

# the Word on the House

SPRING 2001

## HOUSE ACADEMICS PROGRAM ROLLS INTO GEAR

The mixture of laughter and conversation emanating from the downstairs lounge can be heard as you enter the upstairs House computer lab. In stark contrast to the lounge room, the computer lab is quiet. The PC lab houses ten workstations and a combination of structured classroom lessons as well as free time where students are able to do their own web searches, play computer games, and the like.

needs of students in a real and practical way. The House is striving to provide tools and encouragement for teens who otherwise might not pursue their own potential.

Linda shares, "Many of these kids do not plan to go to college simply because they think they do not have the ability."

The role of Director of Academic Programs at the House is very different from Linda's past employment as a dental assistant, but she explains, "I knew I had the natural ability to teach through involvement with children's Sunday School." Linda joined the House staff in October 2000, and has been preparing for program implementation in the past several months.

One of the structured programs is PowerUp, a web based program funded by the Case Foundation that provides



different educational activities such as preparatory courses for SAT exams. Students meet twice a week to work on self-paced activities based upon the "Five Promises" as furnished by America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth. Tied into each activity are the Promise themes: 1. Caring Adults; 2. Safe places; 3. A healthy start; 4. Marketable skills; and 5. Opportunities to serve. Individual progress is monitored through certificates of

completion once a task is completed.

The U.S. Dream Academy is the second structured program. Through the Academy, the ScholarShop program targets high school upperclassmen with the goal of providing students with such skills as filling out college applications, applying for scholarships, creating resumes, and job interview techniques. "I went to Minneapolis in January for ScholarShop training and I'm really excited about the program," says Linda. Ten students have already committed to the self-paced curriculum since formal kickoff at the House in February.

*continued on page 3*




Academic Program Director Linda Jones

It is here that the Director, Linda Jones, ministers to the

## Special Volunteer Section



The House depends on generous contributions of time and talent from a wonderful group of volunteers. In appreciation, we have devoted a section of this newsletter to several volunteer stories. If you are interested in volunteering, you will find contact information inside. 

page 1

## CONTACTING THE HOUSE



### THE HOUSE

1606 17th Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20020-5536  
202.610.3100 phone  
202.581.5380 fax  
secf3140@aol.com

*An Affiliate of Faith in the Family International*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 23, 2001**

Third annual Friends of The House banquet at the McLean Hilton Hotel. Legendary Washington Redskin Art Monk is featured speaker.

**OCTOBER 12, 2001**

Second annual golf tournament to benefit The House. Scramble format at Bretton Woods Golf Club in Germantown, MD.

Make plans to attend now. Please invite some friends to join you for a good time, great fellowship and an opportunity to hear The House story.

## THANK YOU

**We deeply appreciate your prayers and gifts.**

The House depends on your faithful prayers and tax deductible contributions. Please prayerfully consider The House in your giving plans for the year. We appreciate gifts of any size and seek to expand our base of regular monthly donors as the ministry grows.

## A SAFE HAVEN

One of the core principles of The House is to provide a safe place for teens to go during the high risk afternoon and early evening hours. Shortly after the news reported that a young man from Anacostia was killed over an argument about a jacket, Marty Granger, our partner and President of Faith In The Family International, was standing on the front porch of the House. He heard Rickey Bolden and Steve Fitzhugh trying to reassure a mother that her son, who she was dropping

off, would be safe. Marty heard her tell Rickey and Steve that her son was in trouble with a gang, and she literally feared for his life. She cried out, "This is my baby. You understand, this is my baby. I went to Anacostia High and yeah, we fought, but we didn't kill each other for our jackets." He saw real fear on her face and heard it in her voice.

