

Summer Fun!



The children of INNterim were kept very busy this summer. Many attended the St. Vincent's Summer Camp for 8 weeks at no charge. The Baltimore County Summer Program really outdid themselves this year with a variety of trips and outings for the children. Twenty-seven children participated in trips to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Disney's Camp Rock Musical at the Community College of Baltimore County, a Baltimore Orioles Game, Lunar Golf and the American Visionary Art Museum. They topped it off with an end of the summer picnic and games at Oregon Ridge where everyone had a wonderful time.

When they were not at camp or at an outing, we had volunteers offering activities on site. Alan, our Baltimore County PE counselor, offered games and outdoor activities twice a week and a 13-year old volunteer gave hip-hop dance lessons. Miles Carpenter, a 17-year old Pikesville High student, directed our boys in sports. Imari Alvarez, a 16-year old Western School student, entertained and looked after our children during parenting classes. We are so thankful for all the volunteers and activities provided for our children. Mother, K.J., said, "You kept my children so busy, they didn't have time to get bored." This has been a good summer!



CALL-OUTS

THANK YOU Rotary Club of Pikesville for sponsoring our September 8th Cookout.

HATS OFF to the members of the Sisterhood of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation who donated goods from their Nearly New Sale.

MANY THANKS to the congregants of Falls Road AME for contributing items from their career clothing and food drive.

WELCOME new Executive Director Millie Johnson. Read Millie's note on page 2

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our annual MAZE-athon on October 29th from 10am – 2pm. Tickets on sale now at INNterim.org.

LEND A HAND by helping us provide supplies to our new families. Visit the Lend A Hand section of INNterim.org to see our wish list for donated items.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to support INNterim programs and events. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Letita Demby at 410-486-8175 or email lrd@innterim.org.

Letter from the Executive Director

Have you ever admired a woman who has been through changes in her life and remains powerful, strong and determined despite her circumstances? Have you ever admired the strength of a single woman who is strong, not because she has to be, but because it comes naturally for her to protect the extent of her being – her children? These are the women we strive to assist in our mission “to improve the economic conditions of women and their children” at INNterim Housing Corporation.

It is therefore an honor and a pleasure to become the new Executive Director of INNterim. I am delighted to serve with the Board of Directors, a community of women who are striving to “make a life” for themselves and their children. I commit to helping our women stretch, grow, and reach beyond life’s circumstances to create positive achievements for lifelong success and sustainability.

Therefore, who I am is a transformational leader determined to enhance the well-being of the human experience in any organization. I believe in the power of strong leadership to improve the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the organization’s mission. My focus will be on INNterim’s systemic operations, that is, to bring alignment and sustainability to the overall operations. This also means choosing programs that reduce uncertainty and ensuring confidence and possibility for the people we serve despite these uncertain economic times.

So I invite you to join our community! Please help us restore the dignity of women whose lives deserve a second chance. Help us create a climate of respect; one that fosters participation, learning, and action for greater personal outcomes. The ultimate triumph is that we succeed beyond our wildest imaginations. Thank you for supporting our continued success.

Respectfully,

Millie Johnson
Executive Director



President’s Farewell Letter

As INNterim begins its new fiscal year, I appreciate the opportunity to update you on the progress and changes at INNterim. First, I am pleased to announce that I have handed the presidency gavel to the former chair of INNterim’s Program Committee and a kind and caring leader – Edith “Bunny” Bernstein.



Last year we were able to take the first step toward our shared vision of moving to a “housing first” model that we call “INNterim Gardens” with the pilot of three wonderful women who moved into rental apartments in the Owings Mills area and continued to receive important case management support while they worked on achieving self-sufficiency. The program was wildly successful and I am proud and excited to let you all know that we are completely replacing our bricks and mortar apartments with “housing first.” We have moved the offices to our facility on Sudbrook Lane. We will continue to operate INNterim House along with INNterim Gardens. The beauty of the new model is that we can continue to serve an ever growing need for supportive services, limited only by the funds that we can raise.

The current economic times have created an ever greater need for programs like INNterim. With this recognition, the Board of Directors of INNterim is developing a growth vision and strategy with our stakeholders keeping in mind our mission of serving homeless

women and their children. We are enthusiastically looking forward to being able to provide ever more support to end homelessness in Baltimore County.

Regardless of whether you are a long-time patron or a new supporter, I ask you, implore you, to please renew your commitment to the INNterim mission. Please make a tax-deductible, charitable contribution so that we may continue to grow and serve the local community.

I want to thank the Board of Directors, the staff, and the residents of INNterim for their support during my presidency. It has been a great honor to serve as Board President and I plan to continue my service as co-fundraising chair.

Regards,

Elizabeth Nohe, CPIM
Past President

To the INNterim Community

INNterim wishes our past Executive Director, Ca Sandra Winchester, the best of success as she pursues a degree in Pastoral Counseling. Visit INNterim.org to read her well wishes for INNterim.

