

# Windmill Alliance

Annual Report 2007

◆ *We help those who cannot help themselves.* ◆



Our Windmill Family

Since 1985, the Windmill Alliance, Inc. has been dedicated to serving those most in need in our community – the developmentally disabled, the physically challenged, the autistic, the poor and the distressed. We do nothing to people or for people, we minister with people. Our programs address homelessness and abandonment with housing and care, we address poverty and poor self-esteem through the dignity and responsibility of work, and we address hopelessness with the joy of music and the arts.

President's Message

Inspire, Encourage, Care

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It was through inspiration that the Windmill Alliance began in 1985 with a challenge from one of our parishioners with a developmental disability – a challenge to do something with and for them. This shows how the inspiration of one can inspire a whole group. We continue to be inspired by the Simpson-Baber Foundation and our Public Schools for the special care given to the autistic. They have inspired and encouraged us to create more special needs services and housing as these students graduate from school.

## Message from the President

### *Inspire, Encourage, Care*

Last year, and in the coming years, we – like so many other nonprofit organizations – face funding challenges as never before experienced. The State of New Jersey itself is facing such severe financial difficulties that it is now unable to grant us the resources so necessary to fully support our programs for the disabled. In spite of these hardships we were able to keep our programs open with no cut in our services. As we continued to help others we have in turn received help. Because of contributions from so many new contributors, we remain encouraged to continue our caring perspective.

Having received the faithful care and encouragement of our community, we know that one of the greatest ways to encourage others is to let them know that we care. “People don’t care about how much you know until they know how much you care.”

We gratefully appreciate the support of individuals, families, organizations, agencies and our elected representatives for their trust, for inspiring us, and for encouraging us to continue to care.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Samuel J. ...', with a stylized flourish at the end.

## Our Capital Project – “Miracle on 5<sup>th</sup> Street”

Our “Miracle on 5<sup>th</sup> Street”, when completed, will provide a state-of-the-art facility for our Windmill Center, a renovated and expanded facility for our H.I.G.H.W.A.Y.S. Program, and a beautiful new Community/Parish Hall.

In 2007 we redesigned the construction phasing to insure that sufficient funds were in hand to complete each phase. Phase I is the demolition of the old dilapidated rectory and the

new construction of the Windmill Center Adult Training Facility; Phase 2 is the renovation of the former community hall for H.I.G.H.W.A.Y.S., which will relocate from its present location on Hobart Street; and Phase 3 is the construction of the new Community/Parish Hall.

We are grateful for the continuing collaboration and support of DAL Design Group

and Pamrapo Bank as we move forward with our “Miracle on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.” They share our commitment of helping those in our Bayonne community who cannot help themselves. Our capital project continues as a conduit for a valued collaboration with the Simpson-Baber Foundation. We look forward to welcoming their adult participants when construction has been completed.



## Windmill Center – an Adult Training Center



Arriving



Shredding



Sorting Cans



Labeling

[Where Independence  
Nourishes Dignity Mid  
Inspired Light-hearted Labor]

The W.I.N.D.M.I.L.L. Center, the first program of our ministry beginning in 1985, remains a vital component of the Bayonne community.

At the Center our staff work diligently in order to provide quality service and support in order to enable our participants the means to achieve maximum success.

We work in an environment where everyone works together, thereby creating an instructional and

nurturing atmosphere as well.

One unique element exclusive to the success of the Center is our *zero* rate of staff turnover. The dedication and commitment of our staff provides stability to our care, which is based on the mutual trust and familiarity nurtured throughout the years. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with our 50 participants, and they remain the inspiration for our work every day.

Our Center is open Monday through Friday, from 9am to 4:30pm. Transportation is provided to and from the Center every

day. Our program includes vocational and practical arts, activities of daily living, recreational activities, arts and crafts, and individual and family counseling.

In 2007 we were gifted with an exemplary sound/projector and screen system by a local industry. This has provided our participants with the opportunity to view instructional videos and current movies. Our monthly recreational “Day at the Movies” is awaited enthusiastically by all, especially those who are incapable of attending local movie theatres due to monetary constraints or for those who are physically unable.

Our meal preparation classes have now expanded to include off- premise dining at local eateries. Aside from being pleasing to the palate, it provides us an opportunity to engage our participants in community inclusiveness and community awareness as well.

