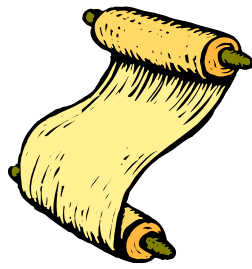


The SCS Scribe



A Monthly Newsletter

March, 2015

Vol. 1, No. 9



A Note from Joe's Pen

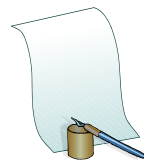
By the time you receive this we will be about three quarters through the season and well past the worst of the winter weather without any recorded deaths due to hypothermia. (Though I have to admit the superstitious Italian part of me is concerned about mentioning this before the season's end.) The Spanish philosopher and essayist, George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Since success has a way of breeding complacency and, worse yet, amnesia, I thought now might be an opportune time to share a newspaper article from USA Today that one of our Board members sent to a few of us. It is a sad reminder, but a good acknowledgement of what might have been if not for you. So here goes:

Louisville, KY – When the season's first cold snap hit in November, Kenneth Winfield arrived at Louisville's St. John Center for Homeless Men – his hands icy cold after sleeping outdoors. "He started to cry," recalled Maria Price, Executive Director of the day shelter. "He said, 'Please help me find an apartment. I don't want to die out there.'" Winfield was found on the steps of the St. John Center amid sub-zero temperatures Thursday night and later died, Price said. "It's heartbreaking," she said Friday. The Jefferson County Coroner's Office said an autopsy and cause of death were pending. Price said Winfield was 49 and had been homeless for years. Like many of the chronically homeless, he had battled mental illness and substance abuse, she said. Recently, he had been sleeping in a tent with a girlfriend in a wooded area near downtown.

Of course, as I said, the good news here in Santa Fe is that so far this season no one has died from hypothermia. Recently, I heard a Catholic nun define a humanitarian as "someone who identifies with another person's pain." I'd say that's something you do extremely well every day and in every way here at 2801 Cerrillos Road. Without you there would be no shelter from the cold. Sometimes, we, our neighbors and elected officials can forget that what occurred in Louisville once occurred here in much larger numbers. So, thank you for all your effort and generosity. I know the people we serve appreciate all that you do on their behalf. I am the lucky one. I get to hear it every day. And when one of our guests says to me, "Thank you, Joe," my reply is always the same. I look around our dining hall crowded with guests, volunteers and staff – the sea of humanity we are all swirling around in together – and say, "It's not me. It's all of us."

Peace,
Joseph Jordan-Berenis



Day Program News

Nancy McDonald, Day Program Manager

The day kitchen crew provides lunch every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Everything is made from scratch; each day, a new delight from Rashid, Earl and Ben and all the volunteers who come to prepare and serve. Lunch can be anything from soups, stews, enchiladas, gumbo, ribs, and sometimes steak. There is always plenty of fresh,

nutritious food for our guests. Whole Foods is donating produce every Sunday to be used as needed for lunches or dinner.

The Environmental Department came two weeks ago for a surprise visit during a busy lunch hour. Ron Romero, inspector for the department, gave us an 'excellent' approval for the cleanliness of our kitchen and how we maintain it while feeding over 1,000 people a week. Earl, day kitchen manager, Becky, night kitchen manager, and Ben, kitchen staff, all work diligently in keeping the kitchen something we can be proud of.

Every Saturday and Sunday lunch has been served outside the shelter, in the parking lot, for the past four years. Saturday's lunch is coordinated by Santa Fe Community Services and Sunday's lunch is coordinated by Dora Horn from Holy Faith. The churches that participate in Saturday's lunch are: Freedom Church, The Light at Mission Viejo, Christian Life, Sangre de Cristo Bible Church, Poaqueque Bible Church and First Baptist Church. Sundays lunches are provided by Holy Faith, Christ Church, Church of Christ, Immaculate Heart of Mary (Los Alamos), Blaze Christian Fellowship, City of Faith, The Vineyard, SF International Hostel and The Amma Center.

We are now serving lunch inside the building, the first time our churches have had a space to be in and out of the cold or very hot weather. The program, known as 'Feed the Hungry', has been doing this service in various locations for over 15 years. The volunteers, who so faithfully show up in all kinds of weather, some of whom are elderly, will now be able to serve in a warm atmosphere. Our guests will finally have a chair and table to sit and eat their lunch as opposed to sitting on the ground outside. There will be staff in the building to help with this new endeavor.

