

SAN ANTONIO



2017 End-of-Year Newsletter



Tidings from Tony 2017

The holidays can be a hard time of year for some people. And that's all I have to say about that. What I do want to tell you is good news from Catholic Worker. First, we are still open! (That's another story!) Next are the SARAH organizations that have come here and helped get people into homes. There are quite a few who have worked so hard for this and it made a difference! Paul, John, Patti, Greg, Dorothy, and many others have a home this year. Chris' family invited him back to live with them in New York this Christmas. There seems to be momentum on the housing front. Several cities are seeing the tiny house movement as a viable option and are changing some zoning issues accordingly.

The police force (especially the H.O.P.E team) has been very helpful and compassionate and have begun assisting with ID replacement which is a tremendous boost for someone pursuing employment and/or housing.

Did I mention we have the best volunteers in the world? They are always there when we need them...with great smiles and generous helping hands. We also have some very generous donors! Socks, underwear and hygiene all the time... AND blankets, gloves, and hats just in time!

This leads me to another story. One afternoon recently, a young man knocked on our front door. He was well dressed and asked if we took donations. I said yes and invited him inside as there was a cold north wind. After introductions, he inquired what we did here and then said he wanted to go and get the donations he had brought. So, he brought in some hygiene items, food, and a large turkey. I could tell by the items he came with that he knew more than he was telling me. I gave him a brief tour while we chatted and it turned out that one of our guests had returned something valuable to him. He explained that since our guest refused any reward, he felt blessed to give something to help a few more. We later found out who the guest was and since he wanted no recognition, we'll just call him Joseph.

Good things happen every day, and we should pay more attention to them when they do because they truly are priceless. Thank you to everyone for the past year!

What We Need Most!

1. Gift Cards, especially for HEB.
2. VIA day passes or single ride tickets.
3. Used dishes – plates, forks, spoons, and mugs.
4. Toothpaste, deodorant, socks, & men's underwear.
5. Monetary donations are ALWAYS welcome.

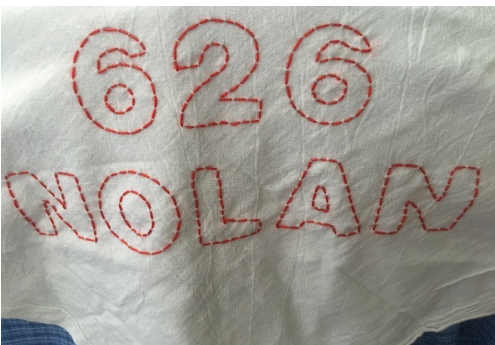


Above: One of our guests, Greg, was moving into a unit without a window. We asked another guest, David, for a simple scene to put on Greg's wall as a fake window. WOW!! This is what he painted. And he has lots more for sale.

Right: Waiting for the doors to open for breakfast ...the smart way!



Below: For a bit of a break, the resident volunteers went hiking and exploring at Big Bend! Cool!!! Thanks to the day volunteers who worked extra hard so that CWH didn't have to close while the guys were gone!



Left: A strange twist of events led to a new friend, and a very thoughtful homemade gift. Thank you, Sue!

Right: A miracle??





Above: Thank you Luke and your Eagle Scout team! 30 welcome baskets for those moving into apartments. Shared with SARAH, SAMM, Haven for Hope, and Salvation Army programs. Dorothy gets first one!

Right: CWH's MVP... Robert! He is like the Eveready bunny and never stops. Donations and food choices have mushroomed!

Below: A winter wonderland at night... and a sprinkling of snow remaining the following morning.





Right: UTSA graduate architectural class adopted our housing project and designed 6 site plans and 18 tiny houses! They will be on display at the Brunch on Sunday on December 24th at 9 AM. Thank you Candid ... and all of your students.

Above: And thank you to Michael Clayton, UIW Coordinator and Associate Professor—Graphic Design, for designing this very meaningful logo for our new project!

Below: Tiny home design samples by UTSA students. Come see these and many more in person!

