

# Clare House Clips

*Clare House serves homeless women and children by providing a temporary home in a caring environment, life-skills programs, and aftercare support leading to self-sufficiency.*

SPRING 2010  
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## In My Own Words

BY ELENA

I came to Clare House in October of 2009 after completing a drug and alcohol program here in Lancaster called Vantage. I am originally from Reading, but became homeless when I made the decision to change my life in a positive way and relocate to Lancaster. I am the proud mother of four children: Johnny (24), Raymond (20), Lenxy (9) and De'Jeanice (7). When I moved in to Clare House, I was employed part-time at Target. Even though I was working, I wanted to find a position where I could work more hours and save money to get into housing. A short time later, I was accepted into the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) training program at Conestoga View, where I obtained my CNA certification and began my full-time CNA position. There were times I felt overwhelmed because of my work schedule, but the Clare House staff was very helpful, understanding, and willing to help me in any way possible. After a lot of hard work



Elena with her daughters, Lenxy and De'Jeanice

and budgeting, I was able to move into my own apartment on February 8, 2010! I have learned through my journey to self-sufficiency that there are struggles in life and as long as I stay focused and associate with positive people I can get where I want to be in life.

Programs like Clare House are very helpful. I put in the work to get where I wanted and needed to be, but was able to succeed thanks to the support and guidance I received at Clare House. Living with other women in a diverse environment was challenging and also rewarding. One of my favorite components of the Clare House program is the life skills program they offer. I learned about things like budgeting, parenting, cooking, communication, health, organization skills, and much more. These are tools I can take with me wherever I go in life to help me be successful. My goals for the future are to continue in my recovery process and to be the best mother and person that I can be. I would also like to complete the reunification process with my daughters, Lenxy & De'Jeanice, maintain my employment at Conestoga View and further my education in the medical field. I will always remember the experiences I have gone through to get where I am today. It is important to me to protect and guide my children towards a better future. Most importantly, I have faith in God that He will guide me through whatever it is I must face in order to continue to be a strong woman. I am grateful for the love and care expressed to me at Clare House and in the aftercare program. Clare House made a difference in my life.

### CONTACT CLARE HOUSE...

Phone: (717) 291-8967 | Online: [www.ClareHouseLancaster.org](http://www.ClareHouseLancaster.org)

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES: If you need to update your address, would like to be removed from our mailing list, or would prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail, contact Gina at (717) 291-8967 or [gina@clarehouselancaster.org](mailto:gina@clarehouselancaster.org)

# From the Director's Desk



Jennifer Powell  
Executive Director

For eight years I have walked through the doors at Clare House and each day women and their children arrive leaving behind them a journey that was unexpected. The journey ahead seems so daunting and their faces reveal every uncertainty. Along the journey with us are the moments I wish you could witness. As the leader of this organization, I am constantly humbled by the stories behind each tear. These women are so broken spirited when they arrive and become so hopeful and energized as they heal. Eventually a new job, a new savings plan and then a move into a new neighborhood. All along the way you contribute to their success. The donation of a bus pass gets her back and forth to work. Leftover food from the dinner a volunteer provided becomes her lunch. The donated gift card becomes her child's medicine for an ear ache. The financial contribution gives her a safe place to call home today while she works for a better tomorrow. All the gifts from unseen hands become intertwined into the safety net keeping Clare House open for the next journey and the next miracle that needs to happen.

This year we celebrate our 30th anniversary. When it all seemed impossible, even improbable, we knew we would make it...because we had your support. Think about the thousands of women and children that have been touched by Clare House...that have been touched by you. Thank you friends, volunteers, donors and staff.

Appreciatively, *Jennifer*

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Spring has (I think) finally arrived. The grass is green and growing; which means mowing. The flowers are up and brightly colored. The trees have almost completely blossomed; which means I can't breathe. This is a year of anniversaries for Clare House! Jazz Fest is shaping up to be another terrific event. Remember, August 6, 2010, at the Marriott at Penn Square marks the 10th Anniversary of the event. Please mark your calendars. I am truly happy that Clare House is celebrating 30 years as a safe haven for women and children. And speaking of 30 years, come help us celebrate these past 30 years at our December 2010 event. Stay tuned for information regarding the date and location.



Jay Laser  
Board President

Now for a bit of Clare House history...Clare House first began in 1980 as the mission of a local Catholic Diocese to provide shelter for homeless women and their children. The shelter was named after St. Clare, a Franciscan nun and the first facility was located on North West End Avenue in Lancaster.

