



## Bright Skies Ahead for James Blake

## From Johannesburg to Philadelphia, for Edgeworth Nyatti Life is New Again



James Blake has an energy that is infectious. As soon as he enters the room, his bright smile and outgoing personality let you know that good things are ahead for this SJH resident. Originally from nearby Wynnefield, Blake (as his friends call him) grew up in a loving and supportive home. His father worked for the City of Philadelphia and his mother was a receptionist in a doctor's office. "I graduated from Overbook High

School and I loved playing sports and being with my friends," says Blake. After high school, Blake earned his barber's license and was on the road to a successful career. Unfortunately, life took some unfortunate turns and Blake was incarcerated for three years. After serving his time, Blake now looks optimistically towards the future. He admits, "I've had a rollercoaster life, but I know now that I want to make positive changes for myself and my family." Blake's mother and his two children, (thirteen-year-old twins), are the driving force in his life and a constant source of motivation to succeed. Thanks to Saint John's Hospice, Blake was able to get his life in order and look forward to a future with them. "St. John's is the greatest thing that could have ever happened to me. Before coming here, I knew nothing about the shelter system. My friend told me that St. John's was the best shelter in the city, and after seven months of living here, I believe it for myself. It's a place where you can get a jumpstart on life. If you hang in there, SJH will help you move forward and get yourself together." As for the future, Blake is focused on family: "I plan to open up another barber shop in Philadelphia. I want my kids to be happy and be with me. I want to provide a good life for them and all my family—thanks to St. John's, the sky's the limit!"

Edgeworth Nyatti, or "Edge" as he is known by the SJH staff and residents, has experienced both ups and downs in his life. Originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, Edge along with his mother and one of his sisters, moved to Philadelphia in 1987 in search of a better life. He attended Olney High School and then went on to earn his degree in Marketing from LaSalle University. After college, Edge remained in Philadelphia and worked as a day trader for over 15 years. During this time, he suffered the loss of several of his family members. He remembers this time as the beginning of his downward spiral into a life of depression and alcoholism: "At that time, everything started to fall apart. I was making bad decisions and stopped taking care of myself. I started drinking and my depression got worse." Edge also suffers from epilepsy, a neurological disorder which causes seizures. Because of all this, his remaining family distanced themselves from him, wanting nothing to do with him.



He had lost all hope: "I came to St. John's to die. I weighed 98 pounds and had given up. Whatever family I once had, abandoned me; I no longer cared about anything." When Edge arrived at Saint John's, he was both surprised and thankful to find a staff that was so caring and supportive, helping him to repair his life and move forward. "I thank St. John's for everything. This staff is my family." As for his future, Edge plans to return to the working world and hopes to see his own children further their education, and hopefully, one day attend his alma mater, La Salle University.

# From Saint John's Hospice Program Director David Stier



I have often been asked whether Pope Francis will be coming to St. John's Hospice in September. The only answer I could give is that no such announcement had been made. The truth is, however, that even though his schedule has now been announced, we still cannot be absolutely certain whether Pope Francis will visit SJH, or other places not listed on his published itinerary. This Pope has established a reputation for being unpredictable, for going where he feels led.

Regardless, the question is wonderful to hear. The reason ties to the explicit comments that often accompany the question: "St. John's Hospice is the kind of place that Pope Francis likes to visit." Indeed, he has emphasized again and again that we are called to look after our neighbors, particularly the poor and those on the margins of society. This certainly includes the homeless persons that SJH serves.

Will Pope Francis come to SJH? Will any of us meet him? As awe-inspiring as that would be, I suspect that he himself would say that the more important issue is whether we follow the example he is setting for us – whether we look after our neighbor. The cool thing is that St. John's Hospice is, in fact, the kind of place that does just that. We do look after our neighbors who are homeless, and we do seem to be the kind of place that Pope Francis might say, "Keep up the good work." Even if we don't get the chance to see Pope Francis face to face, we have the opportunity to meet God in the faces of the homeless men who walk through our doors every day. What is more, despite the imperfections in our love, many of our men know that we see God in them, and they find ways to communicate their appreciation for this. How cool is that?!

The staff and volunteers at SJH feel very good about that. You, our supporters, should also feel good! You also care for your neighbor whenever you write us a check, or volunteer your time, or pray on behalf of St. John's Hospice. You share in our ministry to the homeless.

Thank you for supporting this ministry. At the end of this fiscal year, we particularly wish to thank you for your generous support of our Annual Appeal, which far exceeded the goal of \$325,000. More than 1,800 donors have given gifts totaling in excess of \$500,000. This year-long fundraising effort is the vital core of our operational income, and we could not function without it. Thank you for partnering with us to provide life-giving sustenance and supportive services to our homeless brothers. You are answering Pope Francis' message to bring God's love to so many in need.

I invite you to check out page 5 of this newsletter to see how your support of the SJH Annual Appeal is making a difference in the lives of thousands each year.

