



Fall/Holiday Issue,
2009

St. Martin's Hospitality Center

Volume 3, Issue 1

"The average family earning minimum wage spends 141 percent of their income struggling to meet basic needs—food, shelter, clothing."

Sherrod Brown

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Dedication and Compassion! By Tracy Alexis

While recently speaking to a civic group, a compelling question arose: "Why are St. Martin's employees so passionate about homelessness and their clients?" The question came on the heels of my sharing that non-profits, traditionally, don't pay particularly large salaries, yet attract people who are unbelievably dedicated—as is, candidly, and without shame, the case at St. Martin's.

I responded with my usual answer, "we believe in the organization's mission, vision and purpose." Adding that, "there is a real need in our community for the services we offer, especially in today's economic climate."

Having spent most of my career prior to St. Martin's in the private sector, I became more intrigued by how my co-workers could be so dedicated and passionate about their work in exchange for unglamorous duty, in run down premises, for an under-rewarding (certainly less than their 'worth') pay scale.

To help discover the answer, I emailed an "informal survey" to our entire staff and asked them to simply reply if they had ever experienced homelessness first-hand, or through a family member / close friend. I wasn't looking for individual stories, but rather for the percentage of employees who had their own intimate relationships with homelessness. The responses were frankly remarkable.

Over ten percent of St. Martin's employees (a statistically significant number) have either experienced homelessness themselves, or have experienced it through a family member or friend.

This information may not seem

particularly important in and of itself, yet it does speak directly to the dedication, passion and *compassion* our employees demonstrate to each and every St. Martin's client! Many of my peers have "walked a mile in the shoes" of the clients we serve. Further, almost all of my peers who experienced homelessness first-hand were forced to reach out for assistance to service providers similar to St. Martin's during their homelessness, so they understand how stigmatizing that was, how personally denigrating and humbling it was to have to ask for their needs to be met by strangers, and how absolutely hopeless they felt when services were not available.

These peers of mine mentor their own peers, and they also mentor clients during the course of their work at St. Martin's. They demonstrate for the world that human kindness is noticeably missing from our day-to-day lives. They illuminate, through their selfless service, that but for the grace of a higher power, any of us can, indeed, be or become homeless.

Each employees' story yielded uniquely different circumstances that brought them to the depths of despair of their homeless experience, akin to St. Martin's clients who have traveled their own unique pathway to homelessness. More and more frequently however, many New Mexicans are experiencing homelessness. The more noticeable causes are our climbing unemployment situation and continuation of home foreclosures (many of these, lately, are due to unemployment),

These circumstances highlight the community need for services offered through St. Martin's. The need is reinforced each time someone shows

up at St. Martin's day shelter for meals, utility assistance, a food box, formula/diapers, a job lead, and/or access to programs which will guide them toward more self-sufficiency during this challenging economy.

Homelessness can (and does) happen to anyone — for reasons as unique and individual as the those who find themselves homeless! Lately, many of St. Martin's homeless clients have graduate degrees and lack substance or alcohol dependencies. St. Martin's is the *only* service provider in town that helps individuals who do **not** have substance/alcohol dependency problems. We also help those who do have dependency problems.

New Mexico shamefully holds the third highest rank in our nation for individuals living in poverty, fueled by poor wages. When individuals aren't well paid, they are that much closer to becoming homeless, especially if they become unemployed.

The need for St. Martin's services and programs is greater than ever before. Your philanthropic leadership is critically important at a profound time for many of Albuquerque's citizens. We hope you will consider helping sustain St. Martin's mission!

Is someone you know experiencing homelessness? Are they without the resources to turn their lives toward self-sufficiency? With its strong programs and network of caring professionals, St. Martin's can help. If someone you know is struggling with homelessness, please refer them to St. Martin's.



St. Martin's 2009 Adopt-A-Family Program

Each year, St. Martin's hosts an "Adopt-A-Family" Program which helps provide needed items for struggling families. These items modestly help ensure that families in the program are able to cele-

brate the upcoming holidays. If you are interested in adopting a family this holiday season, please email St. Martin's Adopt-A-Family at adoptaf@yahoo.com, or leave a voice-mail message

at (505) 814-7777. All messages will be timely replied. You may also look for our Adopt-A-Family link on the St. Martin's website at www.adoptafamily.vpweb.com.

