

ANNUAL REPORT
UNITED CHURCH HOMES OF NEW JERSEY
April, 2009

United Church Homes of New Jersey (UCHomes) is a corporation affiliated with the New Jersey Association whose mission is to provide housing and housing-related services to the developmentally disabled. Our vision is to do this in a way that involves local congregations in housing ministries with the developmentally disabled and involves the developmentally disabled in the life of local congregations. The services of UCHomes, provided to both churches and families, also include information and referral, planning consultations, and grants to help people move into supported housing or other residential units.

In New Jersey, the need for community residences for the developmentally disabled is great, with more than 8000 people on the waiting list, over 4800 of them in an “urgent” category. The current budget crisis in the State of New Jersey has made the situation even more critical. However, in every crisis there is opportunity, and UCHomes continues to look for opportunities to use our modest funds to leverage larger results.

In 2008, we partnered with Our House, Inc., a provider of services for the developmentally disabled, donating \$54,000 to renovate some of their community residences to make them more appropriate for their aging residents. Each home is in a community with a UCC congregation, and our hope is that the projects would build ties between the local congregations and the homes. Because of this effort, several residents from a group home in Union within walking distance of Faith UCC now attend church there regularly, and residents attend church and church activities in Westfield and Summit as well.

Our House, UCHomes, and Christ Church, Summit, also partnered to develop a respite program for adults with developmental disabilities who are living with their families, to provide socialization opportunities for the adults while giving their families the opportunities they need for respite so that they can continue caring for their children at home. Unfortunately, the economic downturn has slowed the progress of this project.

In previous years, funding from UCHomes helped Partnerships for People, Inc. (PFP), develop a model for a studio-apartment facility for adults with developmental disabilities who do not require intensive care. Although funding and other problems halted that project on its original site, Partnerships currently is investigating an alternate location to develop a similar facility.

Marjorie H. Royle, Ph.D., President
Cynthia Mathis, Vice President
The Rev. Dr. Harold C. Smith, Treasurer
The Rev. Jeffrey Mays
The Rev. Richard Perry
The Rev. L.L. DuBreuil
The Rev. Ken Hess
The Rev. Sherry Mason Taylor