

# beginnings

the newsletter of Cathedral Shelter of Chicago

## 10 Years of Memories and Blessings



by *The Rev. Glenn Chalmers, Executive Director*

Few things reveal the passage of time more than a child. Tyrone was a powerful reminder a few weeks ago. He arrived at Cressey House in a stroller pushed by his father. Now I found him running out the door to his third grade class. Wondering how he managed to grow up so fast, I remembered that I had just marked my tenth year at Cathedral Shelter of Chicago!

My sense of awe about this place has not diminished. I see it in the regular five dollar monthly check from a low-income senior who gives back what she can after receiving help from us nearly a decade ago. In the volunteer who comes faithfully once a week to tutor men and

women anxious for a new start. In the generosity of so many donors. Among churches and community groups distributing food to struggling families. Among the alumni of our programs who come back to mentor others and serve as volunteers. In a staff and Board striving for excellence – not for its own sake, but for the sake of those we serve.

Cathedral Shelter of Chicago is a place where people from such widely divergent backgrounds and experiences work together to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. I count myself fortunate to be in this place for ten years – where so many put their faith and values on such display in the service of others.

## Thrift Store Expands Hours, Plans Renovation

Second Chance Thrift, Cathedral Shelter of Chicago's thrift store located at 1674 West Ogden Avenue, expanded hours of operation. The store is now open every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in addition to our regular weekday hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This past December, Advanced Specialty Design Class students at Illinois Institute of Art completed and presented a renovation plan to spruce up the 10-year-old store. The plan includes new fixtures, paint, lighting, signage, and floor plan. CSC is seeking donations of store fixtures, lighting and merchandise displays to make the renovation a reality.

"All of these changes are making even better," says Jeanette Patrick, Second Chance Thrift's manager

Proceeds from store sales help fund the programs and services of CSC. Donations are accepted at the store during business hours. Second Chance

Thrift also offers pick up service by calling 312-997-2222, extension 221.



### FROM JUNKY TO FUNKY

The hit DIY network television show, *From Junky to Funky*, recently filmed a segment for the show at Second Chance Thrift.

Pictured are Samantha Gleisten (center), *From Junky to Funky* host, along with production crew members (right) and segment guest (far left). No air date for the segment has been announced.

To find out more about the show visit their website at [www.diynetwork.com/diy/shows\\_dfjf](http://www.diynetwork.com/diy/shows_dfjf).

## DID YOU KNOW...

- ♦ Volunteers provide 20,498 hours of service to Cathedral Shelter of Chicago annually.
- ♦ The hours of volunteer service are equivalent to 10 full-time employees.
- ♦ The value of volunteer service is \$359,470.
- ♦ 20 volunteer groups donated 700 hours of service.
- ♦ 942 individual volunteers donate time each year.

## GoodSearch.com

The average person uses an internet search engine 38 times a month.

**GoodSearch.com will donate 1¢ to Cathedral Shelter of Chicago every time you use it to search the internet.**

If every person (there are 2,000 of you) reading this newsletter used GoodSearch.com exclusively for one year, Cathedral Shelter would receive \$9,120!

Use it. Tell your friends to use it. And, in the tradition of Chicago voting, search often.

## Higgins House Needs Sheets and Towels

Higgins House needs twin sheet sets, bed pillows, blankets, comforters, and bath towels for residents.

Cathedral Shelter of Chicago accepts new or gently used items.

Higgins House is CSC's halfway house for homeless men recovering from addiction.

Donations may be delivered to CSC, 1668 West Ogden Avenue or to Higgins House, 207 South Ashland Avenue.

For more information call 312-997-2222 or 312-997-3159.

Restoring hope. Preventing homelessness.



## Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Cathedral Shelter of Chicago distributes 45,276 pounds of food annually as a member agency of the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD). CSC receives an allocation of food from GCFD for distribution. The allocation only meets a portion of the need our community experiences. CSC's additional food costs average \$300 a month.

An easy, fun, and educational way to help CSC to reduce costs is to volunteer at GCFD. GCFD will credit CSC \$5 per volunteer hour served in its name. CSC has reserved 20 volunteer spots on Saturday, July 28, 9:00 a.m. – noon. If we fill all the spots, we will “earn” \$300 credit toward upcoming purchases, the current equivalent of one month's expense! Can you help us make this happen?

If you would like to meet new people or introduce a friend to the work of CSC, please contact Nancy Pendergrass (312.997.2222 x243, npendergrass@cathedralshelter.org). Youths age 13 and older are welcome with an adult.

Can't join us on July 28? Schedule your own church or work group to volunteer at a time convenient for you. Be sure to let GCFD know that you are volunteering on behalf of Cathedral Shelter of Chicago, agency A00206.

Welcome to our new staff members and interns: **Tanya Kyles, Bookkeeper;** **Anthony (Tony) Tovar, Thrift Store Driver;** **Robert Li, Yale University Intern**

#### FUNDING PARTNERS

City of Chicago Department of Housing  
City of Chicago Department of Human Services  
City of Chicago Department of Public Health  
Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development  
US Federal Emergency Management Agency



## \$25, Grocery Gift Cards, and One Family One Donor

Cathedral Shelter of Chicago's legacy program is the Christmas Basket Program. Our oldest and most well known service to low-income households on Chicago's west side is transitioning to meet the needs of those it serves as well as the needs of the agency.

Today, 46 Episcopal parishes, 20 corporations, groups and schools, and more than 250 unaffiliated individual sponsors ensure that everyone who applies to the program is sponsored.

### \$25

The Christmas Basket Program comes with a price. For each household sponsored each year, CSC incurs expenses – on average, \$27.50 per household.

There are some obvious expenses such as gasoline, seasonal labor, printing, and postage, and not so obvious, such as computer expenses and staff costs.

Beginning this year, CSC is asking each sponsoring donor to make a minimal contribution of \$25 to CSC to help cover Christmas Basket Program costs.

### GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Gift cards. For some of us they're a depersonalization of gift giving, for others they're the gift giving choice.

For the Christmas Basket Program it's the answer to leaking or way-too-heavy boxes, and food safety concerns. This year, sponsors who choose to provide groceries or items such as laundry detergent or paper products are asked to purchase grocery gift cards instead.

The gift cards allow the sponsored client to select food (or paper) products that the family enjoys and reduces the number of boxes that the client needs to squeeze into a compact car.

### ONE FAMILY ONE DONOR

Many Christmas Basket sponsors have asked to learn more about the family they help at Christmas and to additionally help CSC provide assistance to their family the other 364 days of the year.

Because of this request, CSC is launching a pilot project, One Family One Donor, this year. The project will give Christmas sponsors the opportunity to receive semi-annual updates

about the family sponsored and the chance to give additional assistance – such as helping pay for a job training program or a child's school uniform.

In keeping with the CSC's privacy and confidentiality policies, both parties – the client and the donor – will remain anonymous to each other.

To participate, contact Jeff Allen at 312-997-2222, x238, or Jackie Williams at 312-997-2222, x233

## Tutors Needed

Volunteer Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) tutors are needed for team tutoring in a small classroom setting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – noon beginning Monday, June 18. Tutors must be available all three days of the week. Completion of Literary Works 12-hour tutor training is also required for inexperienced tutors. For more information, contact Nancy Pendergrass (312.997.2222 x243, npendergrass@cathedralshelter.org).