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 My Grandmother, Elisabeth Rareshide
 Hal Redman

Donations in Memory of

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Inaugural Tree of Recovery

We are pleased to announce our *Inaugural Tree of Recovery*. The special celebration will be held at Lakeside Shopping Center on Friday, December 7, 2007 at 9am to honor the *Bridge House* and *Grace House* substance-abuse treatment programs.

The event will feature emcee (ABC 26 News anchor) Michael Hill, a local choral group, a reading of names being honored, refreshments, and possible testimonies from our clients. The tree is located in the mall near the entrance by Restoration Hardware and Pottery Barn.

Placing “in honor of” ornaments on the tree will be a wonderful way to not only acknowledge our benefactors but God’s Providence of our many activities. People may also support us by either honoring someone in recovery or requesting a memorial for a loved one who’s passed. For information on how to honor someone contact 522.2124, ext 13 or 16.

Please join us during this special time to celebrate the holidays and the *Inaugural Tree of Recovery* or feel free just to drop by for a peek. We hope you continue to pray for the *Bridge House* and *Grace House* mission, and may God bless you and yours abundantly.

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Bridge House Corporation

1160 Camp Street • New Orleans, LA 70130

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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OCTOBER



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Recoveries in Progress

These stories show that recovery begins at Bridge House.

The first time I came to Bridge House was in 2002. I had never been in treatment before in my life but had twenty-five years of alcohol and drug usage. I had no knowledge of any principles or how to apply them.

During my first year I had many struggles due to the fact I was unwilling to surrender. I could not stop fighting back.

I completed the program and relapsed shortly afterward. I kept saying to myself, “I will keep coming back until I get it right.” This was the wrong thought pattern. I have been back to Bridge House five times.

Today my thought pattern is no matter what, I must not pick-up one day at a time.

Bridge House has provided me with many tools to combat my disease. Now that I’m in the House, I can focus on application of those tools. I have learned spiritual growth and have taken advantage of my sponsor, my peers and the excellent counseling staff at Bridge House to learn all I can.

I am very grateful for the tough, loving staff, who, over the years, has given me the tough love I needed. Thank you, Bridge House staff. May God continue to bless you.

Mervin M.

I awoke one Saturday morning in an alcoholic stupor. I had been drinking steadily everyday for seven nights and days.

As I reached for yet another drink, my hand trembled. I couldn’t control the shaking. I tried to sit

(continued on page 4)

THE BUZZ

Thomas Merton, the Trapest Monk and spiritual author, has said that we can never anything but beginners in the spiritual life. This has certainly been my experience. We seem to continue to learn new lessons from the same spiritual principles. Humility continues to be understood at deeper levels as we grow spiritually. Faith, hope and love continue to take new and challenging roads as we move through life. There is always a new dark night of the soul to experience and to learn from.

The need for more treatment beds for men and women has become overwhelming. We are working to expand our program by one hundred beds with a new facility which will cost \$7,000,000. This increase in capacity is greatly needed because the need for what we do is greater than ever. In the past year, we have turned away over three hundred men and women seeking treatment.

My life at Bridge House has been a spiritual journey that has taught me new lessons each of the past twenty-four years. I think that the coming years are going to be the most challenging of all and will call for new spiritual paradigms with new spiritual principles. This calls for new methods of funding and new sources of income. At the same time we are making a commitment to improve the quality of our program by refining the principles of a therapeutic community and teaching relapse prevention and new emphasis on new therapeutic techniques.

This is our fiftieth year of service to the community and we estimate that we have served over twenty thousand men and women. We hope and pray that in the coming fifty years we will double that number with our expansion. With the addition of Grace House for women, we now have the ability to serve women.

What motivates me to continue working is the thought that an alcoholic whose productive life has vanished and seeing that individual with his wife and children in recovery living happy, joyous lives.

These new commitments with God’s grace will call all of us to dig down deep to find new depths of courage and perseverance.

