



September 2012

LAS VEGAS *Night* *Beat*

Saint Therese Center grows for the future

*New facility improves food
bank distribution, provides
venue for meetings, retreats*

See page 16



Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach builds for future with new Henderson distribution and retreat center

In the summer of 2011 Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada approached the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach about two buildings they had in Henderson. They wanted to know if the Saint Therese Center could use them, as the one building had not been used in years and the other was currently holding the offices of WIC (Women Infants and Children).

The WIC program was being moved to a more user-friendly location.

These buildings were about eight blocks from Boulder Highway and if the women took the bus they had to walk. Having children in tow or being pregnant, the walk was not pleasant – especially in the heat of most of the year. Obviously, if the Saint Therese Center took the use of the buildings the same would apply for her clients.

“However, as we were spending thousands in storage, we could use the one building for storage, saving that money for other uses,” explains Saint Therese Center Executive Director Father Joseph I. O’Brien, O.P. “The second building was used for many programs over the years from home for pregnant women, assisted living for elderly women and storage unit for bunk beds and mattresses! There also included in the property was a large lot, while fenced in on one side, it just existed to collect weeds and junk from the neighborhood.”

After agreeing to facilitate the use of the property for the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach, Catholic Charities of

Southern Nevada turned over the use of the property and buildings.

“The property had little done to it over the past eight years and as most water systems for garden plants had been shut down or broken, the majority of the property had prickly pear cactus that had become skeleton-like, dead plants, trees and palm trees that hadn’t been trimmed in years,” Father Joseph lamented. So Father Joseph’s assistant David Brown, who one time managed Star Nursery went on attack mode and cleaned up the landscape. The dead plants and shrubs filled over three large Dumpsters. In the process, the help from Saint Peter’s Youth group as well as Bishop Gorman High School students was invaluable in making things clean and getting rid of garbage that had built up.

Father Joseph realizing that while this was a major undertaking there was a need for funding and making several things happen. The Engelstad Family Foundation was approached with a six point plan of attack and asked for funding to make it all happen. The Engelstad trustees were thrilled to support the work and funded the entire plan.

The building that had not been used for years and was currently being used for storage of Catholic Charities’ bunk beds that were being used in their winter shelter housing was addressed first. With an eye to eventually using it as a retreat center and (or) facility for day workshops and classes, the bed frames were located elsewhere and the entire inside spray

painted white. The carpet was removed and interlocking oak wood panel floor was placed throughout the building. The lights in all the rooms were changed to ceiling fans and lights.

“At the same time, the Sahara Hotel was having its liquidation sale so the Sahara was talked into donating things for the retreat house. Filling over three trucks with items and receiving help from Imago Dei, the gay and lesbian support group, we received from the Sahara, art work, vanity benches, round tables, night stands, lamps and digital clocks for all the rooms at the residence,” Father Joseph says gratefully. New mattresses were purchased from the grant as well as Lazy Boy couches (that also open up as beds) for each room as well.

The retreat house can comfortably hold up to 40 people and there is plenty of floor space for younger, larger groups. While all the room linens and blankets were purchased, it was through Hawks Gym that bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths were donated for the outreach and its use.

The back half of this building is also being used for food storage. The extra rooms here include a sewing area, where quilts have been made for the upcoming National Minority AIDS Conference. There is a large space for David’s workshop and two freezers for products that obviously need freezing.

In a pod area of four rooms, there is a room for fundraising where Norman

Continued on page 17



Furnishings donated by the Sahara Hotel on closing, along with bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths donated by Hawks Gym and a grant from the Engelstad Family Foundation helped furnish the retreat center.

Donations, volunteers transform the landscape from cactus skeletons to an environment-friendly beauty

Continued from page 16

makes his amazing baskets for events at the bars as well as for the Circle of Roses



and relocate all of it at the property on Palo Verde. As there were two storage sheds in the back of the property all the food barrels and boxes we use for Thanksgiving and Christmas were moved there. The other outside shed houses Christmas decorations and odds and ends.

The outside back of the house also serves as pallet storage for the companies we have to

before the holiday.

