KUDOS

KUDOS to our Case Managers: Ozanam Inn and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Congress designated funding to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals from becoming homeless and to help those who are already homeless.

The City selected UNITY of GNO to administer this program. UNITY provides the fiscal and administrative oversight for the program and works with Ozanam Inn and other non-profit organizations in our community on the delivery of the program activities. The UNITY Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program is expected to help prevent homelessness or help to rapidly re-house up to 2,018 individuals and/or families in New Orleans over a three year period.

The Ozanam Inn is blessed to have two very talented and dedicated Case Managers, Gail Ratleff and Cara Fangney. Both are focused on assisting our clients to achieve a better life. As part of their many responsibilities they work with our clients and UNITY on the HPRP program.

We recently received a very nice note from Valerie Reinhard, HPRP Contracts Manager, thanking and congratulating our Case Managers for the great job they are doing on the HPRP program. Valerie’s note reminded our staff on the hard work they have done, and continue to do, in submitting HPRP applications and on targeting the type of client’s that fit the criteria of the program perfectly. Good work everyone! Keep it up!

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PRESENT’S COLUMN
VOLUNTEERISM:
LSU & Tulane Medical Schools
& LSU Dental School

The volunteer support that the Inn receives from the men, women and youth of our community is truly inspired and contributes significantly to the success of the Inn’s vision and mission. Volunteers enable us to provide a host of services that would otherwise not be available and allows us to maintain our operating costs within the funds provided by our wonderful contributors.

This article will focus on the volunteer support provided to the Inn by the students and staff of Tulane and LSU. Future articles will focus on other volunteer activities, the nature of the support provided and opportunities available to consider in the future. We are truly grateful for all of our volunteers and thank God for their presence in our daily lives at the Inn.

Ozanam Inn and the clients we serve are truly blessed to have the volunteer support of the Tulane and LSU Medical Schools and the LSU Dental School. Each week medical students, supervised by their physician instructors from the Tulane and LSU Medical Schools come to the Inn to provide medical assistance to the clients we serve. Routine medical exams, immunizations, tuberculosis testing and basic medical care are provided to hundreds of our homeless each year through the dedicated professional volunteers from each school.

It is wonderful to witness the enthusiasm of the medical students as they arrive at the Inn to care for our homeless clients. Each time we see them we thank them for all that they do. They respond by expressing their gratitude to us for allowing them to serve the homeless and talk about the many blessings that they receive as a result of their hard work and how it benefits them in learning how to be exceptional healthcare providers. One only has to watch them as they practice their profession to see that there truly is greater joy in giving than receiving.

As a result of an initiative started by Jack Andonie M.D., last year’s Century Club Gala Honorary Chairperson, the LSU Dental School began a special dental program for the Inn’s clients. Each week clients in need are transported to the Dental School where they receive preventative and basic dental care. This is another example of win-win volunteerism.
Jesus reveals God’s call to hospitality when He summons His Son and His Holy Spirit, to transform an inhospitable mankind into Church proclaims that God, the Host of the world, has given us His heavenly Father. In the light of the crucified and risen Christ, the ing of Jesus' whole life and mission can be profitably understood in terms of divine hospitality. Indeed, the inhospitality that Jesus encounters and His response to it is a metaphor for the communion, community and communication of God and all mankind under the sovereignty of God’s love. Jesus’ parables and parables tell us that God extends hospitality to all so that they may share the eternal love, joy and happiness that He is by nature. They tell us that God’s will for us is always God’s happiness for us. Therefore, to reject God’s work of hospitality is not merely a rejection of Christ, but a rejection of God himself. The twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew’s Gospel contrasts the happiness and joy of the hospitable to the unhappiness and misery of the inhospitable. St. Francis of Assisi, a former tax collector and thief, responded to the love and call of Jesus, a generous banquet-giver. And thus, the banquet-giving Lord is recognized in His banquet-giving. He is not hospitable because He is lonely and in need of festive so...