



Addiction knows no boundaries.



2006 PEARL OF HOPE AWARD: **MARY ENSIGN PARDEE**



Bill Pardee and Jane Duffield are introduced at the Victorian Tea by Patrice King Brown, KDKA-TV news anchor and a member of the Sojourner House Board of Directors.

Whether in India, Africa, or the streets of Pittsburgh, Mary Ensign Pardee devoted her life's work to shining a light on women's issues, hunger and poverty. Her most shining legacy was founding a faith-based, nondenominational, nonprofit residential drug and alcohol treatment program for women with children known as Sojourner House. Establishing Sojourner House in East Liberty in the late 1980s would seem a daunting task. But for Mary Pardee, it was simply something that had to be done.

"She was quietly determined, very clear spoken," said Norma Raiff, executive director of Sojourner House. "She was

truly devoted to women with addiction at a time when few people were aware of it and when addiction had so much stigma attached to it."

MARY WAS A 'PEARL OF HOPE' TO MANY WOMEN

Two months after Mary Pardee died, her passion and determination were remembered by the family and friends of Sojourner House at the Second Annual Victorian High Tea, on May 6, at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. Mary's husband, Bill, accepted the Sojourner House "Pearl of Hope" award, honoring his late wife for her years of advocacy on behalf of women and social justice.

Longtime friend, Jane Duffield, talked about Mary's deep commitment to Sojourner House, and her belief in the inherent goodness of the women it serves. "Mary's guiding principle throughout life was that we all breathe the breath of God and are commissioned to do His work on earth," said Ms. Duffield. "When Mary witnessed human suffering, she was moved by faith to do something about it."

"On Friday nights when she went to the symphony, a time when many of us would just relax and focus on the evening of entertainment, Mary noticed the poor women in the streets getting by as best they could. To Mary these women weren't just nameless souls who faded into the Pittsburgh night. No, she saw them as her sisters in Christ. She wanted to do something to enable them and their children to overcome the harsh realities of their existence, so she gathered a group together who founded this wonderful organization," Ms. Duffield noted.

"She was so very proud of Sojourner House, its staff, its board, its clients. She was grateful for all that you do. In a life that overflowed with service and accomplishment, Sojourner House represents one of her fondest achievements."

'HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS' SHOPPING EVENT COMING NOVEMBER 4

Stroll our "Hope for the Holidays" boutique and find the perfect gift while you help the mothers and children of Sojourner House. Won't you join us for this special holiday shopping event on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church? Browse for clever stocking stuffers and unique gifts from more than 20 vendors offering jewelry, purses, candles, stationery, books, toys and more! Bring a friend for a relaxing and rewarding day of shopping. Proceeds from the "Hope for the Holidays" boutique benefit the mothers and children of Sojourner House.





SOJOURNER HOUSE

YOUR UNITED WAY DONATION HELPS

The United Way has long been recognized for providing a vital community safety net to people most in need, and the annual campaign to support this community resource is about to begin.

As a United Way member agency and recipient of its award for management excellence, Sojourner House has achieved the highest quality standards for management and programming in meeting documented needs in the community. Sojourner House has been a safety net for hundreds of women, giving them space, dignity, and support while they recover from addiction. This faith-based residential rehabilitation facility becomes home for addicted women as they learn to break the cycle of poverty and addiction surrounded by what means most to them—their children.

By designating Sojourner House to receive your donation to this year's United Way campaign, your dollars bring loving support, counseling and shelter to many women and children. The following examples show the impact that even the most modest donation can have on the lives of so many.

A donation of \$4.00 per pay, supports 3 hours of family counseling or purchases a family pass to allow

homeless, needy families to participate in community center recreation activities.

For a \$10.00 per pay donation, a mentally ill/addicted mother and her family of three children can be fed for a month. That \$10.00 bi-weekly donation can help a family in residential treatment get to essential healthcare appointments, court hearings, and early childhood classes by underwriting the cost of bus passes and other public transportation expenses for one month.

A \$20.00 per pay contribution will allow children whose mother is in full-time treatment for longstanding drug and alcohol and mental health problems to attend summer day camp where they develop resilience and self awareness.

With a \$40.00 per pay donation, five days of treatment, housing, childcare, and food for an addicted mother and her three children struggling with early recovery can be provided.

Consider making a difference in the life of a Sojourner House mom and her family through your United Way contribution this year. Simply designate Sojourner House by writing in **4286** as your donor designation. Your contribution is important.

Gifts Honor Sojourner House Founder, Mary Ensign Pardee

Many friends and family of Mary Ensign Pardee chose to honor her memory with donations to Sojourner House, the program she founded. Thank you on behalf of the mothers and their children who will benefit from your generosity.

