

## A Note From Shelley Roberts



I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and that 2010 brings you peace, happiness and good health.

We have a lot of exciting events and programs planned for the year, so I just wanted to thank you in advance for your continued dedication and support. I thought it was worth sharing with you my message that is printed in the volunteer brochure that is given to each new volunteer, outlining just how important our volunteer ambassadors are to us.

Volunteers have been involved in every aspect of Community House life for over 80 years. Whatever your contribution, please be assured that it is appreciated by all of the staff of The Community House. On an annual basis, our volunteers contribute more than 8,000 hours for a value of \$150,000! That speaks to the level of your dedication and commitment.

You give the House a face, a voice, helping hands, and a heart. Volunteers are the life of the House, the vital force that carries out our mission of serving an ever-growing, ever-changing community. Your new ideas keep the enthusiasm alive for our long-standing programs and special events.

We are very grateful for all that you do on behalf of The Community House. You link us to the many neighborhoods, towns and cities that make up the broad range of communities we serve and most of all, you are our best ambassadors.

I look forward to seeing you around the House!

Shelley Roberts, The Community House President and CEO

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers needed for upcoming events! Please email your availability to [volunteers@communityhouse.com](mailto:volunteers@communityhouse.com).

**Wednesday, April 14 – “House in Bloom” with Chris Giftos**, manager of special events and master floral arranger at the Metropolitan Museum in Manhattan, now retired after 33 years. Over the years the Great Hall flowers became so famous that people would go to the Met just to see them.

**Sunday, April 25 – Kids Helping Kids Walk**, a benefit for the Children’s Charities Coalition event. Volunteers are needed along the walking route and in other various areas.

**Saturday, July 24 – “Green Breeze,” Green Living Fair**, this year Green Breeze will be even bigger and better. We are partnering with the PSD (Principal Shopping District’s) Day on the Town and anticipate having approximately 100 Green Breeze vendors and attracting 10,000 people to this exciting event.

**THURSDAY, September 16 (new day!) – Birmingham House Tour** is always a fun event. Volunteer shifts will be available in May. This event needs over 300 volunteers, so please mark your calendars to help where you can.

**Thursday-Saturday, October 14-16 – OUR TOWN Art Show & Sale** will celebrate the 25th anniversary of this wonderful event. Gallery guides and sales desk volunteers will be needed throughout the show days. I hope you will join us in this very special celebration.

**Wednesday, November 17 – Winter Holiday Gift Show Preview Party** needs volunteers to help direct guests to our wonderful vendors and to booth sit when requested.

## Volunteer Holiday Reception

On December 7, volunteers with 10 or more recorded hours enjoyed a festive holiday reception. It was a wonderful evening filled with good friends and delicious food. Thank you to Carol Marshall for selecting outstanding door prizes, and to Patti Peacock for her beautiful centerpieces.



## January Volunteer of the Month

April Lindell

*“Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.”*

– Helen Keller

## Volunteer Accolades

- April Lindell for distributing notification letters to our neighbors on the Kids Helping Kids Walk route; this is a mandatory requirement per the city permit.
- The volunteers who “decorated” and “undecorated” the House for the holidays. You made the House so festive! They are: Sue Dinger, Patti Peacock, Delores Greer, Judy Stucky, Audrey Shapero, Barbara Teasdale, Jean Miller, Ken Svenden and Lavern Clery.
- Anne-Marie Welch for organizing the volunteers from TUG for the Orchards Children’s Holiday Night.
- To all the Garden Club members for keeping our gardens looking so beautiful throughout the summer and fall months.



### “When Patterns are Broken, New Worlds Will Emerge”

—Barry Demp, Business and Personal Coach

1. Know your core values and design your professional and personal life around them. Identify your top 10 core values; create a statement with your values. They become “you.” Make this your “Life Vision Statement” and be passionate about it with an attitude of “I can’t wait to make it happen each day!”
2. Always do and be your personal best! Do your best; you can always be your best living by your values and behavior, which will allow you to do your best.
3. Use the slight edge and give that little extra in all you do. What little something can you do for someone each day to “Make their day?” This in turn makes you a better person too.
4. Be Self-ish. Take good care of yourself first, so that you can take care of the people you serve. We live in a marathon society so we need to have time to rejuvenate and recover from our activities. Need to have downtime. Ask, “What is the most important thing to do now?” Repeat this question often during each day, then choose.
5. Learn from your mistakes and be prepared to learn a lot. You need to make mistakes – rarely does anything happen right the first time.

