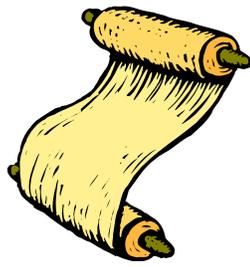


# The ICS Scribe



A Monthly Newsletter

April, 2015

Vol. 1, No. 10



## A Note from Joe's Pen

Recently, Reverend Hollis Walker gave a sermon about her experience as a volunteer at the shelter. In the middle of her sermon she quoted Father Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest who works with gang members in Los Angeles. I was so taken by Father Boyle's words I thought I would share them with you. So, with many thanks to Hollis for introducing me to Father Boyle and great admiration for Father Boyle and the work he does, I offer you his words:

*"You stand with the least likely to succeed until success is succeeded by something more valuable: kinship. You stand with the belligerent, the surly, and the badly behaved until bad behavior is recognized for the language it is: the vocabulary of the deeply wounded and of those whose burdens are more than they can bear."*

Over the years I worked with thousands of homeless adolescents. Almost all had been traumatized early on in their young lives, many physically and/or sexually abused. Eventually, most were able to heal enough to go on to live relatively healthy, productive lives. But for those who didn't there were other destinations in store for them as adults: incarceration, drugs, alcohol, prostitution, battering partners, revolving relationships and/or homelessness. No one can truly or adequately explain why one person survives trauma better than another. And at one time or another all of us have thought or quietly murmured to our self, "There, but for the grace of God go I."

Our guests may have shopping carts stacked high with debris found on the streets. Their clothing may

be soiled and they in need of a shower. They may be bobbing and weaving from too much alcohol. They may not play by the rules the way we would like them to. Often, they can be as kind and friendly as they can be combative and belligerent. They may be all these things and much more, both better and worse, but it is always important for us to remember that each and every one of them, in his or her own way, is forever a beautiful child of God.

So, with all this "heavy stuff" in mind, here is what you did last quarter to lend a helping hand to, as Father Boyle so eloquently put it, "*...the deeply wounded and of those whose burdens are more than they can bear.*"

You helped to shelter 378 discrete individuals for 8,614 bed nights. You served 18,803 dinners and breakfasts and 4,049 lunches. You provided 992 showers and distributed 11,262 items of clothing. You might have noticed that there are quite a few faces from last season that you haven't seen around the night shelter lately. Here is why. In the past six months, with support from ICS staff and volunteers and in conjunction with all the provider partners, 79 individuals had 94 placements as follows: 35 have permanent housing; 9 returned to family; 14 entered transitional/supportive housing; 13 went to "other", which included 7 to St. Elizabeth's Men's Shelter, 4 to live in a motel, 1 to an adult foster care home and 1 returned to a pueblo; and 23 went to detox/rehab, of which ICS had an overall recidivism rate of 14%, excluding those who went to detox or rehab.

When I look at all that you've done, it kind of takes your breath away and the only appropriate response at this time is a simple, but humble expression of gratitude: Thank you.

Peace,  
Joseph Jordan-Berenis



### *Pete's is a Blessing*

This was found written in the men's bathroom recently. While we don't condone graffiti, and before we have it removed, we thought we'd share this little piece of positive messaging with all of you.



### *Day Program News*

*Nancy McDonald, Day Program Manager*

Thanks to the City of Santa Fe, Resource Days are now five days a week, Monday through Friday, for the last four weeks before the night shelter closes for the season. As the closing approaches our guests are getting their belongings together during this time; some to go to housing, others to stay with friends and relatives, but many do not know where they will land. After May 8, the Resource Center will go back to the original three days; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Saturday and Sunday lunches will remain the same, here at the shelter from 11:30 to 1:00, provided by churches who have been serving our guests for over 10 years.

It is a stressful time for our clients now and staff is doing our best to help support and guide them during this transition. Lunches continue to be very busy; serving over 100 people a day. They also come to access the other services provided on these days. The service providers include Life Link, Healthcare for the Homeless, Santa Fe Community

Services, Veterans Administration, Southwest Care, St Elizabeth, Legal Clinic and Homeless Court.

We also offer a free art space to those who wish to express themselves through this medium, in preparation for our Second Annual Art show to be held in June. Last year's art show was a great success and we look forward to seeing our guests' amazing work. One hundred percent of all the art that is sold, price determined by the artist, is given to the artist. We hope you will all stop by and see their beautiful creations.