This is the harsh reality facing teens in Anacostia and many other urban areas today. Praise God that The House offers



youth a place where they can rely on a safe environment. The problem of youth violence is deep rooted, but staff and volunteers at The House are dedicated to demonstrate the love of Jesus as an alternative, one child at a time. 🏠

## Expansion Update



Since the last newsletter, we have closed on both properties adjacent to the current building

at 1606 17th St. SE. One is equivalent in size to the present facility and the other is 50% larger so we will more than triple current space. Plans are to use the badly needed space to open the ministry to junior high ages, expand the 3 A's programming, make available a larger area for group fellowship, and provide office space for staff and the periodic use of our collaborative partners.

Thanks to strong volunteer crews who worked three Saturdays, much of the cleanup

has been completed and preliminary renovation tasks started. Staff and Board are presently reviewing architectural plans. Several parties have expressed an interest in handling the construction part of the renovation. Raising necessary funding is a priority for this spring. God willing, doors will open this fall to an expanded safe place where the lives of Anacostia teens are renewed and changed. 🏠

## STUDENT RETREAT HELD

Eight students accompanied two staff members to Lake of the Woods near Fredericksburg, VA in February for a day long retreat. The students were selected from those that attend weekly discipleship classes. Others will get the opportunity to participate in future planned bi-monthly retreats. Youth Pastor Eric Kellum said, "We want students to get outside the inner city environment,

cultivate relationships with each other and with staff, and encourage them in their faith." Activities included separate male and female small group sharing, shared meal preparation and a vigorous paintball contest. Afterward, one of the guys who had not been outside his inner city home told Eric, "This is the best thing that ever happened to me." 🏠



## New Sewing Ministry Started

Recently we spoke with Lynn Smith, whose sewing ministry at The House has captured the enthusiasm of numerous teens. Lynn's story of how she came to be a part of the House ministry team is one filled with circumstances and small ironies that all of us can relate to. Despite her initial reticence in getting involved, Lynn's total commitment and ebullience are evident when she speaks of the opportunity God has given her.

**T.H.** Where did your interest in sewing begin?

**L.S.** Sewing has been a big part of my life since I was a teenager, and I eventually decided to pursue it as a career, earning my B.S. in Textile Science and a Design Degree from the Fashion Institute of Design in Los Angeles. I worked

in the garment industry for many years before I decided to go into business for myself, and now I operate DesignSmith out of my home. I take on a variety of projects including fashion and interior design. This has been a huge part of my life needless to say.

**T.H.** What circumstances led to contacting The House with your idea of a sewing ministry?

**L.S.** When Rickey [Bolden] came to McLean Bible Church to speak last April I was really captivated by his sermon. He is so charismatic and humorous and he really knows how to grab your attention. I went to him afterward and mentioned that in the video of the House that had been shown there were only guys, so my impression was that only males were being targeted



Volunteer Leaders Lynn Smith and Michelle Smith with Sewing Students

for ministry. In fact, just the opposite was true and he explained to me that he needed some ideas for girls. He gave me names of people to talk to and I was really excited about the possibility of getting involved. Then that ever-familiar doubt crept in and prevented me from contacting anyone. I just did the Jonah

thing and ran from God's calling (she laughs). For several months I tried to put the thought in the back of my mind, but then Rickey came again to speak at MBC. After that I found the courage to make the first call, and I called JT Musgrove who walked me through my fears.

*continued on page 1.4*

## HEAR FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

The House depends on volunteers for a wide variety of activities and needs such as help with the three A's ministry programs, property management and real estate acquisitions, fund raising, marketing communications and a multitude of administrative duties. In this issue we are including articles from two individuals who have initiated ideas of their own and a review of how Southeast Christian Fellowship Church is

providing the House with volunteer support. We hope you will enjoy reading and think about how you may wish to share your time and talent. For more information please contact the volunteer coordinator, Tyra Parker, at 703-914-8989 or email [tyralovesjesus@aol.com](mailto:tyralovesjesus@aol.com). You may also call Tina Henderson at The House at 202-610-3100 or email her at [SECF3140@aol.com](mailto:SECF3140@aol.com). 



