

Spring 2008 – New Beginnings

New Chairman of the Board

Warren Sawyer, President

The Caleb Board of Directors elected its new Chairman, Mr. John Wasielewski, at our Spring Board of Directors meeting held in the Caleb Community Center in Lowell, MA. Mr. Wasielewski, who has served as director and Vice Chair, was welcomed to new leadership opportunities as Chairman as the Caleb directors celebrated 15 years of our mission and developed the plan for the next five years. John serves the developing world as the Director of the Office of Development Credit at the U.S. Agency for International Development. John began his commitment to international development serving in the Peace Corps in northern India as a volunteer in the late 60's. John lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife Bessy Kong (who served on Caleb's inaugural board) and daughter Diana. Caleb welcomes John to the position of Chair with his creative energies and bright sense of humor. John enthusiastically embraces the mission of Caleb. His life, with minor interruptions, has been dedicated to some aspect of human services. He's looking forward to getting to know as many people as possible in the Caleb community and will call on them to further the work of the organization.

At the same meeting we gave thanks to our departing Chairman, Craig Whitcher. Craig was the founding Chairman of the Caleb Foundation in 1992. As a thoughtful Pastor over the years Craig has been the guiding light as the Caleb mission defined itself as based in faith. Through his influence The Caleb Group was formed to place a heightened emphasis on enhancing the independence of the lives of the residents. Craig consistently opened our meeting by centering us on the core of our mission, reminding us of the journey of The Caleb of the Hebrew Scriptures where Caleb found opportunities instead of obstacles, a spirit which The Caleb Group conveys to our residents. Craig is a Senior Pastor serving churches in the United Church of Christ.

The Caleb Group Receives Anonymous Gift of \$100,000 for New Initiatives

Brian Buell, Associate Director

The Caleb Group has received a gift from an anonymous donor of \$100,000. This new, unprecedented gift is opening a new chapter in giving to The Caleb Group. With this gift, the donor hopes to challenge others to give to The Caleb Group. The story behind the gift is most interesting. The donors stated that the donation money came from the sale of a painting that had been hanging in their living room for thirty years.



"Spring" by Ram Kumar

The donors told a story about how they like to buy 'tourist art' whenever they travel for work or vacation. Thirty years ago, the donors were traveling in India where they purchased some art from a local gallery. This painting, a scene of Hindus worshipping at the river Ganges in Benares, traveled the miles and the years with them. It came all the way back to the States and was prominently displayed in the living room. The painting hung there on the wall, watching children grow into adults and welcoming grandchildren into the family.

Foundation is offering an affordable living alternative in a rural part of Eastern Connecticut. While this has raised its own unique challenges, we believe that this property will continue to allow us to reach out to an ever more diversified population of residents.

The Caleb Foundation will soon not only be managing the Dayville site, but will become its owners. We have plans to build a brand new community center for the residents and also renovate many of the apartments at this site. We will also offer resident services through a Resident Service Coordinator. These are all services that the residents have not previously had access to. We believe that, by offering these amenities to our residents, we are making an investment in their lives

New to the Field

Veronica Holmes, Resident Service Coordinator

As a new resident coordinator, I attended the NERSC (New England Resident Service Coordinators) conference with mixed feelings. As a former family advocate, I sincerely questioned whether there could be anything else told to me that I have not already heard. All the same, I went with an open mind.

My first workshop, "Providing Quality After School Programs for Youth" was enlightening, hearing from other RSC's about activities they offer; from teen movie nights, to "caught being good" incentive programs. My eyes were opened to the scope of services that can be offered. I left that workshop feeling armed with tools that I can apply at Chestnut Square in Lowell, MA.

My other workshops were, "I am a New RSC! Now what?", "Safety Planning with Battered Mothers and their Children," "It's their life: So why am I working harder than they are?", "Building Credibility with Residents and Community," "Maneuvering Through Culture Bumps in Housing," and "Putting your Financial House in Order."

They all offered me valuable and relevant information that I will be able to use, I learned not only from the presenters but the attendees. The workshops gave room for information sharing and served as a personal respite for me. I am excited to be joining the Caleb Group and look forward to putting some of my new knowledge to work!