Thank you for the blessings of God which pour through you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



**Saint John's Hospice seeks to be  
a community grounded in faith and service  
where homeless persons find dignity,  
respect, nourishment and  
opportunities for new beginnings.**

# Spotlight on Our Volunteer Family

## St. Joseph's University Celebrates Global Community Day of Service at SJH



A great big THANKS to the St. Joseph's University alumni for choosing SJH as one of fifteen sites to participate in the recent 2015 SJU Global Community Day of Service. The volunteers scrubbed walls, washed windows and cleaned the kitchen until it sparkled! Program Coordinator Rich Brennan said of the event, "All of the Saint Joseph's alums who volunteered at SJH do so to seek the *magis*, (the Latin word means *more or better*), a fundamental Ignatian principle. Being able to volunteer at Saint John's put a smile on all of our faces and allowed each of us to do more by serving the needs of the homeless of our city." Thanks to Rich and all who participated in this great day and proving that *The Hawk Will Never Die!*

### Meet Our New Volunteer Coordinator



Saint John's Hospice welcomes its new summer intern and Volunteer Coordinator, Kelley Christian. Kelley will be entering her senior year at St. Joseph's University and expects to graduate in Spring 2016 with a degree in political science. When asked what she likes best about her work at Saint John's, Kelley replied, "I love being a part of the Saint John's family and working together with the

SJH staff to provide meaningful services to the homeless community. I also love meeting all the wonderful volunteers who give so much of their time to help others. So far, it's been a great experience and I look forward to the summer ahead." Thank you, Kelley, for your hard work and commitment to Saint John's and its mission. We are thrilled to have you on our team!

### La Salle College High Lends a Helping Hand at SJH



The Urban Immersion Program at La Salle College High School enables students of all ages to experience service at a variety of outreach organizations and inner-city schools throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding area. The program is structured as a week-long retreat. Students stay at the Catholic Newman Center on U. Penn's campus, and volunteer at organizations such as Blessed Sarnelli House and Visitation BVM in Kensington. The volunteer students at St. John's, helped in the kitchen, clothing room and mailroom.

### In Loving Memory of Our Friends and Donors.... eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

E. Boccuti	Edward Costigan	Roger Fey	Mary May	Nicholas Ranalli
Rita Bowes	Susan Costigan	Kathleen Fox	Marguerite McAvinue	C. Elizabeth Robrecht
Ina Branch	Helen Dalin	Edward Frank	Anna McCafferty	Robert Ryan
Elizabeth Brennan	Joseph DiFlorentiis	Mary Gaffney	Joseph McDevitt	Edward Schodowski
Edward Cardwell	Thomas Donatucci	Peter A. Galante	Helen McGovern	Bill Shiffler
John Casey	Joseph Donnelly	Carla Garrison	John McVeigh	Stephen Stanton
Elizabeth Cashin	Albert Dorley	Silvio Iantorno	Helen Owsik	Harry Townsend
Roy Cortez	Bob Eckert	Anna Jenks	Stanley Petka	Isabel Varga
Edward Castello	Margaret Eckert	Mary Kennedy	Doris Quinn	Ethan Woods
		Mary Kerlin		

## Saint John's Hospice 2014-15 Annual Appeal Hits Record-Breaking Highs

We are excited to announce the great success of the 2014/2015 Annual Appeal. A resounding "Thank You!" to the more than 1,800 donors who have contributed to this year's Appeal, totaling in excess of \$500,000. Your overwhelming support enables Saint John's to continue to provide life-sustaining services to homeless men of our city, Philadelphia.



*Your donation to the Annual Appeal allows you to be a part of our efforts to feed thousands of homeless men this year.*

*See the difference your contribution makes in people's lives:*

**Your gift of \$10,000 can provide all of the following:**

- showers and clothing for 300 men
- 1,000 hot meals
- housing for 5 men for one month
- mail service for 5 men for one whole year

**Your gift of \$5,000 can provide:**

- 1,500 hot meals for homeless men

**Your gift of \$1,000 can provide:**

- 3 months of shelter from the cold, food, showers, clean clothing and bathroom facilities for a chronically homeless man in the SJH Coffee House

**Your gift of \$500 can provide:**

- 150 hot meals for homeless men

**Your gift of \$300 can provide:**

- 365 days of mailroom service for a homeless man
- 30 hot meals
- 4 pairs of new boots with socks and underwear for homeless men in need

**Your gift of \$200 can provide:**

- 13 homeless men with clean clothing and a hot shower
- 30 hot meals

**Your gift of \$100 can provide:**

- 40 hot meals for our homeless men

Join us for the Saint John's Hospice

### Fall Fundraiser

- ★ Exclusive wine tasting hosted by Greg Moore of Moore Brothers Wine
- ★ Delicious food from Tootsie's Salad Express located in Philadelphia's Historic Reading Terminal Market
- ★ Silent Auction— sports memorabilia, golf outings and more

**Saturday, September 19, 2015**

6:00pm-9:00pm

St. Luke & the Epiphany Church  
330 South 13th Street, Philadelphia 19107

Reserve your place now!

