back page about our dinner donors.)



HomeStretch staffers Monifa Watson, Rose Burton, and Monica Dubur join graduation speaker Brenda Malik (second from left). Malik works as activities director for Children's Restoration Network.

Photos by Greg Bragg



2010 HomeStretch graduates are, L to R:

Erika Murphy, Jessica and Vernon Moore, Beatrice Lester, Pamela Little, and Lashonda Walley.

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ROSE BURTON, Executive Director of HS

We Are Thankful...

November is National Homeless Awareness Month. In 2010, the US Interagency Council on Homelessness unveiled its plan: end chronic homelessness in five years; prevent/end homelessness for veterans in five years; and prevent or end homelessness for families, youth and children within 10 years. The vision is that “No one should experience homelessness – no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.” I am proud to recognize that, in our 17-year history, HomeStretch has embodied the core values affirmed by the Council:

- Homelessness is unacceptable.
- There are no “homeless people” but rather, people who have lost their homes and who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Homelessness is expensive; it is better to invest in solutions.
- Homelessness is solvable;
- Homelessness can be prevented.
- There is strength in collaboration.

What’s more, HomeStretch also has been out in front of many of the objectives outlined:

- Leadership, collaboration and civic engagement
- Increased access to stable and affordable housing
- Increased economic security [for families]
- Improved health and stability [for families]

As we work collaboratively on all fronts to fight homelessness, we are thankful for those who help us help others. The current economy has forced more families into homelessness and has created a challenge for donors as well. Despite this, HomeStretch has been able to provide homes for about 180 individuals in over 55 families over the past three years.

It takes many people with a variety of diverse skills and abilities to be able to do what HomeStretch does, and we are thankful for every single one of YOU! Whether you help us by supporting our Peachtree Tea, Run the River Road Race, Wine Tasting, Shopping at Bloomingdales, lending a hand on workdays or through direct donations of time, talent or money, we appreciate it, and so do the families we serve!

Rose



Linda & Mark Murphy
Founding Members

- 3 Options Realty** - In honor of the HomeStretch Program Staff - Monica Dubur, Monifa Watson, Amy Woodruff
Jeff and Rose Burton
Jeffrey and Jane Cantwell
Mark and Patty Conard
Steve and Cindy Corder
Couchman-Noble Foundation
Geiger Foundation
Bob and LaDonna Hagan - In honor of Grethel Lovelace
Audrey D. Hines
Tom and Martha Knight
George and Sandy Martin
Jack and Betts McGinnis
Steve McGraw
Don and Donna McKinney - In honor of Cindy Corder
Susan Rumble
Don and Helen Sharp
Elna J. Sheetz
Craig and Katherine Simons
Nicholas and Elise Spina Foundation
John and Carol Swan
Tarantino & Company, CPAs In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Tarantino and Mullin Families
Wealth Enhancement and Preservation of Georgia
J. Michael Webber, Inc.
Mike Wynne - In honor of Donna McKinney

We are grateful to **Carol Cetrino** and her husband **Mark Piccirillo**, who recently hosted a “meet and greet” fundraiser for HomeStretch at their lovely home. Thanks to them and their guests, over \$1,000 in gift cards are available to help our families with emergency needs. We so appreciate the Piccirillos helping to spread the HomeStretch word!

In Memoriam

In April 2010, the staff and friends of HomeStretch said a final good-bye to an incredible person, Jim McCord. Jim was the property manager and volunteer coordinator at HomeStretch. During his four years on our staff, he organized hundreds of volunteers to help maintain the properties. Jim began his tenure with HomeStretch as a volunteer, but soon turned his avocation into a full-time position. In November 2009, the City of Roswell and the HomeStretch team honored Jim by dedicating the Jim McCord Park (also the name of the street where it is located), complete with new playground equipment, made possible by over \$4,000 in donations. Jim will always be remembered as a tireless and devoted person to the mission of HomeStretch. He left a lasting impact on the hearts of all those whom he touched, and will be very much missed.



bloomingdale's

Love WHERE YOU **Live**

THE SHOPPING BENEFIT TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.



The Bloomingdale's "Love Where You Live" promotion, sponsored by the Perimeter and Lenox Square Bloomingdales, took place Wednesday and Thursday, October 20 - 21, to benefit various nonprofit organizations in the Atlanta metro area, including HomeStretch. This was our first effort to participate in a shopping benefit, and we are definitely appreciative of being included by Bloomingdale's. We look forward to other special shopping days!



Left: HomeStretch Family Coordinator Monica Dubur, on the runway at the Bloomingdale's 2010 event.

