

e-mail us your comments  
[cservice@shreve.net](mailto:cservice@shreve.net)



visit our website  
[www.shreve.net/christianservice](http://www.shreve.net/christianservice)

JUNE 2005

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Volume X, Issue 11

# The Good News

## Home-lessness vs. House-lessness

Which one is draining  
your agency's resources?



"People who don't have shelter  
are houseless - not necessarily  
homeless!"

We all know the main cause  
for homelessness is the lack  
of affordable housing for the  
poor. Mental illness,  
substance abuse, lack of  
incentives to work, poor work  
ethics and lack of education  
should be added to the  
equation

We talked with some of our  
clients and asked if they  
would share with us their  
thoughts about being  
homeless. The names of  
these clients will not be  
disclosed but they did agree  
to let us photograph them.  
This is what they had to say  
about being homeless:



"when I'm at the Hospitality  
House everybody is in the same  
fix I'm in. I don't feel bad about  
not having a home. People don't  
discriminate because I'm  
outdoors. I don't want the  
responsibility of a house because  
I will never make the kind of  
money to take care of a house. I  
finished high school, but I didn't  
go to college, I could only make  
minimum wage. That's barely  
enough to eat off of"



"Depression and maybe  
hopelessness, I don't know, I  
got tired of my lights being  
turned off. I didn't want to talk  
about it with anyone. People  
discriminate you if they find out  
you are living without utilities.  
I used to do the same thing.  
Housing Programs are  
embarrassing, they treat you  
like you can't afford to have  
any dignity. I think it's better if  
I just try to make it on my own.  
I really don't know what's in  
my future"

"I was mugged 2 years ago and I  
never felt the same way about  
myself since. I can't stay  
confined in one place long  
enough." I want to have a home  
of my own but I feel closed in.



We at Christian Service find  
that most people become  
homeless specifically  
because they have a housing  
crisis of some kind, even  
though they have needs for  
services and naturally  
increased incomes. Being  
homeless also puts them in  
the position to be more  
susceptible to health  
problems and they don't seem  
to mind. They stop seeing the  
big picture.

Our agency's challenge is to  
help identify our client's real  
need, if they will allow us.  
Chronic homelessness thru  
system abuse can absorb  
your resources.

Connecting the client back to  
the community through  
programs and counseling that  
emphasize the goals of  
permanent housing seem to  
be the key to the success for  
the development of a  
sustainable, healthy lifestyle  
and this approach helps us to  
utilize our resources better.  
We realized that it may mean  
saying "no" sometimes to  
request for assistance of non-  
critical services.

Bra. Giovanni



"It's hard to find work when you  
have a felony. The odd jobs I  
get are only temporary and I  
can't pay for housing and  
utilities, so I stay outside or  
wherever. I do have the sense  
to come in when the weather  
get too cold"



I'm too old, I'm on a fixed income  
I can't afford to pay for light bills  
and water bills let alone full rent  
I do that, I don't eat except at the  
Hospitality House. Some  
programs treat you so bad, and  
make you feel bad about yourself,  
sure I get depressed sometimes.  
I feel better when I'm with people  
who care about me and  
remember my name. Take away  
this placed I really will be messed  
up"

**Meet the Lopez Family**, Homero Lopez, Maria Lopez and their 3 children, Angel, David and Jhair



### Struggling Family Finds a Home Through Christian Service



A Christian Service-owned house at 131 Dalzell Street, former home of Sister Margaret McCaffrey, is once again being called "home". The Homero Lopez family, who once lived in shelters, are the proud new residents. The Lopez family came to the Christian Service Program in 1999, through a friend who knew of Father Murray Clayton and the Sacred Heart Church.

As Father Clayton came to know the Lopez family and appreciate their daily struggles, he thought of the house at 131 Dalzell Street, which had been vacant since Sister Margaret's passing. "Any family with children needs a home in order to stay together," said Father Clayton. "Sister Margaret would have thought this was the ideal thing to do with the house."

Homero, who supports his family of five with a construction worker's pay, is a devout Christian and a committed father who attends church services with his family each week.

After a home visit with the family Br. Giovanni decided it was time for the Lopez to consider this their new home. Bro. Giovanni says that Christian Service's "Samaritan Homes" is a program that is sensitive to families with children and understand the importance of children needing a place they can call home.

Father Clayton, who speaks Spanish fluently, says he has witnessed an incredible change in the closeness of the Lopez family since moving into their new home, and credits all who continue to support the mission of Christian Service

*Chris Jay*

### Students at Alternative School get ready to make a difference in the community



Students of Summer Enrichment Program

*If you happen to be taking the scenic route of Shreveport's downtown Sprague Street you will notice something missing at the Christian Service Complex.*

The "collage" of the rainbow and people holding hands that surround the compound is missing. What you will see now is a work in progress for the students of the Oak Terrace – J.B. Harville Alternative School and the 2005 Brighter Futures & Atlas V Summer Enrichment Program under the guidance of Marilyn Henderson, an Art Instructor for Huntington High School and the after school program for Oak Terrace – J.B. Harville Alternative School.

These students agreed to sacrificed their summer to give a gesture of "giving back to the community" by taking on a project for a non-profit that is already making a positive and significant contribution to the community, thus Christian Service. The new collage is just getting underway and the students are excited about their progress. A representative of this project said the plan is to be completed with the project for presentation, hopefully, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Christian Service will follow-up with the progress of this project in the next issue of *The Good News*.

June 6<sup>th</sup> 2005  
Margaret A. Brown, Principal of Oak Terrace / J.B. Harville Alternative School presented to Br. Giovanni Reid on behalf of the Christian Service Program a Certificate of Adoption at it's 2005 Kickoff Rally for the Summer Enrichment Programs.



