



CAMERON HOUSE

金美倫堂

Quarterly Newsletter

CURRENT

Autumn
2009



Step Up, Speak Out!

By: Chris Cheuk

Sleeping bag? Check. Flashlight? Check. Toothbrush? Check. Swimwear? Check. Towel? I'd better pack a couple. Soap? Uh-oh... I have never been great at packing, so even though this was my twelfth year attending Westminster Woods, I knew I was bound to forget something. All the excitement, anticipation, and planning that surrounds our annual trip to Westminster Woods can make packing a little hard to do.

While driving one of the high school youth home a week before the trip, he mentioned that he probably wouldn't be able to sleep because he was looking forward to Westminster Woods. I remember that when I was his age, I felt exactly the same way. Each day was packed with different activities and opportunities for the youth to enjoy. Energizers, swimming, archery, small group sharing, water activities, swing dancing, Bible study, singing, and the list goes on and on!

Every year, something special happens while we're away at Westminster Woods that seems impossible to duplicate when we're at Cameron House. Everyone has a different theory of why Westminster Woods is special, but I believe that leaving the everyday distractions of city life allows us to focus more on the wonderful things with which God has blessed us. We so rarely

From Aug. 16-21 our 4 youth staff with 17 volunteers took 101 middle and high school youth to Westminster Woods for a week of camp just before school began.

get to enjoy fresh air, trees that tower over buildings, or chirping birds uninterrupted by the sound of vehicles. And during our short week together at Westminster Woods, each of the 122 people in the community was able to focus on our relationships with one another and with God.

This year we challenged the youth to reflect about what they believe in, who they believe in, whether or not one voice makes a difference, and when they are going to step up and speak out when they return home. Through Bible Studies, Club & Commission activities, morning reflections, mixed age group activities, and evening worships, we wanted to encourage the youth to take the initiative and step up to challenges. As a Youth Ministries staff, we recognize the awesome potential that each and every person has to do good in their family, their school, and their greater community. That potential is so obvious just by seeing their interactions and behavior while together at Westminster Woods.

The end of each trip to Westminster Woods is always a little sad for me, but this year, I am excited to see how the youth will turn their beliefs into actions and when they decide to step up and speak out.

Transition of Executive Directorship

By: Heidi Wong, Board President & Chair of Executive Transition Team



Thank you for joining and supporting the Cameron House Board and Staff in celebrating Doreen's life of community service on September 18th and ensuring the sustainability of our programs and services! As we anticipate the too-quick-arrival of Doreen's retirement at the end of October, the Board has also been busy with the transition and search process. And now we can proclaim: Praise be to God!!

As you may be aware, the Executive Transition Team spent the summer conducting a search process with the help from CompassPoint Nonprofit Services. In addition to the usual job announcement postings via email lists, websites, personal contacts, and typical nonprofit job posting sites, Executive Transition Team members also personally approached several CH alumni and other community leaders. A total of 30+ applications were received from which four were selected to be interviewed. And after careful consideration, due diligence (including Staff input) and prayer at each step of the way, the Board selected our next Executive Director... Monica Walters of Spokane, Washington! We look forward to welcoming Monica on October 1, 2009!

Monica Walters has over twenty years of executive leadership experience, most recently serving for over 12 years as the executive director of the YWCA of Spokane. The programs under her direction mirrored those of Cameron House: domestic violence; crisis support; employment; youth leadership development; afterschool program; summer daycamp; family services; counseling; immigrant rights; and other programs that help women, youth and families achieve self-sufficiency and empowerment. Monica also has an extraordinary amount of fundraising experience, including capital campaign (raising \$40.5 million together with the YMCA to construct two new buildings), grant writing, major donor and annual events and giving programs. Monica views her role as that of the 'servant leader' based in the Christian faith tradition; a perspective and approach consistent with the Cameron House way of leadership and service.

Despite her years of experience with similar programs and her servant leadership approach, no doubt some of you are thinking... "Wow! But an 'outsider'?!". As a Board, we also asked ourselves that question. From the beginning, we were open to this possibility knowing that, while CH has produced numerous qualified alumni, many may not be at a point in their lives/careers where they feel "called" to be the Executive Director of CH at this time. Leaders groomed by Cameron House and other Chinatown agencies are needed all over Chinatown, San Francisco, the Bay Area and beyond. God has always blessed CH with talented and dedicated people to do God's work. We don't always know what God has in store for us, but continue to have faith and let God lead us. God has led Monica to us, preparing her for this call to join our CH family. And God has led us to Monica, preparing us to accept and support her wholeheartedly.