A Big Thank You To:

**The Chatlos Foundation
The Rich Foundation
The Imlay Foundation
The Roswell Rotary Club
Coldwell Banker, Alpha-
retta Office**

**For their support of programs
and services to our clients**

Each year we receive funding from **Georgia Department of Community Affairs**. This year, their funding was increased to \$30,700. This increase will enable us to provide emergency shelter for 90 days for intact families, single dads, and single moms. Thank you for your continued support!



On October 24, HomeStretch was one of 11 sponsors for The Habitat for Humanity — North Central Georgia 15th Anniversary & 200th Home Celebration

It featured keynote speaker **Clark Howard** of *The Clark Howard Show*, and guest speaker **Jonathan Reckford**, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International.



Representing HomeStretch were:

Left to right, standing: Kendra Plotkin and Darrin Cohen, HS board members, Rose Burton, E.D., Monica McKines, HS client and soon-to-be Habitat homeowner, and Darlene McDonald, board member.

Left to right, seated: Beatrice Lester, HS graduate and soon-to-be Habitat homeowner, Monica Dubur, HS staffer, Susan Rumble, HS board president, Tom Knight, board member, and his wife Martha.



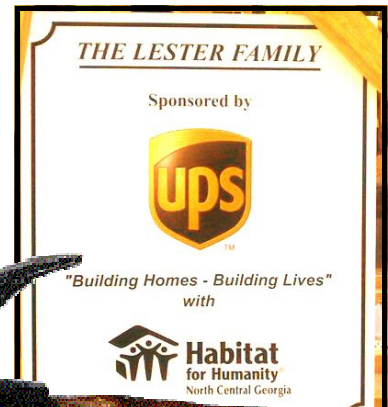
L-R: **Mary McPherson**, Managing Broker, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Alpharetta Office, HS Executive Director **Rose Burton**, **Fred Codes** and **Linda Pickren**, both with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Alpharetta Office. Major thanks to Fred Codes, member of St. James UMC, for nominating HomeStretch to receive the realtor's donation.



Photo: Maurice J. Davis • MBS Photography, LLC

“If I had a hammer...”
Beatrice Wields a Hammer
at First Nail Ceremony!

On Saturday, August 7, 2010, **Beatrice Lester** and her family were honored at Habitat for Humanity’s First Nail Ceremony, celebrating the start of construction on Beatrice’s new home. The First Nail Ceremony celebrates the start of a build. The partner family, along with volunteers and house sponsors, help bless the home and then hammer the first nails into the frame. Beatrice wasn’t accepted into the Habitat program the first time she applied, but last March she was — one of only five, out of 80 applicants. In attendance at the First Nail Ceremony, to support the family and represent HomeStretch, were Family Case Manager **Monica Dubur**, and **Bob Moore** of Roswell United Methodist Church. Bob, along with **Helen Meola**, are members of Beatrice’s Family Mentor Team at RUMC. The highlight of this special event was watching Beatrice and her girls drive the first nails into the walls of their new home, significant because the family plays an integral part in the construction process. The home is expected to be completed by this December, with a Dedication Ceremony scheduled for December 11. 🏠



Remember Mobile Giving This Holiday Season!



During the holiday season, it is EASY to make a \$10 donation to HomeStretch. Simply text the word “HOME” to 20222 on your cell phone. The \$10 donation will be added to your next mobile phone bill.

Please let your family, friends and coworkers know about this, and ask them to help HomeStretch do more to aid homeless, working families.

You will see a \$10 donation on your monthly mobile phone bill or it will be deducted from your prepaid account. Standard text message rates apply. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to 20222. 🏠

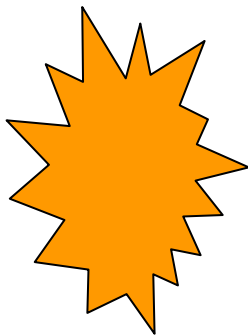
Missed Something?

Did you feel as if something was missing from your life on October 21? Of course you did. There was no BBQ in the Burbs! Despite our best intentions, too many obstacles appeared in our way and HomeStretch volunteers couldn’t pull it off. But don’t despair. We still plan to hold this family-friendly event in 2011. Stay tuned for details!



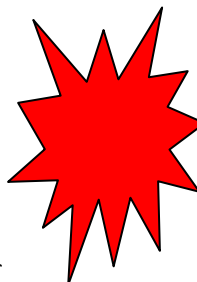
Dave Whisnant

Dave is the supervising attorney for the Georgia Law Center for the Homeless. He is also the chairman of the Homeless Emergency Task Force at the Decatur Presbyterian Church, serves on a Boy Scout Troup Committee, is on the Blue Ribbon School Committee Board at Sagamore Hills Elementary School, and is a principal at Hagar's House, a shelter with the Decatur Cooperative Ministries.



