



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
Social Services

September 2010

Fall

When St. Mary's Dining Room opened in October of 1955 hunger was not the only problem. Fr. Alan McCoy, the founder of the Dining Room, asked Dr. Virgil Gianelli if he could visit the dining room during meal time and see what the medical needs were.

In 1956, with the help of Dr. Jim Heffernan and nurse Noreen McEneny, Dr. Gianelli began what was to become a model medical program for poor people. He would arrive at the dining room with a black bag filled with emergency medications, mostly antibiotics, and when mothers and their babies started coming to the dining room Dr. Gianelli began bringing inoculations.

Farm workers, who would come to the Dining Room, asked Dr. Gianelli if he could visit the farm camps, mainly near Linden, where there were serious medical and dental problems. Dr. Gianelli, with dentist Dario Marengo, found not only medical and dental problems but severe poverty.

Recognizing that with the thousands of farm workers throughout the valley the need must be immense. There were no programs and little funding for medical help. Contacting local Congressman John McFall, Virgil was able to appear before a congressional hearing on health. He spoke to the committee explaining the extreme conditions of the workers and presented a financial medical proposal. He was denied. Dr. Gianelli, noted for his short fuse, mounted a chair and chastised the committee for their lack of concern for the poorest Americans. They reconsidered and a Federal migrant health plan was born.

In 1987, when St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services moved from the Dining Room on Washington Street to the present site off South Lincoln Street, a modern medical clinic was created under Dr. Gianelli's supervision. Ten medical doctors were recruited along with nurses and clerks. Dr. Bruce Toy and Dr. Ross Bewley formed a dental clinic.

In 2000, a new dining room and medical clinic were completed. With the continued increase in the population of the poor people in the county, the existing facilities could no longer adequately serve the poor people. The present medical clinic has 4 complete examining rooms for the volunteer doctors but also a well equipped department for pharmaceuticals. A fully equipped examination room provides optometric eye care for prescription glasses. Weekly chiropractic help is also available.

It has always been a problem for us in having someone to manage the complications of running the clinic. Two years ago, when we had an opening for a director, we had an application by a woman who had recently arrived from the Philippines, Mary Ann Soria.

Mary Ann is from the northern city of Baguio noted for its beauty and cool climate. She attended primary and secondary schools in Baguio and earned her Medical Doctor degree at the Virgin Milagrosa Institute and did her residency at the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital. In addition to her M.D. degree, through the Philippines College of Health Science, she graduated with a Nursing degree.

For ten years, Mary Ann was the medical health officer in a village called Nagbukel Ilocos Sur on Luzon, a village where they served poor farmers and fisherman. Mary Ann's husband, Constante, was the son of a retired U. S. Navy officer and the opportunity of coming to the United States was a possibility. They were concerned that their children would have limited opportunities if they stayed in the Philippines.

The medical clinic has been transformed. Mary Ann, with her training and skills, has brought a coordination and expansion of services that previously did not exist. An example of the type of services that she has created is an educational program in co-operation with St. Joseph's Medical Center for the clinic's 600 plus diabetic patients. Additional education classes also teach the hypertensive and asthmatic patients.

With the help of St. Joseph's Medical Center and extraordinary volunteer doctors, nurses and pharmacists, the medical clinic is a unique and healing center for the poor people of San Joaquin County.

David Brewer
Director of Client Relations

Edward Figueroa
CEO



Mary Ann Soria, Director of Health Services, responsible for Virgil Gianelli Medical Clinic and St. Raphael's Dental Clinic.

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.

2010

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News

Early Head Start

The sounds of children's voices have increased on our campus with the opening of two new programs in late May of this year. We are excited to welcome Child Development Council's Early Head Start infant and toddler programs to the preschool that has already been a part of our campus for 4 years. The opportunity these 3 programs provide to children and their families who are experiencing homelessness is inspiring. Families are provided with additional resources and referrals from the caring staff and most importantly the children have a safe and secure place to be while their parents focus on the many issues that confront them so they can quickly become self-sufficient again. Welcome to our campus Early Head Start!