As Monica is not from the area and has limited experience with SF and the Chinatown community, we recognize both the gifts and challenges of her being an "outsider". Monica will breathe new energy into our well-established programs and operations, and bring a wealth and depth of experience that will most certainly be assets for Cameron House and those we serve. She will undoubtedly rely on the mentorship of our CH family and this community to acculturate her to the Cameron House way of leadership and service, to the grace of God through our alumni and other partners in mission, to the richness of Chinatown and to the specialness of those we serve. Together, we will further the mission of Cameron House, a mission which Monica says reflects her "commitment to strengthen and empower women, children and families through Christian faith-based services."

Thank you all for your support and prayers; please continue to pray for the CH Board and Staff, and especially for Doreen and Monica, as we focus on this exciting time of transition in the life of Cameron House.

Youth Spotlight: Patrick Huang, 9th Grade

By: Josh Chuck



Splash! It's Thursday morning, 7:15am at Westminster Woods and Patrick Huang has just plunged into the cold swimming pool for a fourth straight morning! This places him on a special team of everyday Polar Bear Swimmers. Four years ago, it would have been hard to imagine.

Patrick, the middle of three brothers, has grown up in Chinatown and has always been on the quieter side. He has attended Cameron House's Bilingual Afterschool Program for four years, and this year branched out to participate in several other programs offered to him.

Heading into Galileo High School this fall, this year Patrick started attending Friday Night Club, served as a summer volunteer for the 1st/2nd Grade BYP Department, played on the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown's Youth Basketball team and attended Westminster Woods camp. All first-time experiences for the Chinatown Native.

His older brother Stanley, part of the 11th Grade Club Commission, acknowledges the growth his brother is experiencing.

"I think it's good for him, he makes a lot of friends. He stands out here at Cameron House."

Those who work with him have also noticed how his experiences have shaped him.

"He's more positive, willing to try new things and accept responsibility," his BAP mentor, Sherman Gee comments. "Before, those were things he would avoid."

"Patrick's always been quiet," Club leader Nick Wong shares. "But when he opens up, he is really funny and has some great ideas."

Patrick appreciates his time so far in the Cameron House Youth Program. "There are fun activities, the people here are nice. At Westminster Woods, we did things you usually don't do in the city, and you meet a lot of new people."

So what does the future hold for this fourteen year-old?

"I hope to be successful, get into a good college, and support the family and my parents. I also want to eventually donate money to people who have helped me, like my school and Cameron House."

Because Patrick is entering the 9th grade, he is no longer eligible for the Cameron House BAP after-school program. Still the Youth department recognizes the need for further guidance for students like Patrick.

Because of this need, Property Manager and Youth program volunteer Joel Smith has decided to start a part-time program for BAP "alumni". "We will be meeting once a week to develop writing and computer skills" Joel explains. "As a Graphic Designer, I want to show the kids how to use the computer to make a living, and help them to be creative." He hopes that the program will start small, and if Cameron House can receive a grant, then have it expand further.

Meanwhile, Patrick plans to continue participating in as many programs as possible.

"Without Cameron House, I'd probably be at home doing nothing."

Hopefully, he and our other youth will take the plunge into more new experiences as they develop into our future leadership.



*Standing: Elizabeth Lee, Jessica Huey, Kenneth and Josephine Kwong, Pauline and David Chan, Patricia and Clovis Shem, Harry and Mary Tong
Seated: Aaron Huie, Kelly Yee, Steven Liu, Norman Lau, Caitlin Tom, Jeremy Ho, Niko Larot (with baby brother), Damond Ng, Alvin Chang, Jackie Thanh.
Not pictured: Funders Micah Chu and Foy White-Chu, Harold and Gwendolyn Wong, and an Anonymous Donor.*

College Scholarship Awards 2009 By: Doreen Der-McLeod

Harry Tong probably summed it up when he said "...little did I realize that when Mary and I decided to give a scholarship to a Chinatown youth, it was like tossing a pebble into the pond".

Cameron House has had the good fortune of having scholarship benefactors since 1999. It began with Paul Lam who donated money in memory of his mother, Lam Lo Oi Na. In 2002, Kenneth and Josephine Kwong set up a scholarship endowment fund and we began with two scholarships that year. In 2004, the Kenneth and Josephine Kwong Scholarship Fund grew so that we could award four scholarships. Also in 2004, new benefactors, Harry and Mary Tong, wanted to support a Chinatown youth with a scholarship award. Harry and Mary continue the \$1,000 each year for the scholarship recipient if they maintain a B average in college.

