

# SOCIAL SERVICES AT BLESSED SACRAMENT, INC.

FALL, 2007

VOLUME I, ISSUE 2

## *Special Thanks to the Center's Generous Donors*



Social Services at Blessed Sacrament was honored this summer to receive the generosity of several groups and individuals.

As the recipient of a grant for the continued operation of the Center, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Foundation presented a check to Edward Corey, President of Social Services, for \$2,500 at the Chamber's mixer held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Many thanks to the

continued generosity of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Following a presentation to the Central Hollywood Coalition, Social Services at Blessed Sacrament was provided a \$10,000 grant to assist with the continued work of the Center. The Center will continue to support the Coalition, which include concerned Hollywood property owners, in assisting referrals made to the Center. The grant was compounded by the generous gift made by Coalition board member Brad Folb and his firm, Paramount Contractors & Developers. Paramount Contractors donated more than 150 yards of brand new carpet

for the entire re-carpeting of the Center. More about this great gift later in this Newsletter.

Certainly not least, the Center was the recipient in June of a donation of more than \$18,000 from Jana Gottfried. Ms. Gottfried became aware of the Center's services through Director Yolanda Lichtman and has previously generously contributed to the Center. Ms. Gottfried's unrestricted gift is the largest individual gift received by the Center in the last three years.

Social Services thanks and acknowledges each of these most generous benefactors for their continued support.

### *Spotlight on the Center*

- ◆ In 2007, the Social Services Center is on track to serve more than 13,000 meals to Hollywood's needy, an increase of 3,000 from 2006..
- ◆ The Center is one of the few facilities in Hollywood where homeless men and women can take a shower and receive fresh clothes. Last year, more than 6,000 showers were provided.
- ◆ The Center's clients can receive haircuts, medical and employment referrals, bus tokens and taxi vouchers for important appointments.
- ◆ The Center operates with the assistance of only one full time and three part time staff members. Volunteers provide the rest of the help needed to serve our clients.

## *Recent Study Details Center's Clients*

A recently completed study of the Center's clients completed during the Summer shows a marked increase in the number of clients seeking services from the Center. As reported in the last Newsletter, recent focus on reducing Downtown's homeless population has caused a movement to other geographic areas with Hollywood being particularly impacted.

The extensive census, conducted each day, revealed the demographics of the Center's clients. The typical client is male (80%) and

within the age range of 25 to 55 years old with approximately 19% over age 55. During the census period, 18% of client visits were from new individuals. The Center serves all races, with 1% Asian, 35% African American, 42% Caucasian and 22% client representation during the census period.

During the census period, approximately 1500 people used the shower and clothing facilities and more than 3500 enjoyed one or more meals at the Center.

Social Services at Blessed Sacrament has endeavored to assist all in need and continues to seek out partnerships and alliances with other social service providers.

In that light, the Center will embark on a program with the Los Angeles Travelers Aid Society in which the Society will place a full time case worker at the Center to assist the Center's current staff. More on this important alliance scheduled to start in early 2008 in the next Newsletter.

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## *Center Gets a Much Needed Facelift*

"THANK YOU FOR ALL  
 YOUR SUPPORT. MANY  
 PEOPLE ARE BLESSED  
 FOR ALL THE HELP YOU  
 MAKE POSSIBLE. GOD  
 BLESS YOU FOR  
 WATCHING AFTER  
 OTHERS."  
  
 BRENDA FLORES  
 CLIENT



The Social Services Center, with the generous support of Paramount Developers and Contractors, its President Brad Folb, and Board member Aileen Getty, received an impressive facelift this fall when the Center was completely re-carpeted.

With carpet donated generously by Paramount and with the installation donated by Aileen Getty, the Center replaced all carpet in the common area with

high quality commercial grade carpet. The difference to the Center was immediately noted. The fresh smell of new carpet in all areas was welcomed by the clients and staff.



The ability to make improvements in the Center, without reducing the services available to our clients, is of great importance. Only through the generosity of the Center's benefactors, such as Brad and Aileen, is the Center able to improve its

facilities and its client services.

The future looks bright for the Center's facilities. We are currently working with the Community Redevelopment Agency on a long range plan to improve the Center's aging infrastructure and to potentially make improvements to our space. Look for more information in the coming months on this exciting project!



STAFF MEMBERS ALEX SALAZAR AND EVA SQUIRE

## *Staff Members Alex Salazar and Eva Squire*

The Center exists only because of the generosity of many people, including those who generously volunteer their time to assist with all of the Center's daily activities.

The Center operates with only a small staff, including part-time workers Alex Salazar and Eva Squire. Alex works with our male clients and Eva works with our female clients. Eva also doubles

as the Center's cook, preparing the daily meals. In 2006, more than 15,000 meals were served at the Center. We look to serve even more in 2007. Eva began working for the Center in 2001 and is a dedicated staff member.

Alex joined the staff in 1999. Alex's tenure with the Center makes him a key person on operations and dealing with client

issues.

Both Alex and Eva work each day the Center is open and are available starting at 7:00 A.M. until the day's clients are served. Both Alex and Eva work closely with our volunteer corps in making sure their experience at the Center is a good one.

Say hello to Alex and Eva the next time you visit the Center.

## *Social Services Launches New Website*

In this internet age, Social Services had looked for some time for a world wide web presence. Recognizing that a web site would expose the Center's work to a great number of people, the Center wanted to launch a new website.

Almost on cue, along came Merci Javier, a parishioner at Saint Brendan, and a web designer. Merci studied the Cen-

ter's operation (though she knew of it from her work with the Church's own website) and custom designed a site just for Social Services.