ICS Volunteer Feature - Win Speicher *By Clare Ratliff, Scribe Editor*



Win is one of the friendly faces you see at the front desk when you come into the shelter. A Spanish speaker, she enjoys registering our guests and knows most of them by name. This work is

an extension of the kind of work she's been doing for many years. She lived in Dallas for ten years and worked fulltime as an advocate for HIV patients. She also dealt with people with mental illness and substance abuse problems. She is on Facebook with many of her former clients. Phil, her husband of 43 years, volunteers in Santa Fe for AARP doing free tax returns for people. They also go to the Unitarian Church. Win says their work provides a lot of interest and satisfaction in their lives.

The Speichers came to Santa Fe two years ago from Dallas. Win made the same statement about Santa Fe as she did about the shelter: both places seem to operate primarily out of a value system compatible with theirs. Win values the worth and value of every person and the importance of treating everyone with dignity. As most of our volunteers know, that's what we do at the shelter in no small part because of people like Win.

ICS Alumni Profile - Tina Bernal

Clare Ratliff, Scribe Editor

It's hard to get interview time with Tina Bernal; everyone wants a piece of her: a hug, a hand slap, a long conversation. People working at the shelter are well aware of her presence; she's everywhere. She works in the clothes closet, cleans bathrooms, cleans floors and wipes down tables. True, she's working off some community service but she does so with gusto. *Cont. pg. 3*

Tina's positive attitude is hard won, through experience. She was born in Nogales, Mexico, on the border of Arizona and spent her first years in an orphanage. When she was three, she contracted polio which left her with a decided limp. She told me that she got her anger at the orphanage where people were mean, and she became mean, too. She has been in jail several times and attended several rehab programs. She has learned to control her anger, but she feels she's done this more on her own than through any organized program. She had to learn to protect herself on the streets



where she's been for 3 ½ years in Tucson and during the last year in Santa Fe. She says that she's learned how to read vibes, and if she feels threatened, she has a look she gives. (She gave me the look; it does not say "welcome.") In the process, she's learned to project very positive vibes. She thanks God for help but feels she's done it mainly on her own. She seems justifiably proud of her self-education. She describes herself as hyper, but she puts this energy to good use.

Recently she has started a business cleaning houses. She charges by the size of the job starting at \$10 on up, depending on the size of the rooms, etc. If anyone is interested, they can reach her at 469-1047.

Tina appreciates being off the streets occasionally and stays with friends when she can; she always pays them something. She is grateful to the shelter for the services they provide to her; it is also her social center, as she knows most of the people there. She has learned how to be empathetic while realizing that people have to take care of their own problems as she usually does. She has a boyfriend of nine years. She now feels that she has "a happy spirit in my heart" which is obvious to people who know her. She's a survivor.

Resource Center Provider Partners

"Collaboration – We're Stronger Together"



"I have been in the care of those who go to the shelter. It gives me the incentive to do the best I can one day at a time."

Many of the guests here at the shelter take time to express their gratitude for the services provided, both at night and during the days. What can be frequently overlooked though, is how the many professionals who make these services possible also operate from a deep sense of gratitude for the kindness offered to them over the course of their lives. One of those professionals is Robert Archuleta, Certified Peer Support Worker with The Life Link.

Robert has been working in Recovery and Behavioral Health services for nearly six years; mostly with the Life Link, to whom he gives a great deal of credit for his training as a support worker and case manager. He specifically mentions the Executive and Clinical Directors, who have encouraged and directed his training. He views the work he does here as "behavioral health triage"; working with the most immediate issue for the client and then expanding into other vital services as needed. Those immediate issues tend to center around substance abuse, housing, or getting an ID in order to get or keep services such as food stamps or Social Security. He points out that most of the people he sees are very educated; meaning that they know that when they had housing and other services, things were much better for them. It is then a matter of re-enrolling in programs they once had. He also uses a technique known as "motivational interviewing" to attempt to learn something about why the client is in their current situation. Usually it can be traced to either mental illness or substance abuse. After securing the initial service they are seeking, the next step is to help them with housing and succeeding once they are housed. That's where supportive services come into play, such as counseling, working in groups, and follow-ups with a case manager. Robert is also emphatic in his belief in the mission of providing services in one location. He states, "That's the only way to run things. That's what works."

Robert possesses a deep sense of empathy with the clients who see him. He frequently shares his story with them and knows what it is like to feel as though he is 'unfit, undesirable, and perhaps, even unwanted'. He stresses that everything changed for him when he had to finally ask for help (and got it). That empathy, as well as a commitment to following through on his word often results in a sense of trust and also shows the client that when they back up their word with actions, they will succeed. He ended our conversation with this quote, which summarizes his view on what he does, "*God does not comfort me to make me comfortable. He comforts me to show me how to comfort others.*"

To Make a Donation, Please visit our Website:

www.interfaithsheltersf.org

To Volunteer, Please email Sue at
interfaithsheltersf@gmail.com