Looking towards the future, your Clare House Board has completed its annual retreat/development sessions over two Saturdays this past March. David Wauls, of LMA Consulting, led the board through both days. Work was done on developing our Strategic Objectives and ground work has been laid toward our operational plan, and a 3-5 year strategic plan to reach the goals we have for Clare House. Thanks to our great staff for their continued input and tireless efforts in making Clare House a success. That just about wraps up our first quarter... more to come.


*Celebrate, Jay*

### 2009-2010

#### Board of Directors

Jay Laser, President  
Beth Gallic, Past President  
Dyan Myers, Vice President  
Andrea Turasky, Treasurer  
Jacqueline Banyasz Fogarty, Secretary  
Chris Baker  
Jay Brenneman  
Maxi Cotto  
David Freedman, ESQ.  
Jack Howell  
Elizabeth Peris  
Alejandro Rosado  
Jeffrey Shelly

# 2010 Jazz Fest

**b** The warm weather and sunshine can only mean one thing...it's almost time for Jazz Fest! To say we are excited about this one is an understatement! This year the Clare House Jazz Fest celebrates its 10th Anniversary. We've sure come a long way! The first Jazz Fest was in 2000 with about 30 folks in attendance and was an event to raise money to open a second shelter. Now, with over 400 attendees in 2009, Jazz Fest is known as one of the premier events in Lancaster. 

You won't want to miss this year's celebration. Guests can get their fill of music, dancing, food, silent and live auctions and much more. Jazz not your favorite? No problem! Our musical performers are sure to knock your socks off no matter what your musical inclination. Back by popular demand is Amaryllis...imagine a tropical island breeze, the hot sun, the sensual sounds of salsa, soul and dance musical fusions...that's Amaryllis! The Faux Minx will once again be featured during the social hour reception. Their variety of jazz and soul was a delight to attendees last year and kicked off the event in style. And, to celebrate ten years of an illustrious event, guests will be delighted by a special appearance from Amy Banks and the Amy Banks Quartet. World renowned and a local favorite, Amy's performance is sure to dazzle the audience and take the event to a whole new level!

The affair will once again be held at the Marriott at Penn Square on Friday August 6, 2010, with social hour beginning at 6pm. Dinner, lovely libations as well as silent and live auctions will make the evening one to remember. Not to mention... dancing. You won't want to miss this celebration.

The community plays a key role in the success of Jazz Fest. Through your ticket purchase, sponsorship and donations we are able to raise valuable funds to support the crucial work

Clare House does in support of homeless women and their children. In 2009 over \$24,000 was raised and to celebrate our 10 year anniversary we are looking to double that! We can only do that through your participation. Tickets are on sale now and sponsorship and donation opportunities are also available. For more information on how you can purchase tickets, sponsor the event, or donate an item for the silent or live auctions, give us a call at (717) 291-8967.

In addition to the festivities, this year's Jazz Fest will celebrate YOU! You have made this event into an experience. You have made the event into what it is today...come make merry, enjoy the company of friends old and new and take pleasure in enjoying food, fun and music; all in support of the good works of Clare House. Mark your calendar...**Friday August 6th!** See you there!



Join us for Jazz Fest at the beautiful Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square



# Volunteer Connection

## How Can You Make a Difference?

Volunteers at Clare House are vital to the smooth operation of our program. Whether you are looking to donate a lot of time or just a little, we'd love to have you on our team. In April, we celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation week here at Clare House and were able to extend



our gratitude to those of you who have helped us continue in our mission to serve women and children in need. We are truly grateful for the countless hours spent by YOU, our dedicated volunteers. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to offer many of the services that we provide to homeless women and children in our community. Whether you play with our kids, prepare meals to feed our families, clean up around the house, sort donations, help us make repairs, serve as a life skill instructor, or just spread the word about

Contact Shannon Bower, our volunteer coordinator, at (717) 291-8967 or via e-mail at [shannon@clarehouse Lancaster.org](mailto:shannon@clarehouse Lancaster.org) to get started today!

Clare House, you're helping to make our community a better place! There are also other ways to help Clare House, such as Board membership, serving on planning committees, and collecting supplies from our wish list at your school, business, or place of worship. If you'd like to learn more about our volunteer opportunities, give us a call!

