

Project Hope works
in partnership
with families so they can
move up and out of
poverty.

We do this by:

♦
being a catalyst for
change in the lives
of families and in
the systems which
keep them poor;

♦
developing and
providing family
support solutions for
homelessness and
poverty;

♦
acting for just
public policies that
strengthen families.

♦
We do this in
collaboration with
a multitude of
organizations that
support these
goals.

To Better Serve The Community



Architect's Drawing: Feingold and Alexander

Our future home, a vibrant four story community center and potentially the first “green” building in Roxbury, is now in the final stage of planning and rapidly approaching the construction phase. Our new **Community Building** will give Project Hope an increased presence in the Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods we serve, and bring under one roof all of our education and workforce development resources. Our expanded programming will dramatically improve our ability to partner with more low-income families moving up and out of poverty. Some highlights are:

- Our **Adult Learner Program** (ALP) will finally be able to offer day *and* evening basic education and GED preparation classes, enabling us to serve many more homeless and low-income women than our current cramped quarters allow.
- The **Transition to Work Collaborative** (TTW) has plans to expand partnerships with both businesses and jobseekers in order to connect more individuals to more career choices with self-sufficient wages, such as our current career ladder medical support partnership with Partners Healthcare.
- The **Family Child Care Business Enterprise** (FCCBE) will gain improved classroom space to expand our training program for low-income women and offer more workshops to child care providers in the community.
- The **One Family Scholars Program** (OFC) will have more training capacity and computer support for low-income women who are attending college or vocational training programs.
- A **staffed computer resource center** will be available for our neighbors to access the Internet and other resources in order to locate schools, job training programs, employment and housing opportunities.
- Project Hope’s experienced **housing department** will increase capacity to counsel more neighbors who are at risk of losing their housing.
- Neighbors will have access to our **community meeting room** with an adjacent **child care area** in order to hold meetings and other community events.

Long anticipated repairs to our current quarters at 45 Magnolia Street will take place as soon as we relocate. These repairs will enable our **Shelter Program**, **Neighborhood Food Pantry**, and **Children’s Center** to go through long-awaited expansions of services and programming. ❖

Community News
is a semi-annual
publication of
Project Hope.
Editor,
Patricia Curran, SND
Telephone
617-442-1880 x32
E-mail
info@prohope.org

Program News...

Project Hope's **Adult Learner Program** is targeted toward women who are experiencing or have experienced trauma such as homelessness or physical or emotional violence. Low self-esteem is a direct and major result of these traumas. The building up of each woman's acceptance of her own worth is integrated across the curriculum. Minerva's autobiographical essay describes the transformation that took place in her life.

Where I Was

The Past

My name is Minerva Rivera. I'm the oldest of six kids. My mom wasn't really a good role model but her death was devastating to me. I really didn't have a childhood because I had to take care of siblings. They looked up to me. I loved them and never stopped showing it, but I showed a tougher self to people outside.

In school I never felt like I fit in. I must have been in the 8th grade when grown-ups started saying "you're worthless." Though I once had a strong faith, my life lost meaning. I lost myself in a life of crime and drugs.

One day I came to my senses and entered a treatment program. Once completed, I enrolled in adult education classes at Project Hope.

& Where I Am

The Present

Now when I'm stressed, I meditate to nurture my soul. When I'm "free writing" it gives me a chance to get in touch with my inner self. I try to reflect back to when I was parenting my siblings and to how safe and wanted they felt, and to how wanted and needed I felt. We have a bond.

I reflect on the day and what I've done well. I think about the lives I touched just by smiling or listening. When I'm uneasy, I



breathe. Breathing is mystical. It is the giver of life. With every breath I take I know I'm living for a reason. Coming from where I came from; God has a plan for me to share with the world, despite my past.

I want to move on with my life and I have a choice. I choose to believe that it's easy to change a thought or pattern and no one can decide or have the last word for me; I have the last word. I claim my own power. I lovingly create my own reality. I ask for more understanding, so that I may knowingly and lovingly shape my world and experiences. ❖

Sharing Hope Tours

Do you have friends or family members you would like to introduce to Project Hope's mission through an informative on site tour?

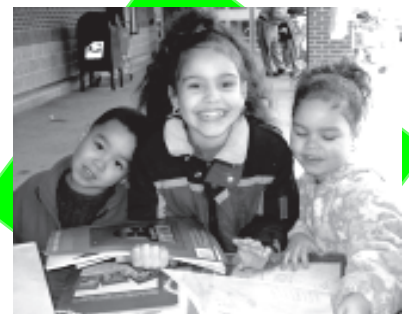
If so, please contact Heather Sullivan, Development Associate, at hsullivan@prohope.org or call 617-442-1880 x 21. She would be delighted to hear from you!

Adult Learners Promote Reading

As part of Adult Education and Literacy Week, the Student Leadership Council at Project Hope decided to reach out to the community to show the need for adult education programs. During the school week, students collected used books and created T-shirts to show why education is important to them.

