



## Three Oaks Center

### Upcoming Events

- July 20th — 10th Annual Three Oaks Center Golf Tournament
- September 30 — “Capitol Steps” Performance at Great Mills High
- October 2006 — Three Oaks Center/Cole Travel Run/Walk
- December 2006 — 1st Annual Day of W.A.R.M.T.H (Working Artist Raising Money for the Homeless) — This year’s artistic theme; “Refuge” at Camalier House, Leonardtown

### Inside this issue:

Three Oaks Budget Submitted..	2
FY-2006/07 Budget	2
Strategic Plan... <i>continued</i>	2
Lessons From Aloft	3
President’s Message	3
Stark Joins Three Oaks Team	3
“Three Oaks Center Golf”	3

## Cabaret Night is a Huge Success by Lanny Lancaster



Couples fill the dance floor swaying to crooner, Ken Rothfield

All was well as nearly two hundred of St. Mary’s County’s finest dancers and friends of Three Oaks Center met over dinner and danced to the hugely popular easy-listening sound of singer, Ken Rothfield, at the J. T. Daugherty Conference Center.

Conceived as a possible fundraising effort for the Center, Directors Sue Gelrud, Pinky

Morgan, Margaret Jarboe, Ellie Slater, Ian Brodersen, Susan Hazen and Robbie Loker, donned their event hats and in a very short time pulled together all the elements necessary to bring people together for an evening of fun and entertainment — all this in an effort to bring much needed financial resources to programs providing services to our homeless children with special needs.

After guests dined on stuffed fillet of flounder and chicken scaloppini the crowd settled in for the evening dancing to performer Ken Rothfield and his seemingly endless string of vocals - everything from Frank Sinatra to Johnny Cash and Sir Mix-A-Lot. The bottom line is this: the Doctor originally from Rochester and presently helping you off to dreamland before your surgery at St. Mary’s Hospital has a brilliant sense of humor, a great voice and a big heart. Doctor Rothfield donated his talent for the evening’s event; not a small gift which combined with the many ads compiled in the evening’s program from our generous business community (see enclosure) and ticket sales made it possible for the Center to realize a huge profit of over 14 thousand dollars. Cabaret Night was a wonderful success.

## Board of Directors Meets To Discuss Strategic Planning by Sandy Allen-Moore

On April 18, 2006, the Three Oaks Center Board of Directors met for their Annual Planning Conference to ponder a number of issues facing the Center in the coming months and years. Highest on the Board’s list of issues to discuss this year was the very real potential move of

the Center’s administrative and emergency sheltering facilities from its present location in Lexington Park to a new campus in order to accommodate the ongoing implementation of the Lexington Park Redevelopment Plan. This discussion focused on where the new campus

would be best located and what facilities would be needed to meet the expanding need for services to the homeless in St. Mary’s County. Provisions will be required to meet the demand for program services including: Outreach and Prevention, Emergency... *cont. p.2*



