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MARCH 2009

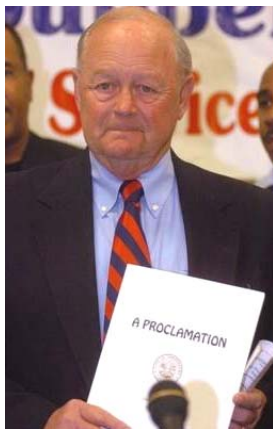
CHRISTIAN SERVICE

XIV, Issue 1

The Good News

Dan Lohman receives the 2008 Sister Margaret McCaffrey Humanitarian Award

At our Annual Meeting, November 9, 2008, Mr. Dan Lohman was awarded Christian Service's most distinguishing award. The "Sister Margaret McCaffrey Humanitarian Award" recipients are selected by the Christian Service Program's Board of Directors. In recognition of Mr. Lohman's years of charitable service to the community, he was chosen to join the list of individuals who have been indispensable to our mission.



Dan Lohman

Father Andre' McGrath said that the most outstanding thing about Mr. Lohman's work is his, "concern for those in our community afflicted by substance abuse, and especially those in most need."

Also in recognition of Mr. Lohman's service to his community, Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover declared November 9, 2008, to be "Dan Lohman Day." A special proclamation was presented to Mr. Lohman. Photographs from the Poor Man's Supper appear in the video slide show located on the Christian Service Program website: <http://christianserviceprogram.org>

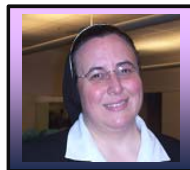
Mother Stewart House Scholars

Christi Haynes (left) said she wanted to be a counselor. Anita Roberts (right) said she wanted to be an accountant. Life always got in the way. The Christian Service Program has given both women an opportunity to fulfill those aspirations. Christi has been a resident at Mother Stewart House a little over a year. During that time she has taken GED classes and will graduate soon. A college degree is her next goal. Anita arrived here in August and is working towards a degree in accounting at Southern University in Shreveport. Both are experiencing new levels of self-esteem and looking forward to a successful future.



New Board Chairman Sees Future in the Past

Sister Sharon Rambin's first contact with the Christian Service Program came 13 years ago when she was a Novice. She scrubbed pots and pans at Hospitality House for a year.



Now, as chairman of the Christians Service board, she sees the future in that past and cautions us not to lose sight of the fundamental mission – to continue to advocate for the underserved and provide an opportunity for others to be of service.

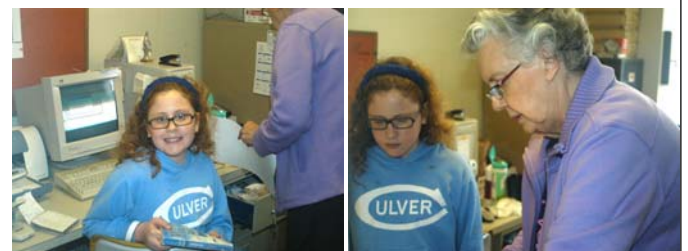
Sister Sharon's current agenda includes making sure that staffing needs are met, that property is maintained and updated, and that there is potential for growth as the needs of the community change.

Sr. Sharon Rambin

The Season of Lent - a grandmother passes her tradition of volunteering to her granddaughter

Lent is the season of soul-searching and repentance. In 1999 Eileen Sheridan observed that lent season at Christian Service and has been volunteering with this program every since.

Now in 2009, Eileen's granddaughter, Maria Kinsey is observing this lent season with her grandmother, and what turns out to be a blessing to us, also at Christian Service. Eileen says that Maria is a real go getter and she jumped right in like a veteran at the Hospitality House. We are so proud to have Maria on our team.





Fund Raising Goals in 2009

Willie Bradford, Board Treasurer



Recently, Brother Giovanni said that our budgetary goal for 2009 is, "to just keep afloat." Brother Giovanni cites the economic trouble as being his main concern for the coming year as more people reach out for help in fighting homelessness and poverty.

