



Many Hands Make Light Work

As the old song goes-

*"When I'm worried and I can't sleep
 I count my blessings instead of sheep
 And I fall asleep counting my blessings".*

I was reminded of these lyrics recently at a Director's Meeting. Somebody had the floor and was expounding on the responsibilities that are not fulfilled by the employees in *that* person's Shelter, but that is not the case on Emmett St. One of the Blessings I regularly list is our workforce. Our employees have families and a life of their own outside the Shelter, but their attendance at family functions and other events never interferes with our work schedule. They trade shifts and cover for each other rarely involving me in the equation, and never warranting overtime. "If you take my hours here, I can do these hours for you there" is the refrain and everybody is able to get the time off they need and still the Shelter hums along in good hands all the way.

Some other hands come to our assistance, too, and often they are unexpected. We received a donation on-line, thru our website, stmarysfs.org, and I thanked them on line the next day. The donor, a woman from the area, responded that her husband likes to build and repair things and she offered his services if we had a need. Meanwhile, back at the Shelter, some body had succeeded in breaking our smoker's bench outside. Well, this 'would be carpenter' came and saw what we had and constructed and painted an extremely sturdy replacement bench which is in use even as I speak.

This year's bills will be paid with the help of the Poor Boxes of several Churches (of all denominations) and many 'souper' bowl offerings from Youth groups and Religion classes and Lenten collections and Scout Troop car washes and casual dress days all over southeastern Pennsylvania. We ask for help each year, and so many good people come forward to send a little bit here and a little more there and soon all the bills are covered.

Last week we drove out to Exton to pick up some donated furniture. This lady was better than most because she cleaned the pieces before she called for a 'pick-up' and she helped us load the truck and tie down the tarp. Some

fortunate resident will receive that furniture when they move on, and it will be clean and ready to use.

Counting our blessings has to include our debt to St. Mary's Parish here in Phoenixville. They have allowed us to use this building **Rent-Free** since 1987. In those nearly 23 years, we have served over 500 families and a third have been able to begin life anew in a place of their own. They, too, are blessings we count, and we pray that God will reward all the friends and benefactors that have helped to bring us to this day.

In This Issue

June 2010

Many Hands Make Light Work.....	Page 1
Case Manager's Report.....	Page 2
Of Note.....	Page 2
Cash-In.....	Page 3
Attention New Receivers.....	Page 3
Honor Roll of Schools.....	Page 3
Needs List.....	Page 4

Case Manager's Report

One of the residents is a woman I shall call Gladys and her little son, Herman. Gladys arrived at St. Mary's in late February. We were asked to admit her from another program in West Chester. The initial interview provided a few salient facts about her case-

**When I asked if she had ever been in a Shelter before she responded, "name one, in Philly and I've been in it with my mother when I was a child."*

**When I asked her last completed grade in school, she responded, "I'm taking classes on-line at the present time."*

**When I asked her what field of study she was pursuing she said, "Criminal Justice".*

So, it was clear, we had a person that had grown up in the "System" a second generation Shelter

resident, but one with a plan to get an education in order to give something better to her son.

In time, Gladys proved herself. Since she was on Public Assistance she was required to attend Chester County's Welfare to Work Program each day. This she did, faithfully placing Herman in daycare and walking to catch her transportation each day down in the town of Phoenixville. She completed her Program and got a job and still sat for three hours a couple of times a week taking her on-line courses in Criminal Justice.

She applied to a program in Philadelphia that will help her to get housing and was accepted. She has attended four sessions there to prepare her to be responsible for a place of her own. She is scheduled to move out in June to begin a new life for herself and Herman. Oh yes, and she has maintained an average of 97.3 in her on-line courses. We expect to be on the sidelines at her Graduation sometime, cheering her on. You Go, Gladys!

Of Note Around the Shelter

One of our employees tied the Knot!



Our Denise Stroman became Denise Jowett on 4/30/10. We wish every blessing on the happy couple and you can too when you see her around the Shelter.



Over the Hill

One of our employees turns 50 this summer! We won't give away her secret identity- (who tells a woman's age?) but we will say that she is our longest employed person. So, if you know the answer to that riddle, you could wish her a happy 50 this July.

Paving



The Shelter and the Parish of St. Mary's shared the cost of paving the parking lot recently. This past winter reeked havoc on that ancient surface with all the snows and ice and plowing. We are pleased with the result and new parking lines.

Cash-In

Recently I loaded up the truck: with the bags of crushed soda (and beer) cans that have accumulated over the winter. I had more than two full truck-loads, and I walked away from the Recycler with almost one thousand dollars for Shelter use! We thank all our faithful donors and encourage you to keep up the good work! We can use the dollars and we are keeping that many cans off the highways and out of the land fills. **GREEN 2X**



Attention New Receivers

Whenever a new donation comes from a different source, we enter your name into our mailing list, so that you may learn a little about us and what we do. If you are not interested in receiving these Newsletters contact us, and we will remove you from our list.

St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter
209 Emmett St.
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Phone- 610-933-3097
Fax-610-917-9845

e-mail: stmarysfs@verizon.net
on the Web-stmarysfs.org

Honor Roll of Schools

Villa Maria Academy Malvern

St. Pius X Broomall

Our Lady Of Mt. Carmel Doylestown

St. Francis of Assisi Springfield

Our Lady of Calvary Philadelphia

Bishop Shanahan H S Downingtown

St. Joseph's PREP Downingtown

St. Aloysius Pottstown

Sacred Heart Confirmation Class Royersford

St. Agnes CCD West Chester

St. Elizabeth's CCD Uwchlan

St. Patrick's Malvern

Epiphany Of Our Lord Youth Group Plymouth Meeting

St. Cornelius Chadds Ford

SS Colman- John Neumann Bryn Mawr

Phoenixville Area Middle School

Phoenixville Area School District Administration





Needs List

Iced Tea mix with lemon and Sugar

Spaghetti sauce

Canned Soda for lunches

Stamps (Forever stamps are best)

Gift cards from
Giant WaWa Home Depot

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIXVILLE, PA
PERMIT NO. 12

ST. MARY'S FRANCISCAN
SHELTER
209 EMMETT STREET
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460