New Property Manager Joins The Caleb Foundation In New Hampshire

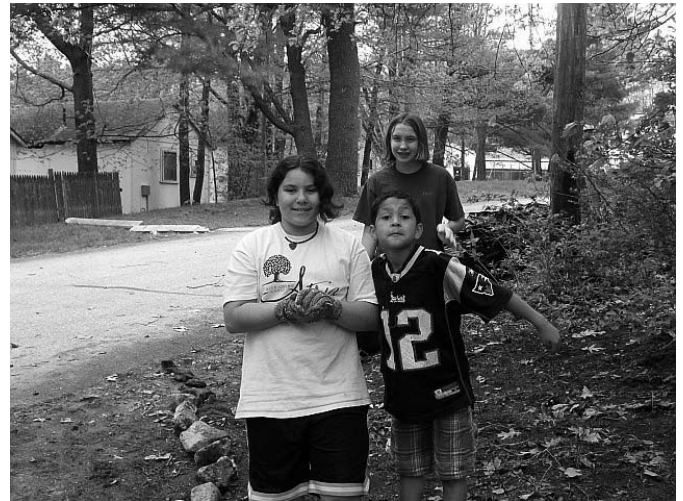
Debra Nutter, Executive Director

After 16 years managing Xavier House, Rush Square, and Highland House apartments in NH, Meredith Walker has retired

from The Caleb Foundation and The Caleb Group. Meredith leaves with our best thoughts and wishes and our hopes for her to spend more time playing golf and enjoying her family. We have hired a new Property Manager to take Meredith's place. Cathy Boudreau comes to The Caleb Foundation with 9 years experience with the Nashua Housing Authority. Cathy is familiar with many resources and agencies in the Nashua area.

The Ledges Receives Grant for Teen Drop-In Center

Harold Spellman, Resident Service Coordinator



Teen Residents (Left) Sarah Laverriere, (Right) Diondre Hodgkins and (Rear) Sam Williamson doing some yard work.

The Ledges in Saco, Maine received a grant of \$3,050 through the Maine Community Foundation and the York County Children's Aid Society to develop a Teen Drop-In Center for Residents.

The Center, which has been operating since the fall of 2007, is for resident teens and their friends to have a safe and convenient place to interact with friends. Most importantly, the teens have the opportunity to build relationships with caring adults who provide guidance, support and serve as roles models.

An important component of the Drop-In Center includes organized sessions with topics that are challenging all teens today, but are particularly difficult for at-risk teens who are growing up in homes where single parents may be extremely busy or are too overwhelmed to provide the necessary guidance. Center programs include supervised interaction with table games; air hockey and foosball, computer games, movies and television. Refreshments are provided weekly with a special party type each month.



Building Community, One Spirit at a Time

A Bio:

Nicole Ortiz, Resident Service Coordinator

For the last 24 years, Dolly VonHusen has been a resident and neighborhood activist at the Village Heights Apartment Complex in Willimantic, CT. She has been a community builder and an anti-drug advocate. By opening her home to children and parents in the neighborhood, she has built a strong sense of community. For several years she has shared her expertise

in ceramics by teaching a workshop for students during the April school vacation week. She also volunteers as a member of the Willimantic Weed and Seed Committee, engaging the youth in the fight against drug use. Recently, Ms. VonHusen was presented with a Recognition Award from the Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse for her dedication and volunteer work with the Village Heights Community. Residents like Dolly are a shining example for all of us.

The Caleb Foundation, Inc. is a charitable, non-profit housing corporation dedicated to promoting social welfare through the provision of secure, affordable shelter. The Foundation embraces the challenge of meeting specific housing needs of low to moderate income families and individuals, elderly, handicapped and the homeless. The Caleb Group, an affiliate of The Caleb Foundation, has the ultimate mission of freeing the human spirit. It put its mission into practice by coordinating resident support services at Caleb projects in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Please see our website for more information: www.thecalebfoundation.org.



491 Humphrey Street
Swampscott, MA 01907
781-595-4665
781-592-0770
www.thecalebfoundation.org