Since 2004, other alumni have decided to support our youth going to college. Unbeknownst to Harry and Kenneth, they both mentioned their scholarship fund at Cameron House to former Cameron House alumni and neighbors, Clovis Shem and David Chan. As a result, each gave money so that a fund was established to grant a \$1,000 scholarship annually over a 20 year period. In 2008, because of the generosity of these donors, we were able to give six new scholarships plus a renewal scholarship.

This year alumni Micah Chu, living in Boston, called to say he wanted to give a \$500 scholarship award to a Cameron House youth who did volunteer service. He felt that his life was so enriched by his summer service at Cameron House, he wanted to encourage others to volunteer. He plans to continue the scholarship if the student continues volunteer service while in college.

After conversing with Kenneth Kwong, one of his friends decided to donate money for two \$1,000 scholarships. In addition, an anonymous donor gave another \$1,000 for two \$500 scholarships. This was indeed a rippling effect. Given the wonderful generosity of all these donors, we were able to award scholarships to eleven individuals this year.

The recipients of the Harold and Gwendolyn Wong scholarships are Jeremy Ho and Jessica Huey. Jacqueline Thanh received her last renewal from the Harry and Mary Tong Scholarship Fund. Norman Lau was the recipient of the David and Pauline Chan Scholarship. Aaron Huie was the recipient of the Clovis and Patricia Shem Scholarship Fund. Niko Larot, Elizabeth Lee, Damond Ng and Caitlin Tom were the recipients of the Kenneth & Josephine Kwong Scholarships. Kelley Yee received the Micah Chu and Foy White-Chu Scholarship and Alvin Chang and Steven Liu received \$500 from an anonymous donor. Like a pebble tossed into a pond, the initial offerings of one or two scholarships have grown over the years. Praise the Lord.

Creative Reflections:

A Day of Sharing, Creating and Healing

Healing Workshop V

October 10, 2009
9a.m. to 4 p.m.
at Cameron House

sign up w/mary wong leong 781-0401 or
mary@cameronhouse.org

2010 Census

Forms will be mailed to you next March.

Please fill them out!

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. San Francisco lost hundreds of millions in the last decade due to undercounting of SF residents in 2000.

CH Guild YUM CHA

Theme: **"Back to School"**
Learn more about the
Bilingual Afterschool Program (BAP)
at Cameron House

Key Speaker: **Jeannette Wei**
Master Teacher and Counselor

Save the Date!
October 26, 2009 11:30-2PM
Cameron House

NEW ORLEANS Mission Trip

What a week it has been! The many hours of work, the heavy humidity, and the stifling heat were definitely challenges that we faced every day, but ones that the group was able to handle with very few difficulties. There's not much I can say about the day to day activities that hasn't been covered already, but it is my sincerest hope that the trip was life-changing in some way for all 16 participants.

In the preparations and research for this mission trip to New Orleans, I admit that at times, it seemed hard to see God's presence in such a situation. A city in ruins, thousands of lives lost, thousands more displaced and left with nothing, and a feeling that there weren't enough caring people in the country's leadership to step in and bring hope to a broken community.

As a participant in this mission trip, I was reminded that things happen according to God's plan and timing. Though it is terrible that such things happened, it is in these dark times that the best in people can be brought out. Thousands of volunteers have since come to New Orleans and the surrounding area to help rebuild in the past four years and it will continue for years to come. In the St. Bernard Parish, where we worked, there was a reported three houses left standing after the flooding subsided, but when we drove through the area, there were buildings everywhere.

Throughout the week, we met New Orleanians who suffered, yet remained positive and grateful to have people come and help rebuild homes. From the owner of the house (George), to our Habitat for Humanity staff person (Dan), to the many different people at Parkway Presbyterian Church, Chinese Presbyterian Church, and Chinese Baptist Church, to strangers on the street who waved to us and thanked us for what we were doing, I was reminded that this trip was about more than just rebuilding a house, it was about expressing love and faith through action.

Though there is probably so much more to say, my mind still hasn't been able to fully comprehend the entire experience, so I'll stop here. However, this trip, though tiring and stressful at times, is one of the most rewarding experiences that I have been blessed to be a part of. Not only were we able to bring hope and love to the community, I think that we have all been touched and transformed in turn through our interactions with the people of New Orleans, with the Mission Trip Team, and with God.

