



June 2016

NEWS & NOTES

Meet Helen Newsome:

Helen Newsome has been a regular at Face to Face since 2000; she is a gentle, quiet lady who everyone at Face to Face knows. She recently sat down with me before lunch to share her story. At 61, Helen has experienced many serious challenges and devastating hardships, but her warm eyes and kind bearing do not reveal them. Helen grew up on Haines Street, in Germantown; she obtained an Associate's Degree in book keeping and office management and worked in temporary positions at various companies over the years. In 1989 Helen's house burned down and Helen was hospitalized for a week suffering from burns and smoke inhalation. Helen lost everything in the fire and was unable to speak for two months after she was released from the hospital. Following the fire, her home was condemned and Helen was forced to move into a shelter. Her parents left her the home she grew up in, but the house had fallen



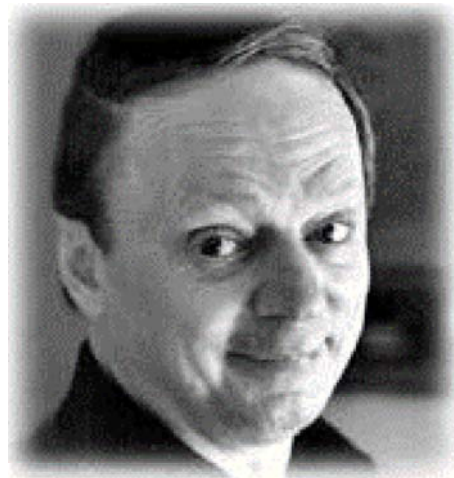
into disrepair and the inheritance saddled her with \$40,000 in fines and liens. Helen bounced in and out of the shelter system until 2009 when she finally received disability benefits. Upon receiving the benefits, which include health insurance, Helen immediately entered the hospital for major abdominal surgery to address several serious health issues. Helen was discharged from the hospital to a shelter, where a visiting nurse visited her every day for 30 days to change dressings and monitor her recovery! In 2009 Helen went into transitional housing before finally finding an apartment that was safe and clean. Helen lived in this apartment, which she loved, from April 2010 to May 2014, when she once again found herself homeless, because the landlord lost the building in a foreclosure. She put all of her belongings into storage and moved into a single room in Germantown, that had no heat, no electricity and no water. She recently moved into a clean apartment with utilities; a short distance away from Face to Face.

During her struggles that began after the fire, Helen started to come to Face to Face, "to get warm and to eat." She now eats here every day that we are open. Over the years she has visited the Health Center for various issues and she is a regular participant in our Friday morning Art Studio. Our Social Services Center is working with her to get her belongings out of storage and moved to her new home. Helen explains that her favorite thing about Face to Face, "is to be able to sit in the Dining Room and do whatever I want while I wait for the meal. I have met so many people and made so many friends that I would never have met otherwise."

Helen describes herself this way, "I am the philosopher of Germantown. I am a good listener; people can tell me their problems and I do not judge--sometimes people just need someone to listen."

A Lasting Legacy

On December 1, 2015, Edward "Nick" Forst passed away at the age of 89. Nick was the father of long time Board member and Turkey Trot chair, Karen O'Neill. Over the years, the Forst family members have been very generous supporters of Face to Face. In celebration of Nick's life, his six children, requested that contributions be made to Face to Face in lieu of flowers. The response was extraordinary; 107 family members and friends donated over \$26,000 in honor of Nick. This was the largest memorial donation ever received by Face to Face. It was a powerful tribute to a man who was deeply loved and respected by so many.



CALL FOR SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!

Our dining room is looking for volunteers for Saturdays and Sundays in July, and Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays in August. Many of our volunteers are away and our student volunteers are out of school. Please consider giving 3-4 hours of your time to prepare or serve a meal. If interested, please contact Becky Messa, Volunteer Coordinator, at Becky@facetofacegermantown.org or call (215) 438-7939. Thank you for thinking of Face to Face during the summer!

JULY VOLUNTEER TRAINING IS COMING SOON

Face to Face Volunteer Training gives an opportunity to look more deeply at what our clients may experience on a daily basis. We ask that volunteers attend one session. Here are the two remaining session dates for 2016:

Saturday, July 16 - 10:00 - 11:30am

Sunday, October 9 - 11:30am - 1:00pm

Light refreshments will be provided. Please email Becky at if you are able to attend. We will meet upstairs in the art area. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Becky at Becky@facetofacegermantown.org or (215) 438-7939. We look forward to seeing you!

WISH LIST

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy summer schedules to remember the people in our Face to Face community!

We distribute the following items to our neediest clients through our health center, social services, dining room and shower facility:

Toiletries: soap, deodorant, lotion, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, razors, shaving cream

Clothing: Due to limited space, we can only accept the following clothing items: men's and women's socks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, elastic-waist shorts and elastic-waist pants (S,M,L,XL)

Food: ground coffee and sugar packets. We can never have enough!

Acme Gift Cards
Walgreens Gift Cards

Gift cards are given to clients with urgent needs that we cannot meet at Face to Face such as diapers, formula and prescription medicine.

Donations may be dropped off Fridays through Tuesdays, 9am - 2pm
We are closed each Wednesday and Thursday

109 E Price Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

For questions or additional information, contact Marie McCabe at
215-438-7939 or marie@facetofacegermantown.org

We couldn't do it without you - Thank you!

Spread the Word!

Forward this e-mail to friends, family, colleagues and anyone you think would be interested in the mission of Face to Face.

Thanks!

[DONATE NOW](#)

Newsletter Editor: Susan O'Hagan Marley
susanmarley@facetofacegermantown.org

Face to Face, 109 East Price Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144

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