

November 2009

Dear Friend,

Next year, Tabor House will celebrate its 20th year of providing services to people with HIV/AIDS. But to use the word “celebrate” is odd when talking about HIV/AIDS and homelessness. Do we really have cause to celebrate?

Twenty years ago, AIDS was considered a crisis. There were resources devoted to treatment, research and to hopefully finding a cure. Red ribbons were everywhere. Today, many believe that AIDS has been eradicated or they believe it is a problem only in third world nations. Certainly, they believe, it can't be a problem in Connecticut.

This couldn't be further from the truth.

The number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut has doubled in the past 10 years. **Connecticut ranks 14th in the nation for AIDS cases per capita.** More than 14,000 people with AIDS die each year in the U.S. Every 9½ minutes someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV.

At Tabor House, every day we see the continuing struggles of those with HIV/AIDS. Our residents have numerous needs, including shelter, food, mental health and substance abuse counseling and spiritual healing. Many residents also need literacy services and other education and training courses to live independent lives.

As a not-for-profit organization, we rely on grants and individual donors to provide all of these services. Needless to say, this past year has been very difficult with cutbacks in government and private grant funding. When you give to Tabor House, more than 90 cents of every dollar goes to providing direct services to our residents.

<p>A gift of \$25 provides bus tokens for the residents to attend education classes in Hartford</p> <p>A gift of \$50 allows the residents to attend cultural activities each month</p> <p>A gift of \$100 provides transportation to a recreational outing for the residents</p> <p>A gift of \$500 feeds the residents for two weeks</p> <p>A gift of \$1,000 pays for the utility bill for one house for one month</p>

With needs as great as ours, every gift is important and every gift is valued.

Whatever amount you can afford this year, know that the residents and staff at Tabor House are extremely grateful for your generosity. To make your gift, please feel free to use the envelope provided or log on to our website: www.taborhousect.org and click the donation button to make your gift securely online.

As Tabor House prepares to mark our 20th year, what should we celebrate? For starters, **we celebrate you, our donors. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, Tabor House can continue to operate.** We celebrate the small victories of residents remaining healthy and leading full and productive lives, thanks to the care and support they receive at Tabor House. We celebrate the residents who have radically changed their lives and moved into independent living for the first time in their lives. We celebrate the physical, emotional and spiritual growth our residents have experienced. Finally, with hope and faith we pray that 20 years from now, we will have cause to celebrate even greater gains in the fight against HIV/AIDS and homelessness.

Thank you for your continued support and faith in our mission. Please continue to keep our residents in your prayers and we will do the same for you and your loved ones.

I wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of the upcoming season.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Ann Kane, CSJ". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Sr. Ann Kane, CSJ