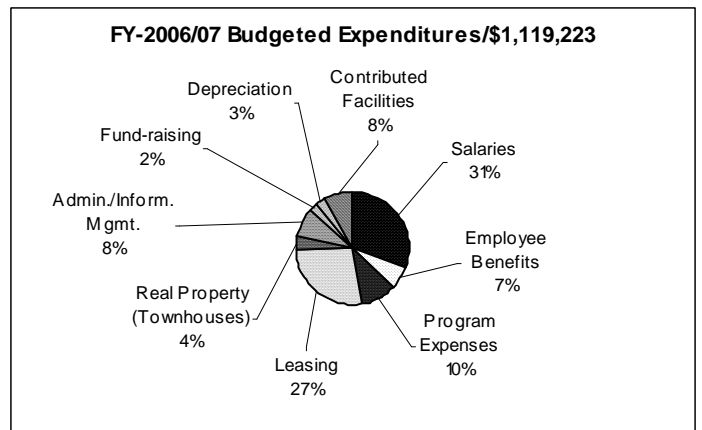
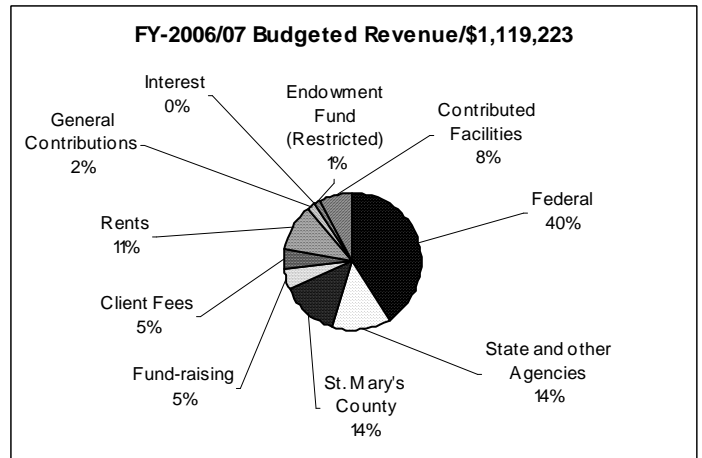
Good Resource: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness-[www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov)

## Proposed FY-2007 Budget by Sandy Allen-Moore

The Three Oaks Center Board of Directors gave an interim approval to the 2006/07 Budget Proposal presented by the Executive Director and estimated to be in excess of one million dollars. The package included a balanced budget with Revenues and Expenses totaling \$1,119,223. This budget is only conditionally approved. The future of the budget is connected to the Center's request to the St. Mary's County Commissioners for \$150,000.

The Budget Submittal to the County Commissioners highlights the increased need to provide Emergency Sheltering with Therapeutic Services to women and women with children, including victims of domestic violence. The request also reflects the Center's recent decision to create a new position called Child Advocate. It was determined that it was important for the agency to put a spotlight specifically on the needs and concerns of our homeless children alone and apart from those of their parents. "For a long time," Mr. Lancaster told the Board, "it has appeared to me that at times the children of homeless

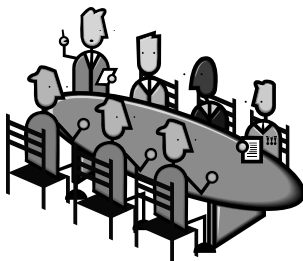
*...Homelessness, like crime and suicide, is tied to joblessness.*



families need their own advocate." "I have also become increasingly aware," said Lancaster, "that at times the families' Case Advocate can be put in a very difficult position when circumstances are such that parent and child find themselves at odds."

The new budget also reflects the extraordinary increases the Center is experiencing in the areas of utilities (gas and electric), insurance (medical and liability), medications (uncovered by ins.), furnishings (many homeless coming to the program with nothing).

## Planning Meeting ...continued from pg 1



Shelter, Transitional Supportive Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities. The Board is preparing to submit a plan to the county government which will include on a new campus a facility which will provide emergency shelter and services in-

cluding child care to homeless women, women with children, and victims of domestic violence. There is currently no facility in St. Mary's County which can provide this essential service. Services today for women are a combination of stays at area motels provided

by Three Oaks Center, Walden/Sierra, Inc., and our local Department of Social Services as well as Emergency and Transitional Housing when available at Angel's Watch Shelter in Charles County. Angel's Watch is operated by Catholic Community Services.

## Lessons From Aloft by Pinky Morgan

I received the newsletter from the St. Mary's County Department of Aging this week and was pleased to see once again an article I had come across long ago about how and why geese fly in formation. In thinking about how and why we should aid our fellow man, and in particular homeless persons, I thought that maybe we could take a lesson from the geese.

Every autumn we are fortunate in this area to see and hear the geese as they head to their winter homes. Have you ever given a thought to how we might be able to benefit from their wisdom? Well here it goes; some facts about the Canada goose. 1.) As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation the flock has a least 71%

greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. 2.) When a goose flies out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it. 3.) When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies to the point position. 4.) The geese flying in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. 5.) When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two other geese will drop out of formation with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection.

