

partnership



spring 2010



Four WestConn campus ministry coordinators meet to discuss their efforts. They are, left to right, Nate Wilda and Lisa Hine, both with Young Life; IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship campus worker Mike Mancini; and Jay Shaver, college pastor at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel and director of WestConn Christian Ministries.

Common vision for WestConn campus ministry

Three ministries at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury are coalescing into a common vision of building a strong and healthy community among Christian students and reaching others with the Gospel.

"I think we have all the right pieces and the right mentality about working together," said Mike Mancini, who is planting an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship chapter on the campus. "We're not three campus ministries trying to work separately. Being unified is the only way to serve."

In addition to InterVarsity, the others are WestConn Christian Ministries, a university student club; and Young Life, a Jericho

Partnership partner ministry that is expanding its efforts from local middle and high schools to the university campus.

"We all have different pieces we're focusing on," said Nate Wilda, a WestConn graduate volunteering with Young Life, which focuses on "students who have no idea of who Jesus is or have misconceptions about Him."

InterVarsity "is all about developing witnessing communities on campus, developing kids who are really focused on sharing their faith," Mancini said, while the WestConn Christian Ministries focuses on worship and student-led Bible studies.

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Annual prayer breakfast comes under Jericho's tent

The annual Western Connecticut Prayer Breakfast community outreach has become a Jericho Partnership compassionate care event under Jericho's prayer ministry.

The breakfast "provides a unique gathering of the community at large and the community of faith," said Diane Sanders, executive director of the nine-year-old event. It attracts nearly 600 people each spring to the Amber Room in Danbury, including local and state elected officials, first responders, businesspeople and other community leaders – all as guests of some 60 table sponsors.

The table sponsors invite guests "who come from all walks of life," Diane said. "We have no idea about their religious status or their relationship with Jesus." Since its inception in 2002, the goal has been to have a ratio of 20 percent Christ-centered individuals and 80 percent invited guests to hear national and international inspirational speakers. "The breakfast has always been a high-quality, non-threatening, pre-evangelistic event," she said.

Praying for leaders

Its mission is taken from 1 Timothy 2:1-2, which urges prayer, intercession and thanksgiving "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in

(Continued on page 6)



From the Chairman



Bill Beattie

FOSTERING SANCTITY OF LIFE AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

In previous issues, I outlined two of the four Jericho Partnership strategic outcomes we prayerfully seek for the common good of Danbury and the spiritual transformation of its people – increasing the number of Danbury youth embracing a Biblical worldview, and significantly reducing both the high school dropout rate and the achievement gap.

Now I'll focus on the third strategic outcome – a community that fosters sanctity of life and personal responsibility.

Commitment to life

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:27)

While recent surveys show the good news that public sentiment has moved to a pro-life position, we can't relax but must continue to protect the lives of the most defenseless in our society, the unborn child.

We praise God for the staff and volunteers of Jericho ministry partner Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center for their commitment to life and the protection of the unborn. Hopeline's ultrasound facility at the Jericho Samaritan Center is a great tool in its counseling process, under the compassionate leadership of Linda Cochrane – an international pro-life leader, a widely-published author and a sensitive counselor.

[Ed. Note: Linda Cochrane will travel to Hong Kong March 20-29 to teach post-abortion counseling to students at the China Graduate School of Theology. She'll be

partnering with a pregnancy support center in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.]

Respect for life cannot end with birth, however. Jericho looks for ways to provide loving Christian support for those who need it throughout the life cycle – birth through death – so that Jesus' promise “to give life in all its fullness” (John 10:10) can be made known to all those we contact.

Personal responsibility

One of the more obvious areas for personal responsibility is our attitude toward marriage. The Manhattan Declaration (www.manhattandeclaration.org) observes that “vast human experience confirms that marriage is the original and most important institution for sustaining the health, education and welfare of all persons in a society.”

But when the marriage culture erodes, social pathology is quickly manifested. Over the past 50 years, for example, the out-of-wedlock birth rate went from less than 5 percent nationally to the alarming 40 percent rate today.

