



SAFE House

Substance Abuse Free Environment

Canaan Development Foundation, 217.367.2158

SAFE House Support

by Rev B.J. Tatum, President, Canaan Development Foundation

Can you believe that it has been 15 years since the inception of the SAFE House twelve-month residential program? Operation of this **Substance Abuse Free Environment** ministry began February 7, 1994. We are excited over what God has done. During this 15-year period, 77 residents have graduated. These individuals have been changed and are now meaningful, contributing members of society. This is the major accomplishment of the SAFE House concept.

We extol Rev. Vincent Carter who served faithfully as Director of the SAFE House ministry from February 2003 to June 2008 when he underwent major surgery and was in critical condition for a while. Although he made some improvement, he suffered a relapse and his family relocated him to a facility in Chicago. We ask your continued prayers for Rev. Carter.

We applaud Brother Thomas Green who has served as interim Director during Rev. Carter's illness. Brother John Lenoir was hired to assist him.

The SAFE House ministry is successfully providing a spiritual and social remedy in our community but the financial battle is unrelenting! The ministry experienced a serious **decline in charitable giving** – down from \$104,934 in 2007 to \$72,481 in 2008. Your gifts help enable the ministry to restore and rehabilitate lives from the ravages of drug and alcohol addiction.

The monthly SAFE House overhead and operating expenses are over \$10,000. When sufficient income is not received, this places a heavy financial burden on Canaan Baptist Church. Rev. Carter was placed on paid medical leave in June of 2008 and benevolently carried through December 31, 2008. His monthly health benefit insurance premium is \$860 and was paid through February 28, 2009.

The two major fundraisers are the Annual Benefit Concert in February and the Gospel/Jazz Fest in August. **Mark your calendar for the 12th Annual SAFE House Benefit Concert February 22, 2009, 4:00 P.M., at First United Methodist Church in Champaign.**

Many of us have personally been challenged by the current economic climate. Since we continue to operate with no reserve to meet crises, your financial gifts are **critical**. Our support comes from individuals and local church donations.

Giving starts in the heart, moves into the brain, and reaches out with an open hand! We welcome your continued tax-deductible contributions to help us eradicate one area of sin in our community.

"Whatever you [do] for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you [do] it for me"(Matthew 25:40. NIV).

Donate to the SAFE House

Thank you for your generosity! Your contributions help keep the SAFE House going strong. The SAFE House is part of a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.

1. In Person/By Mail:

Donations can be mailed or dropped off at 404 W. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801. Please make all checks payable to SAFE House.

2. Online:

Donations can be made online with a credit card by visiting <http://www.canaansafehouse.org/donate.html> and using the Pay Pal "Donate" button.

Special Interest Articles:

- Winter Concert Preview
- A Message from SAFE House Board of Directors President

Individual Highlights:

- SAFE House Graduate
- Residents Volunteer in Outreach Ministry
- Thoughts from Our Most Recent Graduate

Upcoming Events:

- SAFE House Winter Benefit Concert, Sunday, February 22, 2009 (4:00 - 6:00 pm), First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church, Champaign
- 12th Annual Gospel Jazz Fest: Sunday, August 23, 2009 (3:00 - 7:00 pm) at Hessel Park in Champaign.



winterfest 2009

a benefit concert for the **SAFE HOUSE**



substance
abuse
free
environment 

sunday, february 22, 2009
4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

champaign first united methodist church
210 west church street, champaign, IL

featuring
university of illinois black chorus
first united methodist chancel ringers
canaan missionary church mass choir
safe house men's chorus
ray wiggs - organist

**free will
donations
are welcome!**

www.canaansafehouse.org

SAFE House Winter Benefit Concert

We are honored to present the University of Illinois Black Chorus, directed by Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, as our headlining event at the SAFE House Winter Benefit Concert this year.

The Chorus was founded in 1968 and has presented with such prominent talents as Take 6, Bobby Jones, Michael McCay, The Winans, and other artists of national and international acclaim.

The Black Chorus performs music ranging from the Negro spiritual, anthems and formal music to traditional and contemporary gospel, jazz, and rhythm and blues.



U of I Black Chorus, Directed by Dr. Ollie Watts Davis



SAFE House Men with Brother Green at the 2008 Christmas Party

Proceeds from the event will go directly to the Men's SAFE House. Corporate or individual sponsorship opportunities are available. For additional information, please call 217-367-2158.

Thoughts From A Recent Graduate

By Roscoe Brown, July 2008 SAFE House Graduate

Drugs will make you formulate any kind of scenario to keep you stuck. There is freedom that comes with the love of God and with a program such as the Men's SAFE House. The best thing about it is that we were shown love. One of the things we didn't get out on the streets...one of the voids we were trying to fill. The love of God came thru the directors there and the people at the church and that helped us in the SAFE House.

When I was at Pastor Tatum's house, he asked me about how I got to

this point in my life. He listened to my story and showed genuine love and concern instead of pointing fingers. I thought even away from Church he showed me God's love that inspired the vision he had for SAFE House.

Something happened to a resident's Mother while I was there. I didn't grow up with my parents but I have always wondered what it would be like. I saw the anguish that he went thru and I couldn't help but to care for him. Actually, everybody in the house rallied around him. A short time later, another guy's brother died and the

whole entire SAFE House went to the funeral in Chicago with him. It's not at that point that you start to think about what's happening, it's later on when you're by yourself when you realize that something is happening. There's some kind of change taking place because that's not how I would've reacted before.

In your madness you try to put on the air that you don't care. But the atmosphere at the SAFE

House brings out the real you, it brings out what God has inside of you, and those feelings start to come forth. It was new, different and refreshing.

If you've not grown up with Love, then when Love is there you don't know how to gauge it and you don't know how to be receptive to it. SAFE House helped me get a grasp on love; To understand that I'm capable of being loved, giving love and walking in love.

