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A Note from Joe's Pen

I was thinking about what to write for this issue of the "Scribe" when one of our guests handed me a letter. After reading it, I thought, now that we are at the end of the season, this is what needs to be said. So, I offer you the words of one of our guests in acknowledgement and appreciation for all that you've done this year.

"I've been wanting to write a strong statement of gratitude regarding the services offered here at the Interfaith Community Shelter. And since I am not a writer, words have been hard to find to express one's feelings or they get in the way. In this essay, my intent is to reflect/express my feelings of gratitude.

And of course, I am referring to the Interfaith Community Shelter group and all they do to make you feel comfortable. If it weren't for folks like the staff and faculty at Pete's Pets shelter a lot of us would be at a loss. A feeling of being left out in the cold, without direction.

Every day I see them come and go, warm food always on the table. It might not be home, however the staff and faculty work hard to create a home atmosphere, a heaven away from the storms of life.

And when I look at the whole picture, globally, I look in the mirror and tell myself, how blessed I truly am! Blessed to be an American, to be in America.

What brought me to the Interfaith Community Shelter is a result from a severe horse accident, but that's another story.

In conclusion, I want to say that the shelter is a place where anyone can find help, direction, a new start, and hope!"

*God Bless,
Octavio de Zaldivar
Yaqui/Apache"*

Once again, thank you and have a great summer. I hope to see you next season.

Peace,
Joseph Jordan-Berenis

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration Event!

The Board of the Shelter invites all volunteers to a **thank-you picnic and celebration** on **Sunday, June 5th** from **3 to 5:30 pm** at **First Presbyterian Church**, 208 Grant St. downtown. We will meet on the Rooftop Garden on the third floor; parking will be in the lot on the north side of the church. Food and drinks will be provided. Phone the shelter at 795-7494 to confirm your attendance.

ICS Volunteer Feature - Diana Mamalaki



Some of the art work that decorates the walls of the Open Art Studio.

During our Day Services Program every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, the big open space of the men's sleeping area converts into a colorful and lively space for

the community's artists to gather, listen to a wide range of music from around the world, and create art. All of this is coordinated by Diana Mamalaki who began to volunteer as the coordinator of the Open Art Studio in 2014 through the encouragement of Patty Romero, who works with Santa Fe Community Services.

She began her journey as a volunteer following a career as a Public Relations Officer with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. In 2013, her husband, a Taos Pueblo tribal elder, passed away and shortly after, she decided to devote her time and energies to the greater community. She has focused on art, spiritual concerns, and social justice. In addition to giving her time here at the shelter, she also volunteers at the Museum of International Folk Art.

Her experiences with the Indian Affairs Department have proven to be a major asset to our community. Several months ago she spoke to Joe expressing concern about the number of Native Americans here at the shelter. She then offered to write a letter and arrange a meeting with leaders in the Santo Domingo Pueblo. As a result, we have been fortunate to have Mr. Joe Rosetta, a Traditional Support Worker/Spiritual Leader and VA Services Provider come to the Day Services Program on Friday mornings to give support and counsel to the members of the Santo Domingo Pueblo.



Her work with the open art studio has been invaluable as well. Her contacts with other members of the art community in Santa Fe have helped the program expand and grow into a welcoming space for artists of all mediums. “We are profoundly grateful to the staff and volunteers at the Santa Fe Museum of International Folk Art for donations of art supplies that have kept our art

studio and artists creating bigger and more wonderful pieces of art.”

The artists have done very impressive work considering their current circumstances and the fact that the studio runs solely on donations from others in the community. The studio will gratefully accept art supplies such as acrylics, canvas, paper, watercolors, pastels, colored pencils, fabric, and glue.

ICS Partner Provider – Charles Grymko, Goodwill Industries

“Collaboration – We’re Stronger Together”

Many of you are aware of the fact that one of the missions of Goodwill Industries is to help people develop job skills to find other work in the greater community. Did you also know that Goodwill also comes to places such as the Shelter to reach out to the homeless, veterans, and persons with traumatic brain injury as well?

Charles Grymko is a Job Developer from Goodwill who comes to the Shelter at least once each week to speak to guests who are ready and interested in getting back into the workforce. He also works with clients referred to him from St. Elizabeth Shelter, The Salvation Army office, Supportive Services for Veterans’ Families, and displaced workers from Los Alamos. He comes to the Shelter during our Day Services Program and visits with people seeking jobs. So far, he has placed 25 guests since last August, when he started coming to Pete’s. In their program a client is considered successfully placed (a ‘good job’) if he or she is working at least 30 hours and has stayed in that job for more than 30 days.

Part of Chuck’s effectiveness comes from the fact Chuck has had direct experience working with these programs, not only as a job developer, but as a client. In 2015 he participated in the Trial Works Veterans Recycling Project through Goodwill and also briefly experienced homelessness after a marriage breakup. He says about his work, “I am most proud of helping a couple of clients get their first jobs in their life and always find it hard when folks just don’t make it, be it sobriety, mental health, or legal issues. In the end, I don’t really find

people jobs, I help them get rid of the issues that are impeding getting permanent work, and sometimes it's just getting them to feel worthwhile and productive."

The Kitchen Gets New Equipment!

Thanks to the dedicated work and gentle persuasion of our kitchen volunteers, the kitchen now has a newly upgraded stove and refrigerator. The stove has 10 burners instead of 6, and 2 ovens. The refrigerator has more space and runs more efficiently. "Kitchen Angels?" – you better believe it!



Community Closet Donations

The spring/summer season is here and our Day Services Programs are running at full speed. Thanks to the generosity of all of you and the greater community, the closet is always full, but our guests are always in need of special items we don't always think about:

Socks – Socks – Socks
Underwear –
Underwear
Sunscreen – Sunscreen

Now Open ***Women's Shelter Safe Haven***

Thanks to the generous support of numerous individuals in the community and foundations, the Women's Summer Safe Haven is open and running smoothly. So far, we have been serving 20 women and 1 family per night who would have been on the streets with nowhere to go this summer. Thank you again!

To Make a Donation, Please visit our Website:
www.interfaithsheltersf.org
To Volunteer, Please email Sue at
[interfaithsheltersf@gmail](mailto:interfaithsheltersf@gmail.com)