

CHARLES HOUSE ASSOCIATION

HELPING PEOPLE AGE THE WAY THEY HAVE LIVED

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

Volunteers at Charles House

Since the beginning of Charles House Association, volunteers have been crucially important. In the early years of fundraising, construction, landscaping, volunteer effort made the very existence of Charles House possible. For eighteen years since Charles House opened its doors, volunteers have continued to be integral in the daily life and activities.

Volunteers contribute nearly 2000 hours of service every year at Charles House in a variety of ways. **Staff Volunteers** are those who dedicate two to four hours per week regularly performing duties that are instrumental in assisting the staff. **Program Volunteers** share their talents and interests with participants; some *Program Volunteers* are on the schedule every month, others may come to Charles House a few times a year. **Student Volunteers** range from elementary school students to UNC graduates and undergraduates who fulfill service projects and volunteer opportunities at Charles House.

This issue of NEWSLETTER acknowledges several of Charles House's long-time *Staff Volunteers*: Becky Bradley, Sue Brewer, Eleanor Schaller and Bill Thompson.



Volunteers Eleanor Schaller and Bill Thompson during one of their Tuesdays at Charles House.

Both Eleanor Schaller and Bill Thompson have been volunteering at Charles House for over six years. Eleanor and her husband Lee retired to Chapel Hill from Wilmington, Delaware, in 2000, where Eleanor had been a hospital occupational therapist. Eleanor learned about Charles House from one of her hospice families with whom she was volunteering. Eleanor

volunteers on Tuesdays assisting staff and participants during program and lunch, reading to participants during the after lunch time and helping staff clean up and keep program materials in order.

Bill walked into Charles House one spring with a gift of daffodils from his garden and, as he says, was "conscripted" into volunteer service. A former physics professor at UNC, Bill spend his first year of volunteering assisting with the creation of the website for Charles House and the publication of



Volunteer Becky Bradley leads exercises on Thursday afternoons.

newsletters. As he took on a more active role in program, Bill grew to enjoy his interaction with the participants. When not at his home in New Zealand, Bill is a resident of Chapel Hill and an avid bicyclist/photographer—Bill appears on the activity calendar regularly sharing tales of his many travels.

Becky Bradley is on her second "tour of duty" as a Charles House Staff Volunteer, having volunteered during the early years and again for the past four years. Sue Brewer came to Charles House through her association with the Community Church and has been volunteering for nearly ten years. Most recently, Jim McEntire has joined these special people as another *Staff Volunteer* at Charles House.

Program Volunteers. Many people give of their time and talents in making the Program at Charles House vibrant and uniquely tied to the community. Community members who lead music programs regularly include Betsy Mann, Clark Jones and



Volunteer Bob Whyte entertains participants during a Friday music session



Carla Shuford, leading a story telling session, says, "Volunteering at Charles House is a reminder of what is really important to me. I think of the participants as my family. I always receive far more than I give."

Kevin Delaney, Pearl Seymour, Bob Whyte, Roland Giduz, Kathy Arab with the Chapel Hill Homeschoolers. Throughout the year, participants enjoy the Carol Woods Jazz Ensemble, Malarme Chamber musicians, Second Time Arounders, the Village Review, Cook

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Friends of Charles House;

I am pleased to join in acknowledging the many contributions of so many volunteers who have been part of Charles House over the years. Prior to serving on the Board of Directors, I was a Program Director in the 1990s. In both capacities, I know first hand the importance of volunteers to the establishment and success of Charles House. Volunteers provide a vital link to the community for our program and participants. Among the volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise to Charles House are the members of the Board.

We express our gratitude to Bonnie O'Quinn who is concluding her term on the Board. Recently Bonnie accepted a position as Vice President of Private Banking at Regions Morgan Keegan in Raleigh. Her new duties prevent her from accepting a second term on the Charles House Association. We wish Bonnie our best in her new position and say thanks for her inspiration and leadership while serving on the Board.

I am also very pleased to welcome to the Board two new members, Beth Tillman and Caroline Resnick.

Beth Tillman is an attorney with Bagwell, Holt, Smith, Tillman & Jones, P.A. in Chapel Hill. Beth specializes in probate and estate planning law. In addition to legal expertise, Beth brings to the Board her experience with other local nonprofits, including Project Compassion and the Chapel Hill Library.

Caroline Resnick has been one of Charles House Association's most vocal advocates for the past four years while her husband Ralph was a participant until his recent death. Caroline and Ralph retired to Farrington Village from New York

after careers in teaching and accountancy. They also served many years with the national Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. Caroline brings to the Board a deep understanding of the lives of our participants and their families, as well as a fervent belief in our mission.

Beth and Caroline come to Charles House Association Board of Directors during an exciting period. The program at Charles House continues to prove itself as a valuable community asset. As the population continues to age and the numbers of families in our area continues to grow, so will the need for Charles House Association to provide services for those wanting non-institutional care alternatives.

We, as a Board, continue to explore the development of Eldercare Homes as an innovative approach to residential care, keeping seniors actively involved in neighborhood life. If you, or others you know, are interested in our concept of Eldercare Homes—either as a family who may have the need for the service in the future or as someone who would like to participate in making Eldercare Homes a reality, please contact Paul Klever, Executive Director at Charles House.

Finally, I want to express our deep appreciation to those who contribute financially to the mission and services of Charles House Association. Your generous support is so important to our success and to our future.



ROBB ENGLISH
President
Board of Directors

(Continued from page 1)

County Band, Szmanski vocal students, Board Member Phil Sloane and Apple Chill Cloggers, Norton Dickman Trio and the Carol Woods tap group Tapsations.