R.M. “Buzzy” Gaiennie



**Buzzy Gaiennie,
 Executive Director**

Fifty Years of a New Way of Living

The Soviets launched Sputnik and Ford launched the Edsel. Elvis appeared for the first time on Ed Sullivan, and two young men, Paul McCartney and John Lennon met for the first time in Liverpool. The Frisbee was introduced, "Leave it to Beaver" premiered on television, a first-class stamp cost three cents, and a group of men in New Orleans's French Quarter decided they needed to establish a place where the city's alcoholics could get away from the atmosphere of the street and sober up. They opened the 604 Club above a bar on Iberville Street, and the seeds of Bridge House were planted. It was 1957.

Fifty years have passed since the room on Iberville was opened to provide shelter for the men of the Quarter, and in those years over 15,000 men and women have come through our doors. We have not been able to help them all. Some required several trips through Bridge House to achieve final sobriety, but everyday we hear from someone who was here years ago, and many of them repeat in their own words, a message we received last Christmas from a man named Bernard: "As I celebrate my second year of sobriety, I am reminded of the tremendous gratitude I owe Bridge House. You have taken a totally broken man and made me whole again. You have given me my life back."

On September 26th of that year, "West Side Story" opened

on Broadway, and in the song "Somewhere" are words that could well have been written for Bridge House:

**"Somewhere
We'll find a new way of living,
We'll find a way of forgiving
Somewhere."**

For fifty years, Bridge House has been the "somewhere" in which many thousands have found a new way of living and, as the Twelve Steps suggest, have also found a place to seek forgiveness from those whom they have harmed and, also, to learn to forgive themselves.

On the evening of November 24, 2007, Bridge House will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary with a grand dinner at The Audubon Tea Room. New Orleans actor, John Larroquette, will be our Guest Speaker for the event. The Anniversary Dinner will honor the thousands who have passed through our doors for treatment and the many hundreds of dedicated supporters who have made our growth and very existence possible. Please contact Wayne Olivio at 522-2124 ext13 for tickets, more information or to volunteer.



Thrift Store News

We have seen the power of a great location and superb advertising as our sales continue to explode at our Metairie store! We are also seeing a benefit through our ads on Spanish radio stations. Our Hispanic and Latino business grows daily, and our staff is hurriedly learning a list of Spanish phrases to help us keep up with our customers. (Who said you couldn't teach old dogs...) Not that any of our staff is old, or dogs, or... er... perhaps we should just move on.

Our Labor Day Sale produced the largest single day volume in our history. Bridge House trucks are wearing out the highways trying to keep our stores in stock, and we are very grateful for any new donations you or your friends can send our way to help.

We are proud that our Thrift Stores help fund the critical mission of Bridge House in New Orleans (along with our Fund Development Department and Used Cars). Give us a chair you no longer need, and we will give a homeless man a bed and treatment. Send us that old lamp, and we will light the way to recover for someone. Everything around your house that you can imagine someone else might want or need can be a benefit to us.

THE BRIDGE HOUSE THRIFT STORE

FACT: wooden furniture.
FACT: working refurbished appliances.
FACT: quality used clothing.
FACT: retro/current styles.
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FACT: the unusual...

Bridge House
Rebuilding Lives Since 1957

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We'll Get Your Chevy From The Levee.

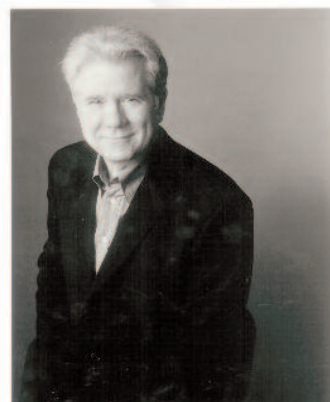
The money we raise reselling cars like yours helps pay for substance abuse treatment for about 500 people in our community every year. Donate today and take a possible tax deduction.

