

# Wyndmoor resident becomes VP of social services for the homeless

By Nick Malinowski  
Staff Writer

Wyndmoor resident Jacqueline Patterson has been working with community-building organizations in the greater Philadelphia area since leaving New York City for Germantown in 1999.

In October, Patterson was hired as the vice president of development at People's Emergency Center, a social services organization in West Philadelphia that provides comprehensive assistance to homeless individuals and families. Patterson previously worked for the Reinvestment Fund in Philadelphia and PathwaysPA in Delaware County.

"This is an opportunity to see the direct impact of your work in the community," Patterson said of her new job in an interview Tuesday.

Founded in a church basement in 1972, People's Emergency Center was the first shelter for homeless families in Pennsylvania. Since then, the organization has grown to offer a wide array of vital services and has provided housing for nearly 8,000 homeless families, more than 1 million nights of shelter or transitional housing for homeless women and their children and more than 2.5 million meals for homeless families. In the last 10 years the organization has provided job training and placement for approximately 750 women.

"People think homelessness is about individual adults, but it is also about families," Patterson said.

People's Emergency Center "offers a comprehensive array

of services to help people move from homelessness to self-sufficiency," a process that generally takes between six and 24

months, Patterson said.

While planning for her own family, Patterson, who is expecting her first child in May, was drawn to the school district and the availability of outdoor space in Springfield Township. She bought a home with her husband in Wyndmoor two years ago.

"I saw Springfield as a wonderful opportunity as a place to raise my child," Patterson said. "Springfield offers us all the amenities we were looking for. The neighbors are really wonderful and the community has been very giving."

Patterson even found a link between Springfield Township and her job. Karen Bucholtz and Trudy Jackson, two members of the board at People's Emergency Center, are also residents of Springfield Township.

"They have been actively engaged in helping us raise funds and have been very helpful about getting the word out in Springfield," Patterson said.

Patterson would like to get more involved with volunteering in Springfield and urged other residents to do the same.

While there are opportunities available to donate time and resources to the People's Emergency Center, Patterson said, there are many nonprofit organizations that would benefit from volunteers.

"People need to find issues that they can identify with," she said.



Jacqueline Patterson

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With its offices and 26 family apartments on North 39th Street, the organization emphasizes community revitalization as well, Patterson said.

As part of a development team of seven that raised nearly \$6 million in support through government contracts, foundation contributions, individual donors and corporations last year, Patterson has many responsibilities.

"A lot falls under this umbrella," she said, listing development, fundraising, communications and public relations as some of her roles.

Patterson comes from a family in which social service is the norm. Her two brothers work as a policeman and a guidance counselor, respectively, and her mother is a so-