We are all so thankful for the support that you've given us and we ask that you pray for our safe return to the Bay Area and for those in New Orleans as they continue to rebuild.

By: Chris Cheuk





From July 12th - 18th, Cameron House (CH) and the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown (PCC) sent 10 youth + 1 youth staff from CH plus 5 adults from the PCC to work with Habitat for Humanity in rebuilding homes in New Orleans. This was the second year that members of both agencies have participated in the rebuilding of New Orleans. Chris Cheuk was the youth staff who went from Cameron House and this was his communiqué home on July 17th.



CCU Summer Basketball – More than Just a Game!



For the second straight summer, Cameron House youth and young adults participated in the Summer Chinese Christian Union Basketball League.

The Cameron House Young Adult team came together to win their last five games, and took home the Gold Division Championship.

And despite having the majority of its players far below the 16-year-old cutoff, the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown Youth team played admirably and barely missed the playoffs against some stiff competition.

On behalf of both teams, I would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout the season. As always, we had large and enthusiastic fans cheering us on, which we appreciate so much. Here are some thoughts from team-members:

Jason Leong: I learned that winning isn't everything and that sharing a common experience with God and all of his children is a great way to get

closer to God. Throughout the season, I gained new friends and became closer to my team mates through basketball. I learned that there is no such thing as winners and losers to God and that he accepts all of us with open arms.

Jeremy Ho: The thing that I will remember is that even when we beat a team or lost to one, everyone was still really happy, on and off the court. No one held grudges and I just had a great time. The last game was the most exciting because we had so many people from both church and the youth programs come out to cheer us on.

Sing Quan: I learned about playing as a team and working hard to achieve one goal. Also, being a spiritual leader helped me understand better my connection with God.

AJ Yip: What was meaningful to me was the new friendships I've made with players from other teams. I feel like I met some really good people

who share a lot of the same interests as me.

Gordon Yu: It was my first experience on an organized team. I learned about fundamentals of basketball, and also about teamwork and sportsmanship.

Michael Yip: I learned you need to be with the team and work with the team for awhile, and it will be good. Just having the opportunity to play has been great.

Allan Tan: (Voted Most Inspirational Player in 16-under division by league coaches) I learned that whatever happens in the game, it doesn't matter as long as we have fun. I also learned that God comes first. I like to have fun and set an example for the younger ones. Age doesn't matter though, everyone is there to have fun with basketball and to learn about God.

By: Josh Chuck

Tributes & Memorials

IN HONOR OF:

- Laurene Chan**
Elizabeth Fung & Robert Aguirre
- Evelyn Chin**
Janice D. Chin
Rick, Jennifer, Emily and
Chloe Harris
- Harry Chuck**
Helen Charette
- Doreen Der-McLeod**
Anonymous
Paul & Patricia Chan
Sabrina & Paul Cheng
David Cho
Richard & Marie Dong
Emily Goldfarb
Janet Holsinger
Christopher & Glenda Jeong
Gwen Jeong
Marvin Lee
Nora & Sichi Li
Thomas & Lorelyn Liu
Dale & Ruth McLeod
David & D'Arcy McLeod
Allyn F. Quan
Brenda Tom Jow
- Joshua Hee**
Jean & Franklin Woo
- Jennifer L. Hom**
Shirley Lee-Poo
- Joanna Jew-Dunn**
Ronald & Marilyn Jennings
- Benson & Helen Kwan**
Kathy Kwan & Robert Eustace
- Josephine & Kenneth Kwong**
Karen Kwong
Janet Oshiro
- Jane Newhall**
Anonymous
- Linda Shen**
Anonymous
- Beverly Yip**
Tami Fong

IN MEMORY OF:

