

'Tis the Season for Giving and Receiving...and Reusing!

by Jeff Kilpatrick

We all know that the colors of the Christmas season are red and green. For those at the Resource Exchange (located at 2829 Cedar Street in Port Richmond), the color of the holiday (and every day for that matter) is just green. The Resource Exchange is a non-profit organization that saves valuable material that once would go into landfills, and puts it back into the community for creating, building and learning.

The Resource Exchange accepts donated and salvaged arts and craft supplies, building and home improvement materials, house wares and home decor, film and theatrical props, and set pieces. They then sell or rent these items at a very low cost. As stated on the Resource Exchange's website (www.theresourceexchange.org), their work enables a wide range of organizations, businesses, and individuals to create sustainably rather than waste.

Karyn Gerred, the Resource Exchange's Founder and Executive

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Resource Exchange's Founder and Director, Karyn Gerred, prepares for an Open House for the community on Saturday, December 3. Stop by and check it out and do some holiday shopping at The Resource Exchange, 2829 Cedar Street in Port Richmond.

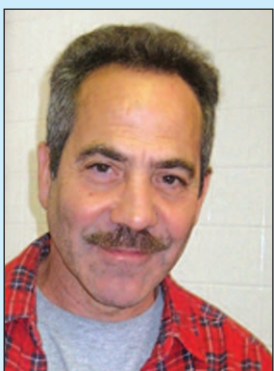


Reused Beads



Lamp Made Of Slides

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Shane As He Lived...

by Jeff Kilpatrick

At this point, I am sure you have heard the story of Shane Kelly's murder. It is a distressing fact of life that good news does not spread nearly as fast or as far as news of a tragedy. For some reason, stories of tragedy, loss, death, fear, and heartache resonate so quickly and spread through communities and the media with such intensity. These stories can leave a painful echo and tarnish the memories of those who lived.

However, in the wake of such loss and tragedy, we try to hold on to the hope that some good may

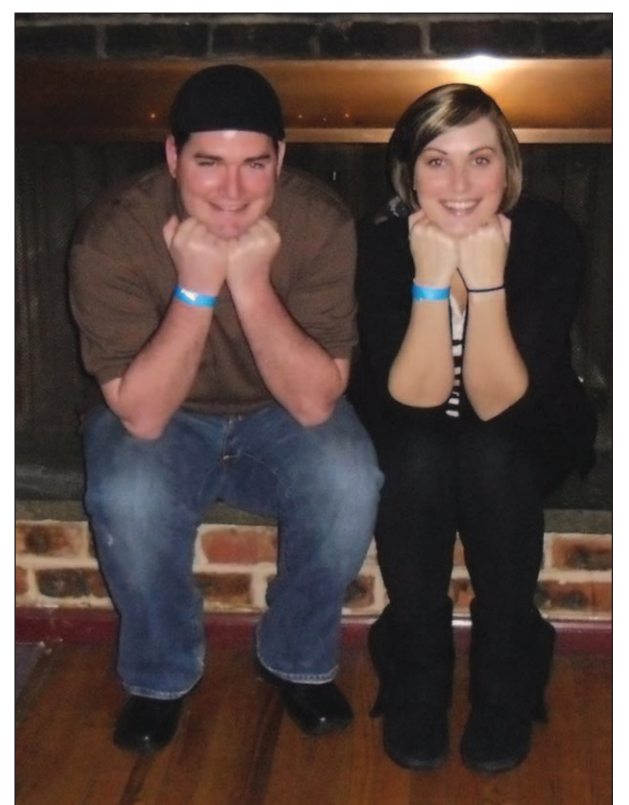
possibly come from this. Mimi Doyne, mother of Shane's girlfriend Maryelise Doyne, contacted *The Spirit* last week. Her request was simple and direct: she wanted more people to know Shane as he lived, not as he died. So she gathered many of Shane's closest friends and family members together on the second floor of the AOH Division 61 clubhouse in Tacony on Saturday afternoon.

Aside from Maryelise, Mimi and her husband Dennis, Shane's parents, his brother Brian and sister Melissa also joined the group. Friends who came to support and share

stories were: Chris Baker, Erin Lyons, Phil Maher, Chris Flite, Kelly Flite, Neva Armstrong, Jackie Nitka, Jay Heron, Tom Byrne, Jon Schernaেকে, Jim Heron, Crystal Shepherd, and Shaun Flite. Jack Gill, President of AOH Division 61, was also in attendance.

They all came to share stories of Shane as he lived, not as he died. The group cried some, but laughed more. They searched back in their memories as far as they could. "Shane was always quiet as a baby," his mother said, "except when he was away from

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A life well lived. Shane Kelly with his girlfriend Maryelise Doyne.

