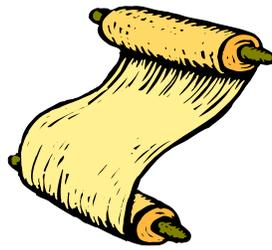


# The ICS Scribe



Fall, 2016

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## A Note from Joe's Pen

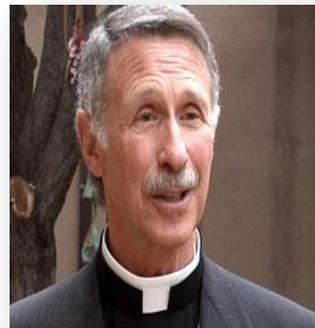
As many of you know by now, Father Ken Semon, the Rector of Holy Faith Church recently passed away. Father Ken was a founding member of the Interfaith Community Shelter and the first Chair of the Board of Directors. His imprint is everywhere in the shelter.

I first met Ken standing in the dining hall sometime within my first two weeks of arrival at the shelter. Instantly, I felt a kinship, a “connection,” with a man I didn’t really know. But that “connection” had nothing to do with me, it was all Ken; his uncanny ability to put you at ease and to feel comfortable in his presence.

Some of our guests saw Ken on a regular basis, whenever they needed to express a concern about the shelter or, at times, just to connect with a man who valued and appreciated them in a world where appreciation and self-worth was difficult to find. If they had gone to see Ken about a concern they had with the shelter, Ken would listen and then advise them to go see me. As recently as a few days before his passing I had a woman in my office that Ken had sent to see me. The conversation usually started the same way; “Father Ken said I should talk to you.” As she spoke I could feel Ken’s presence in the room; his smiling face; his twinkling eyes; the heat of the empathy he felt for all our guests. He wasn’t just an advocate; he was a partner and an ally to those in greatest need in our community.

Ken’s presence in the room that day was a reminder that the most important aspect to my job is to pay close attention to the person I am sitting with: to listen attentively, even though there may be much larger issues tugging at me for my attention. The homeless teenagers I worked with for years

frequently fell in and out of relationships at a dizzying pace. However, I quickly learned that the emotions rattling around inside of them and the deep pain they often felt coming out of a two week relationship was no different than someone helplessly watching their marriage dissolve after ten or fifteen or twenty years. In the same vein, the concerns being expressed by this woman was extremely important to her and, as such, deserved my undivided attention.



I am not alone in missing Ken, but the legacy he has bequeathed to those of us who have been called to serve at the shelter is the constant reminder that we need to care

without judgement and to listen attentively to those we have been called to serve; for they have suffered greatly and we, in gratitude for all that we have been given, need to share the best of us with them.

In my imagination, I would offer Ken a humble “Thank you,” as I stand with him one more time in the dining hall; surrounded by a sea of familiar faces and the thunderous roar of conversation, with a grateful “Thank you” or “God Bless” passing through the lips of a guest on their way to settling down in the dormitory or heading back out onto the streets for the night.

But the best I can do right now, in this moment, is to say, *Vaya con Dios, Ken. Vaya con Dios.*

Peace,

Joseph Jordan-Berenis

### ***ICS Volunteer Feature – Len Rand***

Many of us have a desire to “give back” to the community, but we sometimes don’t follow through or procrastinate, waiting for an opportunity. Not Len Rand. He jumped in with both feet because he wanted to combine what he loves doing with what needs doing.

“I love to bake – especially bread and desserts – and I wanted to share these baked goods with local charities that needed them,” Len said. That’s the part where Len combines what he loves doing (baking) with what needs doing (feeding hungry people). But because



he wanted to give more than just the occasional loaf of bread or two dozen cookies, he had a commercial kitchen installed in his home. That’s the jumping-in-with-both-feet part.

*Margaret Hembree, Len Rand, Joanna Ipiotis Romero, Carol Danielson, and Ben Medina*

When Len arrived at ICS one morning to donate loaves of bread that he had made the previous day, he met some guests and staff members and talked to Joe Jordan-Berenis, Executive Director. As conversations go, that one led to Len learning that someone was needed to cook for the noon meal on Tuesdays. It wasn’t baking, but Len understood that it needed to be done. Now he comes every Tuesday morning.

Often Len arrives at ICS and doesn’t know what is in the refrigerator or the pantry. “It’s like I’m in an episode of the Iron Chef,” he laughed. “I wait to see what do we have and what we can do with it.” Lucky for the guests, this doesn’t fluster Len. With the help of other volunteers and Ben Medina, staff kitchen manager, a delicious meal is served three hours later to an average of 100 guests.

Len and his wife, Barb, came to Santa Fe to retire via New York and San Francisco but left retirement to become the CEO of xF Technologies in Albuquerque.

And what about his love of baking? Len still bakes at home and brings bread and dessert with him on Tuesdays. Doing what he loves with what needs to be done.

### ***ICS Alumni Feature – Robert Duran***

What is the measure of success for guests at Interfaith Community Shelter? It depends on the individual and his or her situation. For Robert Duran, success was: Sobriety. Employment. A place to call home.

A year and half ago, Robert knew it was time to change his life. “I was so tired of the arguing. I would argue and people I was with would argue. Fighting all the time. I was tired of it and wanted it to stop,” he said. It was time to stop drinking for Robert, but he needed a goal to fuel his willpower.