Moving to action, the students then hosted a Book Give-Away at the South Bay Shopping Center. Over 400 books and pamphlets promoting adult education were given out in a single day. One student who participated said, "It's so great to be able to provide books to all of these people. It is especially wonderful to see how happy the kids are to get a book."

The decorated T-shirts promoting education were hung on a "Line for Literacy" for all who passed by to see. The clothes line was such an effective promotional draw for literacy that we plan to use it again. ❖



Christian, Ivcel, and Ivonee, children of Clarisel Lopez in our ALP program, kept mom company at the Book Give-Away, part of Adult Education and Literacy Week.



Pictured here at Family Child Care Graduation Exercises were: (left to right front row) Teresa Montanez, Almaz Mehari, Miosotis Hernandez, Cecilia Sanchez, Kimberly Nickerson, Xiao Yan Chen, Inge Tucker. (Back row) Yairis DeJesus, Yolanda Landan, Nancy Melendez, Maria Rosario, Sandra Dieudonne

Child Care is their Enterprise

Seventeen women completed courses leading to licensure as family child care providers last semester. At the time this photo was taken in May:

- 9 were employed in child care centers
- 4 enrolled in higher education courses at Urban College
- 1 was a teaching assistant in a home-based program
- 2 were preparing for licensure as home-based providers
- 1 was in shelter waiting for housing to become available

Arlene Ramos and Millie Garcia, directors of the Family Care Business Enterprise, look forward to the new **Community Building** so classes can be held on site. ❖

Rise and Shine



Jackie Rosario and Sereta Thomas, both members of the Adult Learners Leadership Council at Project Hope, are pictured at our 2nd annual **Rise and Shine** breakfast at the Four Seasons Hotel. Jackie and Sereta were among 15 *ambassadors* from Project Hope, all of whom shared their personal stories with the guests seated at their tables.

The purpose of the *Rise & Shine* event is to educate and inspire guests, make new friends, and raise funds for Project Hope. We thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success. ❖

Development News...

In July, 2005 we hired Elizabeth Zarrella as our Director of Development & External Affairs. Elizabeth brings great experience and skills in areas such as poverty and homelessness. She is the former Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at The Home for Little Wanderers and before that she directed legislative activities at The Women's Union. She has collaborated with us on many issues in the public policy arena over the past 6 years. Welcome Elizabeth!

What an honor it is to join the staff at Project Hope! As we approach the construction phase for our new **Community Building**, it's important to acknowledge Project Hope's fundraising success so far.

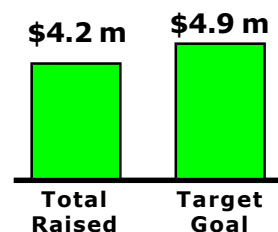
We have raised almost 90% of our \$4.9 million budget. Project Hope has several pending grant requests which we hope will close the gap. **The biggest challenge now is to raise the final outstanding amount.**

Your support at this time can make a critical difference. Each dollar we raise enables us to expand our programming and reach more people in need. Please use the enclosed envelope today to help us reach our goal!

Thank you,
Elizabeth Zarrella

We're Almost There!

Project Hope's Community Building





45 Magnolia St.
Dorchester, MA 02125-2714

COMMUNITY NEWS

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit 56866
Boston, MA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pre-School Grads Count the Beats



Children's Center Graduates Jessica and Sebastian chose their favorite Tom-Tom and Pounbek drums to play at graduation.

“Teaching rhythm is teaching math,” Gloria Matlock explained. Counting is effortless the way Gloria approaches it. In the unit on *Rhythm and African Song*, the children developed the ability to recognize the sounds of 5 different African drums.

Over a two week period they learned to listen to the number of beats she drummed, repeat them, and count them too. When that learning was secure, they created their own rhythms which the rest of the class imitated. Following each 20 minute session, they moved to math exercises and counted circles instead.

As a result, the pre-schoolers can now add numbers under ten, sing ten African songs, and perhaps most importantly, know that math is fun.

The Children's Center will expand its space at Magnolia Street after other programs move to the new Community Building. ❖



Project Hope & Mayor Menino

invite you to a
Groundbreaking Ceremony
for our
Community Building
550 Dudley Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 13, 2005
10:00 AM

Please join us for the celebration!

Grant from Gillette Prevents Homelessness

Project Hope was one of seven organizations selected by Gillette to receive a grant that will be used to stabilize at-risk families in this community.

Alfredo Ribot and Jen Sauve, our experienced housing specialists, already assist more than 600 families a year with housing emergencies, and the work of this department is growing. A job developer and a team of career advocates are also busy assisting heads of households find employment that will ensure long term family self-sufficiency.

When we have a new Community Building, the Housing Department will have room to grow, enabling us to expand our efforts to prevent family homelessness. ❖

Board Member Jeri Robinson Receives Honorary Degree



At Commencement exercises this year at Wheelock College, Jeri's Alma Mater honored her 30 years of service to children. As the Vice President of the Boston Children's Museum, Jeri has developed innovative, exploratory programs for young children and their families and promoted the need for urban playspace. Her friends hosted a reception where she was roasted and toasted. We applaud the insight of her co-workers who acknowledged Jeri's special gift of being a "moral compass" for the entire staff. ❖