

Spring  
Issue

May 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1



Joseph's  
HOUSE

*"Caring for God's Presence in our Midst"*



## From the Director's Desk

We received many blessings during the past winter café season. In this, our first newsletter, I'll share some of them with you. We owe such a debt of gratitude to our donors, volunteers, and partners who made the café possible. Without you, the café would not exist. Thank you for your generosity and the sacrifices you made for this ministry. I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and come to see how significant your support is in the lives of so many who are hurting.

We are especially indebted to our guests. The trust they placed in us was humbling and inspiring. What a privilege it was for us to share their journeys, and walk with them to greater independence and new life.

In this spring and Easter season, we celebrate new life all around us. And we at Joseph's House give thanks for each of you. Let us continue working together to offer hope and comfort to all who enter our doors.

Peace and Blessings,

John



Joseph's House is currently working with the city of Camden to identify a property that will become a permanent home for the Café. This will allow us to operate the Café year round and will provide office space for social service providers. Thus, the guests who presently return to the streets when we close our doors at winters' end will remain with us. And, ongoing case management services will be provided so that they can transition more effectively to supportive housing.

## Partners In Ministry

We thank the following organizations / businesses for partnering with us in providing love, compassion, and dignity to the guests of Joseph's House.

### Community Business Partners

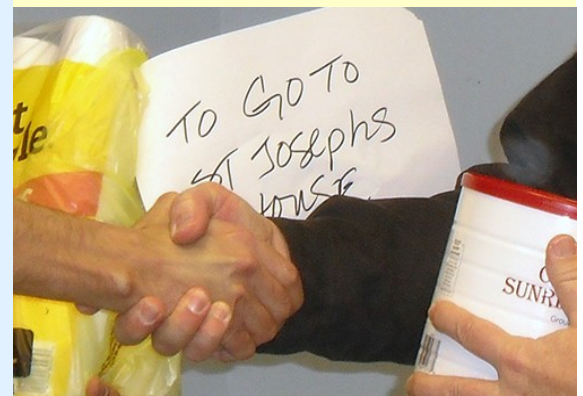
City of Camden  
Campbell Soup Company  
Chick-fil-A  
Melitta Coffee  
International Raw Materials (IRM)  
Gallo Bakery  
Spotlight Electric  
HCB Supply Co.  
Holy Redeemer Home Health Care  
Wholesale Sock Outlet  
Silver Dental  
Jack and Jill Inc.

### Foundation Partners

Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation  
Domenica Foundation  
Catholic Campaign for Human Development  
Beneficial Bank Foundation

### Non-Profit Partners

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSMNJ)  
Cathedral Kitchen  
Cooper Health Care Coalition  
Community Planning and Advocacy Council (CPAC)  
St. Vincent DePaul Society  
Second Chance Outreach Services  
Nehemiah Group  
Catholic Charities  
Jesuit Volunteer Corps  
DeSales Service Works  
Merchantville Women's Guild  
Christ Our Light Church  
Queen of Peace Church  
Bishop Eustace Preparatory School  
Christ the King Church  
Mary Queen of All Saints Church  
Church of St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church of St. Mary  
Chestnut Hill College  
Bridge of Peace Community Church  
St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral Church  
Berlin Township Athletic Association



*For your continued support, please use the enclosed envelope, or donate online. Thank you for your generosity!*

## A Closer Look at our Guests

**16,450** meals served to **702** different guests

**19** staff positions; **11** filled by individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

**100** volunteers, engaged in **1500** hours of service

**75%** of the guests were male

**70%** of the guests were under the age of 50

**13%** of the guests were veterans

**100%** of the guests are eligible for public assistance but only **37%** receive assistance

Many of the guests have physical disabilities, mental health and/or substance abuse issues.

*I don't know a lot about God, but I see him in you. Nobody has ever treated me like this. Thank you.*  
*\*\* Gene, a guest addressing one of our staff*

*The time I spent at the café helped me get back on my feet. I needed to get out, to get away from the abuse. For two months, you listened without judgment and helped me see a way out.*  
*\*\* Sandra, a guest*

## Joseph's House of Camden

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jk@josephshouseofcamden.org

**Check out our website:**

[www.josephshouseofcamden.org](http://www.josephshouseofcamden.org)

### Board of Managers

Msgr. Robert McDermott  
Pilar Hogan Closkey  
Fr. Michael McCue, OSFS  
Kevin Moran  
William P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Deacon Bill Slaven  
Domenic Vallone

John Klein, Executive Director



## Your Generosity Inspires

- Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey donated the café space, all utilities, and maintenance. A very special thank you to LSMNJ.
- We received almost \$40,000 in individual donations to fund the café program.
- 7 nights per week, for 5 months, two or more volunteers spent time making coffee and soup and serving it to our guests; we had 100 different volunteers.
- Each Monday night a group of volunteers drove from Philadelphia to Audubon to pick up hot Chick-fil-A sandwiches and deliver them to the café.
- Each Thursday a real gentleman drove from his home in Bucks County, PA to our café to deliver breads, rolls and cakes he had picked up the evening before from the supermarkets and bakeries in his neighborhood.
- Every other Tuesday night social workers and nurses were in the café getting to know our guests and tending to their needs; often they brought a meal to serve as well.
- A 14 year old boy wrote letters to his neighbors, friends and family about how those without homes are hurting. He asked for coats and blankets and money. Young Tony donated \$800, coats, blankets, and immeasurable hope and inspiration.

*I am an 84 year old senior, low income. From my small social security check, I give you what I can. God bless you for your work with the poor. My gift is for Jesus' children.*

*\*\*Mary, a donor*

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