



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

March 2010

Spring

Helen Campbell vowed that she was not going to take any more abuse. When she had saved enough money, she bought bus tickets for herself and her three children and left Kansas City behind. She had relatives in Stockton who promised that she and her children could stay with them until they were settled. In 1975, there were jobs in Stockton and Helen soon found a job with a car seat manufacturer.

Henry, her youngest son, was energetic and athletic. At nine he was playing for Little League with great success. During practice one day he was running for a fly ball when his leg suddenly collapsed. He was able to hobble home, but with a great deal of pain. At school the next day the teacher noticing his discomfort sent a note home to his mother recommending he be seen by a doctor.

The orthopedic staff at San Joaquin General Hospital suspected cancer and arranged for an evaluation at Kaiser Permanente's Children's Hospital in Oakland. The diagnosis was that it was bone cancer. The Kaiser Hospital specialist, Dr. Joseph Johnson, had been following the case of Ted Kennedy Jr., who had lost his leg to cancer as Henry's condition was similar to Ted's.

Further tests determined that in order to stop the spread of cancer an operation was essential and the amputation of his leg had to be made well into the thigh in order to remove all of the disease.

Henry's orthopedic doctor in Stockton was Dr. Stephen Gall who has monitored Henry's leg for the past thirty years. Dr. Gall still spends part-time at San Joaquin General Hospital and sees Henry regularly. As a result of the high thigh amputation walking for Henry is a constant problem.

After graduating from Stagg High School, Henry entered a program in Stockton that taught physical therapy. He was able to find a position in a convalescent hospital and remained there for ten years. The stress was a constant problem, and greater problems were created by his having to physically lift the patients. Dr. Gall advised him that he had to stop work or he would be confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life.

Without the skills needed for a desk job, Henry lived on disability. Boredom led to hanging out, bad

habits and questionable friends. He married Stacy who was not content living on Henry's disability income. The marriage soon ended, but the relationship had produced a son, Kevin, and Stacy was given full custody.

Helen, Henry's mother, died in 2003 leaving Henry without family and the loving support his mother always gave him. Grieving and angry, Henry started on crack cocaine and mingled with the users. He tried relationships with several women and all ended in unhappiness.

Henry began coming to St. Mary's Interfaith because his disability check barely covered his rent and utilities, and he needed our agency's services. Henry is bright, affable and gregarious. He soon started volunteering in our dining room and became acquainted with a group of people who were not drug users and who enjoyed his company. A staff member, Robert Harris, had a particular positive influence on Henry. He realized he needed to have a more realistic evaluation of his life.

His grandmother, who lived in Mississippi, had invited him to visit. She was 92 years of age and wasn't certain how much more time she had. This was a new world for Henry: a loving grandmother and lots of friendly cousins with stable families and no drug use. It was a time of healthy living and a re-generation of spirit.

Soon a call came from his ex-wife, Stacy. Their son, Kevin, was in trouble and he would only agree to respond if Henry returned to Stockton. Upon his return Kevin was released from the court into Henry's care.

Henry works as a full time father and also as a full time volunteer at St. Mary's Interfaith. Kevin has settled into a local high school as a freshman and is doing well academically, especially in math, and he also is playing on the freshman basketball team. Mostly because St. Mary's has reached out to him, Henry feels that his homeless and aimless days are over.

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.

2010

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News

Give Kids A Smile

On February 5th, 2010 St. Mary's Interfaith hosted the *Give Kids A Smile* event in our Fr. Alan McCoy O.F.M. Dining Room. Screenings were provided to more than seventy children. Twenty of these children received treatment in our St. Raphael's Dental Clinic. *Give Kids A Smile* was established as a means to provide care to low-income children who do not have access to dental care. Children and family members were able to receive education, preventative and restorative care by area health professionals and volunteer dentists. Dr. Rodriguez commented "... considering the stark economic climate that our city of Stockton is facing, this day was truly a blessing to those who are suffering the most." *St. Mary's Interfaith* wants to extend our sincere appreciation to all the dentists, members of the San Joaquin Dental Society and the dental hygiene students at University of the Pacific whose involvement made our event a success. A special thank you to Dr. Lita Rodriguez, Ivan Chicchon and Dr. Lester Low for organizing this year's event!

Did you know...St. Mary's Interfaith S.H.A.R.E.S.

Recently St. Mary's Interfaith enrolled in the Save Mart S.H.A.R.E.S. Program. So how does this Program work? It's simple! When a donor is ready to check out at a local Save Mart, S-Mart, Food Maxx or Lucky grocery store they simply swipe the card and 3% of every qualified purchase comes back to St. Mary's Interfaith. Each time a card is swiped, S.H.A.R.E.S. points are issued to our agency account. One S.H.A.R.E.S. point equals \$1 on a qualified purchase. With our donors' participation in this program, our agency receives a quarterly check for the amount earned up to 3%.

If you would like more information about our agency's involvement in this Program or want to receive a free card to start earning points, please contact our office at 209.467.0703.

Special Thanks!

Super Bowl Appreciation Luncheon

St. Mary's Interfaith held its 20th Annual Super Bowl Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, January 14th, 2010 in our Fr. Alan McCoy O.F.M. Dining Room. Guests who purchased a ticket for a chance to win one of six Super Bowl packages were also entered in a second chance drawing held at the luncheon. Our second chance prize was a package for two to a San Diego Chargers home game including airfare, accommodations and seats in the Spanos Owner's Box. Robert Hnath, a consistent supporter of our event won the second chance prize package.

In addition sponsorships were purchased. Raffle and auction items were also donated to help make our event a successful one. We want to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all of our sponsors, guests and those who kindly made a donation for our event. Our event's success is only made possible with the continued support of our loyal donors who contribute each year. *Thank you for investing in our agency's mission to help those in our community who are less fortunate!*

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled to take place during National Volunteer Week on Wednesday, April 21st, 2010 at six o'clock in the evening in our Fr. Alan McCoy O.F.M. Dining Room. If you would like to attend this event or get more information, please contact our office at 209.467.0703.

Evening of Appreciation

Our biennial event, "Evening of Appreciation" is scheduled to take place on Friday, June 25th, 2010 at six o'clock in the evening at Bare Ranch, a Michael-David Winery Facility in Lodi, California. This year's event will be in honor of a generous supporter of St. Mary's Interfaith, watch your mail for our Save-The-Date postcard and the official announcement of our honoree. Underwriting opportunities and sponsorship packages are available for group tickets. In addition, donations of auction items for the event are being accepted. If you would like to be an underwriter, sponsor, make an in-kind donation or purchase tickets for this event, please contact Mario Fuentez, 209.467.0703 or email: mfuentez@stmarysinterfaith.org

Henry volunteers daily at our front gate and in our Dining Room.



Henry and his son Kevin.



Support those who are less fortunate in our community!

Families and children receiving services at our Give Kids A Smile event.



Dr. Brad Louie providing a child with dental treatment in our St. Raphael Dental Clinic.



"Nurturing Self Reliance for a Hopeful Future"

Items Always In Need

- Backpacks
- Blankets
- Diapers (Newborn to Size 6)
- Ground Beef/Chicken
- Infant Formula
- Jackets
- Men's Pants (Size 30-38)
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- 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 the county's needy individuals and families in 2009.

- **Medical & Dental visits to our clinics.....9,314 visits**
- **Meals provided.....365,843 meals**
- **Kara Brewer Family Clothing & Hygiene Center**
 - Women and children served.....51,844 persons**
 - Men served.....32,545 persons**
- **Total hours volunteered.....59,832 hours**