



St. Mary's INTERFAITH Community Services

Fr. Alan McCoy, O.F.M. Dining Room

Virgil Gianelli M.D. Medical Clinic

St. Raphael's Dental Clinic

Kara Brewer Family Clothing & Hygiene Center

September 2009

Fall

We are often asked: Who are the homeless? Why are they homeless? Why don't they just get a job just like the rest of society and quit being a problem!!!

Many homeless people have physical and mental problems that bar them from finding or holding a job. This story of Henry West is not necessarily typical, but early home experiences can set a pattern for future behavior. At St. Mary's Interfaith we make an effort to know the homeless and be of assistance in helping them find a direction.

Henry was the fourth child of the West's seven children and the most complicated. His older brothers were brilliant students and excellent athletes, but all that Henry did well was draw. At school the teachers would say, "Henry, why don't you work like your brothers?"

Growing up in a poor ghetto in Chicago was difficult enough, but having little self-worth, an alcoholic father, and an over-worked mother made Henry's life unstable. He learned at an early age to take a nip from his father's whiskey stash, so that by the time he was sixteen, he was hooked on alcohol.

At seventeen the family decided the Navy would be good training for Henry so the papers were signed and he began four turbulent years in the U.S. Navy. Because of his fighting and drinking while in the service, he received a bad-conduct discharge and returned to civilian life.

With his bad-conduct discharge, no one would hire him. Henry decided to earn a living the wrong way and began to burglarize a series of check-cashing stores, not realizing these stores belonged to the 'Mafia'. He was caught in the act and nearly killed by the mob. He thought afterwards that option might have been better than the 10-25 years that he was sentenced to in prison.

After nine years in prison the parole board, because of his good behavior, offered him parole on the condition he leave the state of Illinois. One of his sisters was living in Stockton so that became his logical destination.

Parolees have a hard time being hired, but when coupled with a bad-conduct record from the Navy, jobs became harder for Henry to find. The one occupation he had no trouble finding was "dealing drugs."

It wasn't long before Henry was in a California prison serving 4 years for drug sales and possession. Again, good behavior allowed for an early release. Out of prison, he vowed that he was never going to be in trouble again.

Idleness was not good for Henry. He found casual labor jobs, but in his free time he began drinking and found his 'true love' in a bar. They married, had two sons, but the unfortunate part of the relationship was that she was a drug addict. The disastrous marriage lasted five years.

While Henry was in prison, he learned how to weld, but when he tried to find a welding job he lacked the necessary certificate. His occasional labor jobs did not earn enough for him to stay out of homelessness. He depended on St. Mary's Interfaith for his basic needs and stayed at the homeless shelter at night.

He visited the counseling office at Delta College and discovered there were assistance programs for the homeless. Since he still wanted to work in welding he enrolled in that program. This class was ideal for Henry. The prison experience in learning to weld gave him confidence in the welding skill. However, in the third week of the class, a leg on the long steel training table collapsed and the table fell on Henry's foot breaking it in four places and severing the major artery.

At first there was a possibility his foot would have to be amputated. However, after several surgeries it finally healed. Henry said, "Maybe this was a wake-up call." He plans to re-enter the welding class at the next opportunity. He still wants to be a welder.

David Brewer
Director of Client Relations

Edward Figueroa
CEO

Our Mission

To Serve the needs of poor men, women and children through nurturing self reliance for a hopeful future by offering food, clothing, medical and dental care, educational programs and general assistance.

2009

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News

New Social Services Center in the works at St. Mary's Interfaith...

Our agency is exploring and in the initial stages of planning to expand our Social Services Program. St. Mary's Interfaith currently provides limited case management services to our clients. Some of these services include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance with completing applications and forms for various benefit programs (ie. Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, GR, MAP program of San Joaquin General).
- Provides advocacy on behalf of clients with various service providers.
- Provides referrals to other service organizations that may offer additional services for clients.
- Provides referral to legal assistance and Homeless Court.
- Assists clients with securing emergency shelter, transitional housing and housing referrals.
- Directs clients to Pre-Employment Workshop to assist them in their job searching skills.
- Assists with translation services, often providing translation services on behalf of clients.
- Assists clients with acquiring their birth certificates or other lost documents required to seek employment.
- Provides transportation for clients when required.
- Provides school supplies, backpacks and uniforms, as available, to homeless children.

Management has recognized the need to increase the quality and quantity of services currently being provided. By making a stronger commitment to case management we believe that we will be able to provide more than sustenance; clients will actually have the tools necessary to begin rebuilding their lives. It is our agency's intentions to continuously develop new ways to better serve our clients.

Upcoming Event

Super Bowl Appreciation Luncheon 2010

Supporters of St. Mary's Interfaith are invited to attend our 20th Annual Super Bowl Appreciation Luncheon which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 14th, 2010 @ 12 noon in our Fr. Alan McCoy O.F.M. Dining Room. Tickets can now be purchased for \$100.00 to win one of six packages. Each package will include 2 tickets for the 2010 Super Bowl Game and \$2,000 cash for travel expenses. In addition to the Super Bowl Grand Prize Tickets, other prizes will also be available. The drawing will take place on December 10th, 2009 and the winners will be notified. While we will not be selecting the Super Bowl Game tickets at this luncheon we will have a raffle and live auction. We need all of our previous generous supporters to help us make this event a success. When we reach our goal of raising \$100,000.00 the Spanos Family will provide a package to be drawn at our January luncheon. This package will include the opportunity to attend a San Diego Chargers game with seats in the Spanos' Box. Airfare and accommodations will also be provided! If you would like more information about becoming a sponsor or purchasing tickets for this event, please contact Mario Fuentez at 209.467.0703 ext. 3121 or email: mfuentez@stmarysinterfaith.com

Families and Children utilizing our services and programs.



Continuing to provide support for families and children for 54 years!

Dr. Garfalo assisting a client with fitting his new shoes!

Two children who received shoes at our 7th Annual Shoe Give Away!



"Nurturing Self Reliance for a Hopeful Future"

Special Thanks!

7th Annual Shoe Give Away

Our 7th Annual Shoe Give Away took place on Saturday, July 18th, 2009 at ten o'clock in the morning in our Fr. Alan McCoy O.F.M. Dining Room. The event had a great turnout with more than 600 clients receiving a free pair of shoes! Many of our clients who received a pair of shoes were young families with children. This event is spearheaded by Dr. Garfalo, a local podiatrist. Dr. Garfolo volunteers his time in our medical clinic and it was through his involvement with our agency that he came to realize many of our clients lacked appropriate footwear. He established the shoe drive to prevent potential foot problems experienced by our clients who do not have durable, well fitting shoes. *Thank you Dr. Garfalo, for another successful event that directly improved the lives of our clients!*

Stockton, CA 95203
545 W. Sonora St.
St. Mary's Interfaith
Community Services

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Because you care, St. Mary's Interfaith provided the following *units of service* to the county's needy individuals and families from January thru July 2009.

- **Medical & Dental visits to our clinics.....4,608 visits**
- **Meals provided.....203,461 meals**
- **Kara Brewer Family Clothing & Hygiene Center**
 - **Women and children served.....26,848 persons**
 - **Men served.....18,901 persons**
- **Total hours volunteered.....33,818 hours**