

central city concern *Chronicle*

changing lives building communities creating opportunities

OCTOBER 2008

8NW8 Building is Renamed in Honor of CCC's Longtime Executive Director Richard Harris

On Thursday, September 25th, Central City Concern held a renaming ceremony at its signature building - 8NW8 - to unveil the "Richard L. Harris Building" sign. Nearly 150 people were on hand to honor Richard's contributions to CCC.

More than 1,100 people have started or sustained their recovery at the Richard L. Harris Building since it opened four years ago.

Attendees from Portland Business Alliance, Portland Development Commission, US Bank, Walsh Construction Co., the City of



Mayor Tom Potter, Richard Harris and CCC Executive Director Ed Blackburn.



Bob Walsh, president of Walsh Construction Co., (general contractor on the building) addresses guests at the renaming event.

Portland's Bureau of Housing & Community Development and SERA Architects were on hand. Many area business owners, neighbors, staff and residents also joined the celebration.

Mayor Tom Potter thanked Richard for his contributions to the community and public safety. "As the Mayor of Portland, I deeply appreciate what you have done for our community. As Tom Potter, I have a deep respect for you as a person. As a private citizen, I am grateful we have people like you working to make Portland a better place."

Building Renaming Draws Many



Gary Cobb, community advocate and CCC employee, talks about the important role the building had in his own recovery. The Richard L. Harris Building features 180 units of Alcohol & Drug Free Community Housing. Residents support each other through treatment and create a network of clean and sober friends in the process.

Helping Clients Achieve Self-Sufficiency is Central City Concern's Passion

Three years ago, CCC board members and staff gathered to discuss the future of the agency. From funding challenges and client service to an impending leadership transition, they mapped out a plan to keep CCC vibrant.

The Richard Harris Homeless Action Fund - in support of self-sufficiency - was created out of that process. In order to permanently end an individual's homelessness, CCC will speed the rate of self-sufficiency for clients, offering opportunities to volunteer, training in how to find and maintain a job, and

developing work skills through mentored employment. CCC seeks to move people from tax users to tax payers.

Named for longtime Executive Director Richard Harris, the fund has already earned early foundation support including a major grant from The Collins Foundation.

Richard has dedicated his working life to the proposition that Portland can be a city without homelessness in which all people have the support and resources to be fully self-sufficient, contributing community members.

A committee of business leaders in Portland is leading fundraising efforts on this Fund. Business and community leaders will honor Richard and launch the Fund at a November 13th luncheon.

You can help homeless individuals go farther in their quest for self-sufficiency by supporting Central City Concern. Make a donation on our new, secure website by visiting www.centralcityconcern.org or use the enclosed envelope in The Chronicle. For information on the luncheon, email cpsd@centralcityconcern.org or call 503-294-1681.



Dave Castricano, Senior Vice President, Oregon Market Manager of US Bank recalls the building development process. US Bank is the building lender and limited partner.

From Richard Harris

Several years ago CCC's Board and staff recognized that the leadership was nearing retirement. CCC's strategic plan included a succession planning process for the Executive Director and long standing board members. We are now executing this plan. I have moved to Executive Director Emeritus, Ed Blackburn has been named Executive Director position and Traci Manning has taken on the job of Chief Operating Officer. Both Ed and Traci have many years of program management experience at CCC and have seamlessly assumed their new duties.



Executive Director Ed Blackburn and Richard Harris, Executive Director Emeritus

The time, energy and resources spent on this transition process are paying dividends. Our City and County partners continue to show strong support for CCC, even asking the agency to take on additional programs, housing and

services. Foundations have also continued to have confidence in CCC's future by granting awards during this time of transition. In addition, CCC is engaged in developing new resources to help homeless people become self-sufficient in a more effective and focused manner. Donors are proactively expressing support for the Richard Harris Homeless Action Fund during this leadership transition.

From a personal point of view, the transition process is working very well. As Executive Director Emeritus, I have become free to work on a variety of agency projects during the last months of my service to CCC. At the same time, being available to staff when there may be a need for consultation or historic information, has given me an opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways. I am enjoying seeing the totality of CCC, its scope of programs, services and housing, its impact on the lives of so many people and its effect on the larger community. The future for the agency is in good hands. CCC continues to move toward the goal of ending homelessness in an even more effective way by putting emphasis on the new self-sufficiency program. When I look back on where we have been as an agency I am deeply gratified, but when I look to the future, I

become even more optimistic about the future and our ability to help each individual client end their homelessness.