## CLARE HOUSE BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**As an ongoing feature in our Clare House Clips newsletter, we'd like to introduce you to the members of our Board of Directors. In this issue, you will get to meet Jacqueline Banyasz Fogarty.**

Jackie is originally from northern New Jersey. She attended college at GWU in Washington D.C., where she majored in French and began her career as a high school French teacher in Alexandria, VA. After teaching, she had several careers, including: working for Sen. Harrison A. Williams on Capitol Hill and professional acting/print modeling. When she moved to Lancaster 23 years ago, she became a full-time mom to her two daughters, Morgan (27) and Katharine (23). Jackie is currently a member of the Leadership Lancaster Class of 2010 and works part-time in outside sales for the Fairfield Inn by Marriott at Granite Run. She loves theatre, art, writing, travel and reading, and is a big promoter of downtown Lancaster and its continued re-birth and revival as a progressive, vibrant, historical city with a strong artistic and cultural foundation. Her hopes for Clare House in the next year are to help the organization raise its profile and have a larger presence in the community. Jackie chose to volunteer with Clare House because she thinks the answer to most of our culture's problems would be solved if we empowered women to be self-sufficient. She is glad that Clare House is able to help women who have limited resources or none at all. "Without a helping hand, these women would be sentenced to lives of great difficulty." Thanks Jackie for your ongoing commitment to Clare House!



Jacqueline Banyasz Fogarty  
Board Secretary

# The Clare House Difference

When you choose to support a program that helps those in need in our community, consider the following...

## Thirty Years...

Since the very beginning, Clare House has been a symbol of hope, opportunity and love. In 1980, there were few places homeless women and their children could go to find refuge. The Catholic diocese responded to that need and Clare House was started.

From its humble beginnings, the shelter grew...cots became beds, a pot of coffee grew into nutritious meals and a listening ear became a social worker advocating, assisting and supporting. At Clare House, the underlying message of love and opportunity remains strong and the commitment to create a community where homeless women and children could receive the help and assistance they need still prevails.

Over the years Clare House has continued to make strides to meet the demand for help. We continuously developed innovative programs that have strengthened women's lives and touched their hearts in the process. Our programs have provided women with the tools they need to shape their own lives, while our generous staff and volunteers have provided them with the resources, friendship and love they deserve.

We celebrate the women who have come to Clare House, who opened their lives to us and shared with us their trust and friendship. We celebrate 30 years of service, even in the midst of trying times with overwhelming budget cuts, recession and unemployment. We have won many victories, despite adversity and we would not be where we are today without the support of countless friends and donors.

Please join us on December 8 at the Palm Court at Willow Valley to commemorate this milestone in our history. We want to celebrate all of you! Look forward to an evening of stories shared, entertainment, food, fun and fellowship. The event is free, however, registration is necessary. To register, call 717-291-8967 or visit our website at [www.ClareHouseLancaster.org](http://www.ClareHouseLancaster.org). Also, if you have a story to share or know someone who has a special place in the Clare House history book, please contact [jennifer@clarehouse Lancaster.org](mailto:jennifer@clarehouse Lancaster.org)

A program that has been committed to helping women and children in our community since 1980...that's the Clare House Difference...



*Save the Date*  
*for our 30th Year Celebration!*  
**Wednesday, December 8, 2010**  
**Palm Court at Willow Valley**  
*More info to come!*

# What's Happening?

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT CLARE HOUSE!

In addition to our annual Jazz Fest fundraiser, we are offering a few additional opportunities for you to come out and support Clare House throughout the year! So mark your calendars and join us for these events! What a great way to enjoy an evening with friends and help out Clare House at the same time. Reservations are not required, but you must present our coupon for each event! See you there!



### Friday June 11, 2010 Community Night @ Isaac's

WHEN: Friday June 11th from 5-10 PM

WHERE: Isaac's in Downtown Lancaster  
(25 N. Queen Street, Lancaster)

WHY: If you dine at Isaac's on 6/11 between 5-10 PM and present our coupon, 25% of the total cost of your meal (including alcohol) will be donated to Clare House

HOW: To get your coupon, call 291-8967 and ask for Shannon or e-mail [shannon@clarehouselancaster.org](mailto:shannon@clarehouselancaster.org)

### Monday October 25, 2010 Give 20 Night @ Iron Hill Brewery

WHEN: Monday October 25th from 5-10 PM

WHERE: Iron Hill Brewery in Lancaster  
(781 Harrisburg Pk, Lancaster)

WHY: If you dine at Iron Hill on 10/25 between 5-10 PM and present our coupon, 20% of your bill (excluding alcohol) will be donated to Clare House

HOW: To get your coupon, call 291-8967 and ask for Shannon or e-mail [shannon@clarehouselancaster.org](mailto:shannon@clarehouselancaster.org)



Clare House staff with Board member Jack Howell and Amaryllis

## SPRING FLING EVENT

All of us here at Clare House would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who purchased tickets for the Spring Fling event and helped make the night a huge success. Over \$1,000 was raised for Clare House and everyone had such a great time! A special thank you to Amaryllis and Syllirama Entertainment LLC for hosting the event! Oh what a night!