Volunteers honored at April 8th Celebration



# Pianos From Heaven

*Contributed by George and Marile Thigpen*

Last August, we put a notice in the McLean Bible Church bulletin asking for donation of a piano for The House. We asked for only one piano, but to our surprise, found we had tapped a wellspring of generosity. Six prospective donors stepped forward!

My wife, Marile, uses the Suzuki method in teaching piano. This system places strong emphasis on building self confidence, discipline, and strengthening family relationships. For over a year now, she has a personal ministry teaching on alternate Sundays, gratis, at Pastor Rickey Bolden's Southeast Fellowship Church. Now she will provide piano classes for kids at The House.

Marile and I visited all six of the prospective donors' homes and found a superb collection of pianos, all but one of which were clearly acceptable. Still,

there were four more than we had bargained for. "Take 'em all," Pastor Bolden immediately counseled. "God knew we needed pianos in Anacostia and He has provided us five! We can place two at The House, one at Anacostia High, one at Kramer Intermediate, and then there is Pastor Shirley Holloway, who has her own homeless shelter over on Orange Street."

Saturday, November 18, was moving day. Four pianos were picked up in Virginia and one in Rockville; all were delivered that afternoon. Plans call for a special piano instruction room to be set aside in the expanded House construction project. In addition, a large upright, temporarily stored at Kramer, is to be placed in an assembly area for recreational use. We plan to do what we can to assure proper placement of all pianos and to set up good tuning schedules. Proper maintenance is essential.



George and Marile Thigpen with Piano Student

This has been a great experience for us, especially since we have seen so many people spontaneously and joyously come together to do God's work. Thanks to all who donated the pianos, the folks at Potter Piano Movers, and our own piano technician, Mr. Lee.

Remember, in Luke 9:16-17, that Jesus, "taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven...gave thanks and broke them" and the multitude

of five thousand "...all ate and were satisfied..." And as for the bountiful serving we have just received, the best is yet to come.

Anyone with experience in the Suzuki method and interested in participating in this teaching ministry, may call Marile at 703-620-0932. 🏠

---

## Students and Staff Perform for volunteers at April 8th Celebration





# SOUTHEAST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH PROVIDES VOLUNTEERS

*Contributed by Sharon Tabb*

The mission of Southeast Christian Fellowship Church is to make a difference in the community it serves. One of the most remarkable outreach efforts SECF has undertaken has been the creation of The House. This joint effort, with McLean Bible Church in Virginia, to renovate deteriorated apartment buildings and convert them into a Youth Center, was an answer to the blatant absence of a site for Anacostia youth to feel safe, valued, productive, and loved. Many of our church body have supported this awesome

as coordinating financial and insurance needs of The House. Sister Tina Henderson is The House secretary and enthusiastically serves as liaison between The House and SECF. There are currently three members of the SECF family on The House executive committee with two more to be added in the near future so that there will be an equal representation and responsiveness from each church to the needs of The House.

From the technology side, our Deacon Juan Hawkins not only teaches computer classes in the



Sanctuary at SECF Church

Brother Edward Randolph working with youth through the Strategies To Elevate People (STEP) program, which teaches meaningful ways to recapture the dreams of our youth. He also assists with organizing social efforts such as the Tuesday Night House Parties. Brother Jeff Spencer coaches The House basketball team and provides spiritual guidance. He will soon join The House staff as a minister.

The House has a band, which practices at SECF and uses the church's musical instruments and media equipment. The SECF church provides its building site for various youth activities such as the Superbowl Party. A van was donated to The House and SECF to give greater access to the abundance of offerings for the youth and others in the community.

Upcoming activities will include Sister Quita Jackson who is currently preparing to teach dance and aerobics classes. We are experiencing increasing numbers of youth from The House attending our Sunday worship service; however, we are scheduling a special Friday Night Youth Worship Service in order to draw even more young people through diverse worship opportunities and formats.

