

# Dear Friends of the SA Catholic Worker House



*By Faith Fisher. CWH volunteer*

This year, 2023, will be our final year to celebrate the holidays at Day House on Nolan Street. It is predicted that we may be able to move into the new Dorothy Day House of Hospitality (DDHH) at Towne Twin Village (TTV) in March, 2024! See photo below. Of course, nothing is certain.

## MINISTRY UPDATE

We continue to serve breakfast and hot lunches, as well as, provide other amenities (hygiene products, socks, underwear, cold weather gear and blankets, and laundry, phone, Wi-Fi and postal mail services at Day House every weekday (see statistics flier at the end of this newsletter). So we are quite busy and could not do this without our hard working volunteers from both CWH and Traveling Loaves and Fishes (TLF), St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church. These include our long standing fulltime CWH resident volunteers, Robert (8y), Anthony (6y) and new resident volunteers Katrina (1½ y) and Bob (½ y) as well as our everyDAY Nolan volunteers...Mary (6y) and John Paul (4y) and many others who volunteer 1 or 2 days/wk....Vonnie, Marilyn, Hector & Patti, Maria, and the Sisters of the Holy Spirit (Srs.Teresa, Lam, Clotilde, Francisco, and Lieu). And thanks to Joseph, on faculty at SAC, for bringing his students to help every Friday and for donating hundreds of hot sausage, cheese and egg breakfast sandwiches each month!

This year has been quite challenging because we are also providing meals at TTV....so both sites at slightly different times. New clusters of tiny homes have opened every 2-3 months....now there are ~65 residents! With the loyal and generous help of our main partner, TLF, under the leadership of LaVerne, Jochelle, and Chef Marisa, we have been serving three meals per weekday since April, 2023 when the CWH resident volunteers and the first 20 residents moved in at TTV. Things become a little more chaotic and food challenging as TTV continues to grow, but so far, we have been able to expand to meet the

need. CWH resident volunteer, Katrina, serves breakfast every morning **solo** and then facilitates lunches by TLF on Monday and Wednesdays and by CWH on Tuesdays and Thursdays. TLF then provides suppers Mon-Thursday and CWH on Fridays.

We are also so appreciative of our ongoing donors, especially Augie's BBQ, as well as Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, HEB, San Antonio Academy, and many others). Also thanks to Mary, Marilyn, Dee (*SA-CWH Founder*), Leslie, and Darci who continue to cook healthy side veggie dishes every week. And thanks to Val's Highland Park Neighborhood team that picks up the donated groceries...sometimes huge amounts....and delivers them to us. This year our superstar donor/volunteers are Donna and Brett who have purchased and delivered groceries EVERY week....a large van full of food, paper goods, lunch bag goodies, and much more. And much thanks AGAIN (for at least 15 years) to our Our Lady of Perpetual Help for their "Giving Tree" .... a truck full of much needed items: socks, underwear, shampoo, toothbrushes/paste, soap deoderant...and much more!!! And many thanks AGAIN to the Church of the Holy Spirit for their numerous HEB cards at Christmas and their Christmas in July over the past 20 years!

And a heartfelt thanks to our donors who faithfully contribute every month or who bless us once a year with a large holiday donation. You all faithfully get us through the year and all the bills paid. You also provide for so many things, including necessary food items that were not donated or a much needed car repair or bus passes so our guests can get to medical or Social Security appointments. You help fill in the gaps that are necessary to keep our doors open and make much needed supplies available to our guests.

We are **especially grateful** to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate who provided us with a most generous donation to help us transition to the new DDHH at TTV and purchase new equipment, furniture, and the additional supplies that will be needed to then serve meals not only the usual 100+ CWH guests who do not have housing... but also to the TTV residents (up to 205 when the campus is complete) who will be joining us for meals. It will also help us expand services (barber, nail grooming, showers, VIA bus passes, etc) in the new building. Again, a deeply felt gratitude to the Sisters!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Annual Memorial Service** **Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> (Longest Night of the Year)** **Milam Park at 7 PM**



This annual Memorial Service, sponsored by SAMMinistries, is to remember those who have died in 2023 while experiencing a period of homelessness. CWH has submitted 8 guests' names to be remembered.

## Christmas Mass and Brunch



**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mass at 10:00 AM. Brunch afterwards.**

We would greatly appreciate ANY food that you might like to donate to make this meal a special one. Some ideas: cooked hams, turkeys or chicken, any type of casserole or pasta dish or sides, desserts, cut fruit, orange juice....or ANYTHING that you would like!!! Just remember, we do not have a stove, so please bring only fully cooked items. We do have a great commercial warmer to keep items hot during Mass. But don't feel like you need to bring something.....just come....we would love to see you!!!

### CWH NEWS

The new Dorothy Day House of Hospitality as of 12/10/23. Anticipated move-in .... maybe March 2023



Our 1997 RAV 4 with 300K miles and part of CWH family since 2002 finally chugged its last a couple of months ago. BUT an old friend, Maureen, whom we hadn't seen in many years, donated her 2017 RAV 4 with less than 100K miles on it! God works in mysterious ways....the donation was true to Dorothy's vision of CWHs living in ongoing trustful precariousity. Our faithful Ford truck (thank you again John and Theresa) is still faithfully (6 years) enabling us to pick up all our donations and make all of our deliveries.



The Dorothy Day Guild, created almost 2 decades ago to promote the “Cause for canonization of Dorothy Day”, announced that the Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints recently appointed Monsignor Tagliaferri as the “Realtor” for the Cause of Dorothy. She was called “a woman of conscience” and a “new model of holiness for our time...based on peace, solidarity, mercy, community, and precariousity”. This is a big step and called for a celebration among Guild members and CW volunteers and supporters worldwide. Even though Dorothy is quoted as saying “never call me a saint”, the one who first published that quote admitted he did not have a definite source. Sainthood or not, she still has much to teach us through her writings, devotion to God, and her self-giving example in works of mercy and peace and justice efforts.



Ruben Martinez, a CWH Resident volunteer since 2018, passed on November 16<sup>th</sup> after a long and painful 10 months on hospice. Ruben was a very kind hearted and a gentle man who had a beautiful smile and was loved by all. He was very loyal to the end, showing up to serve coffee and dry the dishes whenever he could. He entered hospice about 6 months ago and had a very caring team. Joyously, he spent his last month in his very own RV at TTV!

## ONGOING NEEDS

### VOLUNTEERS:

Soon.....maybe very soon, CWH will be recruiting a much broader team of volunteers...people not only with culinary skills, but those who are barbers, cosmetologists and those who might want to help orchestrate the shower and laundry services. We will need many more volunteers than we have currently and luckily, we will now have the space to accommodate them! If you are interested, please give us a call at 210-224-7736 and leave us a message. Hopefully, we will soon have 2 phone lines....one for guests to use and new one so that we will be able to answer your calls when we are open. For the past 40 years our guests use the only phone we have had to make personal calls when CWH is open, so we are unable to take your calls. Please just leave a message and we will get back to you. Or call 210-274-8884.

### STUFF:

- HEB or Walmart gift cards
- Used coffee mugs
- Travel size hygiene supplies
- Men’s underwear, especially medium and large
- Socks
- Gloves and knit hats
- Men’s belts

- HEB or Walmart grocery bags