"We hope to continue the programs we have going," said Brother Giovanni, "and give the people who seek our help the tools they need to succeed in the community." These programs include the Samaritan House Program which provides housing for a number of homeless families.



Al Moore



Tom Pace

Brother Giovanni wishes to address the problem of "throw away kids" that end up on the streets as young adults. He says these adolescents are forgotten by their parents once the government stops sending support checks to the families for the children. Sometimes these young people are neglected in single parent homes. They end up on the streets too much and are in need of our support. Brother Giovanni says, "We see the need to help in this area but we depend on those who donate to us in order to pass the benefits people give along to the people who are in need."

Always with a big heart, Brother Giovanni says, "The bigger Samaritan Houses were given to the people who were living in them when they showed they could take care of the houses." This is according to the plan for the houses that were donated to Christian Service Program. Their purpose is to be occupied long term by families in need of housing. As soon as the family demonstrates the ability to maintain the property, the house is given to them. "To do more," said Brother Giovanni, "we need to be given more. We strive to be good stewards of what is given to us the best way we can."



The Comcast Telethon and Poor Man's Supper 2008

On December 7, 2008, Comcast hosted the annual Christian Service Program Telethon. The six hour event brought together churches and individuals from all around the city. The Master of Ceremony, Tom Pace, did a fantastic job of coordinating the six hour live event. The pledges have been fulfilled, bringing in a total of over \$88,000.00 for Christian Service Program.

Just four weeks earlier, at the annual meeting for Christian Service Program, also known as the Poor Man's Supper, November 9, 2008, about \$5,000.00 was raised. Although almost 300 people attended the event, "the room was smaller than in 2007 and the entertainment was scaled down. The economy was down, too," said Brother Giovanni Reid. That did not dampen the spirits of those who attended. Sister Sharon Rambin officially took the helm as Chairperson of Christian Service Program. Mr. Dan Lohman was awarded the "Sister Margaret McCaffrey Humanitarian Award."

A Second Chance at Learning (ASCAL)

The Christian Service Program Learning Center now has a multimedia projector and screen. Ten computers and the high speed internet are available for those wishing to explore computer literacy, create resumes, budgets, and search for jobs online. The multimedia learning center is also available for GED classes.

"The best way we can help some of the people in need is to educate them out of their poverty," said Brother Giovanni in a recent interview. With this in mind, Christian Service Program has established the Program's computer learning center. The grant money comes from the Community Foundation in large part, and numerous private grants in addition to a grant from the Franciscan Order. He commented further saying: "We don't have government grants or United Way. Corporate sponsorship, foundations and private grants fund us. We just do it together!"

Staffed by a college graduate, Timothy Snell, the learning center provides a place to do word processing, homework, or just plan the days ahead. Several of the residents stop by to check news and weather. Instruction is personalized and includes basic computer concepts.

Brother Cletus Riederer Begins 51st Year as a Franciscan



Brother Cletus Riederer, OFM, of Christian Service Program in Shreveport, LA, newly appointed Director of Housing, celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a Franciscan at the Church of the Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth, MN on July 13, 2008. Brother Cletus graduated from Comfrey High School in Minnesota in 1951 and worked as a bookkeeper in New Ulm and Westbrook, MN until joining the Franciscan Order in Cincinnati, OH in 1954. He made his final vows in Cincinnati on August 16, 1958.

Brother Cletus holds the leadership position of Local Minister for Shreveport. He also currently works directly with the male residents of the Herbert House at Christian Service Program. There he coordinates a variety of services for them. He is also essential to Brother Giovanni in getting many administrative things done.

His approach to counseling the residents here is “no nonsense.” He wisely advises those who work to always save for the future out of each paycheck. He has a great sense of humor and a lot of patience. Brother Cletus is soft spoken most of the time, but he also has strength in his voice that comes from compassion and experience.