## Director’s Letter



Happy New Year! It’s hard to believe that 2009 is behind us and that plans are well underway for our 2010 special events. Please take a few minutes to review the events calendar included in this newsletter. You will notice that we have another busy year planned full of great activities and programs.

By the time you receive this newsletter, renovation of the new Bates Street entrance will have begun to better serve the community needs. The new improvements will include a larger shelter, improved lighting and signage, as well as a ramp and railing for convenient access. The construction is estimated to conclude on March 12.

As wonderful as 2009 was, we were greatly saddened by the loss of two very special volunteers; Nancy Delaney and Margaret Sarlund. Nancy passed away very suddenly in the fall, and Margaret, also very suddenly in late January 2010. Both were wonderful volunteers who you could call upon for just about anything. We extend our sincere condolences to their families.

On a very happy note, the Development Department has a new addition! Zoe Profeta was born on January 9 to mom Sarah and dad Chris Profeta and big sister Polly. Everyone is doing fine! Congratulations!

I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2010; as we always say, You are the Heart of the House, and we are most grateful for all you do on our behalf.

Fondly,  
Kathie Ninneman  
Director of Special Events and Volunteers

## The Community House Mission

The mission of The Community House, an independent, non-profit organization established in 1923 and located in Birmingham, Michigan is to offer relevant programs and services to help people in the metropolitan area improve and enrich their lives. We do this by providing educational, social and cultural opportunities for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds. We build community by valuing diversity, connecting neighbors, and providing a gathering place for families, individuals and groups.

*Did you know that approximately 8,000 volunteer hours were given to The Community House in 2009! Congratulations and thanks to all who gave so generously of your time and talent!*

## Welcome Back!

We are pleased to welcome back Peggy Kerr as Director of Programs. Her wonderful enthusiasm and expertise will be a tremendous asset to the department. Sara Levitsky, former Director of Programs resigned in early December to open Birmingham Counseling for Women and Girls. Sara is a Clinical Social Worker and Therapist, so we wish her well in her new endeavor.

## Review of Volunteer Training

For those who were not able to attend the volunteer training held on January 19, here is a short recap of the evening. Shelley Roberts and Kathie Ninneman welcomed the volunteers and thanked them for their outstanding support and being our best ambassadors. Shelley gave a brief overview of The Community House Board and Management staff.

Other highlights:

- The Community House video was shown
- Website review – volunteers are encouraged to explore the website, [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com)
- Join the Kroger Community Rewards program, and help The Community House at the same time. Next time you visit your favorite Kroger, ask them how to participate
- Stay in touch with us via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Share your positive comments and enthusiasm about The Community House!
- Calendar of events on our website was reviewed
- New Volunteer Ambassador brochure was reviewed – now on our website
- The Program Department schedules all class hosts not the Volunteer Department. Please contact them if you have any questions, 248.594.6416.

A volunteer survey was distributed. If you would like to fill one out, please stop by the volunteer office to pick one up.

To all of our volunteers, thank you for all you do to support our events and program. We value you as our ambassadors!

## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities!

Please clip and mail this form if you are interested in participating.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Programs: Help with theatre productions and ballet school events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Crew: Assembles mailings, menus, gift bags and more!
- \_\_\_\_\_ StoryTellers Guild: Read to children in local elementary schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Front Desk Receptionists: Answer phones and welcome guests. Opportunities available seven days a week!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class Host/Hostess: Take attendance, distribute evaluations, assist instructors and collect material fees for classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club: Join our dedicated gardeners in keeping The Community House looking beautiful year-round.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of a sponsored group or club at TCH: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please put me on the “inactive” list and do not send mailings.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Kathie Ninneman, Director of Volunteers/ Special Events, The Community House, 380 South Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009 or fax to 248-644-2476.

## Remember!



Volunteers, please remember to record your hours. The Community House receives grants and volunteers receive special recognition for the number of hours they share. Volunteers with 10 or more recorded hours are invited to the December and April receptions. The log books are at the front desk reception area. Occasionally, during special events, we move the log books to the Volunteer Hospitality Room.

If you have any questions regarding hours, contact the Director of Volunteers at 248.594.6403.