With this new space they are able to store food much more safely as it is temperature controlled. Thus too, they have been able to purchase pallets of food when on sale and have ready for the shelves of the pantry at Main Campus and San Martin Campus. The Saint Therese Center partnership with Feed The Children has allowed for the delivery of items from California which include pallets of sports drink, water, hygiene as well as cleaning supplies. These arrive on 52 foot trucks and are unloaded by fork

Left: Father Joseph is pleased with the e-skills of Michael Gatewood who's work allows the Saint Therese Center to have an up-to-date web site as well as a presence on Facebook and Twitter.

Below right: Juanita Gatewood gathers products for the food pantry located at the campuses of St Rose Dominican Hospital at the de Lima and San Martin campuses as well as St John the Baptist in Laughlin.

return pallets to as it is a requirement for continued donations. The history of

lift into the new facility and stored in the various rooms.

Continued on page 18

Dinner; a room for canned vegetables where five pallets have storage space for five different varieties; a room with pallet space for cake mixes as well as green beans; then there is extra space in this area which holds items for the Circle of Roses Dinner as well as pallets for peas & carrots and sliced potatoes. Obviously it is a large building and holds many possibilities for the Saint Therese Center!

The other building was the WIC offices and has become the executive offices for the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach. This allowed Father Joseph to move his office out of the Main Campus at Lake Mead and Boulder which then freed up space for a new and used clothing room at the pantry outreach. All the client files were also relocated to a file room in the new building, allowing for Brother Frederick to have more space and a place to talk to clients in a little more privacy. The copy room was also relocated allowing the odd space for Norman to have space for desk and inventory control.

In the new building, then they were able to close the four storage units that they rented at Storage Kings in Henderson

the center with all its records since 1998 are stored in a file room that runs parallel to the active client file room. The various rooms in this building then are dedicated to specific food products and their storage. Along with the variety of canned and paper goods, there is a room for hygiene items, a room for Christmas items and collection for and towards Christmas.

The shower stalls in the bathrooms that are not being used serve as themed storage where you can find donations from companies after Halloween, Valentine's Day, Easter and 4th of July. These then are available to our clients the following year



'Our volunteers accomplish so much ... and they deserve all the credit'

Continued from page 17

Regarding the outside property, as mentioned David took responsibility and after clearing the property contacted Wally at Treehouse Nursery in Las Vegas who donated 86 box trees for the property! Whiting Rock and Vista Rock also donated and kept prices low for several thousand tons of gold rock and red rock for the property. Overwhelmed by generosity but the amount of work, soon David was glad to receive help from Bishop Gorman Students and alumni who helped plant the trees. Catholic Charities and more Gorman students, who helped plant shrubs and the rose garden, as well as students from Saint Thomas More who spread mulch and build rock walls, are helping to complete the general peace and serenity of the property. Soon two large water fountains will be installed to make the area more serene and meditative.

Food drives used to be counted by volunteers over in the storage units, where there was no air conditioning. Now all that is done in comfort year round at the property. The Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach still has improvements to do and make as well as get a large freezer on property to store many pallets of ice cream that were received from the association with Feed The Children. Just recently they

received 16 pallets of Starbucks Coffee Mocha Frappuccino ice cream bars and then in the beginning of August, 55 pallets of Magnum Ice Cream Bars!

"Our volunteers accomplish so much under the guidance of David and Norman and they deserve all the credit for the wonderful work the Center does as well as the regular staff who day in and day out serve the clients at the campuses of St Rose Dominican Hospital at de Lima and San Martin campuses as well as St John the Baptist in Laughlin," praised Father Joseph.

"As the weather cools we will continue the outside work on the property and are always looking for help from groups who are willing to pitch in. It is amazing what a group can do on a Saturday from nine until one!" he said.

Contact Father Joseph to set up a work day at (702) 564-4224.

The Saint Therese Center HIV outreach is also in the media age having email, a web site, and a presence on Facebook, and Twitter. The 14 years the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach has been serving the community has been a successful blessing to both the community and Center.



Above: David Brown takes a break in the shade.