Center staff, participants and families alike participated in the annual Downtown Merchants “Octoberfest”. Here we proudly displayed and sold our paper-maché pumpkins, baked goods, jelly apples, knitted items and candy treats

made exclusively by the Windmill. This year our home-made, organic, “made in America” dog biscuits were a best seller and this led to our local dog-groomer offering these special treats to his customers. The Downtown Merchants Association again made us the recipient of their 50-50 raffle. This generous display of community spirit has now enabled us to purchase a defibrillator for the Center.

Our good name along with our hard working participants, quality control and successful compliance to deadlines has attracted new industry to our doors. Vocational tasks provide us a sense of productivity vital to enhancing individual self-esteem as well as the dignity of being part of the working

public.

Throughout the year we have remained focused on facilitating basic life skills. These basic skills range from shoe lacing, safety awareness, laundry skills, time and money management as well as communication and interpersonal relationships. The facilitation of both cognitive and social skills are prioritized in order to enable our participants to function independently in a complex and integrated community setting.

Recently, the NJ Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities has advocated for the inclusion of a person-centered choice of service

and supports. Undoubtedly this new concept will lead to a most challenging and creative upcoming year.



Eating Out



Crossing the Street



Friendship



Satisfaction



Sorting Buttons



Crushing Cans



Labeling Lids

# Supervised Apartments



Our Home



Going Out



Party at Home



Eating In

Our Supervised Apartments Program is founded on person-focused values and provides the necessary structure, trainings and support to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. Our goal is to promote self-determination, community inclusion and quality of life.

We understand how difficult it is for parents of children with disabilities to struggle with the issue of finding a placement outside the home. Our program has 24-hour supervision by trained staff. Residents and staff work together to maintain a comfortable, safe and healthy

home environment. Our caring staff assisted each resident in the areas of self-help, independence, and community living.

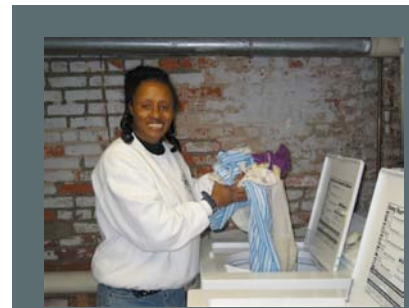
We have eight shared apartments and a fun-filled community room for games, parties and group activities. Our recreational opportunities take place in the community, where people with disabilities can enjoy the same programs as people without disabilities.

In 2007, the Supervised Apartment Program expanded with the addition of a new resident. We are extremely pleased with his arrival, in that

he was the inspiration for the creation of the Windmill Alliance, Inc. over 20 years ago. Unfortunately, we also had to say goodbye to one of our residents. Due to severe medical issues, our program could no longer provide the care she required.

2007 saw many successes in our program. Program staff assisted one individual to obtain a brand new wheelchair. We also assisted another with securing Social Security benefits after three years of applications. Others achieved many of their personal goals as outlined in their Individual Habilitation Plans and look forward to making even more progress in 2008.

In 2007 we provided 4,745 units of service.



Washing Clothes

# H. I. G. H. W. A. Y. S.

## Helping Individuals Gain Hope Will Always Yield Success

With the leadership of our Director, Ann Presgraves, and Assistant Director, Gail Jackson, and our Director of Social Services, Joann Dost, H.I.G.H.W.A.Y.S. provides counseling and supportive employment, thrift Shop, emergency assistance to homeless individuals and families, emergency food bank, and crisis intervention. We are often the first stop for families in crisis. Our program helps strengthen disadvantaged and homeless families by helping provide them with the skills and support systems they need to become self-sufficient. H.I.G.H.W.A.Y.S. provides services, food, supplies, clothing, furniture and counseling to our City's most needy families.

We continue to be inspired by the generous contributions of more than 50 regular volunteers from churches (all denominations) and synagogues. While helping others, our volunteers find the time to socialize as they share their experience and talents. We are inspired by the successes of more than 40 Hudson County non-violent probationers who got invaluable work experience and met their Court-mandated community service requirements. We are happy

to lend our support to individuals working their way back into the mainstream of society. Thirty WorkFirst NJ participants gained bona fide work experience and learned new job skills at our approved work-site. More than 325 homeless, disabled and/or unemployed individuals and families were assisted in H.I.G.H.W.A.Y.S., more than 500 received help from our food pantry, and more than 2,000 needy families each month were served in the stores.