- Diana Ming Chan**
Wilmer Fong
- Edna Chan**
Dave & Vickie Case
Peter P. Wong
- Randall Chin**
Jean Chin
- Tong Tai Chow**
Kenneth Chin
Vicki Chiang & James Ramsey
William & Lin-Mey Chiang
Suzie Chow
Harry Chuck & Linda Lee
Francois & Kelly Delepine
Steven & Zandra Leong
Herbert & Verna Li
Loren Loo & Ruby Chow
Les & Naomi Wong
- Stanford & Virginia Choy**
Marian Gan
- Emily Eng**
Wayne Eng & Marie Chin
- Laura L. Fong**
Carol & Henry Tong
- Mary Tom Gon**
Harry & Patricia Tom Mar
- Dai Teap Hom**
John & Angela Hom
The Niendorf Family
- Ed & Maureen Jeung**
Lydia Jeung & Gary Jones
- Bill & Helen Kee**
Palmer F. Lam
- Rachel Kwong**
Robert Kwong
Stanton & Jessie Tong
- Raymond Chung Chee Kwong**
Loreen Seid Jung & Vincent Jung
- Bronson Lee**
Alson & JoAnn Lee
- Kee Fang Lee**
Diane F. Lee
- Leona Lee**
Robert Gong & Cindy Lee Gong
Joanne & Craig Lee
John Lee
Robert & Elberta McClure
- Rev. & Mrs. Stephen M.S. Lee**
Theodora & Fillmore Sue
- Melvin Leong**
David R. Thompson
- Rolland Lim**
Robert & Carolee Lim
John Strebel
- Florence Logan**
Harry & Patricia Tom Mar
- Lorna Logan**
Geri Humphry
Harry & Patricia Tom Mar
- Mitchell Louie**
Jeanne S. Tong
- James Low**
Laurene & Corey Chan
Audrey & Stanley Chin
Richard Chow
Louise Fung
Alfred & Sharlene Hall
Gwen Jeong
Cynthia Joe
Alson & JoAnn Lee
John Lee
Dayton & Mary Leong
Ethel Low
Jean Low
Serena Low & Michael Perhaes
Steven & Jean Lum
Richard & Jean Lym
Jimmy Ong
Raymond Ong & Helen Yip Ong
Vincent & Loreen Seid Jung
Alan & Rachel Wong
Leslie B. Wong
Jean & Franklin Woo
Ruth Wu
- Irene Luu**
Helen Luu
- Sally McWalters Conroy**
Marie Conroy-Salbi
- Ruby Ng-Cordrey**
Anonymous
- Joan Ong**
Jean Chin
William Ong
- Marjorie Spear Patterson**
Kathleen McAdam
- Joan Taam**
Wilbur & Dolores Woo

- Dick Wichman***
Anonymous
Ernest Fricke & Daina Variakojis
- Lois Wichman**
Anonymous
- Ernest Wu**
Central Indiana Corporate Partnership
Alumni of Hoh Fuk Tong College
Elliot & Myrna Bernadel-Huey
Elaine Chan-Scherer & Karl Scherer
Harry Chuck & Linda Lee
Wayne & May Chung
Wayne Eng & Marie Chin
John & Angela Hom
Jeanette Huie & Gilbert Cho
Gwen Jeong
Glenn & Jacqueline Kwan
Wilson & Mary Lam
Daniel F. Lee
David & Elizabeth Lew
Victor & Jane Louie
Stanton & Jessie Tong
- Betty Yim**
Mary L. Fong
Martha Yick
- James Yim**
Family & Friends
Robin Leong
George & Rita Lieu
Eleanor Yim
- Ben Yip**
Lilian Hong
Daniel & Barbara Lee
- Albert Young**
Willis & Victoria Lowe
- Robert Young**
Gerald & Beatrice Chin
Laura Kim
Priscilla Wong

* The CH Board had determined that gifts donated in memory of Dick Wichman will go towards the Healing Work.



Annual June Outing: The Fun Must Go On

By: Yulanda Kwong

Heading down south to San Jose was the direction of our destination for this year's June outing for our Social Services Ministry clients. On June 27, 2009, two big charter buses picked up 84 people in the morning. Our first stop was the Winchester Mystery House, a well-known 160-room Victorian mansion. The home was owned, designed and built in 1884 under the supervision of Sarah L. Winchester, widow of gun magnate William Wirt Winchester. The mansion was under construction continuously for 38 years where parts of the mansion have odd and bizarre features, such as stairs leading to the ceiling.

Our next stop was the Tech Museum. Besides exploring the fascinating and educational exhibits in the museum, the clients enjoyed a show in the IMAX theatre. They had the choice of watching "Grand Canyon: River at Risk" or "Mummy: Secrets of the Pharaoh." Being in an IMAX theatre was a first time experience for most clients and even staff.

The clients thought that this year was definitely a treat for them. The annual June outing has always been a highlight of our services. Every year, clients look forward to this event because they don't have that many opportunities to leave the City to explore and spend time with their family. Hearing about city budget cuts, the clients were worried for Cameron House and our services. The clients expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Cameron House staff for organizing and planning such a fruitful event, even during these challenging economic times. (See photo of June outing on opposite page)

October is
**Domestic Violence
Awareness Month**

**Upcoming Chinatown
Domestic Violence Workshop
at Old St. Mary's
(California/Grant Ave.)**

**Save the Date
Saturday, Oct. 24th**

Community-based participatory research on diabetes in full swing!