American society – particularly

its poorest and most vulnerable sectors, where the out-of-wedlock birth rate is higher than even the national average – is paying a huge price in delinquency, drug abuse, crime, incarceration, hopelessness, and despair, according to the Manhattan Declaration.

“Other indicators are widespread non-marital sexual cohabitation, and a devastatingly high rate of divorce.”

Please join us

Our goal of instilling a lasting sense of personal responsibility in our youth is closely linked to our first two strategic outcomes. A Christian worldview is the foundation for developing a responsible life that honors God and avoids the high price of irresponsible living, while a high school education is the result of a personal decision to use the gifts God has given in the most responsible way.

Please join Jericho in helping foster sanctity of life and personal responsibility in our community.

We serve an awesome God! •

Bill Beattie is the founder and chairman of Jericho Partnership.

Jericho strategic outcomes

1. Significantly increase the number of Danbury youth embracing a Biblical worldview.
2. Significantly reduce the high school dropout rate and achievement gap of at-risk youth in Danbury.
3. Foster sanctity of life and personal responsibility within the Danbury community.
4. Offer hope to at-risk adults in Danbury as they battle substance abuse and homelessness.

Partnership is published four times a year in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, for the members and friends of Jericho Partnership, Inc. Reprinting is permitted if Jericho Partnership is credited. Jericho Partnership is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, supported by tax-deductible private donations. Donations by check are electronically debited from the donor's checking account in the amount specified, and funds may be withdrawn as early as the same day. Donors will not have checks returned by their financial institution. Checks are kept in our files for up to 60 days and then destroyed.

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Spring 2010 • Volume 3, Number 1





A Special Message



Bill Beattie



Carrie L. Amos

FROM THE JERICHO CHAIRMAN AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We were stunned in late January when the executive director of the Pathways Danbury mentoring program, a Jericho partner ministry, was arrested on sexual assault and related charges. As chairman of the Pathways board, Bill immediately re-assumed the role of executive director of Pathways and took the following steps:

- Placed Troy Grant on administrative leave and subsequently terminated him for violation of the Pathways Danbury Faith and Conduct Code.
- Met the day after the arrest, and again on Feb. 6, with more than 50 Pathways Danbury parents and mentors at the Jericho Samaritan Center to share information and answer questions.
- Organized supportive Christ-centered counseling for Pathways kids if requested by parents.
- Cooperated with the police to ensure truth and justice prevail, provided parents with police phone numbers if necessary, and established a hot line for questions from parents, mentees and mentors.
- Made plans to meet with each of the 41 parent/mentee/mentor teams in February and March to address individual needs.
- Initiated a review of Pathways systems to ensure best practices are being employed, and made plans to work with the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring. (Since its founding in 1997, Path-

ways has interviewed, screened, trained and prescribed policies for mentor behavior.)

Continued support

To date in late February, we are very thankful that:

- No Pathways Danbury mentees are known to be involved in the allegations.
- Concerned parents have attended our meetings and expressed their shaken trust but continued support of our staff and program.
- Each Pathways Danbury mentee and mentor has continued in the program.
- Since the arrest, six new Pathways Danbury mentors – an almost 20 percent increase in mentor volunteers – have been matched with mentees.
- Prayers, phone calls, e-mails, waves and hugs from friends and supporters have been in abundance. We covet your continued prayer support.
- “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” (Romans 8:28)

“We believe ... the Lord continues to bless and work through Jericho Partnership.”

Continued blessings

In closing, we have exciting Jericho news we believe confirms the Lord continues to bless and work through Jericho Partnership:

- Jericho announced grants to its partners of more than \$2 million for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- 768 volunteers served Jericho

in the Lord’s work in the past year, about one-third of our goal of 3,000 volunteers by 2012.

- During the past year’s third-quarter, 480 youth, 193 homeless and 345 at-risk adults were impacted by Jericho and its nine ministry partners.
- Jericho’s S.A.Y. Yes! after-school facility for up to 50 at-risk boys is operational in Jericho Samaritan Center’s new east wing.
- The winners of the Stop & Shop Martin Luther King Black History Month competition for sixth- and seventh-graders were both Pathways Academy students (see Page 5).
- The Samaritan Health Center has served more than 1,000 pediatric patients since it opened in December 2008.
- Eight lives were surrendered or rededicated to Jesus Christ during the last quarter, and – praise God – 25 participants in the Feb. 10 ‘backpack campaign’ by our ministry partner Christian Community Outreach Ministries came forward to surrender their lives.