The partnership between the Southeast Christian Fellowship family and The House has brought many social, emotional, spiritual and foundational rewards for all involved. We look forward to finding many more inroads and making even greater strides in our daily fight to win back our youth for Jesus. 



House Ministry Providers J.T. Musgrove, Rickey Bolden, and Steve Fitzhugh

program through financial giving and prayer; however, there are others who have physically and emotionally become integral members of The House 'family.'

Beginning with our pastor, Reverend Dr. Rickey A. Bolden and his associate, Rev. J.T. Musgrove, have been extremely diligent as ministry providers in promoting The House both in the community and at SECF Church. Deacon Beverly Durham does a variety of administrative functions such

community but also assists in installing and maintaining the computers. Our Brother Gerald Grant donated the copier and provides its maintenance. In addition, because academics are stressed as essential to success, SECF provides three classrooms for students' use. Sister Linda Jones coordinates two internet based academic programs known as PowerUp and the U.S. Dream Academy. She also is in charge of its tutoring and summer job programs.

Innovative activities include



Some of the Staff and Volunteer Members from SECF Church



## SEWING MINISTRY continued from page 1.1

**T.H.** And those fears were...

**L.S.** First off I was completely open with him. I told him how my sewing machine needed repair and he said that we could get someone to take care of that. I explained that I feared for my safety, and he told me that The House is completely blanketed by God's protection because the neighborhood knows we are there to help. I mentioned the possibility of needing child care and he said that he'd spend time with my kids in the computer lab while I taught. And then there was the burning question of what do I possibly have in common with these kids, being a white suburban female housewife, and JT reassured me that the students at The House would see beyond all of that once they realize that I care about them and want to help. It was as if God spoke through JT to undo every obstacle that I had placed in my own mind.

**T.H.** How has God been faithful to you as a result of your willingness to take a risk for Him?

**L.S.** God is awesome and He has faithfully provided for all of our needs. While talking to a friend I mentioned what I was up to and right then and there her father supplied \$1000 for a machine. We were able to buy not only more than one machine, but patterns and other supplies as well. People have donated machines that they no longer use or that they don't want to have repaired. I have been blessed with two ladies who volunteer with me, Michelle Smith, my sister-in-law, and MBC member Jennifer Turner. It's just amazing.

**T.H.** Tell us about the projects that the students are working on.

**L.S.** Our first project was to sew a drawstring denim bag that could be completed in one session so they could gain an immediate sense of accomplishment. We've also made a pillow and at Christmas some stuffed ornaments. The students have used the machines to make buttonholes and will eventually learn more difficult

tasks such as inserting a zipper. By starting simple and working our way up the students learn to set realistic goals and learn a very practical life skill.

**T.H.** What do you hope to accomplish through the sewing ministry?

**L.S.** We want the kids to have the God-given confidence in their own ability to learn a skill, and through this ministry meet them on their level spiritually as well as provide a comfortable place to hang out, as Jennifer puts it. Also, as I mentioned before, we want them to know that they can accomplish anything they put their minds to and gain confidence in themselves.

**T.H.** What do the students want to accomplish?

**L.S.** They all have great ideas. One girl wants to make her own prom dress and another wants to learn how to mend and do alterations. Our one male student wants to make a suit. They've gotten so excited about this that they've asked me to

help sew capes for the flag team at the high school. I told them I would show them how, and then in the future they could do the same and more. Another possible project may be a team effort to replace the drapery that now hangs in The House.

**T.H.** In summary, has the journey been worth it?

**L.S.** God is so good and has shown me that if we are willing to follow He will lead. He's opened so many doors with this ministry, even as new as it is, and I'm so excited about what is ahead. Yes, it's definitely worth it.