Left: Gil Garcia and Norman AhNee in Norman's workroom where gift baskets for fundraisers are assembled.

Below: Norman AhNee with some of the beautiful baskets he prepared for the Circle of Roses Dinner.



Circle of Roses Dinner live auction: three amazing prizes

A year of monthly cheesecake delights baked by Father Joseph, Smith Center seats, adorable puppy

Saint Therese Center's 12th annual Circle of Roses fundraising dinner to help support their HIV/AIDS outreach is scheduled for Friday, Sept 7 beginning at 6 p.m. Call (702) 564-4224 for tickets.

Guests attending, or businesses donating cash or merchandise, will be supporting the work of the Center. Tickets are \$85 each or \$800 for a table of ten.

Each year the Riviera Hotel and Casino generously hosts this event in their Grand Ballroom with elegant service and dinner. There will be a very silent auction, envelope lottery, Pandora's box and a brief live auction. The 12th annual event will feature an elegant dinner with the grand hospitality of the Riviera Hotel Staff. There will be the presentation of the 2012 Circle of Roses award to several wonderful people and

organizations for all their support; all in all a very special evening for a very special cause.

Paula Francis, 8 News Now anchor will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Proceeds from this memorable evening will be used to support the ongoing work the organization does ... day-in, day-out ... month after month ... providing spiritual, emotional, educational and social assistance to all persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The evening will honor various businesses and groups with the 2012 Circle of Roses Awards: Albertson's Food Stores; Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada; Glazier's Food Marketplace; Saint Anne Parish; Saint Joan of Arc Parish and Yolie's Brazilian Steakhouse; for their work, contribution and support

in the HIV Community living in Southern Nevada. Individual Color Rose Awards also to be presented to outstanding members of the community.

The Saint Therese Center is welcoming new corporate sponsors to help underwrite the expenses of the evening.

Sponsors currently on board include Riviera Hotel & Casino, Tiger Lily Florist, Chippendales, Shade Tree Women's Shelter, Impress/Copy Max, Glaziers Food Marketplace, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals, Caprio Media Design, Las Vegas Night Beat, Q Vegas Magazine, 8 News Now, Sandy Valley Farm, Mission Industries, Catholic Charities Southern NV, Advanced Orthopedic & Sports Medicine and CVS Pharmacies.

The prizes are ...

The Saint Therese Center's main annual fundraising event will feature a live auction of three amazing prizes for the highest bidder:

First there is a year supply of cheesecakes made by Father Joseph! It is a well kept secret but Father Joseph is an amazing cheesecake baker. This item will feature a cheesecake at the event and on the first of the month or close to the first, a cheesecake will arrive at the winner's home or office.

The order of cheesecakes are:

September – Macadamia Nut Cheesecake with Glazed Macadamia Nut Crust

October – Peanut Butter Cheesecake and Jelly Topping with Peanut Butter Cookie Crust

November – Pumpkin Cheesecake with Ginger Snap Cookie Crust

December – Eggnog Cheesecake with Nutmeg Cookie Crust

January – Kilimanjaro Cheesecake with Graham Cracker Crust

February – Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake with Chocolate Wafer Crust

March – Grasshopper Cheesecake with Chocolate Mint Cookie Crust

April – Lemon Cheesecake with Lemon Cookie Crust

May – Mai Tai Cheesecake with Toasted Coconut Crust

June – Simple Basic Cheesecake with Graham Cracker Crust

July – Chocolate Cheesecake and Candy Topping with Chocolate Candy Cookie Crust

August – Banana Cheesecake with Vanilla Wafer Cookie Crust

Second there are Eight (8) Seats in Box Y at the Smith Center for your choice of one of the following six events.

*Anything Goes • West Side Story • Shrek the Musical
Beauty and the Beast • Billy Elliot • Catch Me if You Can*

Third there is an amazing Puppy....

17 week old puppy • Chihuahua / Pomeranian

*All shots and records up to date (file available) Charleston Clinic
Potty Trained for Paper • Spayed (if winner chooses) Charleston Clinic
Carrying Case & Toys
Goodie Bag & Food from K-9 and Kitty's
Puppy loves Kisses*