Michael Phelps

Michael is the director of Missions and Service with The Roswell United Methodist Church, a board member of Believe Ministries, and is on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Republican Party. Michael is a Realtor with Keller-Williams Community Partners.



Dietra Allen

A graduate of HomeStretch, Dietra is a medical transcriptionist and editor at Saince, Inc. She is also a chef and a baker.

**We Are Excited To Welcome Our
New Board Members!**

They bring new depth and breadth to our organization



Tom Knight

Tom is a past president of the HomeStretch Board, and now serves as its Program Chairman. He has been a HomeStretch volunteer since 1999, and currently serves on its Road Race Committee. Tom is a CUC Class Officer at the Roswell United Methodist Church.



Sue Davis-Westmoreland

With over 30 years with IBM, and over 20 years as a Certified Project Manager, Sue has provided leadership to teams with as many as 300 IT professionals, and managed budgets in excess of \$200 million. She has held several leadership positions with nonprofit organizations over the past twenty or more years, as well as with sororities and community service organizations. Sue serves as a Sunday school teacher, and is active in other church programs. She is currently president of a property rental company in North Carolina, which works with the Department Of Social Services to provide acceptable housing to low income, at-risk families.



Ken M. Allen

Ken is a business development manager in the IT consulting industry. He is a business graduate of Western Carolina University, and a graduate of Kennesaw State University Coles Graduate School of Business. He is the former chairman of the board for Zion Christian Academy, and is currently serving on the WCU Alumni Board. A member of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ken is involved in various ministries there. He is also an active member and committee chairman in the Cobb County graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



John Preston

Very experienced with all phases of construction, John has applied his excellent knowledge and skills both on the job at Choate Construction Company, and with a majority of his numerous volunteer projects. His long and varied history of volunteerism includes being a Boy Scout leader, construction projects for the homeless and disaster-plagued areas, and a number of chairmanships and posts in his church and other organizations. He served for three years on the board of directors at the Atlanta Yacht Club before joining HomeStretch's board of directors.



Chip Patterson

Chip is the CEO and Founder of AmeriPark, LLC. He also serves on Shirley Franklin's Task Force for the Homeless Employment Committee, is the Director of the Walton Youth Football Program, and serves on the Buckhead Club Board of Governors.

Executive Director
Rose J. Burton

Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Susan Rumble
Vice President: Darrin Cohen
Treasurer: Peter Tarantino
Secretary: Patty Conard

Members:

Dietra Allen
Kenneth M. Allen
Sarah J. Boyd
Jim Cichanski
Tom Knight
Darlene McDonald
Chip Patterson
Michael Phelps
Kendra Plotkin
John Preston
Katherine Simons
Elise Spina
Sue Davis-Westmoreland
David Whisnant

Editor: Mark Mendelson of
Autumn Tree Writing & Design

Back in August, HomeStretch held its second graduation ceremony (see ceremony coverage on the front page). Over 60 people attended the event at St. David's Episcopal Church, and we fed every one of them a delicious, filling Italian dinner of pasta, salad, and rolls. We sincerely thank our dinner donors: **Ippolito's Italian Restaurant** on Holcomb Bridge Road in Roswell, and **Buca di Beppo** on Mansell Road in Alpharetta. That night, about 30 children also attended, and we thank **Lenny's Sub Shop** on Mansell Road in Alpharetta for providing sub sandwiches galore. The evening was capped with a celebratory cake, lovingly prepared by Board Member **Dietra Allen**.



YES!

I want to be part of the HomeStretch family. **I would like to:**

- Provide financial support
- Volunteer in the office
- Help with home maintenance
- Share my talent _____
- Donate items
- Help any way I can!

*"Our family would like to say a big **THANK YOU** for all that you are to us"*

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Reply to: HOMESTRETCH, 89 GROVE WAY, ROSWELL, GA 30075
Office: 770-642-9185 • Fax 770-648-6282 or Email info@homestretch.org

HOUSING UNIT SPONSORS

- Alpharetta First United Methodist Church*
- Friends of St. Martin at St. Andrew Catholic Church*
- Northbrook United Methodist Church*
- Northminster Presbyterian Church*
- Roswell United Methodist Church*
- Roswell Presbyterian Church*
- Roswell Woman's Club*
- St. David's Episcopal Church*
- Saint James United Methodist Church*
- St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church*
- Zion Missionary Baptist Church*
- Anonymous*

info@homestretch.org

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www.homestretch.org



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