CCC Receives Leadership Grant

Central City Concern has been accepted into the James A. Johnson Community Leaders Program, one of six affordable housing organizations in the country to receive the opportunity. Organizations were chosen in recognition of their outstanding leadership and innovation in affordable housing and community development. Central City Concern will use the accompanying \$100,000 development grant to develop leadership within CCC and investigate new solutions to affordable housing challenges.

Traci Manning, CCC's Chief Operating Officer was on hand in Washington D.C. to accept the honor on October 6, 2008.



Traci Manning
Chief Operating
Officer

Ms. Manning's participation in the Neighbor-Works America Achieving Excellence in Community Development program qualified CCC for the program.

Korean War Veteran Helps CCC Honor Veterans at an Annual Picnic in Oregon

Hal Saltzman, pictured at left with CCC Executive Director Emeritus Richard Harris, remembers how tough it can be to transition back to civilian life as a young adult after military service. Most disturbing to Hal, however, is the number of vets who find themselves homeless -- an estimated 30% of the total homeless population. A few months ago, he called Central City Concern and asked "What can I do to help?" Hal quickly got swept up in planning and organizing an annual picnic that CCC hosts for area veterans. Thanks to his involvement, CCC was able to provide transportation to a local park for anyone in need,



cater lunch for everyone and bring in a band for entertainment.

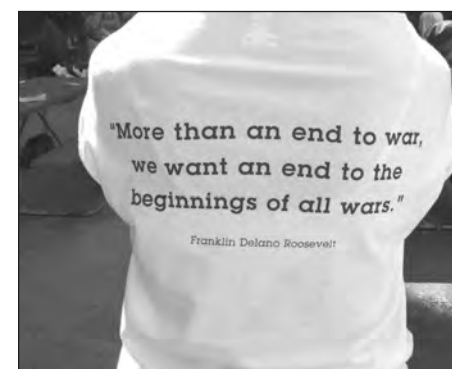
Hal also recruited some friends to help out: **Harry Glickman**, founder of the Portland Trail Blazers came and gave a well-received motivational speech, **Columbia Sportswear** donated hats to all veterans and **Shedrain** donated umbrellas.



Larry Clarizio, guitarist for The Shwing Daddies, entertained throughout the picnic with music from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Many picnic goers even got up and danced. Several veterans sent the band thank you letters for their involvement in the day.



Thomas, a veteran of Vietnam, and "graduate" of the homeless veterans project, attended the picnic.



More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars -- this famous quote by Franklin Delano Roosevelt was featured on t-shirts that, thanks to donor support, Central City Concern was able to give to every veteran and guest present at the picnic. Special thanks to **Four Seasons Screenprinting**.



Doug, (above) who served five years in the Navy and five years in branches of the National Guard, pauses for a photo with Reynold who served in the U.S. Army. CCC staff reported that nearly 100 veterans registered to attend the picnic. The attendees

had a combined 379 years of service from five military branches and 12 military campaigns across the world.

The veterans present also had a combined 523 years of homelessness. CCC serves approximately 550 veterans every year, providing housing, recovery treatment and employment services. CCC operates two targeted programs

for veterans: the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project supported by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Veterans' Grant Per Diem program, with support from the Veterans Administration.

Laura's Place: A Brother's Story

Brad Mersereau finds a way to honor the memory of his sister.

When Brad Mersereau's sister Laura died in 1999 as a result of alcoholism at the age of 46, he grieved deeply and then began seeking ways to honor her memory. He donated her house to a non-profit organization and began telling her story – to friends, to media, to fellow musicians, to anyone who would listen.

Her story became his passion. His website bears the following urgent message: "Arm yourself with knowledge. Learn about social and genetic factors. Communicate your thoughts and feelings in a loving, trusting environment. Avoid family secrets. Pursue your passions. If substance abuse is already a part of your life, take action now. Get the help you deserve!"

Soon, Brad was making donations to Portland programs that helped people get clean and sober. In 2002, he included Central City Concern in his charitable giving and asked the agency to make a powerful difference in the lives of women in recovery.

Central City Concern is pleased to honor Brad's wishes by announcing Laura's Place (below), transitional housing for women who have recently left our residential treatment facility, the Letty Owings Center. Letty Owings Center wants to move its clients to completion more rapidly in order to make room for other pregnant or parenting women in urgent need of residential drug/alcohol treatment. Some



Brad, at his piano, is an accomplished jazz composer. He has made two CDs that honor the memory of his sister. For more information, visit www.bradmersereau.com.

"graduates," however, need more time to acclimate back into mainstream life. Enter Laura's Place, a 4-plex for women and children in recovery. Letty Owings Center staff will provide daily supportive services to clients until they are ready for permanent housing. CCC expects that 40 to 60 people will call Laura's Place home each year with stays of three to four months.