Think of it, if the geese can do that for one another, shouldn't we do as much for our fellow man? Do you have an hour or two to volunteer for

Three Oaks? Do you have a few dollars to donate? Do you have bedding or furniture you would like to find a needy home for? There are so many ways you can help. Will you join us at our golf tournament? Your money toward that event really helps out and you will have a great time. So, when you see the geese flying in formation next fall, think about us.

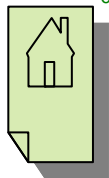


## President's Message by J. Michael McCauley

On a typical night in St. Mary's County there are 1,000 to 1,100 homeless people. Although invisible to most of us, they are identified and counted by the staff of support agencies in an annual survey required by the federal government. Some of those identified as homeless have temporary shelter provided by Three Oaks and other agencies while they are helped toward self-sufficiency. Others are found in makeshift camps, in cars, or rotating between the dwellings of friends and relatives. One of the programs at Three Oaks reaches out to these homeless people who are adrift and offers services that they need to return to a normal and productive lifestyle. This program also works to prevent

homelessness by engaging with people getting ready to leave residential treatment programs or correctional facilities. Without a place to stay or any structure to their environment they experience a much greater chance of relapse. Prevention of homelessness also involves easing the housing burden of people who are living in substandard, overcrowded, or unaffordable units. More homeless people in St. Mary's County experience homelessness because of financial disruptions than because of chronic health or substance abuse problems. The lack of affordable housing opportunities, made worse by the dramatic rise in housing prices, is what makes homelessness a growing problem

needing ever greater resources. Rather than focusing on the deep seated needs of the chronically homeless, Three Oaks finds itself caught up in the affordable housing squeeze. Currently there is an effort to support an expansion of the County's role in providing affordable housing through the implementation of a Strategic Housing Plan. The Plan would mark the completion of a three stage effort that has so far produced a study of options and a study of needs. The adoption of specific measures to reduce the affordable housing gap would reduce one of the important causes of homelessness.



## Stark Joins Three Oaks Staff, Supports Homeless Children by Lanny Lancaster

Three Oaks Center recently instituted a Child Advocacy program and is fortunate to have attracted the services of Liesl Stark. Stark, a social worker with many years of experience with the St. Mary's and Prince George's County's Departments of Social Services and who has a particular interest in chil-

dren's issues, began serving as the Center's first Child Advocate in January. One of Stark's first duties was to identify and assess all of the children living with their parent(s) in our various housing programs for special needs.

Along with this large responsibil-

ity Stark has assumed, she also is making plans to enroll many of the children for summer activities designed to build their self-esteem and better equip them for their studies as they return to school in the Fall. Join us in welcoming Liesl to our staff. Already, much progress has occurred since her arrival.

*Three Oaks Center  
11th Annual Golf Tournament*



**Breton Bay Golf  
and Country  
Club**  
*July 20, 2006*  
*9a.m. Shotgun Start*  
*Sign your teams up now!!!*

*Michael Guy:  
301.863.9920*

*Sandy Moore:  
301.863.9535 x104*



*Light Breakfast Cart*  
*Green Fees Beverages*  
*Great Prizes and Awards*



Above: Liesl Stark, who recently joined Three Oaks Center staff, supports Child Advocacy Program.



## Three Oaks Center

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**Housing and Supportive Services for the Homeless**



## We're on the Web

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## *The Oakleaf* : Newsletter of the *Three Oaks Center*

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**Administration:**

H. S. "Lanny" Lancaster, Executive Director

Please take a look at the enclosed program from our very successful

*"Cabaret Night."*

We are tremendously grateful to our generous business community and ask that you think of them when you need to make your next purchase.



Three Oaks Center Board Director, Al Lacer and Executive Director, Lanny Lancaster at *Cabaret Night*—Proceeds from the affair presented at the J. T. Daugherty Conference Center benefited the program's many homeless services.