Grants and Funding News

St. Martin's was honored to receive a \$3,500 grant from the **Albuquerque Academy Community Builders**. Albuquerque Academy students, through its Community Builders program—a program within which only a small percentage of students participate and which focuses on building stronger communities—selected St. Martin's as one of several organizations to receive these funds after a competitive proposal was submitted and students toured St. Martin's facility.

The **PNM Foundation**, through its "Reduce Your

Use" energy grant program, awarded \$5,000 for the purchase of an industrial ice-maker and an upright refrigerator. It is often challenging, particularly in hot weather, to adequately hydrate and refresh individuals dwelling on our city's streets. Risks are high for heat stroke during hotter months. The ice-maker will enable St. Martin's to extend refreshing cold beverages to Albuquerque's homeless. The refrigerator will be used to store fresh and frozen food donations. Both appliances will help St. Martin's Day Shelter.

Wilhelmina Neat Coe, through the **Albuquerque Community Foundation**, granted \$25,000 to help St. Martin's continue its self-sufficiency programs—programs which focus on job training and financial literacy—two key issues that strike individuals exiting homelessness particularly hard, especially during economic tough times like the ones our nation, and her people, is currently facing.

Our sincere "thank you" to all of these generous grantors—they make our work possible!

How Donations are Used to Support St. Martin's

Frequently, St. Martin's receives questions about how donors' donations are used. As such, let us show you how donations help us serve those in need.

DAILY NEEDS:

\$0.75 buys a hot meal
 \$17.00 buys an hour of advocacy to help a homeless person obtain an ID or get a birth certificate (documents that are needed for lawful employment)
 \$75.00 pays for the cost of one individual to access all services in the Day Shelter an entire day (this includes shower, clean clothes, a hot meal, telephone and mail services and short- and long-

term storage of belongings)

RECOVERY:

\$30.00 buys an hour of therapy for one client
 \$50.00 buys one day of behavioral services for a client
 \$75.00 buys household start-up supplies for a family that is exiting homelessness
 \$100.00 buys four hours of life skills training for a client
 \$300.00 buys a month of antipsychotic medication for one client
 \$1,500.00 buys eight months of sobriety interventions for one individual

SELF SUFFICIENCY:

\$200.00 buys financial literacy training for an individual

exiting homelessness
 \$575.00 buys one month of housing for a client through our HUD housing program
 \$1,200 takes an individual off the streets and places them in 8 months of housing with self-sufficiency and financial literacy training, through our United Way program

DEVELOPMENT:

\$5,000.00 buys anchor sponsorship at any of St. Martin's community-awareness building or fundraising event, inclusive of tickets and table (if applicable), publicity and wide-spread genuine gratitude!

Ice Cream Social & 2nd Annual Silent Auction—UPDATE

The June 27, 2009 ice cream social and 2nd annual silent auction was another fundraising success!

In addition to encouraging you to support the following businesses, St. Martin's wants to thank all of its sponsors, its very generous auction donors, and Cold Stone Creamery Ice Cream. Without these entities, the event would not have been the smashing success that it was. Thank you all!

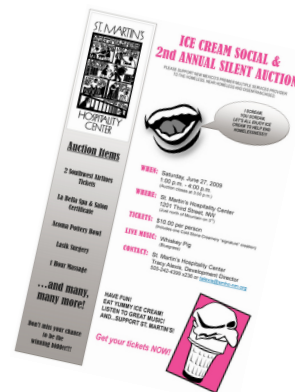
Sponsors: On-Time Airport Parking; Molzen-Corbin & Associates; PNM; French Family Funerals; HUB International; Bob's Painting, Inc.; Bright Ideas. **Auction Donors:** (Listed alphabetically.)