CCC will complete basic renovations to the building and it is projected to be ready for occupancy in January. Additional grant support and the Letty Owings Center's Auction, set for Spring 2009, will help fund renovations and supportive housing staff for the building.



Client Seizes Opportunities & Thrives

Badges of courage fill Robert McDonald's wallet. There's the carpentry apprentice card, a fork lift operator card, a basic first aid certification, a driver's license and a library card. He brings them out, one-by-one, like the precious goods that they are: evidence of a life reclaimed.

A few years ago, Robert was an addict living off and on with friends and family. He had been living this way for years but well into adulthood, he was tired of the scene. He also believed that if he kept up with this way of life, he would end up in jail – something he wanted to avoid.

Robert went to his uncle, a local pastor, for help and was connected to a local treatment center that referred him to Central City Concern for housing. He spent seven months living in CCC alcohol and drug free community housing and diligently followed his treatment plan. During this time, he began investigating work possibilities through CCC's WorkSource office. There were frequent one-on-one meetings with Supported Employment staff who helped Robert identify his skills, his interests and potential areas for improvement. They also gave equal importance to such concrete strategies as writing a resume, dressing for an interview, answering interview questions and getting a driver's license.

Ultimately, Robert gravitated to construction and enrolled in a carpentry skills program funded by the City of Portland. Ten weeks of daily class work brought him up to speed on everything from basic carpentry skills to current safety regulations. He never missed a day and finished at the top of his class.

Steve Ciccotelli, employment specialist at WorkSource, had been in regular contact with Walsh Construction Co. about potential employment opportunities for clients. He knew that Robert had what Walsh valued – top scores on skills, perfect attendance and a sincere willingness to learn. Indeed, recruiter Howie Petker was looking for an early apprentice worker who could satisfy union requirements as well. In short order, Robert signed on and for the past several months, he has worked full-time on construction projects in Portland's Old Town/Chinatown district.

"Walsh has been a blessing," he said. "They just accepted me from the very beginning."

Howie had big expectations. "You earn your right to show up the next day and have that job," he said. So far, Robert is cutting it just fine. "Giving people a second chance is certainly one of our

targets," Howie said. "Frankly, everybody needs a second chance at some point in their lives."

The other day, Walsh Construction Co. brought pizza in for the crew. Robert was impressed by the gesture and how it served to bond the team together.



"Life has become enjoyable and livable."
— Robert McDonald (at right) with employment specialist Steve Ciccotelli.

Robert will soon pursue more training toward becoming a journeyman apprentice and has dreams of buying a house in a year or so. He is looking forward to moving out of CCC housing and will take pride in "making room for the next person."

When Robert visits the WorkSource office, he is frequently thanking staff. "They gave me the opportunities. They gave me the skills," he said. "But they keep saying – 'You're the one who did it, Robert.'"

He shakes his head in disbelief and collects the badges from the table.

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Health & Recovery

- Recovery Center
Recovery Mentor Program
- Community Engagement Program
Housing Rapid Response
- Family Latino Outreach & Addictions Treatment
Esperanza Juvenil
- Hooper Detox Center
- Letty Owings Center
- Old Town Clinic
Recuperation Care Program

Housing

- 1,300+ units of housing in 21 buildings for low-income individuals & families

Supportive Housing

- Alcohol & Drug Free Community Housing (ADFC)
- Transitional Housing (ADFC)
- Permanent Housing (ADFC)
- Family Alcohol Drug Free Network

WorkSource

- Access to Building Trades & Customer Service Occupations
- CCC Homeless Employment and Support
- Employment Recovery Program
- Growth Industries Training Initiative
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project
- Portland Partner Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative
- Veterans' Grant Per Diem
- WorkSource Access Center

Business Enterprises

- Central City Janitorial
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Hope For Youth – Esperanza Juvenil

Esperanza Juvenil means “Hope for Youth” and for the 27 teens who have gone through the program this past year, it has proven true. Esperanza Juvenil provides drug & alcohol recovery and supportive services to Latino youths from Multnomah County.



Staff works in Southeast Portland and Gresham in tandem with El Programa Hispano’s LIBRE program, a specialized gang-prevention outreach program operated by Catholic Charities. This June, Esperanza staff and families of clients celebrated the graduation of 8 teens. It celebrated

the teens’ accomplishments and Latino culture with food and music and unveiled a mural that the clients created together. It was a particularly momentous day for one single mom who watched her three teenage sons graduate and move on with their lives.