Go to [www.SaintJohnsHospice.org](http://www.SaintJohnsHospice.org) or contact Kris Jaeger at 215.563.7763 or [kjaeger@chs-adphila.org](mailto:kjaeger@chs-adphila.org)



# Saint John's Hospice Annual Report

## Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014

### Statement of Operations

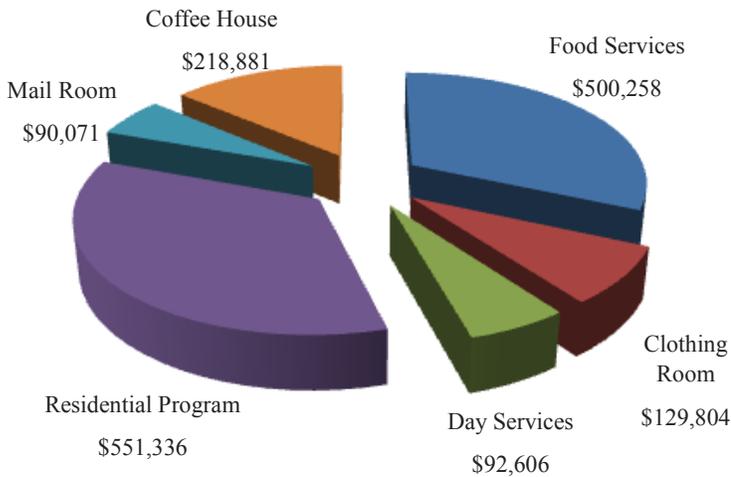
Revenues	\$ 1,058,316
Expenses	\$ 1,582,951
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ (524,635)</u>

### Endowment Fund

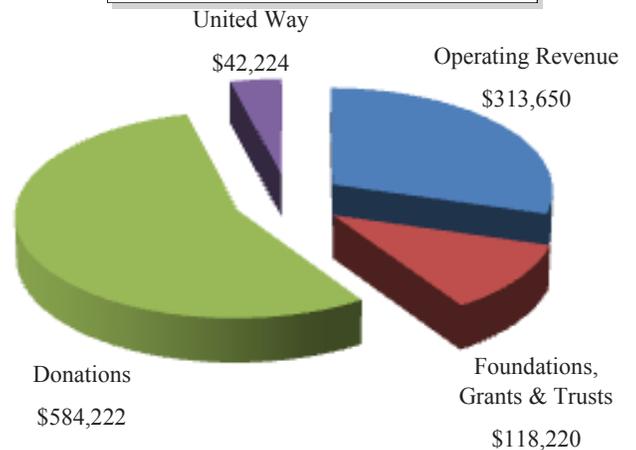
Balance as of July 1, 2013	\$ 2,411,976
Legacies/Bequests	\$ 149,805
Investment Income/Gains	\$ 258,980
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (524,635)
Balance, June 30, 2014	\$ 2,328,725

- The Endowment Fund is built from legacies and bequests as well as returns on fund investments.
- For every year since the fund was established in 1990, costs and expenses exceeded operating revenues. The endowment fund covered these shortfalls.

### Expenses \$ 1,582,956



### Revenues \$ 1,058,316



### Saint John's Hospice FY 2014 at a glance:

- Provided approximately 2,842 **meals** each week, totaling over 145,000 meals for the year
- **Housed** 145 homeless men in the SJH residential program
- Provided 7,500 **showers** and **clean clothing** to the homeless community
- **Sheltered** 582 chronically homeless men in the emergency drop-in shelter/SJH Coffee House
- Offered **supportive services** (case management, counseling, referral, and medical assistance) to 5,640 homeless men and residents combined
- Provided a **mailing address** and mailroom services for 900 men with no home

### In-kind Donations for FY 2014

- **\$400,000 in Volunteer Hours:** SJH averages 3,350 volunteer hours each month. Saint John's Hospice values each volunteer's time at \$20/hr.
- **\$300,000 in Food & Casseroles:** SJH serves 126,000 casseroles each year valued at \$15 each, totaling \$186,000 in in-kind donations, as well as additional food items received from various businesses in the community
- **\$50,000 in Clothing & Toiletries:** donations from generous donors enable SJH to provide clean clothing and toiletries every day of the week to the homeless community

# Saint John's Hospice

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(Please call us or email us with address corrections.)

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## *You can make a difference with a donation of...*

- **Casseroles**  
(go to [www.saintjohnshospice.org](http://www.saintjohnshospice.org) for more details)
- **Toiletries**
  - \* Soap
  - \* Toothbrushes
  - \* Deodorant
  - \* Shavers
  - \* Lip Balm
  - \* Shampoo
  - \* Toothpaste
  - \* Lotion
  - \* Shaving cream
  - \* Plastic bags
- **Underwear and T-shirts**
- **Shorts**
- **Sneakers**
- **Backpacks**
- **Men's clothing**

### **Will your employer match your gift?**

Ask now to  
**increase the impact**  
of your contribution



### **Do you donate through the United Way?**

Designate your donation  
to Saint John's Hospice

**Donor Option #272**

### **Interested in Volunteering at Saint John's Hospice?**

Contact Kris Jaeger  
[kjaeger@chs-adphila.org](mailto:kjaeger@chs-adphila.org)  
215.563.7763