WE'RE ON  
FACEBOOK



In an effort to utilize social media to its fullest capacity and stay connected in real time with you, our supporters, we are delving into the world of Facebook. Learn about volunteer opportunities, wish list needs, and more! You can become our Friend, join our Cause, and even donate online! Our cause has raised \$185 so far on Facebook and we are hoping to see that number increase! You can also see pictures of what's happening at Clare House and RSVP to upcoming fundraising events. Check out all the action by going to the link below...

<http://www.facebook.com/clare.house>

# Around the House

As a recurring feature in our newsletter, we'd like to continue to share with you some of the successes that have been happening "Around the House." In each edition, you can look forward to celebrating these joys with us!

## UPDATES FROM OUR LAST EDITION

• **ELENA** worked hard at budgeting her money and was able to move into her own apartment recently. She is employed full-time as a CNA at Conestoga View and is very excited at the prospect of reunifying with her daughters over the summer. She will continue her involvement with Clare House through the aftercare program. Read more about Elena's story on the front page!

• **ASHLEY** also successfully completed the Clare House program and moved into her own apartment with her three small children, Rayyonah, Christopher Jr., and Mehki. She continues to focus on providing a stable home for her family (pictured at right)



## NEW RESIDENTS

• **BECKY** and her one year old daughter, Carleigh, came to Clare House in March. Becky works full-time at Picture People and is also working with the Bridge of Hope program. She plans to be in a home of her own in the next month.

• **CRYSTAL** is a new resident at Clare House who is actively focused on obtaining full-time employment, setting goals and utilizing the life skills program at Clare House to help her on her journey to self-sufficiency.

• **ANGEL** came to Clare House because of a marital separation. Because of her situation, Angel's 11 year old daughter was also forced to leave their home and now lives with her grandmother. Angel is employed full-time at the School District of Lancaster and hopes to provide housing for herself and her daughter in the near future.

• **JENNIFER** recently moved into Clare House with her two young boys, Jaheim (6) and Jayden (1). She is currently working on completing her GED through CareerLink and hopes to obtain a full-time position once she finishes her degree.

• **JAMIE** came to Clare House with her four young children, Maquel (8), JaQuan (5), Dashawn (3) and Serina (4 months). She was thrilled to learn recently that she has been accepted into the CNA program at Conestoga View and will be working full-time as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) once she completes her certification.

• **CYNDI** joined the Clare House family in April and has successfully obtained full-time employment at a local diner. When she's not working, she is focused on continuing in her recovery and setting goals for the future.

• **RENEÉ** has been with Clare House since the end of March and spends much of her time focusing on her sobriety and also works part-time at Giant. In spite of her disability, she is always trying to help others and looks forward to a bright future in a home of her own.

## OUR CURRENT NEEDS...

- New Pillows
- Diapers (Sizes 4, 5, 6)
- Floor Cleaner
- RRTA Bus Passes
- Stamps
- 2010 Pocket Planners
- Paper Towels
- Liquid-Plumr/ Drano
- Bug Spray
- Twin Mattress Protectors (zippered)
- Sunblock (adult/children)
- Tool Kit (i.e. tape measure, screwdrivers, nails, screws, hammer, wrench, duct tape)



Clare House  
 342-344 E. Chestnut Street  
 Lancaster, PA 17602

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*Save the Date for our 10th Annual Jazz Fest...*  
*Friday, August 6, 2010*  
*Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square*



Social Hour: 6 PM  
 Dinner & Program: 7:30 PM  
 Dancing: 9 PM



Tickets & Sponsorships  
 Now Available!

Call 291-8967 for More Info!

*Featuring the music of*  
 Amaryllis  
 Amy Banks Quartet  
 & The Faux Minx  
 Dinner & Dancing  
 Silent & Live Auctions  
 and Much More...

