

# St. Mary's Outreach Center

## Connections

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## Newsletter Edition—Spring 2014

### Upcoming Events:

#### Mother's Day Tea

May 5th

#### Open House

June 3rd 4:30-6:30 pm

#### Food Stamps

June 10th -1 pm

#### Ice Cream Social

TBA

### Meet Betty Callahan

“Bringing people and services together: changing lives for the better” is exactly what SMOC has done for Betty Callahan and many others.

I met Betty in July of 2006, when I started working at SMOC, at the Hampden Food Pantry. She moved here in 1990 and has entrenched herself in the Hampden Community. She has been the supervisor of the Food Pantry for sixteen years, thereby knowing the neediest of the neighborhood. Betty has much to share regarding St. Mary's and the seniors in the greater Hampden community. Some of her thoughts follow:

“SMOC helps the community by distributing flyers that are put in the bags at the Food Pantry and speaking at the community council meetings and churches. I send everyone to Sandy. People in this area never had anyone to personally help them. When SMOC offered Sandy the job, it was the best thing that ever happened to this area. It meant that older people only had to walk across the street for help. Different organizations want her to speak at their meetings, so she leaves a half hour earlier because she is always stopped by seniors who have questions. Everyone thinks she is a member of their family. The neighborhood was nice when I moved in, but has become commercial and even harder for the seniors to do for themselves. The Avenue was their shopping domain but is no longer. They lost all their economical places to shop”.

Today, Betty is struggling with her fourth bout of cancer and we are here to support her. We have helped Betty apply for and re-determine each year for many different programs to ease her financial and medical problems -programs such as SSI, automatically entitling her to Medical Assistance without having to re-determine every year, Senior Water Bill Discount, Hardship Discount, Homeowners Tax Credit, Homestead Tax Credit, Maryland Energy Assistance, Food Stamps, etc.

SMOC is working with Betty so that she can remain in her home as long as possible with dignity and self-assurance.

The SMOC staff offers their sincere thanks for the opportunity to serve the senior population in the greater Hampden community.



*Sandy*

*Executive Director*

***Hope to see you at our Open House on June 3rd!***

# Connections



*Bringing people and services together: Changing lives for the better !*

## Spring Brings New Beginnings for SMOC

Conveniently located upstairs in the same building, our new space features three offices, kitchen space and conference room. This space is wheelchair accessible, and the office space will allow us to expand our staff to include a receptionist. The hiring of a receptionist will advance the mission of our organization and improve the efficiency of our operations. Here at SMOC, we are very excited to move into our new space and the promise that the move holds for our future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lou Willett, a dedicated member of our SMOC Board of Directors. Lou lead the renovations for our new space and without his contributions, this move would not be possible. Here is what Lou Willett has to say:



### *A Privilege To Serve*

“Following retirement, after six decades in the work force, my mind was influenced by an indelible quotation which stated, “Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile”. I started part-time in this pursuit by teaching night school and coaching little league baseball and football. Then, through a series of events, I found myself as a volunteer, then as Chairman of Episcopal Church Property Committee. This evolved into being custodian of the defunct St.

Mary's Episcopal Church Property and later as a Board Member of St. Mary 's Outreach Center (SMOC).”

“Countless paragraphs have been written concerning the positive things that SMOC has done to change the lives of seniors in Hampden and surrounding areas. Simply being part of the SMOC team with Sandy and Carol at the forefront has been a priceless and unique experience for this writer. History dictates that each and every year, the social-economic climate for our senior community will change, and SMOC is constantly growing and advancing to meet those challenges for its patrons.”



“It is a privilege to serve in this ministry.”

L.W. Willett