Robert had been a regular at ICS and he appreciated the good meals and a bed to sleep in at night. And, the staff was helpful and kind. “I made a deal with them. I asked them if I stayed sober for ninety days, would they help me get a job,” Robert said. The agreement was made and Robert had a goal – a job – to fuel his willpower.

Robert now came to ICS every day and would help out whenever asked. He kept the yard and the patio cleaned by making sure trash was picked up and picnic tables cleaned. He swept and mopped the floors and vacuumed and scrubbed the floor mats. If the bathrooms needed cleaning, he’d do that, too. Moving boxes. Whatever needed done, Robert was there to do it.

And one day followed another, and Robert didn’t drink. “It was a struggle every day. It still is,” Robert said. It meant at times keeping to himself and avoiding those who were a negative influence. Ninety days passed. “And, I was still sober,” he said.

*(continued, page 3)*

When Joe Jordan-Berenis, executive director, offered Robert a job cleaning the shelter, it was another level of success. ICS staff and some of the guests were now like family to Robert. He took pride in keeping the shelter clean and receiving a paycheck.

With a regular paycheck, Robert was able to save and get a used RV and put it on a piece of land his family owns outside of Santa Fe. He rides a bike to the shelter for his job now, but is hoping to find a used truck to buy.

Sobriety. Check. Job. Check. A place to call home. Check.

### ***ICS Provider Partner – The Life Link Avrum Golenberg and Quill Head***

Outreach is a buzzword that gets thrown around a lot and you may have heard it. It means the act of extending services to those who might not have access to them. A key component of outreach is that the organizations providing services meet those in need of the services at the locations where those in need are. And to see outreach in action, come to Pete’s Place.

Avrum “AV” Golenberg and Quill Head are outreach specialists with The Life Link, an ICS Provider Partner whose programs focus on housing, mental health and substance abuse. The Life Link was able to place AV and Quill at ICS through a grant provided by the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), a program of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. They have had an office at ICS since mid-summer, but you are more likely to find AV and Quill in the dining hall or out on the patio talking to guests, asking questions and developing relationships based on trust.



AV and Quill approach the guests who come to Pete’s Place with respect. They believe that the people who come to the shelter have the capacity to be self-reliant and contribute to the community, but their present circumstances are “crowding out what is shining underneath.”

“It’s this person to person contact where we can learn about the guest’s needs – what is the situation that brought them here,” AV said. It’s a triage situation by asking questions and then listening to the answers. Quill and AV employ motivational interviewing, a method of asking questions that is client-centered and directive toward highlighting the personal motivation to change. The questions explore a guest’s uncertainty or ambivalence and help resolve their steps toward change. It respectfully addresses the guest’s issues without hard confrontation.

When an individual is ready to address his or her situation and move towards a goal, AV and Quill are able to refer them to the agency or organization that can help. “We don’t just refer people to Life Link,” Quill said. “We send them to the provider that offers the services they need whether it’s Healthcare for the Homeless, the VA, Southwest CARE, or PMS.” Other ICS Provider Partners also include Santa Fe Community Services, St. Elizabeth Shelter, Street Homeless Animal Project/Pet Care, Food Depot, Youth Shelter, Goodwill Industries, Legal Clinic, and Homeless Court.

“It’s important to honor the wishes of a guest,” Quill said. “When they are ready to take the steps to deal with their sometimes overwhelming situations, we are there to accompany them to the service agencies that can help them.” And “accompany them” means not just handing a referral card and sending them out the door. If the guest wants it, AV or Quill will drive them to the agency or make sure the guest has a bus pass and directions. It always means following up with the individual to let them know AV and Quill – and Pete’s Place – is there for them.

## ***Catholic Foundation Awards Grant to Shelter***

For the second year in a row the Catholic Foundation has approved a grant for \$7,000 to the Interfaith Community Shelter. The grant proposal was sponsored by Santa Maria De La Paz. The Catholic Foundation was formed in 1991 to promote gospel values and support the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

## ***Your Service, by the Numbers***

The numbers are in for the year:

Discrete Individuals Served (shelter) .....	<b>1,263</b>
Overnight Guests Served .....	<b>19,101</b>
Lunches Served (Day Program) .....	<b>13,835</b>
Total Meals Served.....	<b>56,460</b>
Items of Clothing Distributed.....	<b>36,230</b>
Showers.....	<b>4,003</b>
Number of veterans served –	<b>145</b>
Number of women served -	<b>308</b>
Number of Discrete Individuals Served in the Day Services Program (those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness) -	<b>2,529</b>

In addition, **102** individuals had **111** placements as follows:

- 52** – Permanent/apartment/home
- 15** – Returned to family
- 14** – Casa Familia
- 2**– Casa Cerrillos
- 2** – Living in a motel
- 2** – Returned to pueblo
- 1** – Alzheimer’s facility
- 10** – St. Elizabeth Mens Shelter
- 1** – Rehab
- 12** – Sobering Center

\*Veterans Administration –Does not include the 44 veterans housed through the VA.

Thank you, one and all, for all that you do.

**Overnight Shelter  
Opening Date  
Sunday, October 16  
6:00pm**

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)