In addition to the music program volunteers, others who share program times include Stella Maunsell and her standard poodle Martini, Rod Rudin teaching tennis moves, Erma Kirkpatrick sharing her long history with quilting around the world, Judith Topper with art work from the NC Museum of Art, Birdman Dave, Jack Tapp from Busy Bee Apiaries, Kate Findlayson from the Audubon Society, Joe Geoghegan from Toastmasters, Cynthia Fox of the Wild Bird Center,

Area organizations which share their resources with participants at Charles House include the education docents from the Ackland Art Museum, Bennett Place Historical Site, Horace Williams House, American Red Cross, Triangle Weavers

Guild, One World Market, Orange County Recycling, Duke Primate Center, Duke University Musical Instrument Archives and Music Explorium.

Student Volunteers. Periodically, student groups will join in the life of Charles House, sometimes for class work, service credits or scout projects. Local school programs that include Charles House are the Lerner Day School, McDougal Middle



One of the students from Chapel Hill Homeschoolers plays her violin during a monthly music/sing-along program.

School and Montessori Day School.

Among the students from UNC who have come to Charles House as part of their course work and volunteering include students from the Occupational Therapy program, a couple psychology classes, the School of Medicine, the School of Social Work, the School of Public Health, the Apples Service Learning program and a co-ed service fraternity.

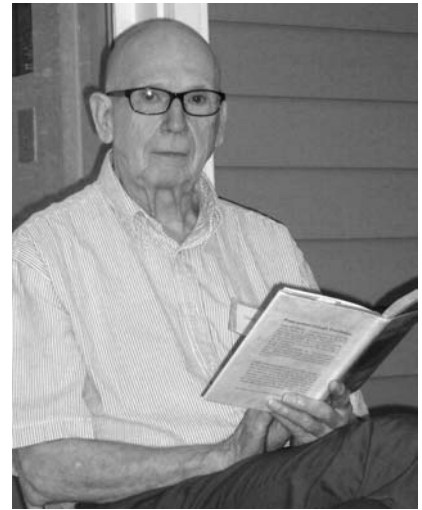
These individuals and organizations from throughout the community bring so much into the daily lives of the participants at Charles House. They bring with them not only entertainment, joy and information, but the message that Charles House and its participants are an important part of the community.

Everyone at Charles House expresses so much appreciation and gratitude for all the contributions of all those who have volunteered throughout the years.

Donor Profile:

Jim McEntire

Recently, Paul Klever, Executive Director of Charles House Association, visited with long time friend of Charles House Jim McEntire. Jim has been an supporter of Charles House Association and through his financial support over the years, Jim is counted among the *Sustaining Donors of Charles House*. Here is a summary of their conversation:



CHARLES HOUSE: You've been associated with Charles House from soon after the doors opened. How did you get involved with Charles House?

McENTIRE: My wife, Edith, and I moved to Chapel Hill from Berkley, California, in 1988 when I retired from teaching at a Bay Area community college. Soon, my mother, who was also named Edith, moved from her home in North Carolina to live with us. Her physician, Dr. Guiteras recommended we look at Charles House for social interaction to assist her adjustment to a new community. She became a participant and it was really good for her, as a gregarious and outgoing person to have a group of peers to interact with. She continued attending Charles House until her death in 1994.

CHARLES HOUSE: How did you decide to begin contributing to Charles House Association?

McENTIRE: At the time of my mother's death, we learned that the health department had notified Charles House that they were required to install a commercial dishwasher for sanitation purposes. We knew that in the early days Charles House was struggling to make ends meet and we appreciated how Charles House helped our family, so we decided to donate the commercial dishwasher.

CHARLES HOUSE: And you have con-

tinued to financially support the program at Charles House.

McENTIRE: Yes. My wife and I were a couple with no children and were acutely aware of the need for services fro people getting older and for alternatives for people wanting to continued living at home. Furthermore, I made a decision to focus our giving to local services addressing local needs, rather than donating to large national fundraising efforts. I felt that giving to local organizations, such as Charles House, our dollars counted for more and help make our community a better place to live.

CHARLES HOUSE: I understand that you took care of your wife who had progressive memory loss. Has this experience influenced your interest in Charles House?

McENTIRE: I cared for Edith for nine years until her death last year. I knew well the excellent services of Charles House from my experience with my mother's participation in the early 1990s. So I was always reassured in my role as caregiver that Charles House would be here for me if her care needs required more assistance. Fortunately, my wife was very cooperative and congenial. She passed away before we needed Charles House.

I am also very interested in Charles House Association's plans to develop

neighborhood Eldercare Homes. For those of us in the community who deeply desire to continue to age at home and to receive care when we need it in home-like settings like Charles House, Eldercare Homes offer a wonderful concept.

CHARLES HOUSE: And now you have become a volunteer. What is it like being a volunteer at Charles House?

McENTIRE: My wife and I had always been involved in various volunteer activities, including the local AIDS care residence. I had discontinued volunteering during the later stages of caring for my wife. After her death and making the initial adjustments, it was time to get involved again. I enjoy leading conversations and assisting my table of participants during lunch. I also like my time reading to the group on the sun porch after lunch; I get to share my love of reading, finding interesting short stories and poems.

CHARLES HOUSE: All of us in the Charles House family extend our thanks for your contributions of time and financial support. It is people like you, Jim, that have made Charles House what it is.

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In Our Memory

The Charles House Family wishes to extend our sympathy to the families of several participants who died recently: Ken Hinsdale, Billie Owensby, Ralph Resnick and Walter Slingerland, Jr.

These families designated Charles House Association for contributions in memory of their beloved family member. Memorial donations are an important part of Charles House Association's annual fundraising efforts and a wonderful way to remember friends and family.

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