Reuse

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Director, believes that a creative reuse center is long overdue in Philadelphia. Karyn said, "What The Resource Exchange does is forge connections between the arts, the environment, and the local economy by providing affordable reclaimed materials and creative reuse ideas that enable the local community to make their city a better place!"

The Resource Exchange was founded in 2009 in the

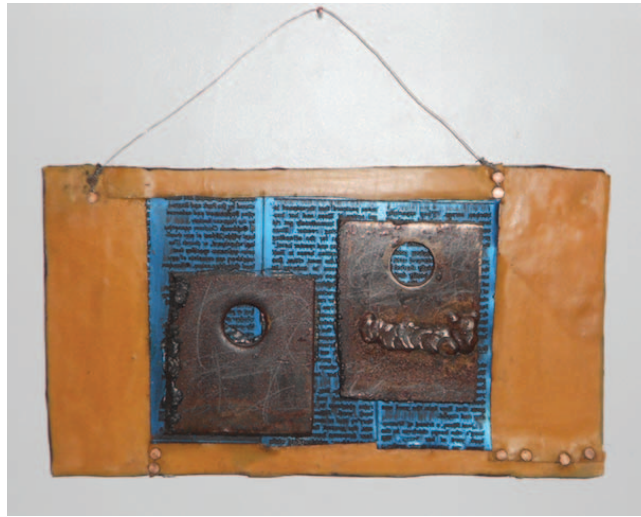
Philadelphia Navy Yard where many local films have been built and shot. During the course of their work on sets, the founders came to see the long-term environmental consequences of short-term productions. They noticed what an enormous amount of material was being wasted once the studios were finished with the sets. After seeing countless dumpsters filled with still usable material, they realized that the "you're either part of the solution or part of the problem" adage

should definitely include the arts, from concept to completion. With a dedicated all-volunteer staff, the Resource Exchange started salvaging set materials out of temporary storage spaces.

The members of the Resource Exchange are Karyn and Denise Gerred, Erika Katz, Dennis Madigan, Nate Turner, Bob Jondreau, and Mike Gable. The group realized that salvaged materials could be put to good use by Philadelphia's art and building communities.

They decided to provide these artists and builders with unique, affordable, and sustainable materials, and a place to exchange and develop new ideas.

The Resource Exchange's work enables painters to create on salvaged theatre muslin; sculptors to work with discarded set production pieces; stage plays to be built from old film sets; mixed media artists to use salvage and surplus; clothing and costumes to be de-



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Art made from newspaper plate.

Taylor Backs Bills to Protect Children from Abuse

Following the disturbing allegations of child sex abuse by a former coach at Penn State University, State Rep. John Taylor announced he will support legislation to make sure those who witness child abuse report the crime to law enforcement.

"We have no greater responsibility than to protect our children," Taylor said. "In light of the alleged incidents involving former Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky, we must evaluate where the law failed and toughen laws to make sure those who witness child abuse are required by law to report it."

Taylor will back a number of proposals to expand the list of those required to report suspected child abuse, to require they report the crime to law enforcement, to increase penalties for failing to do so, and to lengthen the statute of limitations for prosecuting those who fail to report child abuse.

According to media reports, some school officials who either witnessed or learned of Sandusky's alleged crimes failed to alert police.

"Current law just isn't effective enough," Taylor said. "So much more must be done."

The House Judiciary Committee has already passed legislation to

create a new, third-degree felony for coaches and others in a position of supervision who commit sex crimes against kids.

The bill, House Bill 1397, would create a new offense of "sexual assault by a sports official." Under this bill, a person who serves as a sports official in a sports program of a nonprofit association, or a for-profit association, commits a felony of the third degree if they engage in indecent (or sexual) contact with a child under 18 years of age who is participating in a sports program of the nonprofit association or for-profit association. A sports official would be (but is not limited to) a manager, coach, umpire or referee.

Last month, the House passed legislation for a second time this year to close loopholes in Pennsylvania's existing Megan's Law. This legislation would ensure that out-of-state predators and those without a fixed address cannot avoid sex offender registration and reporting requirements.

House Bill 1958 was just introduced as a comprehensive measure to address a range of issues regarding the prosecution, sentencing, treatment, involuntary confinement and tracking of sex offenders.

"We must act quickly to prevent the outrageous crimes like those alleged to have taken place at Penn State from ever happening again," Taylor said.

Holy Name Bazaar This Saturday, December 3rd!

Items needed for White Elephant Sale for the Holy Name Bazaar which is being held on Saturday, December 3rd. If you have items that you would like to donate, please take them to Holy Name Rectory at Gaul and Berks Streets.

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