Please pray

We serve an awesome God! Please continue to pray for Pathways Danbury and the entire Jericho Partnership.

Bill Beattie
*Founder and Chairman
Jericho Partnership and
Pathways Danbury*

Carrie L. Amos
*Executive Director
Jericho Partnership*

Athletes of Christ 'Running for Life' April 24

Get your running – or walking – shoes out and join several hundred other runners and walkers for the annual Athletes of Christ 5K Run/Walk Saturday, April 24 at Rogers Park in Danbury.

And children under age 14 will have their own run a half hour before the adults' 10 a.m. race.

The family event is designed to promote health and wholeness in all areas of life, said Ronny DaSilva, founder and director of the Jericho Partnership sports ministry partner. "We want to bring awareness and awakening to spiritual and physical needs in our community," he said.

Half of this year's proceeds will go to Danbury Hospital to help pay the expenses of uninsured adults; the other half helps support Athletes of Christ's summer soccer camp for children. DaSilva hopes the 5K will raise enough money to sponsor up to 60 kids at this summer's soccer clinic at Kenosia Park in Danbury.

Love of Jesus and sports

DaSilva, 40, trained in his native Brazil to be a professional soccer player, turned to professional running when he was 21, and jumped at the opportunity to run in the Boston Marathon in 1999.

His Marathon time "was not too good," he admits, "but I received



Runners leave the starting gate at a previous Athletes of Christ 5K Run/Walk to raise funds for and bring awareness to spiritual and physical needs in Danbury.

something very important. I received Jesus in my life that day" after another runner shared the Gospel with him.

DaSilva has woven his love of Jesus, soccer and running into a sports ministry for adults and kids. In 2003 he started a Monday night prayer-supper-and-soccer event that attracts about 30 men, then began a summer soccer clinic for children, then launched the 5K.

This year DaSilva plans to have a prayer tent staffed by volunteers

and pastors at the 5K. His soccer clinics always begin with prayer and devotions.

To register for the 5K (\$20 now, \$25 after April 15) go to www.athletesofchrist.com, click on "Events" and follow the registration path. For more information, call Joe Bouchard at 203.522.5805 or Ronny DaSilva at 203.240.3708. And check out the ministry's new Facebook (ChristAthletes) while you're at it. •

Matching fund drive ends March 31

A matching gift fund drive that doubles everything up to \$250,000 that is received through March 31 has already raised more than \$170,000 (doubled to \$340,000) for Jericho Partnership ministry partners. All funds collected and doubled will go directly to Jericho partners for hands-on ministry.

The matching gift was announced at Jericho's fundraiser Dec. 11, attended by more than 250 supporters. Former Gov. John G. Rowland said when he was invited to be keynote speaker he thought Jericho was a handful of do-gooders "meeting in a garage."

But "this is really incredible," Rowland said of Jericho and its nine ministry partners. For the past three years he's been traveling the country for speaking engagements and "I've never seen anything like this."

That was echoed by Clive Calver, senior pastor of Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel and former head of World Relief, which took him around the globe. Calver said Jericho could become a template for duplication by nonprofits throughout the country.

Rowland tailored his "Falling into Grace" speech to reflect Jericho's "Evening of Transformation" theme. He spoke of his own transformation from disgrace and "hopelessness extraordinarily beyond comprehension" to faith in God and a focus on "faith, family and friends."

For more information on the matching gift, contact Michael Ronan, Jericho's director of development, at 203.791.1180 or michael@jerichopartnership.org.



Pathways Academy English and reading teacher Lakeema Moore, center, is flanked by students Ryan Rodriguez-Albanesi, left, and Makel James, winners of the Stop & Shop Martin Luther King Black History Month essay contest for the New England region.

Students win regional award

Two Pathways Academy students – sixth-grader Makel James and seventh-grader Ryan Rodriguez-Albanesi – each won a first prize in the Stop & Shop Martin Luther King Black History Month essay contest for the supermarket’s New England region.

