



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

December 2010

Fall

Willie Bates was born on April 4, 1965. This is an important date because when he was born it was discovered he had an incomplete digestive tract; his colon was missing, and he was not expected to live. When Dr. William Brock, a respected Stockton surgeon, was informed of his condition, he performed the rare surgery on two-day-old Willie and created a colon without which he would have died. Willie survived and was labeled "a miracle baby". Later in his life he realized that God was looking out for him very early in his life.

Willie's father was an alcoholic and his mother a drug addict. It didn't take many years for Willie to follow their example. By the age of thirteen he was in and out of juvenile hall for selling drugs and fighting. On his 18th birthday he was sent to jail and when released went back to the same habits. When he couldn't hold a job to support his addiction, he began robbing garages.

Willie, along with his talented accomplice Albert, was able to steal a prescription pad from a laboratory. With a false prescription, Willie and Albert could obtain Valium and trade or sell it for methamphetamines. In one of their "dumpster dives", the two found an ID of an older woman. This made their drug purchases easier. Acting the part of her gardener Willie picked up her medication. But the operation backfired. The ID belonged to a woman who had been found murdered and Willie was on film using her ID. He was arrested and charged with murder.

Willie was in jail almost three months when one of the guards saw him praying in his cell. The following day, the guard handed him a bible. Willie consumed the New Testament and felt as the grace of God had come into his cell.

Public defender, Steve Woodson, ordered an investigation of the case because other evidence had surfaced. On December 23rd, Willie went to court for sentencing. The judge said to him "Merry Christmas, Mr. Bates. The charges have been dropped."

After being released from prison, Willie needed a job. The last "work" that Willie had done, robbing garages, was no more. For the next three years he was employed by a window company but he was unhappy with his work and so was his boss. He was fired, his marriage was falling apart, and he was living on unemployment insurance. With his Bible still foremost on his mind, he began attending church services. He was aware that his church sent a van to the homeless shelter each Sunday to pick up the men who wanted to attend services. Willie volunteered to drive the van and asked the pastor to pray for him to find a good job.

Down to his last unemployment check, and unable to pay his utility bill, he started coming to St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services for assistance. In a chance meeting with Bruce Pardella, a St. Mary's Interfaith social worker, he expressed his fear of not being able to pay his utility bill. Bruce, through St. Mary's Emergency Aid program, paid the bill and recommended that Willie apply for the currently open custodial position at St. Mary's Interfaith.

Willie was given the job and has been with St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services for six years; two as custodian and for the last four years as our truck driver. Not only does he love his job but he leaves a trail of good will wherever he goes. We are fortunate to have hired him. As Willie reflects on his past life, he says, "I didn't get arrested. I got rescued." He has been clean for fourteen years.

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.

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Special Thanks!

S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards

Emily Sarale is a sophomore at St. Mary's High School and she is changing the world, one card at a time. Giving away toys equal in number to her age for each birthday, Emily was taught philanthropy early on. Now fifteen, she says, "I don't outgrow my clothes as quickly and I have no toys to donate. I needed to find another way to help." She did. Emily has been contacting churches, schools, and local businesses asking them to participate in the S.H.A.R.E.S. Program for St. Mary's Interfaith. The S.H.A.R.E.S. card works at any location Save Mart, Smart, Food Maxx, and Lucky's. Just swipe the card before you pay and 3% of your purchase automatically comes back to St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services. That's it. Emily says she likes this project because she is not asking for money directly and her own local community is benefitting. So far, she has been able to distribute nearly 3,000 S.H.A.R.E.S. cards and says she is passionate about the project because she knows it is making a difference in somebody's life. Thank you Emily for your hard work and dedication to the issue of homelessness in our community!



Culinary School



Anthony Arinaga, (L) Dir. of Kitchen Services and Edwin Quitugua, (R) recent graduate.

