



OPTIONS

2014 HOLIDAY EDITION

Holiday Wishes from Our Residences

Each of our residences has developed a “Wish List” of things that would be of great benefit to residents. Always first on the list is CASH! Any direct contribution enables the residence to buy what they really need. So please, if you can find it in your hearts and budgets, consider a cash contribution.

Other things that have made the lists follow. Thanks for anything you can do!!

The Barth Hotel

- The Barth has converted the old smoking room to a new lounge area! They need cash to purchase the new furniture they’ve picked out.
- Games are also on the list—especially a foosball and/or an air hockey table.
- They are also looking for floor lamps and a puzzle table.

Cinnamon Park

- Residents at “the Park” love music! So they would like a CD player w/radio with speakers that have enough power to be heard in a large room.
- They also need six-foot-long plastic folding tables—four to six total—for all their activities and sales.

Madison House

- Their holiday priority is the Madison Mascot: Basil. Everyone loves him. He has to go for his annual veterinary checkup and teeth cleaning. A direct contribution would help get this done!
- Madison got a new television, but they don’t have a good place to put it. So they really need a white entertainment center that will fit a 48 inch television. Call them for more information.

Mesa Vista

- Music is taking hold at Mesa Vista! So they’d love to have a new boom box with “Swing Era” CDs, especially Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Perry Como, and Bing Crosby.
- In the art vein, they would like 10–12 medium-sized sketch books.
- And it’s workout time! So they need four sets of one-pound hand weights and a hand pump with a variety of nozzles to keep their balls inflated.

The Olin

- Two large kitchen items to serve all residents: a large refrigerator and a large electric stove.
- Residents LOVE historic artwork prints of Denver.
- The Olin outdoor garden could use outdoor patio chair cushions.
- Residents could all use: Microwaves, flat-screen televisions, kitchenware sets of 4 (bowls, plates, silverware), sets of pots and pans, and drinking glasses.

Park Hill

- They, like The Barth, are creating a new lounge. So money is needed for the items they have identified. In addition, wooden blinds and valances are needed for resident rooms.
- Residents need a variety of items to improve their day-to-day living including twin fitted and flat sheet sets, socks and underwear in various sizes, and personal hygiene items like toothpaste, deodorant, razors and shaving cream, shampoo, and lotion.

Again, thanks for anything you can do to support these needs!

SHO SAYS GOODBYE

PAT VARDAMAN: 1931–2014



SHO is sorry to report the passing of long-time supporter and SHO Board member, Pat Vardaman. Pat came to SHO through her foster brother Jack Eads. Blind from birth, Jack lived at The Barth Hotel for many years. Pat was devoted to Jack and became a fixture at The Barth. She was a favorite among residents and took them all to lunch during the year. Because of her love for The Barth, Pat became acquainted with all of Senior Housing Options and joined the Board in 2006. She was a valued Board member with her positive outlook and practical approach to issues.

Pat was born in Detroit, MI and adopted by the John Black family in Englewood, CO. She was very involved with the University of Denver where she was named “Amici Universitatis” and she and her husband won the “Reaching for the Stars” award from the Daniels College of Business. Pat was a long-time member of the D. U. Women’s Library Association and served in officer positions several times. She was also a European-trained gourmet chef, coauthored several books with her husband and owned and operated a successful wine import business.

SHO recognized Pat for all of her help to SHO several years ago. We noted then that she was a treasure for us. We will miss her.

JIMMY VANCE: 1945–2014



Senior Housing Options and The Barth Hotel are sad to announce the passing of our former resident and friend, Jimmy Vance. Born in Texas in 1945, Jimmy grew up in a series of institutions and specialized homes. Jimmy had a history of running from his “homes.” But Jimmy loved The Barth where he came in 1990 after he was found homeless with frostbite that caused him to lose all of his toes. He lived happily here until 2012 when he moved to a smaller group home.