Our efforts to inspire and encourage those in need in 2007 included:

- Donating hundreds of pairs of sneakers and jeans through the parents of one of our former high school volunteers to the Hoboken Homeless Shelter;
- Assisting two domestic violence families in their relocation by providing clothing, household items, and food through WomenRising;
- Donating Christmas gifts to WomenRising and other agencies in our community;
- Through Bayonne Medical Center, regularly donating infant clothing, strollers, bassinets, cribs, as well as food and clothing to

families with financial difficulties. We are especially grateful to the nurses and social workers who took the time to make direct referrals for needy families;

- At the annual Viet Nam War veterans Christmas Party, we provided new clothing and personal care products to more than 75 veterans;
- With the assistance of a hospital volunteer, free books were delivered to patients;
- Free books were also provided to volunteers at the senior branch of the public library;
- Regular assistance of clothing and food to homeless patients of the Metropolitan Family Health Network;
- In networking with Cerebral Palsy of Hudson County we provided wheelchairs, canes, and walkers.

Encouraging others to help others is an important part of our Mission. The High School Service Learning Program and Community Service Programs saw twenty-two students from Marist, Saint Peter's Prep, Hudson

Continued...

Catholic, Bayonne, and Holy Family Academy help us with every aspect of the store---they worked the registers, sorted and organized clothes, organized the food pantry, assisted with food pick-up or different community meetings. Our Eagle Scouts contributed the community garden and painted our store!

Joanne Dost, our Director of Social Services, is inspired by the contributions of our youngest volunteers – elementary school children. She says, “With this younger group I always like to keep their work very community outreach-oriented – working in the food pantry, making up food bags for needy families, sorting clothes to send to shelters, making school supply bags to send to poorer charter schools. I always felt it was

important to allow them to get a feel for the needs that exist in their community and to be doing something concrete about it.”

Due to the nature of crisis intervention we extensively network with numerous city and county organizations, which enable us to readily access services for our clients. Our contacts and affiliations include the Bayonne Coalition of Food Pantries, The New Jersey Community Food Bank, Bayonne City Hall, Bayonne Faith Based Center, Bayonne Board of Education, The Bayonne Collaborative Effort, Bayonne Community Mental Health Center, Bayonne Head Start Health Advisory Committee, Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation ,Bayonne Women’s Health

Center, the Bayonne Hospital, Hudson County Welfare, Hudson Employment Alliance, the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services, Hudson County Probation, and Hudson County Hospice.



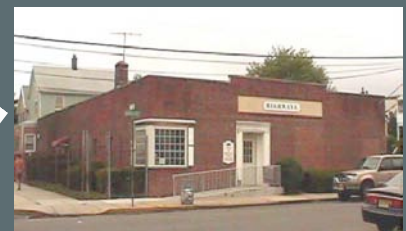
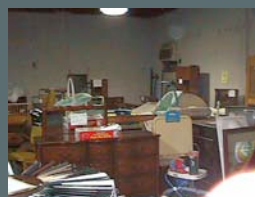
(above)  
Asst. Dir & Director

(left) Dir. Social Services

Highways Stores  
(below)



