



Saint John's Hospice Newsletter

September 2009

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www.saintjohnshospice.org

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*Helping those in need
on behalf of those who care*

Saint John's Hospice
seeks to be a
community
grounded in
faith and service
where homeless persons
find dignity,
respect,
nourishment
and opportunities
for new beginnings.

Ask—and you shall receive

By Kevin Barr, Program Director



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)

For 45 years, the front door of Saint John's Hospice has opened to homeless men. They have knocked on this door seeking food, shelter, clothing, counseling and a place where they can be treated with dignity and respect. In order for Saint John's to continue to be Gospel or Good News to these men, we need to place more emphasis on the beginning of this quote from Jesus - "Ask and it will be given to you".

We are asking all of our faithful donors to continue to support the **labor of love** that is Saint John's. Due to the adverse economic conditions, our funding sources have taken a major hit. We are seeking more financial assistance from donors, volunteers, and businesses to help us find the means to fund these

necessary services. We will be knocking on doors and making phone calls seeking names of potential donors and volunteers. We know that in asking for help we are offering people an opportunity to be the hands of Jesus to vulnerable and beloved Sons of God.



I have no hands to care for the poor except your hands. I have no arms to love the unloved but your arms – won't you participate, won't you help, won't you be my arms, my hands?

In this newsletter, you will see an outline of the "Labor of Love, Ask and You Shall Receive" fundraising and participation program that we are launching right after Labor Day. Please look at it closely and find ways in which you can help us help these homeless men.

We, the staff of Saint John's Hospice and the thousands of men we serve every month, are asking for your help. Isn't the picture of the broken statue of Jesus found on Sacred Heart Hill at Sts Simon and Jude Church asking a similar question?

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**United Way Donor
Option #272**

**Combined Federal
Campaign #25893**

www.saintjohnshospice.org

Twitter: [saintjohnshosp](https://twitter.com/saintjohnshosp)

State of the Hospice ... How We Did—2008-2009

162 Residents

- 123 at Saint John's
- 39 at the Good Shepherd Program.
- About half are 40-49 years-old.
- One in five is a veteran.
- 153 days average stay—about 5 months

Day Services

- 82,000 hot noon meals—about 335 per day
- 6,000+ men received hot showers and clothing
- 2,000+ men—mail room services
- 5,400+ men received one-on-one help, support, and encouragement—for transportation, ID cards, getting checks, referral letters, phone calls and more.

Coffee House

- 9,800+ shelter nights to 700 men
- Sanctuary from weather and other dangers of the street with light refreshments, bathroom, and helpful staff
- Often a stepping-stone to better shelter or housing.

Volunteers

- 17,000+ work hours

A Resident Speaks ... in his own words

"Tears come to my eyes when I think of Saint John's. I am surprised how good people can be."

In Loving Memory



Charlotte Farmer
1952-2009

As we go to press, we are saddened by Charlotte's passing on September 9th. She served since 2004 as Receptionist and evening RA. She always wore a smile and considered herself "rich and blessed". She was a friend to all at Saint John's Hospice.

Labor of Love ... Ask and You Shall Receive

Funding Gap

We are blessed to have had donations and government grants that keep us in operation year after year. But, a number of factors are severely impacting us:

- Cuts in state and city support
- Reduced investment values
- Declining donations.

We are faced with having to reduce services without help.

How You Can Help

- Visit Saint John's Hospice and see the good work that we do.
- Make a regular, periodic gift rather than one-time donation.
- Increase the amount you give.
- Remember Saint John's Hospice for Memorial Gifts in your honor or in honor of a loved one.
- Make a bequest to Saint John's Hospice.
- Recommend the good work of Saint John's Hospice to a friend or business.
- Do you know of a foundation that shares our mission and vision of service to the homeless? Let us know.
- Join us for our Open House on Sunday, October 18th—2-6 pm at Saint John's Hospice.

We are faced with having to reduce services without help!

We offer the following image for your reflection—not the traditional image of the Lord's Supper.

Some are seated, some serve, some hunger, some watch. One is entering the room.

It is you.



The Lord's Supper ~ Fritz Eichenberg
You are entering the room. What part will you play?

Giving Levels for SJH

Prayerfully consider what you can give to Saint John's Hospice. Our giving levels are based on our mission (see top of page 1).

New Beginnings—gifts up to \$100.

Nourishment—gifts from \$100 to \$300.

Dignity & Respect—gifts from \$300 to \$1,000.

Faith & Service—gifts from \$1,000 and higher.

Donate securely and reliably online via PayPal.

Does your employer make matching gifts?

We are a 501(c)3 charity.

A Resident Speaks ... in his own words

"I really and truly love Saint John's."

Memorial Gifts

We are happy to provide a **Memorial Card** to recognize prayer intentions referred to Saint John's Hospice.

We enroll all prayer requests and intentions in our Chapel.

Saint John the Evangelist Church in center city offers Mass every week for all these intentions as well as for our guests, donors, volunteers and staff.

Please call Janet at 215-563-7763 for more info.

News Bits & Pieces ...

Saint John's Hospice is now on Twitter! Follow at www.twitter.com/saintjohnshosp. We'd like to use Twitter to quickly communicate facts and requests about Saint John's Hospice. A subscription is fast, easy, and free!

Blessed Sarnelli Community volunteers **Stephan Hildebrand** along with **Benedikt Peckruhn** completed 11 months of work for Saint John's Hospice in July. See a memoir of these two young men from Germany at www.saintjohnshospice.org. Click "What's New".

Pizza Party is Big Hit at SJH! We served pizza to 314 men at our noon lunch on June 26th. All left with a spirit of gratitude and joy for a lunch donated and served by **LeeAnn** and **Mike Camut's** family and volunteers.