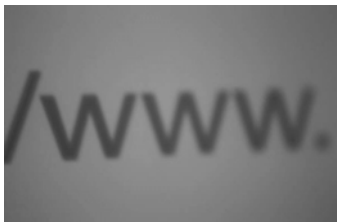
You can visit our brand new web site (though it is always changing) by visiting us at our new address: [www.hollywoodsocialservices.org](http://www.hollywoodsocialservices.org).

The site includes the Center's history, a directory of staff and board

members as well as sections on Center news and making donations.

We plan to update the site throughout the year and include pictures of the Center's events.

If you have any comments on the website we would love to hear from you. Just let us know.



## *The Center's Work Continues and Your Help is Needed!*

The operation of Social Services at Blessed Sacrament is only successful because of the generosity of its friends and benefactors.

The Center operates on a limited budget with little money required for overhead and administration. Every dollar donated to the Center stays in the Center and is used to provide food and services to clients.

The Center's facility in Hollywood is in current need of capital improvements such as a new heating system and laundry facilities. The Center focuses its

limited resources on direct client assistance, but needed capital improvements must be made in the near future. The recent contribution of carpet has made a significant difference at the Center.

The increased demands placed on the Center have drawn down the inventories of both men's and women's clothing, including underwear and socks, which are always in demand.

Hygiene items, such as shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap are always in demand. Donations of these items allow

financial resources to be used for other important items.

The Center operates frugally and is limited by the resources available to it. If you or your business can provide support, either financial or of the items presently needed, please contact the Center's Director, Yolanda Lichtman. Every donation is put to good use.



"THANK YOU FOR  
ALL YOUR HELP  
AND SUPPORT.  
GOD BLESS!  
KEVIN HAYES  
CLIENT

## *Hollywood Comes to Help the Homeless*

Social Services at Blessed Sacrament is fortunate to have the help of many dedicated volunteers, including those serving on the Center's Board of Directors.

Sitting in the heart of Hollywood, the Center has its own entertainment representation with both Tony Hale and Peggy McCay on the Board of Directors. Both give time from their busy schedules to assist in all aspects of the Center's operation.

Board Member Tony Hale is an accomplished film and television actor, most popularly known for



his role as Buster Bluth in the critically acclaimed show *Arrested Development*. Tony has also appeared in many films, including *Stranger Than Fiction* and *Because I Said So*, and other episodic television shows.

Fellow Board Member Peggy McCay is an Emmy award winning actress best known for her recurring role as matriarch Carol Brady on *Days of Our Lives*. Peggy has more than 100 credits in both television and film and has ap-

peared on *Days* since 1983.



Peggy has appeared in such shows as *Judging Amy*, *Cagney & Lacey*, *Night Court*, *Newhart* and *The Jeffersons*,

among others.

Both Peggy and Tony are active members of the Board of Directors and generous contributors to the Center.

The Center is fortunate to have both Tony and Peggy assist on our Board of Directors.



## *Santa To Make Appearance at the Center*

In his annual appearance for the Center's low-income families, Santa Claus appeared on December 15th with gifts for those children who were registered with Center Director Yolanda Lichtman.

Parishioners from Saint Brendan assist with the program for the religious education students at Blessed Sacrament. The need often exceeds the available gifts so your assistance is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to help with this year's annual children's gift program, please contact Yolanda Lichtman at (323) 871-8042. There is always a need to help those who were not able to participate in the Santa program.

**Board of Directors**

Jeffrey Brown

Edward Corey

Joan Curtin

Susan Durante

Peter Freyer

Aileen Getty

Tony Hale

Michael Mandala, S.J.

Al Marsella

Peggy McCay

Kerry Morrison

Thaddeus Smith

## *How You Can Help!*

Please join us in assisting those less fortunate in Hollywood and consider a tax-deductible donation to the Center. Every dollar donated goes to client services. There is no administrative overhead and you can be assured that your generous assistance will be used to serve the homeless and needy in the Hollywood area.

Social Services at Blessed Sacrament also seeks your donations of goods and services which can be used to assist our clients. Especially needed now are men's and women's clothing and hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks and underwear.

Volunteers are always needed to assist our clients, prepare and serve meals and coordinate showers and clothing distribution. The Center is also in need of volunteers who can provide office assistance answering phones, light bookkeeping, volunteer coordination and assistance with the Center's fund raising efforts.

Social Services at Blessed Sacrament is a tax exempt organization and your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A return envelope is enclosed for your use if you can help or you can donate online at [www.hollywoodsocialservices.org](http://www.hollywoodsocialservices.org).

## *A Message From The Board of Directors*

Thank you for your support of Social Services at Blessed Sacrament. Our success is directly related to the generosity of the Center's friends.

We welcome your comments and input! Please call the Center and ask to speak to Yolanda. Guests are always welcome to observe and see the Center in action. Just call us and let us know when to expect you.

An important part of the Center's mission is to raise awareness for the situation many of the Center's clients face. Your involvement, along with the many others that have embraced the work of the Center, will allow the Center to continue serving those in need in the Hollywood area.

You can also contact the Board of Directors directly by calling the Board's Chairman, Edward Corey, at 213-385-7003 or you can reach him by e-mail at [eec@corey-corey.com](mailto:eec@corey-corey.com).

## *Contact Us!*

Social Services at Blessed Sacrament, Inc.  
6636 Selma Avenue  
Hollywood, CA 90028

Phone: 323-871-8042  
Fax: 323-464-7796



**NOW ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT [www.hollywoodsocialservices.org](http://www.hollywoodsocialservices.org)!**  
You can also now e-mail us at [info@hollywoodsocialservices.org](mailto:info@hollywoodsocialservices.org).