By: Christine Kwan, Ph.D., Project Director, Chinese Family Diabetes Education Project, University of California, San Francisco

"Community-based participatory research (CBPR) in public health is a partnership approach to research that equitably involves, for example, community members, organizational representatives, and researchers in all aspects of the research process. The partners contribute their expertise and share responsibilities and ownership to enhance understanding of a given phenomenon, and to integrate the knowledge gained with action to improve the health and well-being of community members." (Barbara Israel, 2000)

The Chinese Family Diabetes Education Project is a CBPR collaboration between 4 agencies: Donaldina Cameron House, North East Medical Services (NEMS), University of San Francisco (USF), and University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). This project addresses interpersonal and behavioral aspects of diabetes management in Chinese immigrants, and concentrates on solutions in the diabetes epidemic among Chinese Americans. Chinese Americans suffer from rates of diabetes that are 1.6 to 3 times higher than European Americans, but diabetes interventions and knowledge specific to Chinese Americans are lacking.

Community participation is what makes this Project work! For example, Ms. Tina Shum, a Counselor with Cameron House, and Mr. Rudy Kao, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with NEMS, serve as facilitators for the behavioral diabetes intervention that is being adapted and tested. In consultation with colleagues at Cameron House and NEMS, UCSF and USF researchers plan and implement research activities in a way to ensure they are culturally appropriate for Chinese immigrants. A Community Advisory Board, consisting of 8 members from different backgrounds and sharing a commitment to better the health of Chinese immigrants, offers wisdom to guide this Project. Lastly, members of the Chinese immigrant community express support and participate in the diabetes intervention trial. In all, a community-academic partnership is proving to be a powerful way to bring people together to pursue the common goal of improving the health and well-being of Chinese Americans.

This Project is in full swing in its second year. We are looking for immigrant Cantonese-speaking Chinese with diabetes to participate. For more information, please call the project hotline at 415-476-3889.





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Thanks for Your Support By: Doreen Der-McLeod

When I returned from my year as a Vista volunteer in Appalachia in 1966, I was offered a job as Girls' Worker at Cameron House. Little did I realize that this would set me on a totally different career path than what I had envisioned for my life.

As Girls' Worker, my interactions with youth and the opportunity to witness the quiet, wonderful work of the women on the second floor of Cameron House (Lorna Logan, Mae Wong, Diana Ming Chan, Elizabeth Lau, Sunny Hee, and Marie Lum) gave me a glimpse of a career I had never even heard of—social work. It led me to go back to graduate school at Rutgers for a Masters in Social Work. I would return to Chinatown and spend the next 39 years working as a social worker for various Chinatown non-profits.

In December 2000, I returned to Cameron House as the Executive Director. I was not sure of this move at all and came on the job "with fear and trembling". So it is hard to believe that nine years have passed and I am now retiring. I look back now and realized that I did not have to fear, for I was never alone in this job. Yes, the day to day decisions of managing and fundraising for the agency were mine, but the larger work of the agency really rested with staff, a host of alumni and church people who cared deeply for the work of the agency. Sometimes one could only surmise that it was the Holy Spirit who led people to our doors when we most needed them.

I am grateful for the opportunity to reclaim the historical roots of this agency beyond the youth work

program; to reintroduce a new generation to the radical history of this agency as one founded by women for women; and to address the sexual abuse that has fractured so many lives and warped our institutional life. This place was founded and was always intended to provide sanctuary and safety for those who entered our doors. By dealing openly with the sexual abuse that occurred decades ago, and setting protocols for screening and training all staff and volunteers, we hope to prevent this from ever happening again. I am grateful for the support that I received from people who have been on the Board of Directors, for the wonderful people who have served on staff with me, and for the countless alumni supporters who give so generously of their time, skills, and money.

Cameron House provides a broad range of youth and social services and its impact is recognized not only by those of us who participated in the program, but also by people who hear of our program. As executive director, each time I share the story of Cameron House, outside people are amazed at the commitment of our alumni base in giving of their time and money. They say, "This is a testament of the work that you do at Cameron House".

It has been a privilege to work here with so many of you. Words can not express my gratitude for those of you who shared this part of my journey. I know that you will give Monica the support in doing this work as you have so graciously given me.