The essay for middle-school students had to tell what kind of business the student would create that would help the community, said Lakeema Moore, the academy’s English and reading teacher.

Makel won \$500 for his essay “about how we should have a youth center for kids to keep them out of trouble,” the 11-year-old said. The center would “keep them on the right path for the future and help them to stay in school.”

Ryan won \$750 for his essay about creating an alternative veterinarian business where pet owners would pay a reduced fee. “A lot of people struggle with medical bills for their pets,” said Ryan, who wants to be a veterinarian because “pets are God’s blessing.”

“My essay was about providing better health care for pets at cheaper prices for people who can’t

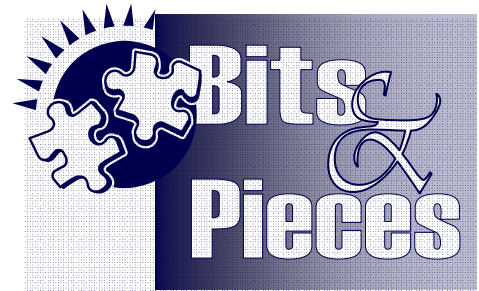
afford” conventional veterinarian visits, he said.

The annual Black History Month essay contest typically draws more than 100 essays from Stop & Shop’s New England region of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, said Kathleen DiMarie of the supermarket’s Quincy, Mass., headquarters, although a change in deadlines this year reduced that number a bit.

Each student in the academy’s sixth and seventh grades wrote an essay as part of Moore’s class work, Lakeema said. “Every student had to work on the essay, and I submitted most of them,” she said. This year the two-year-old academy, a Jericho Partnership ministry partner, has 19 students. “They really worked hard,” she said.

“It took about two weeks to write it in class,” Makel said. “I thought it would be hard to win, but when I won, I was surprised because there were a lot of people who entered it.”

Signs bearing Makel and Ryan’s names will be in all 375 stores, including the two Danbury supermarkets, said Cynthia Montoya of Stop & Shop. •



Family and small group volunteer projects

Wish you could volunteer for a mission project but can’t seem to find the time because of family or other obligations?

Why not involve your entire family, youth group, men’s or women’s group or Bible study in a Jericho project?

Between April and November, Jericho will coordinate family and small-group projects in urban Danbury ranging from food drives to visiting shut-ins to street cleaning to helping at a food pantry.

Projects can take an hour or two or up to half a day or more, and can range from light effort for families with small children to heavier work for men’s groups.

Contact Crystal Perkins, Jericho’s operations manager, at 203.791.1180 or crystal@jerichopartnership.org.

Summer youth mission to Jericho

Jericho Partnership’s second annual summer youth mission trip in Danbury will be the week of July 5 for middle school youth groups and the week of Aug. 2 for senior high youth groups.

Last summer, Jericho sponsored a pilot program with youth groups from two congregations. “The feedback from kids, leaders, host families and the community was so positive we decided to expand the mission trip this summer,” said Carrie Amos, Jericho’s executive director.

Youth will sleep at Jericho’s Rose Street facility and have evening meals with host families. Youth group leaders, parents and other responsible adults will accompany them throughout the week, and will lead devotional and prayer times.

Projects include landscaping, conducting a Vacation Bible School and collecting flowers from supermarkets for nursing homes.

Contact Carrie at 203.791.1180 or carrie@jerichopartnership.org.

Prayer Breakfast joins with Jericho

(Continued from page 1)

all godliness and holiness.” At each breakfast, individuals publicly pray for elected officials, first responders, employers and employees, and non-profits in the region.

“We’re excited that we can join together in praying for our leaders and our community,” said Carrie Amos, Jericho’s executive director. “Jericho is blessed to be able to serve together with the prayer breakfast team. Our missions are so similar it seemed obvious that we needed to join together.”

The theme of the Christ-centered breakfast is “Helping Build Healthy Communities,” with a goal of building bridges between the various communities in the region – business, elected officials, first responders – and evangelical congregations and individuals.