About You Massages; Albuquerque Auto Outlet; Andrews Pueblo Pottery; Anthony Trujillo, Master Wood Sculptor; Beauchamp Jewelers; Chem-Dry of Albuquerque; Cruz's Hair Studio; David Bruner; David Shearin; Debbie Hays; Dion's Pizza; Dr. and Mrs. Tucker Haltom; Dr. Louis Wynne; Erin Adams Designs; Executive Chef Greg Archuleta; Fundraising Cruises, Inc.; Hinkle Family Fun Center; Kenneth Kocher, DMD; LaBella Spa & Salon; Lee Pattison; Los Rios River Runners; M Café; Milestone Cruises; Monica Hussey; New Mexico Gas Company; New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science; New Mexico Optimist Club; New Mexico Symphony Orchestra; Newman Lasik Specialists; Nicki Alexis-Hare; On-Time Airport Parking; Palms

Trading Company; Pueblo of Cochiti; RC Gorman/Nizhoni Galleries; Rudy's Bar-B-Q; Sadie's Restaurant; San Felipe de Neri Church Gift Shop; Sandia Motor Speedway; Scooter Roo; Southwest Airlines; St. Claire Winery & Bistro; St. Martin's Psych-Social Rehabilitation Program Clients; Sunshine Café; The Santa Fe Opera; Unser Racing Museum; Weems Art Gallery.

We would also like to thank Whiskey Pig for graciously providing live entertainment for our party-goers; and we want to thank Bright Ideas Promotional Products for the gorgeous balloon archway and decorations!—the music was definitely happening!

This event raised over \$5,000 to help Albuquerque's neediest



Community Costs of Homelessness

Life on the streets is not cheap. Homelessness is defined, loosely, as living in a place not intended for human habitation, which can include streets and alleys, park benches, dumpsters, abandoned warehouses, and automobiles, to name a few. Studies demonstrate that a homeless individual living on the city streets costs the city an exorbitant amount of tax-payer money. Many cities mitigate homelessness by placing

individuals in jails for no crime other than living on the street. Homeless individuals need medical care, food and clothing, just as any other human being needs.

Jail time, shelter costs, emergency room visits and hospital stays costs cities such as Dallas about \$50,000 per year per individual; New York about \$40,000, and in San Diego about \$150,000.

On any given night in Albu-

querque at least 3,600 individuals go unsheltered and live on our city's streets. The average cost of an emergency room visit is about \$250.00; the average cost of a day in prison is about \$100.00. If only one in ten clients of St. Martin's is spared a day of institutionalization, the impact is huge for our city's taxpayers and can be life-changing for that individual!

"If Americans ever allow banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children will wake up homeless."
Thomas Jefferson

2009 Fall/Holiday Shelter Needs:

Socks-Cotton/Wool
Sleeping Bags
Blankets
Leather Shoes
Winter Coats/Jackets
Bus tokens/Bus passes

Chapstick/Lip balm
Feminine hygiene
Men's underwear
Foot powder
Chap stick/lip balm
Ceramic Coffee Mugs
Toilet Paper

Shampoo
Conditioner
Soap
Deodorant
Leather (water resistant) shoes (all sizes)
Toothbrushes & Paste

Razors
Mouthwash
Dental floss
Ace Bandages
Tylenol
Band-aids
First Aid Ointment

RETURN ADDRESS:
St. Martin's Hospitality Center
A Non-Profit Organization
P.O. Box 27258
Albuquerque, NM 87125

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
PERMIT NO. 1590



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Donations accepted online!

Board of Directors Spotlight

St. Martin's has undergone some changes within its Board of Directors, with some recently reshuffled executive roles. The current Board of Directors is as follows:

- Monica Hussey, Board Chair
- David Bruner, Vice Chair
- Valerie Armendariz, Treasurer
- Ron Raburn, Secretary
- Barbara Dodge, Member
- Dana Edwards, Member
- Donna Haltom, Member
- Kathy Newby, Member
- Kate Southard, Member
- Peggy Roberts, Member

All board members are expected to support the agency through their professional networks, and personal and business relationships. Likewise, all board members must support the agency financially, either through personal contributions or by leveraging their respec-

tive community relationships to bring donations to the agency. Members are requested to participate in all fundraising activities and in all meetings, as well as vote on matters regarding agency policy, governance and stewardship.

For anyone who may wish to attend St. Martin's Board of Directors' meetings, the meetings are conducted on the last Monday of the month at St. Martin's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) office. The ACT office is located at 4055 Montgomery, NE, Suite B. Meetings begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and conclude when all business has been addressed.

St. Martin's board minutes are now viewable on the website at: www.smhc-nm.org. Click the "Board of Directors"

link and scroll to the bottom of the page to the active link "Board Minutes" (and click on the active link).