Volunteers  
& various pictures inside  
our stores



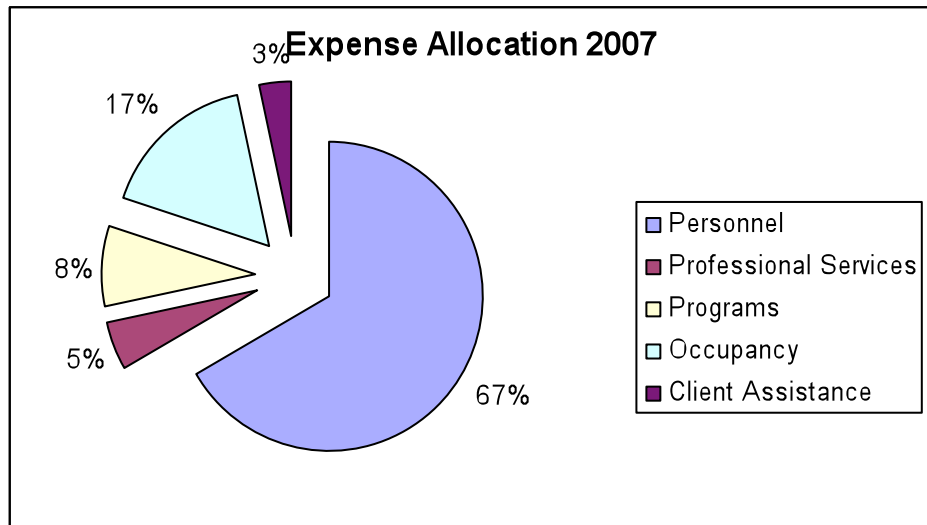
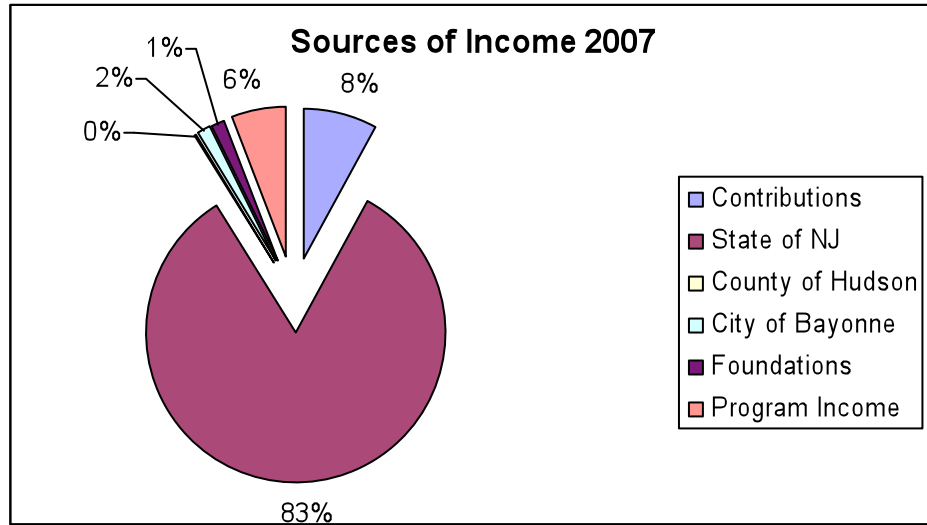
**FINANCIAL CHARTS**

During hard times, it is not surprising that people pull back on their charitable donations.

For our Windmill Alliance, this was not the case.

The number of donations to our Mission tripled in 2007.

Thank you, so very much.



**CONTRIBUTORS**

- NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
- HUD Community Development Block Grant
- City of Bayonne
- NJ State Council on the Arts State/County Partnership Program
- Linden Foundation
- Anonymous
- Al D'Amico Sheet Metal Works
- Allstate Moving & Transfer Co., Inc.
- Anderson Kitchens, Inc.
- Bayonne City Regular Democratic Organization
- Bayonne Community Bank
- Bayonne Community Mental Health Center
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 Rosemarie  
 Yurecko  
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## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE ADVISORY BOARD

We want to recognize the commitment of our Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Parish in Bergen Point, which is our legal governing body, and the leadership of our Advisory Board. This guidance and dedication is essential to our sustainability and growth. And it is with regret that we accepted the resignation of the Rev. Robert Solon, Jr., our Executive Director, who has assumed a new position as the Vicar of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Vernon, NJ.

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 The Rev. Robert F. Solon, Jr., Executive Director  
 The Rev. Gregory Perez, Human Resources Director  
 Bali Macchio, The Windmill Center  
 Paul Valentino, Supervised Apartments

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 Alice Kulik  
 Mae Moreland  
 Arnese Neal  
 Joseph Price  
 Bibi Sultan  
 Irma Torres-Nieves  
 Edwina Ward  
 Genetta Young

### Artists

The Arcadian Chorale  
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 David Glukh  
 David Holkeboer  
 Mikhail Kuchuk

Michael Laderman  
 Manhattan Soloists  
 Stan Orlovsky  
 Rena Panush  
 Mary Pinto

Haskell Small  
 Alan Gordon Smulen  
 Judith Lynn Stillman  
 Bao-Guo Wang

## LOOKING FORWARD TOWARD OUR FUTURE

◆ *We help those who cannot help themselves.* ◆

Like most nonprofit organizations in our community and in our State, the problems of the economy have hit our organization as hard as anyone else, including those we seek to serve. 2007 was a very, very difficult year for the Windmill Alliance. Despite every conceivable efficiency on our part, costs did increase and revenues from the State were insufficient to cover the full cost of the programs. To continue our Mission, we went into debt.

But we recovered. We are grateful for the concrete and professional counsel of our Finance Committee, and for the collaborative relationships forged with local financial institutions. We are grateful we had the strength and vigor to keep moving – no one was laid off, our programs are stable. We have the confidence and the ability to start construction on our major capital project “Miracle on 5<sup>th</sup> Street” and to plan for the new housing initiative for 2008/2009.

### Windmill Alliance, Inc.

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Address label