Bridge House
Rebuilding Lives Since 1957

FREE TOWING AND SAME DAY PICK-UP

(504) 598-3355 • WWW.BRIDGEHOUSE.ORG

Bridge House 50th Anniversary Celebration



Dinner
Featured Speaker
Silent Auction

**Special Guest Speaker
John Larroquette**
Saturday, November 24, 2007
Audubon Tea Room
7:00-10:00 PM



Live Entertainment by "Crooner" Mike Morris
Raffle For a Pre-War '39 Plymouth Street Rod (Reconditioned)
Limited Seating Attire: Coat & Tie/Cocktail

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
AND SHARE OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS @ \$100.00 EACH PLEASE RESERVE _____ TABLES @ \$1,000.00 EACH
_____ PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP \$15,000.00 _____ GOLD SPONSORSHIP \$10,000.00
_____ SILVER SPONSORSHIP \$5,000.00 _____ BRONZE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500.00

I CANNOT ATTEND, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$ _____

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The Clinical Department

The ability to embrace, and indeed encourage needed change is becoming well entrenched in the Clinical Department. Practical, ongoing evaluation keep us in a prime position to capture and act quickly on the changing needs of our consumer base, be it those individuals seeking recovery or the staff that facilitates such opportunity. It is the ability to deal effectively with change that has allowed the Clinical Staff to continue to deal with the post-Katrina environment.

With the aid of external consultants, we continue to strengthen our therapeutic community (TC), model. Our experience with the Rapid Cycle Change Model through the STARS project continues to prove instrumental in the adoption and modification of practices that best serve the needs of our client population. We continue to employ the TC as a means that the entire "community," residents and staff members, have become partners in the treatment process. The community has been structured in a manner that we believe encourages personal accountability and responsibility. In addition, client community leaders have participated in designing and implementing methods to utilize the data to improve retention of clients at both the 30 day mark and the 75 - 110 day period. It appears that both our 30 and 60 day retention rates are increasing as the result of the creation of a reception committee of more senior residents to help integrate newcomers into the house. The Leadership Dinners, where the Leadership Council has dinner with those residents who have been in the House for 75 - 110 days, have proven successful in increasing the number of people staying at least 30 days beyond that period. Prior to the dinners only 63% stayed an additional month, while currently 83% are staying for at least an additional month. We are greatly encouraged by our current clinical trend, and we look forward to continuing productive outcomes.

We have reinstated the Stabilization Phase of our program. To that end, we hired a Stabilization Counselor, Melody Williams, and have revised the stabilization curriculum to incorporate the therapeutic community material and the updated Residential Manual. The addition of the Stabilization Program is just another indicator that we are moving from post-Katrina recovery to post-Katrina growth.

Winn Dixie Helps Bridge House

We've enclosed a flyer which will allow you to tie your Winn Dixie shopping card to Bridge House. Every time you shop with them and swipe your card, you are making a donation to Bridge House. If you have already linked your card to us, Winn Dixie has asked everyone to do it again. Each quarter, we get a check for over \$1600.

On the Horizon:

Call Wayne Olivio at 522-2124 ext 13
for information on any of these events

Porsche Club Race, November 16-18, 2007 at No Problem Raceway in Donaldsonville, LA. Sponsored by Greff Motors to benefit Bridge House. For more information, contact John Crosby at john@crosbydevelopment.com

Thanksgiving Day Dinner-Thursday, November 22, 2007. Holiday Dinner for the homeless and indigent. Bridge House, 1160 Camp Street, New Orleans.

Bridge House 50th Anniversary Dinner featuring Guest Speaker, New Orleans' own John Larroquette. The Audubon Tea Room, Saturday, November 24, 2007. Patron Party at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM. Sponsorships available.

Christmas Day Dinner for the Homeless and Indigent. Tuesday, December 24th, 2007. Bridge House, 1160 Camp Street, New Orleans.

Celebrity Waiters II sponsored by the NFL Retired Players Association. Thursday, January 24, 2008. 7 PM to 10 PM. Dinner featuring NFL players as wait staff. Sponsorships available.

Recoveries In Progress

(continued from page 1)

up in my bed. The room spun and I felt nauseated. I had to use two hands to reach that drink. That day was three months ago. It was a typical day in my life until I came to Bridge House. When I entered Bridge House I was a mental and physical wreck. I came in hopeless and Bridge House gave me courage. I came in spiritually bankrupt and Bridge House gave me faith. I had suicidal thoughts and Bridge House gave me a vision of a future.

I have a long way to go, but through the Bridge House therapeutic program, I have a wonderful support group. From the Staff, counselors and doctors on down, I am truly blessed to be here.