



## BRINGING DIGNITY, LOVE, AND OF COURSE CHOCOLATE!

March 24, 2010



# Be The Light Of The Party

- 375 homeless men and women have attended our parties so far.
- 70 staff/volunteers have proudly worn our shirts.
- 2 major parties in less than 1 year (Philadelphia and London)

## Welcome To Our First Newsletter - 2009-2010!

Our one time pizza party for the homeless in 2008 turned into an annual event in June of 2009 and took the formation of a service project, involving volunteers and supporters from the Philadelphia and New Jersey areas. With 100 pizzas, 50 hoagies, over 350 Godiva chocolates, 100 dozen cookies from the community, pastries from Starbucks, and two dozen beautiful roses from Market Way Flowers & Gifts in Doylestown, Be The Light Of The Party definitely “glowed” this past summer at St. John’s Hospice in Philadelphia. We served about 315 homeless men and had the assistance of about 30 generous volunteers. Our event was featured on both Fox and NBC News as well as in an article written for the Philadelphia Daily News.



In August we took on a new project, this time in London, England. We had three fundraisers to prepare for this shelter’s special party, which we joyously describe in detail later in this newsletter. Currently, Be The Light Of The Party is working on becoming an official, registered charity. It is a slow process, but we hope to achieve 501 c(3) status sometime in the next year. In preparation, we have been building our Board Of Directors and working on our By-Laws, in addition to collecting a list of volunteers. In April, we will be looking for businesses to sponsor our annual party at St. John’s Hospice. It is being planned for Friday, June 25th this year. (So mark your calendars!) Our t-shirts will be a little different this time and will also include a list of sponsors on the back. We are also excited to report that CBS 3 News is considering us for a possible Brotherly Love story.

We are now on Facebook, Twitter, and have our own website ([www.giveparties.org](http://www.giveparties.org)). So check us out and stay connected. We are always thankful for the generosity and support of the community!



## Fundraising Highlights and Our First Charit-Tea

Read About Us On The Web And In Print:

- Good News Network
- Good News Gazette
- The New American
- The Philadelphia Daily News
- Enid News & Eagle

In June and September, Jonathan and Carly Camut ran a lemonade stand to raise money for our cause. They donated a total of \$86! Early in the fall, we had two garage sale fundraisers to raise funds for West London Churches Homeless Concern’s (WLCHC) party. We also created a page on WLCHC’s JustGiving site so they could collect and keep track of donations.

In November, Be The Light Of The Party had our first Charit-Tea Brunch/Silent Auction. The Suzannah Stage School in Warrington donated their dance studio for our event and Bucks Bagels treated us to their famous bagels. Guests brunched on scones, sandwiches, soup, pie, bread pudding, and of course bagels and other goodies along with tea and hot coffee! Children from the local schools sold our glow-in-the-dark wristbands and chocolate angel food cake. Our auction items were also very popular and helped make the day a huge success for WLCHC.

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Be the Light of the party and just Glow!

We're on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/bethelightoftheparty

Be The Light Of The Party is currently a service project whose mission is to enhance the emotional well-being/quality of life for the homeless and other disadvantaged groups in the U.S. and England.

Mini-Parties Coming Soon!

“You truly were the light of this party.” - Danny Strickland, Senior Project Manager, WLCHC

“We served more than food to our guests today. We felt a bit more closely connected to our mission of helping our men find dignity, respect,...” - Gerry Huot, Volunteer/Community Relations Coordinator, St. John’s Hospice

“She’s earning her sainthood, one slice at a time.” - Anthony Willoughby, Kitchen Manager, St. John’s (about Founder)

“Thank you for a wonderful afternoon.” - Gail, party guest, WLCHC

“Thank you for the party. Great food, music, and good company.” - Ross, party guest, WLCHC

“Things like this mean so much to me...” - Miles, party guest, St. John’s Hospice



## Be The Light Of The Party Crosses The Atlantic!



In January, Be The Light Of The Party went international with a special party for the homeless at West London Churches Homeless Concern in London. Thanks to fundraising efforts here in the U.S., we were able to send them scarves, Godiva chocolates, white roses, t-shirts, wristbands, and money for food and entertainment. The homeless men and women were treated to food that Danny Strickland, Senior Project Manager of the registered charity, described as being “a bit of a luxury.” They had a “finger food” buffet catered by Streetlytes and served by both staff and volunteers from London. Be The Light Of The Party surprised them with a special cake delivered from the Buttercup Cake Shop. The event was held at the Chelsea Methodist Church Hall, which was decorated with our lovely white roses delivered by the Chelsea Flower Shop in London.

Homeless guests were treated to entertainment from local talent. The band Hire Fire sizzled with that Reggae sound! The Choir With No Name (the U.K.’s first homeless choir) added special excitement to the party. They also had a keyboard player and a poetry reader.

They sent us a beautiful card signed by some of the guests, along with a thank you letter, and many photos from the special day (some are featured here and some are on our website). We would also like to thank everyone in the U.S. and U.K. who made this transatlantic party such a big success! The guests had such a nice time that they were apparently asking if they could have another party sometime soon. It is always good to see smiles on faces and to know that whether we are in London or Philadelphia, rich or poor, happy or sad; we all share a common bond, an inner Light, that connects us all.

