

2004



## **Katie's House, Inc.**

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As many of you know, Katie's House has been active for 4 years. During the first 3 years we devoted ourselves to getting organized and raising funds. Year four has seen many changes and much progress. First and most importantly, we have purchased a home that, when remodeled and refitted to meet all State codes and requirements, will become a residence for young adults with developmental disabilities. This, our first official newsletter, will share with you to whom we owe so much for our progress, what the organization has accomplished so far.

As nearly as we can establish, the home, located in downtown Newton, was built in about 1903. The entire house needed to be essentially gutted and completely refurbished... partly because of its condition and partly because it needed special provisions to cater to the needs of its future occupants.



On the left is a picture of the home that we purchased... of course, it needed **lots** of work. Not only does this show the front of the house, it also shows the new roof that we had installed by a contractor.

This picture, below, shows the new fence that we installed... and of course painted. Most of the work is being done by volunteers.

### ***New News!!***

*The Board of Directors of Katie's House welcomes a new Trustee to its ranks... Dennis Ziober. Welcome aboard Dennis!!*





One time consuming (and back breaking), effort included the stripping and refinishing of all of the wood work in the house. Shown here a before (left) and after (right) picture is one of the solid chestnut doors that was taken to raw wood and refinished. Again this work is being done by volunteers.



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All of the utility systems needed to be replaced by a contractor. Before that, the basement needed new walls, a sump pump and French drains. This was done by our volunteers.



Your generous contributions and ongoing support has made all of the above possible, but our work is far from complete. We estimate that we will require about \$120,000 to complete renovations and bring the building up to code, to satisfy all of the State's requirements for a residence of this type. With your support we hope to complete this work by 2007.

### **Work Ahead**

*Fire alarm system  
Outer decks/2<sup>nd</sup> egress  
Elevator  
New Kitchen  
2 New Bathrooms  
New Siding  
New Front door  
Refinish floors  
New Furniture  
Plumbing contractor  
Electrical contractor*

Remember, that people with disabilities lead lives just like people without disabilities. They go to school, work, do chores, get angry, plan, cry, laugh, love and dream, just like everyone else. Stereotypes are hard to fight, especially for people with lifelong challenges. When a person with a disability is given a chance to live with dignity they gain self-esteem and have the opportunity to be productive members of their communities. Let us learn to appreciate individuality, tolerate idiosyncrasies and accept each others differences. Let us show concern for each other and share joyous moments. Let us try to live in harmony and help each other live life to the fullest.