INNterim Housing Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race/ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, religion, creed, or age in the administration of its programs and events. INNterim Housing Corporation shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, independent contractor, or any other person because of race/ethnicity, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age or sex.

Stacie Harris: A Bright Light in INNterim’s Firmament

Stacie Harris lives with two of her three children at INNterim Gardens and has proved to be an ever growing inspiration to others through her writing, poetry and singing. She has already embarked on a literary career by self-publishing the first of a four-book series entitled “Embracing Me, Hell and Heaven at 8.” The series will include a CD of musical and poetic inspiration based on her life’s journey, a journey that has not been a smooth one. But having overcome most of the challenges she has faced, Stacie’s work is focused on strengthening families and communities and providing them with hope for a better life.

For the past 20 years many families have thrived under INNterim’s remarkable program which supports homeless women and their children. Most of them have ultimately gotten the degrees and training necessary to find jobs and housing for their families. But economic independence does not come easily and requires hard work and constant diligence.

Growing up in the Projects and having her first child at 16 was difficult, but Stacie persevered over the years and, with the help of her supportive mother and a strong belief in God, she managed to surmount some of the obstacles in her path. Both of her parents were deceased by the time she was 24.

Divorced, and with little help from her husband (and long before finding shelter at INNterim), she became part owner of a home which unfortunately was lost due to inability to sustain payments. From then on she literally had to leave her children with friends and relatives while she slept in her car. “We bounced around for eight months and it was the most devastating period in my life,” said Stacie. “Thank God for INNterim. It has given me the footing to go forward and make something of my life. It is where I found myself.”

Two years ago, Stacie came together with other artists to commemorate the induction of World Sickle Cell Day. With a jazz-like, neo-soul voice, Harris shared love and healing through a song she wrote and performed that spoke to the pain of those living with Sickle Cell.

“I consider that the difficulties I have had to overcome can serve as a model for those seeking inspiration and help. We all need to see that others have been able to succeed in a difficult world,” she explained.

The many scholarships Stacie has received over the years ultimately enabled her to finish her schooling. Always a serious student, she graduated from Western High School in 1997 and is the first member of her family to receive a college degree. She has a BA in Non-Profit Management from the University of Baltimore and is currently receiving income from the inspirational workshops she holds and the book she has written.

She...

by Stacie J. Whitaker-Harris

She kisses away all my pains

She wipes away all my stains

She motivates me in every way

She scolds me if necessary everyday

She encourages me when I feel down

She makes me smile when I have a frown

She holds my hand until tears drift away

She rubs my back until fears fade each day

She teaches me everything I need to know

She provides everything I need to grow

She loves me unconditionally

If you want to know who she is...

She is woman

She is life

She is a gift

She is both mother and wife

No matter where she lives, works or plays,

*No matter how tall, how short,
how hypnotic her gaze*

*No matter the fullness of her lips or the
curves in her hips*

She, is me and I’m every woman

I am she and she is me

“She loves me unconditionally”

Q&A with Bunny Bernstein

We asked new INNterim Board President Bunny Bernstein, a capable and innovative leader who has already contributed countless hours to achieving INNterim’s goals, what the future holds for the organization. Here’s what she shared with us:

We have a great program. Women who leave INNterim are able to support themselves and their children and we need to expand our fundraising in order to grow to serve our goal of up to 100 women and their families annually. That includes money to renovate the INNterim House and expand INNterim Gardens. Tracking our progress is another important tool in improving our services to our residents. We’d like to complete a follow-up study to learn how women who left the program 5 and 10 years ago are doing

in their new lives. We want to make all of these dreams come true. We have set some very achievable goals and I believe INNterim has an outstanding staff and a hardworking board. With these two ingredients there is nothing we can’t accomplish.

We are also very excited to welcome to the community our new Executive Director, Mildred (Millie) Johnson. Millie brings with her fifteen years of nonprofit management; extensive experience in organization development and fundraising as well as experience with women and their children. The Board is very pleased to be working with Millie and we look forward to achieving INNterim’s goals together.

To read our complete interview with Bunny, visit INNterim.org



INNterim Housing Corporation
112 Sudbrook Lane
Pikesville, MD 21208

INNTERIM'S 2ND ANNUAL MAZE-ATHON

at Rodgers' Farms Saturday, October 29th

Come anytime between 10:00am and 2:00pm.
All proceeds benefit INNterim programs.

FUN activities for the whole family, including:

- 2-mile Corn Maze
- Hay Rides
- Kid's Corn Maze
- Farm Animal Zoo
- Raffle
- Lunch Included!

Plus, each time you complete the Maze, you are entered to win one of many great prizes!

Tickets available online at INNterim.org

- Adults \$15
- Children 3-13: \$10
- Children 2 & under: FREE!

Rodgers' Farms is located at:
1818 Green Spring Valley Road
Stevenson, Maryland 21153

Rain date: Sunday, October 30th, 10:00am-2:00pm