Everyone in Downtown Denver knew and loved Jimmy. In fact, a Rocky Mountain News headline labeled him “LoDo’s Baron of Good Will.” While Jimmy was developmentally disabled, that did not get in the way of his “job”—“canin” as he called it. Up at the crack of dawn, Jimmy combed the streets of Denver collecting aluminum cans. He was very proud of his work and said that all men should work! And he advertised the SHO plays as he traveled for his job.

Jimmy also brightened the lives of LoDo workers with his cheerful demeanor and infectious giggles. When he was really happy, he shook his body and “canin” cart with joy. A walk along the mall with Jimmy found friends everywhere, at service counters and lunch places, in building lobbies, LoDo residents and drivers of the RTD Mall shuttle, waving happily to all. He had scads of “girlfriends” and was an honorary security guard at the local branch of Wells Fargo. He wore his badge with honor and was happy to tell everyone he met about this position. And at Christmas, he used his money to buy chocolates for all friends and delivered them with glee!

Several years ago, when Jimmy had a heart attack on the mall, his friends quickly summoned help and he was taken to the hospital for care. Streams of people called and came to the SHO offices to check on his progress.

Not one to be easily supervised, an evaluation in the early nineties noted that while Jimmy didn’t have a formal day program, he was quick to note that he collected cans to make money. The doctor completing the evaluation noted that Jimmy “in essence established his own day program.” No need for other interventions!

Special activities for Jimmy included fishing trips and a summer camp where he did all kinds of fun things, even horseback riding! He could be seen on The Barth front porch waiting for hours for his hosts to arrive—about the only time he was without his shopping cart.

Jimmy was truly an inspiration to so many. Despite his disabilities, his joy and sense of purpose will be missed by all!



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Angels Among Us

We are so fortunate to have generous community members who make all the difference during the holidays for our residents. These are just some of our angels we'd like to thank!

Community of Grace

- David Graham & Stubbs
- Diane and Dave Hicks and our friends on Raven Hill Circle
- Home Instead Senior Care
- Last Note Singers
- LoDo Cares
- Most Precious Blood
- Our Savior Lutheran Church

Rotary Club of Denver

- Snow Day Hosts: Wayne Dale, Christine Cullen, Nathaniel Trelease, Caitlyn Fagan, Randall Hartman
- St. Frances of Assissi
- Jim Theye, Kentwood Real Estate
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- Tripani Family
- Van Guilder Insurance

SHO RESIDENT JOANN BANKSTON CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT SHO

In March of 2015, Joann Bankston will have lived at The Barth for 30 years, the longest tenure of all SHO's residents. Joann, who has been blind from birth (and has no sense of smell) moved from the Home for the Blind in Denver when it closed in the mid-80's. She came to The Barth with six of her fellow residents. While the change was difficult, Joanne liked that she had her own room, larger than she was used to, and that she could have an organ in her room. She also liked that she could come and go as she pleased. She still likes those things!

Joann has a passion for music and performing arts. As a child, she took tap dancing and learned to play the organ using Braille music. She continues to play whenever she can. She is happy that The Barth staff tells her she can play whenever she'd like. Her favorite types of music are Bohemian, Mexican Folk, and American Cowboy. Joann also likes sounds she can make with her mouth. She loves to whistle! She's been whistling since she was six years old and whistles sounds and tunes. One of her favorites is the theme song from the Andy Griffith show. She also likes "mouth sounds" and can be heard trilling like a bird or making sounds like a train, Donald Duck, and sounds of motors and machines.

Joann learned Braille when she was in school... She likes that "nobody has ever told me that I have to give up Braille or anything else." She still uses her Braille skills for reading and writing. She studied Spanish and German and has her own multi-volume lexicon (dictionary) of English to Spanish and German and Spanish to English. She likes to practice these language skills whenever possible.

Joann likes the food at The Barth (especially when she has shrimp and other fish) and also the staff. She likes the activities The Barth provides like a trip to Red Rocks and to see the play "Rent." In fact, Joann says, "I don't want to move from The Barth. I hope my next stop will be heaven!" We all hope that she is with us for another 30 years.

COLORADO GIVES DAY 2014

Thanks to all our friends who remembered SHO on Colorado Gives Day! We appreciate your support!

