

**EAST LIBERTY
DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

SEVENTEENTH

**Maxwell Awards
of
Excellence**

2007

Sojourner House MOMS

Sojourner House MOMS is a systems changing approach developed for homeless single mothers with mental health and substance use histories. The program is the result of a partnership between Sojourner House, Inc. and two neighborhood based organizations: Negley Place Neighborhood Alliance and East Liberty Development, Inc.



The MOMS program was developed to specifically address a gap that was identified by the Allegheny County Continuum of Care—that of permanent housing for larger families with children. Sojourner House is based on the idea that with stable housing and appropriate services, women can maintain sobriety, achieve increased self-sufficiency, and build a stronger family life for their children.

One of the compelling aspects of this program is that it is supported by a groundbreaking use of public resources. For the first time, after two years of planning, the Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health and the Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh are formally collaborating to best meet both the service and housing needs of parenting mothers struggling with chronic addiction and mental illness.

The building that houses the program had become a haven for crime and prostitution in an otherwise stable neighborhood. Since the project began, neighbors have noticed a remarkable change in both the safety of the area and the sense of community.

The widespread publicity the project has received has put a spotlight on the issue of family homelessness and its destructive power, particularly when combined with substance use and mental illness. By breaking the intergenerational cycle of homelessness, Sojourner House MOMS has proven itself to be a good neighbor and has involved the community in its mission.

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SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

East Liberty Development, Inc., a 501(c)3 Community Development Corporation (CDC) since 1979, has established residential and commercial development programming to transform East Liberty and provide development services to partner organizations throughout the East End of Pittsburgh.

FUNDING FOR SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS

- Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
- Federal Home Loan Bank
- Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
- HUD McKinney funds
- The Pittsburgh Foundation

CREATIVE APPROACHES TO SERVICE DELIVERY

- Locating the project in a community that welcomes and supports its presence
- Individualized and customized services that focus on breaking families out of the cycle of poverty and homelessness
- Requiring that within 60 days of entering the program residents secure an income either through work or benefits programs



BOARD LEADERSHIP

President: Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy,
East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Vice President: Pamela Thompson,
Lord Marketing & Communication

Treasurer: Malik G. Bankston,
Kingsley Association

STAFF LEADERSHIP

President: Maelene Myers

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IN 1988, TO COMMEMORATE FANNIE MAE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY, the Fannie Mae Foundation announced the Awards of Excellence Program, which seeks to encourage and recognize non-profit organizations working to develop and maintain housing for low-income Americans. The program also is intended to encourage more corporations and foundations to be involved as funding and investment partners. The Awards were renamed in honor of David O. Maxwell, who retired in 1991 after 10 years of service as chairman and chief executive officer of Fannie Mae and chairman, Fannie Mae Foundation.

FOR THE 17TH MAXWELL AWARDS PROGRAM, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Partnership to End Long Term Homelessness, is awarding up to \$75,000 to each selected nonprofit organization.

THE FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION creates affordable homeownership and housing opportunities through innovative partnerships and initiatives that build healthy, vibrant communities across the United States.

THE PARTNERSHIP TO END LONG TERM HOMELESSNESS was created to galvanize the philanthropic leadership and dollars needed to end long-term homelessness in America. Serving as an open knowledge network for funders, the Partnership shares strategic thinking, wide-ranging experience, and expertise to prevent and address