Kitchen manager **Anthony Willoughby's** reflection: "She's earning her sainthood one slice at a time!"



LeeAnn Camut

Beneficial Bank served lunch on August 24th. **Bob**



Juliano, vice president for community development and **Joanne Ryder**, senior vice president for marketing,

The Beneficial Bank Crew presented a generous donation.

Independence Blue Cross has established SJH as the volunteer site for their **Blue Crew Volunteers**.



Mary & Joe Byers are "retiring"! Mary established the casserole program at **St Anastasia Parish** in Newtown Square 36 years ago and coordinated this ministry ever since. Their group donated over 60,000 casseroles to Saint John's Hospice over that time! We offer our thanks, congratulations and best wishes.



We can solve homelessness with money and will." (Jon Bon Jovi)

Musician and philanthropist Jon Bon Jovi's recent quote in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* caught our attention. It made us think of the money and will that has flowed in and through Saint John's for the past 45 years. All of these financial and personal sacrifices by our staff, donors, and volunteers have not ended homelessness but it has made life more bearable for thousands of men and has been a life changing experience for hundreds of them.

A Resident Speaks ... in his own words

"I've been in a lot of programs. Saint John's is the best. I have been clean for two years and Saint John's is the main reason."

As was noted on page 1, Saint John's will need more money and will if we are going to continue to have such a positive effect on homelessness in the future. We now recognize that the will to continue to improve the lives of the homeless, must be more aggressively promoted by our management team and everyone who loves Saint John's. Our intent is to bring the mission of Saint John's Hospice to all who have ears. Raising awareness of the Good News that is SJH can be done through newsletters, and phone calls but we know in our hearts that our mission and this request for support will sell itself when those we contact enter our front door.

As part of our fundraising program ("Labor of love, Ask and you shall receive") we will be inviting individuals and businesses to come to 1221 Race Street and see and feel for themselves the spirit of love and fellowship that is Saint John's Hospice. To participate more fully in this labor of love, don't wait for a call. Please contact either Program Director Kevin Barr (kbarr@chs-adphila.org) or Volunteer Coordinator Gerry Huot (ghuot@chs-adphila.org) or call us at 215-563-7763.

A Resident Speaks ... in his own words

"I feel safe at Saint John's. People care about me here."

In Memoriam ...

Officer Harry Wolf ... April 9, 2009. We appreciate the gifts in his memory.

Mary Ann Bartley ... July 2, 2009, age 72 ... artist, teacher ... worked with Sr Virginia and taught art to men of Saint John's Hospice and Good Shepherd Program in 1990s-2000s.

Helen McDevitt ... August 18, 2009, age 94 ... established casserole program at St Matthias in Bala Cynwyd ... "a kind and gentle soul always concerned about issues of social justice" ... her family will continue making casseroles. We appreciate the gifts in her memory.

Leonard Orlando, Jr ... August 28, 2009, age 89. We appreciate the gifts in his memory.

Volunteer & Donor Day Sunday, October 18th, 2-6 pm

Come join us as we celebrate the life and mission of Saint John's Hospice with our life's blood—our donors and volunteers.

- Social Hour
- Silent Auction
- Dinner
- Entertainment

Share stories with staff, residents, other donors and volunteers.

A Resident Speaks ... in his own words

"My case manager goes the extra mile for me. I am grateful."



Macy's *Shop For A Cause* gives you the opportunity to help Saint John's Hospice on Saturday, October 17th at any Macy's store. Purchase a \$5 Shopping Pass for

• 20% or 10% off most purchases all day long; 25% off a single purchase in women's men's or kids' apparel & accessories; enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card.

Saint John's Hospice keeps 100% of the Shopping Pass proceeds. Call us at 215-563-7763 to purchase cards ... or visit our website.

Saint John's Hospice



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Helping those in need on behalf of those who care



One of my daily joys is talking about our mission of service at Saint John's Hospice. It's so eloquently captured in *The Christ of the Breadlines* image. It's an image that all Christians can relate to ... a common denominator of what we're about.

We know the Gospel story (Matthew 25) where the Son of Man separates the sheep from the goats and welcomes the sheep into the kingdom. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

The sheep protest, "When?" The reply, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

These least brothers and sisters are the real presence of Jesus among us. But why don't

Who's Wearing the Halo?

By **Gerry Huot**
Volunteer & Community Relations Coordinator



I always see Jesus in these men and women?

I look at *The Christ of the Breadlines* and I see a halo over the man in the middle. Why doesn't it happen that way in real life? Why don't I see the halos on everyone all around me?

But maybe I have to ask myself, "What DO I see?" Dorothy Day reflected, "There are no halos already glowing round their heads—at least none that human eyes can see."

I have to put on "new" eyes to see Jesus around me.

Do I smell body odor? Do I wonder whether that man really needs a meal? Do I wonder whether he is prostituting himself for a cigarette or other drugs? Should this one be in jail for using drugs? Do I see an African-American man or a Latino? Do I see a cross-dresser?

Dorothy Day again: "If Mary had appeared

in Bethlehem clothed, as St John says, with the sun, a crown of twelve stars over her head, and the moon under her feet, then people would have fought to make room for her."

I have to serve the stranger as I would my own family. Yes, that means acceptance and care. But it goes further. It means looking forward to our common meal and enjoying each other. It's sharing music and art. It's lifting others up to our level rather than keeping the impregnable wall of separation that makes me better than them.

Who's wearing the halo? It's everyone around me, in pain or well. And yes, he or she may be poor or Asian or transgendered but it's Jesus himself.

The blessing of Saint John's Hospice is that together we begin to see these halos and celebrate it in this great dance that is life.