“One of the understated missions of the prayer breakfast is providing the opportunity for congregations and individuals to connect and build relationships with leaders and organizations in their own town,” Diane said. •



Prayer Breakfast speakers

The keynote speaker at this year’s April 29 Prayer Breakfast will be **Lord Michael Hastings** of the British Parliament and global head of citizenship and diversity at the accounting firm, KPMG International.

Todd Ingersoll, former owner of the Saturn franchise and the new owner of the Danbury GMC and Buick franchises, will tell how his faith helped him through last year’s tumultuous changes in his industry and business.

The breakfast is not a fundraiser; tables are sponsored by individuals, local congregations and businesses. Invited guests attend without cost and are encouraged to bring a guest with them. “Our prayer is always that they will be touched,” said Diane Sanders, executive director.

For more on the breakfast or how to sponsor a table, contact Diane at prayerbreakfast@jerichopartnership.org.

Common vision for WestConn campus

(Continued from page 1)

Some of the Christian Ministries’ student leadership team attend Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel, where Jay Shaver is college pastor. “We really have the idea that we’re on the front lines, that we’re witnesses every day in classes, at the gym, hanging out in the dorm,” Shaver said. “These are the spots where Jesus is working.”

Mancini puts it this way: “My mission field is the 10-foot radius around me.”

Fully supportive

One of the challenges the three ministries face is WestConn’s demographic. Something like 60 percent of the students are commuters, and only about 20 percent of those who live on campus remain on campus most weekends, Mancini said. “We’re trying to figure out how to minister to a college campus that doesn’t have one.”

“Many people have been praying over this campus for years,” said Lisa Hine, a Young Life staff associate focused on WestConn, which Shaver described as being a “black hole of ministry” when he first be-

gan a campus outreach when he was a student four years ago.

That black hole is quickly disappearing. The three ministries have grown enough this past semester that one – Young Life – has begun a weekly meeting at The Cave, Young Life’s club room at Jericho’s Rose Street facilities.

“We’re fully supportive of them,” said Carrie Amos, executive director of Jericho, which is within walking distance of WestConn’s downtown campus and off-campus living facilities. “We’ve offered our facilities for meetings, offered space if they need to do something off campus, invited them to attend advisory board meetings. And we hope to connect them with some volunteer opportunities.”

While Jericho’s relationship with the three ministries varies at present, “we absolutely are entertaining the idea of a more formal partnership,” Amos said. The reason, she said, is that “the three different Christ-centered ministries offer three different aspects of ministry – evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. Together they have the key ingredients for representing Christ on campus.” •

“This is real ... this is what I need”

Two years ago Chris Echevarria was 14 and in trouble. He had been expelled from a Christian school in Danbury for bringing a knife to school – twice. “There was no reason behind it,” Chris said. He just did it.

He bounced to a public school program for kids having trouble in school, then to Rogers Park Middle School, then to Danbury High as a freshman.

But along the way “I got mixed up with some people and started smoking marijuana and things like that,” Chris said. Things like sneaking out and partying and getting drunk. “I was doing a bunch of stuff I wasn’t supposed to be doing, hanging out with the wrong crowd, going places I shouldn’t. I didn’t have a reason for it. I just did it.”

But something else was at work in his life. He had been a mentee in Pathways Danbury since the sixth grade, but “he had given up on life,” said Clara Perkins, family coordinator for the mentoring program. “He needed help.” In fact, she said, “he had approached some other people and said he needed help. He was asking for help.”

Clara, Chris’s mom and Bill Beattie, the program’s founder, “were looking for a place for me to get help,” Chris said. “I was kind of open to the idea. I thought I’d go maybe a month or two at the end of the school year.” But two days later he was on a plane with his mom and Clara and other staff members to a Teen Challenge facility in Pennsylvania.

He lasted three weeks. “I got kicked out for not following any of the rules or anything,” he said. “I just didn’t want to be there.”

Working the system

Chris had calculated he’d go home. Instead, he was transferred to another Teen Challenge facility, this one in Florida, designed as a 15-month boot camp with counselors who knew how to deal with rebellion, so “I couldn’t be rebellious in the same way,” he said.

Instead, he worked the system. “Not cooperating wasn’t doing me any good, so I decided I might as well follow the rules because I’m going to be here anyway.” But the counselors could see there was no true change of heart, and two of them sat Chris down for a serious talk.

