

ST. ANN PLACE
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Friends of **St. Ann Place**

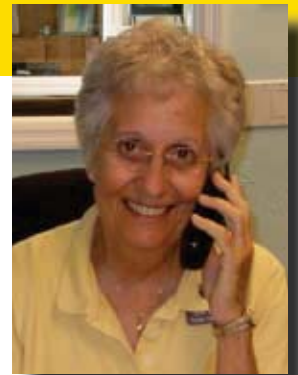
Volume IV, Issue 2 A newsletter for St. Ann Place Spring 2009

*The mission of
St. Ann Place
is to witness
Gospel values by
providing a
comfortable,
clean, safe place
where clients
receive services
in a dignified
and respectful
manner
regardless of
race, religion
or sex.*

From the Desk of the Director:

Dear Friends,

St Ann Place has been especially busy in the past months with new clients coming in for help. That influx of people who find themselves in a situation they had never imagined for themselves or their family has meant that we are spending more time doing referrals. The frustration for us and for them is that there are not many agencies where we can send them. During these busy days we have come to appreciate anew the dedication of our volunteers who are carrying the responsibility of keeping our services running in the kind and friendly spirit that we cherish as a hallmark of the Center. Their ongoing commitment as well as the support of our donors is seeing us through these hard times.



We are blessed to have new donors whose gifts whether monetary contributions or in-kind donations of clothing, personal hygiene items, etc. help to defray our program costs. New volunteers have joined us as well and we appreciate their time here as an invaluable asset.

Of all the blessings of the past months two have and will continue to make a tremendous difference to us. I am happy to share with you in this Newsletter the good news about the grants that the Quantum Foundation have made to St. Ann Place to support our Health Care Advocacy Program. For the Foundation's support and for yours, I say most gratefully: "May you continue to be blessed for your concern for those who are less fortunate".

Happy Springtime! Happy Easter! Happy new beginnings!

Sister Carleen Cekal, SSND
Director

Grants from the Quantum Foundation

The Quantum Foundation, based in West Palm Beach, is dedicated to advancing health and education for the residents of Palm Beach County. This focus clearly matches the goal of our Health Care Advocacy program, the most recent service we initiated for our clients.

The story of our connection to the Foundation began several years ago shortly after we had hired a part-time Health Care Advocate to help clients "navigate" the process that would give them access to health benefits through enrollment in the Palm Beach County Health Care District. Staff from the Quantum Foundation heard about our program and came to visit. As they left they encouraged us to apply for a grant that would help to support our growing program. As we began the application process for a major, multi-year grant we realized that we needed to relocate Sr. Katie's office (she had been sharing an office with the bookkeeper) if we were to successfully accomplish the goals we were setting for the enhancement and growth of the program.

We applied to Quantum for a special grant to do that. In February we received a \$14,000.00 President's Grant that made it possible for us to make a major change in the configuration of our offices. The new arrangement creates two small offices in close proximity to the other Directors but gives Sr. Katie and the client the privacy they need.

Once that major project was completed and Sr. Katie and Mary Ferol DiFillipo had settled into their new spaces more good news arrived. On March 6th Sr. Carleen received the news that the Quantum Foundation Board of Directors had approved our full grant request for \$120,769.00 to support the Health Care Advocacy program for the next 24 months. Paul Gionfriddo, Quantum's President sent this message: "The St Ann Place ministry is so important to so many of Palm Beach County's neediest people especially in times such as these. The Trustees and Staff of Quantum Foundation were pleased to provide these grants in recognition and support of your extraordinary efforts to tend to the basic human health needs of our people. We hope that (these grants) will be a catalyst for future contributions from many other caring and generous individuals and organizations."

We are happy to share this news with you before it becomes public since you, our faithful friends, have been our major support over the past 5 years. It would not have been possible to come this far without you and we are deeply grateful for all you have done and been for us!



COSTCO Shoppers

Two new volunteers are now making the weekly run to COSTCO to pick up the items we need for the lunch program. Kathleen Schuler and Joseph Schiber take turns on alternate weeks to go to Costco to pick up the items that Marsha has faxed to the store. Once they get back with cartons of Capri drinks, meat & cheese, paper goods, etc. they can count on willing hands to help unload. Their service is another example of how many hands it takes to keep things running and how important volunteers are to that endeavor. Thanks, Kathleen & Joe.



Sprucing Up

Once the new offices were finished and we saw how color brightened up the area it was an incentive to spruce up other parts of the Center. Sr.Carleen and Marsha's shared office space became the green room, then the waiting room got a new coat of white paint and the accent color was changed to match the offices.

Next the empty wall space where bag lunches are distributed invited a chance to create badly needed storage space, so cabinets came next. At the same time additional cabinets were added in the kitchen area. These improvements were possible thanks to donations from several volunteers.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Liz Colomé, President of Colomé and Associates for her expertise in redesigning the office spaces and to Karen Gonzalez, Interior Designer, REG, Inc. who drew the plans for the installation of the cabinet area. Both of these friends generously provided their professional services "pro bono"!



Dignity U Wear Foundation, Inc

Henri Landwirth, a philanthropist and Holocaust survivor, founded Dignity U Wear in 2000. He knew what it meant not to have clothes-to be stripped of dignity. That experience inspired him to provide new clothing for those who have no ability to buy them.

The clothing we order for our clients comes from Stein Mart, a partner of the Foundation that ships the items to us. That shipping cost is our only expense. Three times a year we can order (free of charge) up to 6 items of new clothing for as many as 100 clients. The form that we use to place our order gives us the opportunity to name the items we want and the sizes we need. This new source of clothing is a tremendous help to us. You can imagine the smile it brings to the faces of the women and men who are receiving brand new clothes that were ordered to fit them!

ST. ANN CHURCH

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"A Ministry of St. Ann Church"

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Client Services/ programs:

- Counseling and referral
- Showers & bathrooms
 - Laundry service
- Health Care advocacy
- Morning coffee & donuts
 - Bag lunch
- Telephone for local calls
 - Place to receive mail
 - Use of a computer



The 2008 Donor List

The donor list that was distributed with the last Newsletter had at least two errors. We inadvertently omitted the name of one of our major donors and named another large donor who wished to remain anonymous!

We are sorry for these errors and ask you to get in touch with Sr. Oliver by calling her at 561- 602-8868 if we missed a donation that you made last year. Hopefully the 2009 list will be more accurate.

In many ways our donors are the lifeblood of St. Ann Place and we want each of you who is supporting our ministry to feel respected and appreciated. So again I thank you for your ongoing contributions.

A Special Gift

There is a special sense of gratitude when a former client gets in touch with us. Recently we had a card from Gus along with a \$50.00 check. He wrote: "I'm doing good. I'm back in Michigan now. I have an apartment just a couple of miles from my daughter...I just wanted to thank you for your kind compassionate giving when I was in need. Those were the darkest and most desperate days of my life. And you were there to help. Thank you."