- Ms. Gloria R. Armstrong
- Mr. and Mrs. James B. Armstrong
- Mr. and Mrs. William Beck
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Vance Boughner
- Ms. Carol E. Bradshaw
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chalfant
- Mr. and Mrs. John T. Conner
- Mrs. Margaret B. Dowler
- Ms. Dorothy Jane Duffield
- Mr. Loring Ensign
- Mrs. Sara Goodlin
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- Ms. Jane Eleanor Knox
- Mr. and Mrs. John P. Lyle
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- Mr. Samuel A. McClung
- Mr. and Mrs. William Meges
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- Ms. Martha Moore
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- Presbyterian Church of Sewickley
- Mission Committee, Presbyterian Women of Unity U.P. Church
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- Dr. and Mrs. Robert Simmonds
- Ms. Ann M. Slonaker
- Ms. Roberta B. Sterne
- Ms. Ruth A. Succop
- Dr. Dennis Travis
- Mrs. Lessie Travis
- Ms. Margery Wimer

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Sojourner House is a licensed Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Residence where admission is based on determination of need. To be eligible to participate, a woman must be 18 years or older, have a least one child age 12 years or younger or be actively seeking custody of a child, or be pregnant. Pregnant women who are IV drug users or substance abusers will receive priority admission. Sojourner House admits women from Allegheny County, the surrounding region and the state.



Norma R. Raiff, Ph.D., Executive Director

SOJOURNER HOUSE MOMS



SOJOURNER HOUSE REBUILDS LIVES

Note: Sojourner House was featured in the United Way Impact Section of the Pittsburgh Business Times on June 30, 2006. The article describes the story of one woman's journey to rebuild her life. She now lives at Sojourner House MOMS and recently started a new job.

Eunice Johnson is a woman of courage. Not the kind of courage movies are made of—she hasn't saved anyone from a burning building or faced down an attacking lion. But she has faced and bested perhaps the most hideous of beasts—her addictions.

Eunice's troubles started early on, when she was a baby abandoned on her grandparents' doorstep by an alcoholic mother. Though they tried their best, her grandparents were much older, had raised their family and were not prepared to begin again with Eunice. Even so, her early life of church and farm chores was tolerable, although an empty place inside her cried daily for the mother she needed.

Eunice's ordered life was shattered at the age of 10 when a family member began abusing her, and allowed his friends to do so too. Pregnant when she was 12, she ran away to Chicago at age 13 to get away from her tormentors. But torment followed her through more abusive and destructive relationships. She turned to alcohol to fill the void that her relationships could not, until even alcohol lost its potency and she began using cocaine and then crack.

Moving about the country, she eventually settled in Pittsburgh to be

with her sister. But her addictions lead to health problems and when she became pregnant, she was hospitalized. Her kids, including the newborn, were placed in foster care, her health was poor, and her will to live was fading. But hitting bottom didn't mean her end, in fact, it was her beginning. Out of the hospital, alone and afraid, in desperation she opened the Yellow Pages to find help. That's when Sojourner House entered her life.

"It was like a miracle," says Eunice, "but it was hard, too." Eunice entered Sojourner House's six-month intensive therapy program. During the time she lived at the House, she worked, doing chores such as cooking and cleaning, attending classes; but, more importantly, she worked each and every day to free herself of her addiction. And get her children back. Particularly hard for her were the daily therapy sessions when she had to look back at her life and the roots of her addictive behaviors. "I had to deal with the pain without the alcohol and drugs to deaden it," she says.

Today Eunice is in step two of her treatment at a Sojourner House MOMS apartment. In the sunny, cheerful, meticulously clean kitchen the dark days of abuse and addiction seem far behind, but she is mindful of that trap. "Every day is a day that I have to stay clean and sober," she observes, "and I do it for me, because I know I'm a good person."

Your donation to Sojourner House through the Unity Way Impact Fund helps to make possible a new start for good people like Eunice.

SOJOURNER HOUSE

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To learn more about Sojourner House, visit our web site at www.sojournerhousepa.org.



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ONE WOMAN'S STORY OF HOPE: YVETTE

Purple, teacups, pearls, hats, and a courageous woman's story of hope—all combined for a memorable afternoon of enjoyment for an important cause.

A crowd of more than 160 (many wearing purple, symbolic of recovery from addiction) filled the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church hall on May 6 for the Sojourner House Second Annual Victorian High Tea. This annual event raises awareness about the vital work of Sojourner House while raising funds for its recovery programs. Those attending the Victorian Tea never lost focus on the serious purpose of this annual fundraiser—helping women break the chains of addiction and hopelessness. As if to send that reminder home, one courageous mother told her poignant and personal story of recovery.

Eight years ago, Yvette turned to Sojourner House for hope. Homeless, addicted, the mother of four young daughters, she brought all that she owned to Sojourner House, hoping to make a better life for herself and her daughters.

"If it wasn't for God and Sojourner House," Yvette told the crowd, "I wouldn't be standing here talking to you today. I stayed in the program for six months and one week. They gave me the discipline my daughters and I needed. They took my hand and gave me hope. I've been clean for eight years, and now what they gave to me I'm giving back."

Yvette's strength shone through a broad smile as she described how she became the patient advocate on a clinical team that treats people with infectious diseases. She beamed with pride when she explained that her oldest daughter is about to graduate from college and will attend graduate school in the fall.

"This is about Sojourner House and its staff being there for me," Yvette said. Her story is the heart of the Sojourner House mission and her success is celebrated by mothers and daughters everywhere.



Yvette, a Sojourner House graduate, beams with pride as she talks about her oldest daughter who is about to graduate from college.