### *ICS Volunteer Feature - Ada Moreno*

*By Clare Ratliff, Scribe Editor*

Ada has been working at the Shelter since last October, primarily in the evening where she registers guests coming in for the night. She has, however, done a number of other jobs there as well, like many of us. Originally from Canada, Ada spent 34 years in Tarzana, Ca. where she worked as a surgery nurse and physician's assistant. She also worked at St. Vincent's for two years in the same capacity before she retired. She thoroughly enjoyed her work as is clear when she talks about it.

She has a son and two grandchildren in Santa Fe. While in California, Ada lost her job, her mother died, and for a while she was almost homeless herself, sleeping in her car and on her son's couch some of the time. She went through a tough period common to many retirees of feeling unneeded and useless. She said she suffered a period of depression during which she figured out she needed to find another place where she could feel she was really contributing to something. That she found at the shelter. She enjoys working with Earl in the kitchen and serving our guests. She finds many amazing people among them and feels it is a privilege to help them. She realizes that everyone needs a place where they feel accepted and cared for and thinks so many of our guests have found that at the shelter (as so many of our volunteers feel as well.)



## **ICS Alumni Profile – Joe “Bama” Taylor**

Everyone who knows him calls him ‘Bama’ because of his “accent and where he’s from,” he says. Joe Taylor was born in Texas and raised in Alabama, got his BA in Business and Physical Education from the University of Virginia, and has worked a number of jobs over the years; he has even run a business or two. However, his real passion, what he loves to do so much he is willing to do it for free (and he does) is work as a baseball umpire.

Bama travels around the Northern Pueblos and Santa Fe with his full set of umpire gear calling games for the High Schools. He simply says he likes giving something back to the kids.

He first came to New Mexico with a friend to help him move after the 2002 Katrina disaster. He discovered that he liked the weather and climate much better than the Deep South, and he didn’t miss the mosquitoes at all.

As with many of our guests, he had been living in his truck for a while and then had his own



apartment but things started going wrong when he got a DUI charge after a Super Bowl game. Unfortunately, he also faced other non-compliance charges related to his vehicle and had to spend time in jail which led to losing his job and being evicted from his

apartment. Since then, he has lived here at the shelter and then moved in to St. Elizabeth’s where he was able to qualify for a place at Casa Cerrillos.

Currently, Bama has set some goals for himself. He wants to get a more permanent job (right now he is selling newspapers on one of the city’s street corners). He would like a job at night, so he can continue to umpire games during the days and he wants to get his driver’s license and save enough to buy a motor home for traveling. He likes his life nice and simple, just enough right now for everyday living, and he will continue to give back to kids each baseball season. Play ball!

## **Resource Center Provider Partners “Collaboration – We’re Stronger Together”**

One of our most recent additions to our team of partner providers is Ben Myler from the St. Elizabeth shelter internship program. Originally from the St. Louis area, Ben studied in Idaho at BYU and received an AA in Sociology. He was pursuing a BA in Psychology when an opportunity came to move to Santa Fe and work as an intern at St. E’s. He has been here for the past 1 ½ years doing case management and supervision. He comes to the shelter for our Resource Day every Friday morning to assist the guests with new ID’s, Birth Certificates, and Social Security Cards.



It is not until you are missing your ID and don’t have the resources to get a replacement that you realize how valuable an ID truly is. One is needed in order to begin a transitional program of any kind, including Social Security, food stamp card, or enroll in the free phone program. There is a ‘catch-22’ involved in getting a replacement: you need to have some sort of photo identification in order to get a replacement ID, and people who are experiencing homelessness usually don’t have one with them. Ben’s job is to help them figure out how to get one of those documents (usually, the birth certificate is easiest) and then also assist with funds. Fortunately, the funds are there to help people pay for their ID’s, at \$10.00 each, and also a ‘good Samaritan fund’ to help pay for the birth certificates; whose cost varies from state to state.

Ben also works with clients to help them enter into housing programs, disability programs, HUD vouchers, and other resources available to our population. He is very excited about working with people and loves serving them directly. He plans to continue doing case management working for non-profit agencies. We are very happy to have him eagerly looking for people who need assistance every Friday morning!

To Make a Donation, Please visit our Website:

[www.interfaithsheltersf.org](http://www.interfaithsheltersf.org)

To Volunteer, Please email Sue at  
[interfaithsheltersf@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithsheltersf@gmail.com)