More volunteers are needed in order to rotate scheduling. If you are interested or want more information on the Sewing Ministry, contact Lynn Smith at (703) 742-6791, or Tina Henderson at The House at (202) 610-3100. 🏠





## House Band Formed

Under the direction of J. T. Thompson, staff leader of the Arts program, seven students

have formed a band. The new group, named Trilogy, plays go-go style music performed with

gospel praise and worship lyrics. After two months of preparation and seeing other praise and worship bands, Trilogy now plays for the Tuesday Night House Parties and is seeking other performance opportunities. JTT says, "We are tapping the musical talent of students at The House to instill the power of the gospel in others. We want to see lives changed." 🏠



## PRAISE

Praise for The House Party on Tuesday nights at Kramer Junior High. Over 100 in attendance for recent meetings. Praise for the "go go" band which is attracting many kids. Pray that many will come to know Jesus. Pray for a performance quality sound system that the band needs for The House Party and other performances.

Praise for the 29 students who committed or recommitted their life to Christ at a recent Tuesday Night House Party. Pray for the weekly discipleship meetings with these students to learn more about Jesus.

Praise for the good turnout of volunteers who began demolition and cleanup of the two houses purchased for expansion. Pray for successful completion of architect and construction plans and fund raising to complete the renovation.

## PRAYER

Pray for the staff who are leading small group bimonthly retreats to build relationships and grow in knowledge of Jesus.

Pray that God raises up the right Executive Director for The House. Give the staff and board wisdom to hire the right person.

Pray that staff and volunteers continue to build a solid team that meets our mission and goals.

Pray for the special youth worship and Club JC programs planned for Southeast Christian Fellowship beginning in May.

## House Basketball Team in First Season

The House has entered a team, "The House Blazers," in the men's Washington Metropolitan Sports League. There are 12 regular season games followed by a special playoff to determine the league champion. The league is well suited for participation of House youth. Competition is strong, and each game begins and ends with a prayer at center court between all players and coaches. The players are encouraged to lead prayer with one team leading before the game and the other team following the game. No dunking or taunting is allowed so as to maintain a Christian attitude and civility.

Coaching duties are led by Jeff Spencer, who just joined the staff to lead the athletic program and oversee discipleship, with volunteers John Andreoli, Rich Porter, and Rick Pratt assisting. The team is off to a good



House Basketball Team and Coaches

start with a record so far of six wins and four losses. Andreoli commented, "We can be proud of this record as this is our first year while most of the other teams have been together playing in the league for several years. Through more practice time we expect to be even more competitive next year." 🏠

## HOUSE ACADEMICS PROGRAM continued from page 1

In addition to these teaching programs, Linda also serves as the lab facilitator, providing guidance in such areas as helping students work on school projects and do research. Another area Linda hopes to expand is tutoring for

struggling students. Of the various programs offered, tutoring interest has been less than anticipated. "These kids just don't think they need extra help," states Linda. This remains an important priority despite lagging interest to date.

In conclusion, Linda commented that she wants to make everything right for these kids, but offered the assurance that "our focus is on reaching their spiritual needs, and the rest will follow." 🏠



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

# Friends of The House 2001 BANQUET

Wednesday, May 23, 6:30 PM

McLean Hilton Grand Ballroom  
Tyson's Corner, VA



## FEATURING **ART MONK**

Legendary Washington Redskins Receiver  
& NFL Hall of Fame Nominee

There are two ways that every friend of The House can help make this important event be a success.

### **TABLE HOST**

Every current volunteer and donor to The House is a potential TABLE HOST. Your responsibility is to fill a table of 10, at no cost to you or your guests, with people who you believe will be interested in the program and who will be able to partner with us by making a financial contribution to the ongoing work of The House. When you register as a TABLE HOST, we will provide you with an adequate supply of brochures and tickets with which to fill your table.

TABLE HOSTS are the heart and soul of the Banquet.

### **BANQUET SPONSOR**

Sponsorship covers the expenses of the Banquet so that every dollar raised the evening of the event will go directly into the Arts, Academics, and Athletics programs of The House.

### **TICKETS & INFORMATION**

PHONE: 703-914-4763 EMAIL: [thehousebanquet@yahoo.com](mailto:thehousebanquet@yahoo.com)