



*Lantern Light, Inc.
Presentation Sisters
Collaborative Ministry
New Orleans, LA*

Spring 10



DO I HAVE ENOUGH?

I'm sure you have heard the question or even asked the question, "Is something a need or a want?" I have heard and asked this question of myself and others. A couple of months ago this question came back to haunt me. Kevin is one of our guests who is very generous about helping. He helps carry in groceries from our generous benefactors for the lunch program or the food pantry, he sets up an extra serving table for lunch, he breaks down cardboard boxes for recycling, or he carries the copy machine back to my office when the Emergency Grocery Assistance Program is finished on Thursdays and Fridays.

The usual thank you for this help is an extra snack - cheese and crackers, orange juice or cookies. On one particular day as I watched Kevin sitting on a bench, I wondered if he would like an extra T-shirt or pair of socks instead of a food snack for his help. I quietly went over to the bench where Kevin was and sat down beside him. I said, "Kevin, I always give you something to eat when you help me, would you rather have a T-shirt?" Kevin responded, "No, I have this one", as he pointed to the one he had on, "And two in my bag". "What about an extra pair of socks", I asked. "No", he said, "I have enough." Kevin's answer, **I HAVE ENOUGH**, haunts me as I look around at our guests seeing what they have and what is important and essential to them.

DO I HAVE ENOUGH? Maybe, this is a good question for all of us to ask ourselves. What would our answer be?

One day after this incident I saw Kevin writing in a notebook. I noticed that the notebook was just about filled. The next morning when Kevin greeted me from his usual place on a bench I went over to him. I offered him a new notebook and pen. The joy and gratitude on Kevin's face made his day and mine.

Anna Raimon, pbvm



THE RED DOOR

Tulane/Canal Neighborhood Development Corporation (T/CNDC) is one of the collaborators at the Rebuild Center. The goal of this nonprofit is to develop quality and affordable housing for first time homebuyers.

After doing 18 months of strategic planning the issue that continued to surface was the need to increase home ownership in the neighborhood.

The organization began almost eight years ago.

Developing, building and selling affordable housing at this time is a challenge. We are delighted to be able to offer mortgage readiness classes to our prospective homebuyers. Watching them go through the classes, make the changes that they need to make, developing a spending and saving budget so that they can buy their dream home is a wonderful reward.

Sharon, one of our recent homebuyers was back visiting with me at Lantern Light. She asked me if I had passed by her home recently. She went on to tell me that she had painted the front door. At that, she whipped out her cell phone and showed me her home with a lovely red front door. She is proud and so happy to be a homeowner. In the process of doing this she has overcome so many obstacles and is now very involved in the neighborhood.

Another goal of our neighborhood development corporation is to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. The neighborhood was a place riddled with crime. T/CNDC has initiated a homeowners club to help them to network and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Vera Butler, pbvm

STRANGERS IN OUR LAND

Recently, I had the privilege of observing the joy and delight of one of our guests who is an immigrant when he received in the mail his documentation as a Lawful Permanent Resident, a replacement **green card**. In his excitement he exclaimed, "Now I can be a real person. I have ID and I can get a job. Gracias, Gracias!"

An occasion like this is made possible through the untiring efforts of Justine Diamond, a staff member. She has been with the Rebuild Center since 2008. Justine's ministry is mainly to our immigrant guests. This population has

grown significantly in New Orleans since Katrina. Justine speaks Spanish fluently. Her services are invaluable to our immigrant brothers and sisters.

Being away from one's country of origin presents many problems. In addition to the language barrier, a number of them are now homeless. Living on the streets causes them to lose important documents which are needed in seeking employment and proving their status. Theft is a frequent intruder in the lives of homeless people.

Justine serves as an advocate on behalf of our immigrant population. I would like to name a few of these services:

- She applies for fee waivers to replace lost or stolen immigration papers, such as permanent resident cards, citizenship documents and work authorizations. The replacement of these documents enables people to get work, apply for benefits and helps the homeless immigrants to get their lives on track.
- She helps with applications in applying for jobs, food stamps and government benefits.
- She serves as an interpreter in legal matters especially with regard to wage claims.

Justine's interest in and dedication to her service of our guests who are immigrants and non-immigrants is truly heart warming. We join with our immigrant community and all our guests in offering an abundance of gratitude and a wish for many blessings for Justine as she continues to minister to those in need.

Marie Roche, pbvm



When I was hungry, you gave me to eat - Matt 25:35

In December we had the privilege of volunteering at Lantern Light. This was a totally Presentation experience. The days were long, cold and wet. It rained over 20 inches. Every day was both routine and different.

It was not what we did that touched our hearts and souls. It was the manner in which every service was provided. *How every donor was thanked. How every guest served.*

The Sisters reflect the call of their foundress, Nano Nagle. They have a zeal for hospitality that shows each guest they are welcome. The guests respond with deep gratitude. There is simplicity in the services – a routine that is comfortable to guests, staff and volunteers. There is a faithfulness and trust in God's generosity. Often the staff did not know what was coming but they always knew that God would provide.