This fall saw the first collaboration between St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services and the San Joaquin County Office of Education, Regional Occupational Culinary Arts Program. This partnership allows for its students to get hands on training while at the same time providing a valuable staffing resource for our Kitchen and Dining Room Program. The ten students, who graduated the program in late October, were trained for six weeks at various kitchen work stations and were tasked with the opportunity to prepare meals for the 500 plus clients St. Mary's Interfaith Community Service's sees every day. On the final day of the program the students were given the full run of the kitchen as though it were their own in order to grasp a complete restaurant experience. Edwin Quitugua, a recent graduate, says. "I loved it. It has given me a sense of honor and a new life perspective." Anthony Arinaga, Director of Kitchen Services at St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services, said he is extremely proud of the group of students for their hard work and dedication. "We were given a great group to work with and we had the opportunity to see them excel in what they are already good at. I am proud of each and every one of them." This program is presented in partnership with the San Joaquin County Human Services Agency and Cal-Works.

Tours

Come Join Us!



The clients, staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors would like to invite you to join us for a tour of the campus of St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services. If you have not had the chance to formally visit the campus and our programs or if you have been thinking about introducing us to your friends, family, or colleagues, the monthly tour is a great opportunity. Our tour allows you to better understand the issues faced by homeless and working poor individuals and families and ways St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services is working to serve their needs. It also highlights ways you can support positive change in our community. Tours occur every second Thursday of the month from 10-11am and are meant solely to be informative so please leave your checkbooks at home. If you would like to RSVP for a tour please contact Selina Carreon, Director of Development, at (209) 467-0703 or scarreon@stmarysinterfaith.org.

Winter Season

Keeping Warm

"Baby, It's Cold Outside" isn't just a seasonal song, it's the truth. Homeless and working poor individuals and families we serve are struggling to keep themselves warm this winter. Jackets, gloves, and blankets are all coveted commodities during these harsh months. One piece of clothing that is often overlooked to donate during the winter, but which are so valuable to our clients they are referred to as 'white gold', are socks. Have you thought about donating your new and gently used items of warm clothing this winter? Is your linen closet overflowing with more blankets than you use? Have your children outgrown the coat they wore last year? Care to pick up an extra package of socks on your shopping trip? Your support and donations of coats, socks, blankets, gloves and beanies makes a huge difference in the quality of services we are able to provide to the community and the quality of health for the homeless and working poor individuals and families this winter season. We hope you will consider donating new and gently used winter clothing to St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services because together we can help the homeless make it through the cold days and nights of winter.

Volunteer Opportunities

Doctors and Dentists Needed

Every Monday and Wednesday there is a line outside the gates. Officially, the line does not open until six a.m. but usually you can find people in line as early as five in the morning. Sometimes earlier. They are waiting. They are hoping. They are in line to receive tickets to the medical or dental clinics. Some mornings there are as many as 200 people in line. 200 people for 24 tickets for each clinic. Our clinics are staffed by caring volunteer doctors and dentists who offer their time and talents to support our homeless and working poor individuals and families. We would like to make the hope of being able to see a doctor a reality for more people who wait in line but we need your help to do that. We are looking for more doctors and dentists willing to make an investment in the health of our community. Whether you can donate your time every week or just a few hours a month, we welcome your commitment. *If you are a medical professional, or know of someone who is, and would like to learn more about volunteering your skills with us, please contact Mary Ann Soria, Director of Health Services at (209) 467-0703 or msoria@stmarysinterfaith.org.*



Souper Bowl of Caring



The *Souper Bowl of Caring* is a national organization whose mission is "Utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities." The premise? Getting church groups, schools, community organizations, and anyone who has a passion to eradicate hunger in their local community to come together during Super Bowl week to collect donations of funds and canned goods through various *Souper Bowl of Caring* events. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each

group's choice. It's a fun and easy way to support positive change in your community. Visit www.souperbowl.org to learn more and receive your packet to get started!

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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)
- Men's Jackets
- Men's Shirts
- Shoes
- Socks
- Sweatpants
- Sweatshirts
- Men's & Women's Underwear

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

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

- **Medical & Dental visits to our clinics.....4,480 visits**
- **Meals provided.....124,233 meals**
- **Kara Brewer Family Clothing & Hygiene Center**
 - Women and children served.....13,973 persons**
 - Men served.....12,062 persons**
- **Social Services.....4,461 persons**
- **Total hours volunteered.....24,996 hours**