Brother Cletus was assigned to the Philippines in 1965. He spent the following forty years as a missionary in and around that island nation. He witnessed many events first hand, including the eruption of Mt Pinatubo in 1991. In 2005, Brother Cletus returned to the United States. He spent time St. Joseph Friary in Chicago, IL; Transfiguration Parish in Southfield, MI, and is now assigned to us here in Shreveport, LA.

We here at Christian Service Program, hope for many more years of his service to others with us.



James Tyler Reaches the 20 Year Volunteer Mark



In 1989, James Tyler pledged to repay the kindness he found at Christian Service Program by volunteering. Today

Mr. Tyler is still here on Sprague Street helping to collect donations for our program. These days his health has returned to him and he is keeping that pledge he made twenty years ago. Every day James makes his rounds to collect donations for Christian Service Program. He is a dependable part of our core team. We appreciate his dedication.

Residential out patient Program for Men & Women in Recovery

Men and women with a prolonged period of homelessness, a severe addiction, and no income require more than a few months to transition successfully into the workforce. To decrease recidivism Christian Service encourages men and women to continue on to Samaritan Homes, where they begin Step 2. This step focuses on advancing employment skills by adding additional support that includes job training Step 3 also provides educational opportunities including high school and computer workshops for GED and other Literacy programs provided in collaboration with local charter schools.

Clients participate in recovery and reside at The Transitional Shelters, but their responsibilities increase and clients save a minimum of 50% of each paycheck into a savings account. The Transitional Shelter clients are ready to graduate once they save and met all of their outset goals.

Bro. Cletus Riederer, ofm – Director of Housing

Local Business donate tickets to The Christian Service Program – Thank You Industrial Oil Unlimited !

Industrial Oil Unlimited of Shreveport donated 14 *Independence Bowl* tickets for 12 kids and 2 adult chaperones. A representative from Industrial Oil, Randy Smith, stated that their company wanted to do something different for the community and allowing kids to enjoy a live football game was too big of an opportunity to pass up. These kids have special needs and some come from homes of low economic means.



“Too excited to sleep and too excited to eat”, was the comment from Connie Williams, Joshua’s mom. She stated that she could never had afford a ticket to such a special game like a bowl game and she was so grateful that someone thought about her son. Joshua talks about the cheers of all the people and the fact that he was cheering loud too, he particularly loved the crowd wave. “Mr. Smith, your thoughtfulness gave a lot of kids good memories, all the moms thank you, your company and Christian Service.

These are the names of the recipients:

Joshua Williams 6; Joshua Riggins 6; Titus Riggins 4; Ian Redding 6; Shanita Redding 12; Nieman 6; Shamanique Arkansas 6; Donald Hobdy 6; Cortney Green 5; Wesley 5; Trey 6; Richard 11; and Chaperones Freddie Arkansas; Michelle Redding

In Memory of James "Jim" Bryan Holley



October 12, 1947 – January 5, 2009

James Bryan Holley, a Shreveport native, died suddenly on January 5, 2009



Bryan Holley, known to us all at Christian Service as "Jim" was the intake coordinator at Christian Service Program for the last 10 years and he was endeared by all who knew him.

Mary Stewart, the interim coordinator, said, "The calls he took are the main business of Christian Service Program." While working at Christian Service Program, Jim taught himself the computer skills he needed. He taught himself an efficient and effective way to operate the Christian Service Program which everyone noticed. Ms. Stewart also said, "Jim had excellent handwriting and collected all sorts of pens."

The importance of his excellent handwriting is not lost on the staff at Christian Service Program. We rely on his handwritten notes as much as we do on the computer database right now. Thanks to Jim's care, we continue the work of assisting people in need. His gift for keeping reliable records is Jim's lasting gift to this community.

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.

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 _____ .

Learning Center _____ .

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

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