Being at the Lantern Light was like living in the heart of God. There was a steady beat and rhythm - the sounds of quiet talking, the movement of people both guests and volunteers in and out, the constant flow of donated food and other goods in and the preparation of food to give. It is a sacred place that touched our hearts.

Dennis and Kathy Hogan
 Fargo ND Presentation Associates

WHO DAT? MEET OUR GUESTS

Great Weather for Ducks - One cold afternoon just after lunch I was walking along the deck. It had rained practically all day. As I looked up I saw Freddy standing there in his yellow rain poncho. This vision took me back to some very fond memories of teaching the first grade. Freddy simply said to me, "Sister, could you help me? I don't know how to snap this thing

closed." He stretched out his arms in a cross-like fashion. As I touched the snaps on his poncho I couldn't help feeling so humbled by this simple request. When I was finished off he went into the rain like a big yellow duck with the rain rolling off his back. Frequently when I have the opportunity to touch the poor I am touched deeply in return. Freddy asked for so little but he gave away so much more.

Joseph's Coat of Many Colors . . . A knock came to the door at Lantern Light one cold wet morning. When I opened the door there stood Joseph in his multi colored jacket which Sr. Vera had given him the day before. He was asking for some help with a prescription for antibiotics. I reached out to touch the elbow of his jacket to make a remark about how warm his jacket looked. Much to my surprise I noticed that he was shivering. When my hand finally touched the jacket it was soaking wet. He had gotten wet coming to the Center. Joe then told me that he was waiting and hoping that he would be lucky and be able to get his clothes washed and dried. Joe did not complain but was appreciative to get some help from me in getting his medicine. Eventually he did get his clothes taken care of that day. This incident made me think of how fortunate I am to have a second jacket and a washer/dryer to my use.

Enid Storey, pbvm



AN EMPTY SPACE

One day in January the original home for Lantern Light was towed away. When we

began Lantern Light we worked out of a single trailer that was in bad shape after Katrina. It had no heat and air conditioning but it had many wonderful memories. It was here that we sorted groceries, dished up gooey cakes, interviewed our guests, laughed and cried and shared our dreams and fears for the future. It was hard to say goodbye.

Winners from Christmas Calendar 2009

December

1. Mark & Shannon Olivier - LA
2. Patricia Murphy – CA
3. Sr. Barbara Hobbs – CT
4. Bruce & Catherine Uhl – AR
5. Jane Nalty – LA
6. Sr. Wiona Engel – MS
7. Leanne Herda – WI
8. Henrietta Schweda – LA
9. Colleen Sullivan – LA
10. Gina Raglan – LA
11. Sr. Martha Otterstedt – NY
12. Donna Leonard – MA
13. Lorraine Specha – FL
14. Jay Zainey – LA
15. Mignone Wolfe – LA
16. Mary Grace Heyrich – NJ
17. Kay Rex – NFD, CA
18. Leanne Herda – WI
19. Dee Drummer – IA
20. Jay Zainey – LA
21. Kathy Katoun – NJ
22. Sr. Margaret Mary Welch – MA
23. Henrietta Schweda – LA
24. Georgia Henderson – LA
25. Hannah Marie Cox – NY
26. Kathy Katoun – NJ
27. Rosemary Mc Donald – LA
28. Robin Brown – LA
29. Bernadette Nolan – NJ
30. James Reger – MA
31. Family Home Care – LA

Thank you to all for your support in this fund raiser. All at Lantern Light are most grateful. It was a great success.



Our Long Time Wonderful Sandwich Makers
L-R Al, Sr. Vera and Don

In January of 2010 our long time sandwich makers retired. Every Monday and Wednesday they would come to Lantern Light in the early morning and make hundreds of sandwiches. When we arrived at 7:15 am they would be finishing up.



Christmas Music and gifts - students from Benjamin Franklin High School

Thank you to all who supported our fund raiser:

***A night at the THEATER
"Murdered to Death"***



Top L - Mardi Gras King Cakes donated by Rouses' Supermarket

Top R - Sr. Anna with a new family who came for groceries

Center L - Volunteers from LSU preparing a hot lunch

Center R - Sr. Marie & Rachel, a Jesuit Volunteer

Bottom L - Our guests on the lunch line

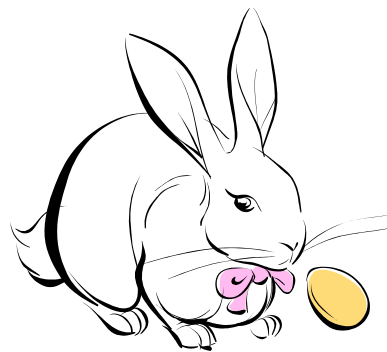
Lantern Light, Inc.
1802 Tulane Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112



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Mailing Address:
Presentation Sisters
1802 Tulane Ave.
New Orleans, LA
70112
504 273-5573

www.lanternlight.org



Happy Easter ...

Happy Spring ...

From all at Lantern Light