Upcoming Events

Super Bowl Raffle

The 2010 Super Bowl Raffle will be kicking off shortly. This important annual event helps generate funds required to maintain our many programs. Sponsorship and individual ticket opportunities are available. Individual tickets may be purchased for \$100 each. Each ticket provides the donor with the opportunity to win 1 of 6 Grand Prizes packages! The package includes 2 tickets, donated by the Spanos Family, to the 2011 Super Bowl Game in Texas and a \$2,000 cash prize to assist with necessary travel arrangements. Additional information about sponsorship opportunities and/or ticket(s) are available by contacting our office at 209.467.0703.

Special Thanks!

Presentation School

Robin Moore teaches 6th Grade at the Church of the Presentation Catholic school. Each year for the past 15 years Mrs. Moore has arranged to bring her students to our campus for a day of education and service. We enjoy having the opportunity each year to share our mission with these young people and provide them with the experience of assisting others in their community. Recently, Mrs. Moore commented that this trip is something each new class looks forward to and is one that makes a lasting impression on them. Following this year's day of service we received the following from one of her students, "That day I learned that giving back is a beautiful thing. I would want to go there all of the time to feed the people who have less than me...I can't wait to go back to St. Mary's." We thank Mrs. Moore, her students and their parent chaperones for making this a truly memorable experience.

Evening of Appreciation

Thank you to all of our generous underwriters, sponsors, guests and in-kind donors who made our 2010 Evening of Appreciation such a success! On Friday, June 25th over 300 guests gathered at Bare Ranch to honor Dino & Joan Cortopassi for their long time support of our work caring for our community's homeless individuals and families. It was a perfect summer night. A special thank you to Heidi Williams, Development Chair, Mario Fuentez and their entire committee for ensuring a fitting tribute to this supportive couple and a most enjoyable evening for all who attended. We hope you will watch for our 2012 event!

Annual Shoe Give-Away

On Saturday, July 24th we hosted our 8th Annual Christmas in July Shoe Give-Away. We extend a special thank you to Dr. Craig Garfalo for his continued support of this important event. Dr. Garfalo, a local podiatrist and volunteer, began this event as a response to the number of patients he was treating in our clinic during his monthly visits. He witnessed first hand the affects on our clients well being from their lack of appropriate footwear. This year over 433 of our clients were able to receive a pair of new or gently used shoes. All the shoes were donated by caring individuals, groups and businesses in our community. A thank you to everyone who donated shoes for this event. Their kindness ensured that our clients were able to walk away with appropriate and well-fitting shoes.



Volunteer pharmacy technician Lee Ann and Mary Ann hard at work in our dispensary.



Leticia Nava, Medical Clinic Coordinator, with volunteer medical assistant Augustina preparing patient for consultation.



One of our many interns taking vitals prior to patient's visit with doctor.

Are you a medical or dental professional? Have you ever considered joining our volunteer staff? We would be happy to speak with you about how your time can truly make a difference in the lives of the many uninsured who visit our clinics each day.



Dino and Joan Cortopassi our 2010 Evening of Appreciation honorees pictured with Christa Steele, Board President and Edward Figueroa, CEO.



Volunteers assisting one of the many children who received a new or gently used pair of shoes at our annual shoe giveaway!

Items Always In Need

- Backpacks
- Blankets
- Diapers (Newborn to Size 6)
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Ground Beef/Chicken
- Infant Formula
- Men's Pants (Size 30-38)
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Shoes
- Socks
- Sweatpants
- Sweatshirts
- Men's & Women's Underwear

St. Mary's Interfaith
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Because you care, St. Mary's Interfaith provided the following *units of service* to our county's needy individuals and families from January thru June 2010.

- **Medical & Dental visits to our clinics.....6,647 visits**
- **Meals provided.....197,844 meals**
- **Kara Brewer Family Clothing & Hygiene Center**
 - Women and children served.....43,971 persons**
 - Men served.....14,037 persons**
- **Social Services.....7,465 persons**
- **Total hours volunteered.....39,671 hours**