**Michael Emerson**

The last 15 years of my life have been getting many different jobs, having unsatisfactory performance on each one of them. I was unable to keep up at a steady pace. There are many things that can bring you to the point of being at a transitional home, my biggest problem was not my physical illness, it was my *depression*.

**“Rehabilitating at the Herbert House is the best thing that ever happen for me”**

I have been in and out of hospitals because of osteoporosis. Since I’ve been here, I have had time to concentrate on working on my physical illness which consist of making doctor appointments and being able to keep them. Following the program at the Herbert House, one of the things you first must do if not employed is to look for work. I worked part-time on and off the seven months I’ve been here only to be interrupted by e hospital appointments it gets very frustrating sometimes.

Being at the Herbert House is one of the best places to be. The Herbert House made sure that I was comfortable each time I had to go into the hospital, comfortable each time I was struck down with my physical condition. Through the faith in God I refuse to let this problem stop me. I worked my physical rehabilitation program to the max to get back in shape for work each time. My stay at the Herbert House has been a very peaceful and comforting experience because of the welcoming atmosphere.

The Counselors, first at Centerpoint met

with me with an attitude that said welcome to the rest of your life. What starts here with you is **You** and when you leave, that’s what you take, **You**. That’s what the rules are about here, no more, no less than what you have to deal with at life being on your own. If you can’t do it here in this program, then being on your own will be no different. I made goals for myself, set guidelines and try to stay as close to them as I possibly can, mostly facing reality. As long as I was working to do the things that I needed to do to make it, the more patient the Herbert House was with me staying here. I guess it all comes down to working the program concentrating most on what you need to do instead of what has been done in the past.

I have been in the hospital twice for my legs since I’ve been here, once for surgery and both of these times Herbert House has been good to me as I worked my way back to good health. I am very grateful for a program like the Herbert House, I have the second chance I need.

*Michael Emerson,  
Resident Herbert House*

**“Neptune patrol pilot” to “Chef de Cuisine”**

***The Chef is at the House . . . the Hospitality House that is***

In case you missed the opening last year, let me introduce you to one of the latest additions to the Christian Service staff, Chef, George Allen. Chef has been with the Christian Service Program now since July 9, 2004 where you probably remember him from the relocation celebration of the Hospitality House from 1200 Sprague Street to the old Freeman & Harris Café located 317 Pete Harris Blvd.

Chef has the most intriguing and exciting stories about his exploits in the military and if you want to come by and have a meal with us or even drop off a donation ask him about it, but you better have more than a minute to spare, he can spin the yarn yea’ and it’s all true! This new addition certainly is a breath of fresh air to our sometimes hum drum existence. Chef retired from the military after enjoying a successful career of 30 plus years and oh yeah being shot out of the air may have had something to do with it, nevertheless, in 1992, Chef decided to pursue a new life path and enrolled in Bossier Parish Community College; and his curriculum - you guest it, “Culinary Arts”.

When Chef graduated from BCC he started working in “fine dining” restaurants, learning creative ways of preparing and serving all types of foods and cuisines when a friend told him about the Hospitality House. Chef said he knew that this was something he wanted to do.

The folks at the Hospitality House appreciate Chef for the variety and fine looking meals, but some days they just say, **“taste good, what is it”**. We are proud to present Chef Allen, he brings lots of commitment and dedication to our staff and certainly to the table.

*Hospitality House Staff*



**Chef George Allen**



**Chef George Allen and 11 year old, Ricky Lloyd**

On page two of the last issue of *The Good News*, an over-site on our part was made. We featured a story, "Herbert House and Mother Stewart House Continue to Change Lives" but failed to include the photographs of Ann Wheat, our Shelter Supervisor for the Mother Stewart House and Ocie Sadler the resident in which the story referred. We offer apology for the confusion and omission of their photos and have included pictures of both persons below.

Anne Wheat, Supervisor



Ocie Sadler



**Share in the Ministry of Love**

I would like to share in Christian Service's ministry by pledging \_\_\_\_\_ on a monthly basis.

I would like my money to be used for: Mother Stewart House \_\_\_\_\_; Hospitality House \_\_\_\_\_;

Herbert House \_\_\_\_\_; Samaritan Homes \_\_\_\_\_; Direct Service to families \_\_\_\_\_.

I cannot give money at this time, but I will support the ministry with prayers \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and mail to Christian Service, Post Office Box 21, Shreveport, LA 71161-0021

*We take VISA/MASTERCARD/AMERICAN EXPRESS*



**CHRISTIAN SERVICE**  
Post Office Box 21  
Shreveport, LA 71161-0021

*Return Service Requested*

**Charitable Giving**

You can help Christian Service in many ways with your support.

**Leave a Legacy**, through your will, life insurance, retirement plan charitable reminder trust, and other vehicles.

**Gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds** that have increased in value are good gifts. You can deduct the entire value from your taxable income to avoid capital gains tax.

**Gifts in cash or by check** are the most popular ways of making charitable gifts.

**Movable property**; a car or truck to help a family in need of transportation.

**A charitable gift of annuity** is a gift of cash, stock or some other security. In return for the gift, Christian Service pays you a fixed annual amount of money for the remainder of your life.

**THE GOOD NEWS**

JUNE 2005

VOL X NO. II

*The Good News* is published at no cost to Christian Service through the courtesy of:

- PROFORMA KRL COLOR
- CARL LIBERTO - BULK MAILING
- KATHY NIDEY - LAYOUT
- INSTY-PRINTS • ENSEMBLE OFFICE
- THE DRAKE COMPANY - PRINTING
- CHRIS JAY - WRITER

*Christian Service thanks all of these people*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
SHREVEPORT, LA  
PERMIT NO. 1341