“They just told me their testimonies,” Chris said of their encounters with Jesus. “I figured if it was working for these guys, I might as well give it a shot, this whole Christian thing, doing what is right because it’s right, not because I had to.”

He had come to the point where “I really had to say, this is real, this is what I need.”



Chris Echevarria pauses during a homework session after school at the S.A.Y. Yes! Center in the Jericho Samaritan Center on Rose Street.

Re-joining Pathways Danbury

After boot camp, Chris re-joined Pathways Danbury and started attending the S.A.Y. Yes! after-school tutoring program – both ministry partners of Jericho Partnership. He began meeting again with his mentor, Jim Anderson. “I want to be an auto mechanic, and he has a car that runs on vegetable oil, and he teaches me about that,” Chris said. “I sometimes go to his church in Brookfield, too.”

The mentoring and tutoring programs built on the solid foundation of faith he had found in Florida. “They give me something to do instead of getting bored and getting in trouble,” he said. “I get a lot of guidance from the staff and everything.”

And his mentor and other mentors “set a good example of what a Godly man can be like, and show that you can make it out there as a Godly man,” Chris said. “I get a lot of motivation from them, and that gives me an extra push I need.”

That extra push is helping him in school (“I got a couple of A’s but I’m not doing as good as I can”), in his walk with Christ (“I have a personal relationship with Him and try to do what I feel He wants me to do in my everyday life”) and in the choices he makes.

“I’m clean,” he said. “It’s like a personal choice I have to make every day. I can get up in the morning and say, ‘Hey, I’m going to go smoke and drink today,’ or I can get up and say, ‘Hey, I can stay clean today.’ This April will be, like, two years. I want to stay that way.” •

Save the Dates!

Block Party

Put the date on your calendar now –

Saturday, June 26 – for Jericho Partnership's Block Party.

The annual event of food, fun and entertainment is Jericho's way of thanking supporters, volunteers, and partners for their efforts.

New-volunteer orientation

A meeting for Jericho Partnership's new volunteers will be **Thursday, March 25** at 6:30 p.m. in the Jericho Samaritan Center at 13 Rose St. in Danbury.

New volunteers will learn about Jericho's mission and ministry partners, view a short video and be matched with available service opportunities.

For information about either of these events, contact Crystal Perkins, Jericho's operations manager, at 203.791.1180 or crystal@jerichopartnership.org.



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Eva Tan

Eva Tan named clinic's executive director

Eva Tan has been named to the newly-created position of executive director of the Samaritan Health Center, a Jericho Partnership ministry partner. She joined the free pediatrics clinic as office manager just before it opened in December 2008.

Eva will report to the clinic's board of

directors, and will oversee all aspects of service delivery, financial administration, human resources, community relations, fundraising, board liaison and volunteer recruitment and coordination.

Eva was trained as a pediatrics specialist nurse in England, and moved into community medicine to concentrate on preventive medicine. Her nursing career ended when she and her husband moved to the U.S. and began a family.

But raising a son and two daughters – now in their teens and 20s and each involved with Jericho as volunteers – didn't stop her from volunteering. She was among the group that helped transform a burned-out factory at 22 Maple Ave. into Jericho House, which houses Jericho partner Christian Community Outreach Ministries (CCOM), and she also serves as a CCOM board member.

"Eva's knowledge of the Samaritan Health Center, her pediatrics background, her connection to the Danbury community, her varied life and work experience and her deep faith combine to make her an excellent selection for executive director," said Jim Kennedy, chairman of the Health Center board. •

Amos House spring fundraiser

The Amos House 16th annual Spring Breakfast fundraiser will be Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 a.m. at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury.

Amos House is a transitional-living program designed to move homeless moms and their children off the streets and out of shelters into permanent housing and self-sufficient lives. It is one of nine Jericho Partnership ministry partners.

Methods of contributing to the ministry include advertising in the Breakfast program book or sponsoring a table for \$175 and inviting nine guests.

For more information, contact Amos House executive director, Gladys McFarland, at 203.791.9277 or AmosHouseInc@aol.com.