



May 2005

# H.I.S. House News

## Farewell to Good Friends...

### Early Champions of H.I.S. House Moving to San Diego County

H.I.S. House Board members, Dave and Elaine VanDeventer, moved out of the area April 1<sup>st</sup> to be near family. We are very grateful for their energetic and enthusiastic work at many levels on behalf of the shelter.

Active since the beginning days of the shelter Elaine served as the Chair of the H.I.S. House Board for a time. As a nurse and health educator she was particularly involved with health issues and needs of the residents. She was also part of the team who interviewed new clients.

Dave's work on the board was helping to develop, clarify, and refine

the policies and procedures of the shelter. These are presented to new residents as guides for successfully living in the shelter.

A week before their move Elaine was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is now receiving hospice care at their new home. Your prayers are appreciated for both of them during this difficult time.

Dave and Elaine have left a great legacy in their service to H.I.S. House and they will be missed by many involved at the Shelter. If you would like to send them a note of thanks, their new address is: 2572 Columbine Rd., Alpine, CA 91901. ♦



*Elaine and Dave VanDeventer at their farewell gathering with the PPC choir in March*

## Mad Hatters Tea and Fashion Show



Spruce up that old Easter bonnet with new ribbons or fresh posies and wear it to this year's annual tea and fashion show on Saturday, May 21.

Beginning at 2 p.m. a traditional English tea, complete with hot tea, scrumptious finger sandwiches, flakey scones, and jam and jelly will be served on lovely china settings.

Once refreshed by the tea and light repast, guests may view quilts, jewelry, and Stein Mart fashions. Shopping opportunities will abound and one quilt will be given away through an opportunity drawing.

"Three door prizes will be awarded for the most creative, most attractive, and funniest hats," according to Mari Atherton, event chairperson.

Table hostesses are still needed; they will provide the china and a

simple pastry dessert. Anyone who has china to share but cannot personally attend the event should contact Mari at 257-9977.

Tickets are \$15 per person, with all proceeds benefiting the programs at H.I.S. House. They will be available at the H.I.S. House office and the Placentia Presbyterian Church office. Tickets can also be reserved by contacting board members (see list on page 2). ♦

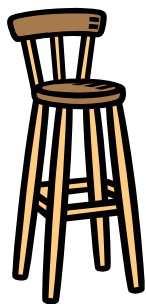
## IN RECOGNITION

The H.I.S. House Board of Directors has approved setting up a Founders Fund in recognition of Dave and Elaine Vandeventer and many other founders for their many years of service to the H.I.S. House ministry. These funds will be used to help support programs at H.I.S. House as designated by the honorees or the board. You may make contributions payable to H.I.S. HOUSE FOUNDERS FUND. ♦

The Shelter relies more than ever on the help of community volunteers. If you can help with organizing and carrying out any of the Upcoming Events listed on the calendar, please contact Carolyn Holmes, chairperson of the Community Resources Committee. She can be reached via email on the web site (see page 2) or leave a message at H.I.S. House office. ♦

## Upcoming Events

Tea and Fashion Show	May 21
Wine Tasting & Auction	August 26
Evening with Christy Mattewson	Nov. 5



## A VIEW FROM THE CORNER "CHAIR"

By John Marshall

At the end of the first quarter of 2005 our income was 92% of budget. Fortunately, our expenses for that time period were only 88% of budget. We expect continued pressure to try to meet our income side of the budget this year. We learned in the first quarter that two of our five grants (HUD & OCIS) will no longer be in effect after mid year. These two grants provided much of the case manager and counseling support dollars for the shelter residents. Both of these grants are from the federal government, and the federal government has decided to target their programs on those persons "chronically homeless." These are people who are often mentally ill or with substance abuse problems. H.I.S. House is not set up to handle such cases. We have been fortunate to receive additional funding from our ACS grant, which is a state-sponsored welfare-to-work program. Provided we accept their clients, the funding from this program should offset much of our revenues lost by the federal grants, at least in the short term.

One of the Board's goals this year

is to look at new sources of funding. An idea that has gained strong interest is opening a thrift store in the area. A committee of five, consisting of Jim Gaffney, Barbra Goff, Cynthia Marshall, Dave VanDeventer, and Winnie Westberg, have researched thrift stores in the area. We are now receiving more donated goods than we can use in the shelter and with residents, so we believe this is a good way to produce income from the donated goods. We recently received the approval of the Presbyterian Church Mission committee and session to proceed with this endeavor. The committee is currently investigating several sites in the area to locate a store. A preliminary request for volunteers to help "man" the store yielded approximately 55 people. If you have yet to sign up and have an interest in helping in any way, please call Cynthia Marshall at 714-993-2407. Also, should you be doing some spring cleaning, redecorating or have some good salable items, please hold them for a couple of months, as we expect to be in operation sometime this summer.

Thank you for your continued support.



## STAR PARTY

reported by Dean Cassidy



The STAR Party held on Sunday, March 6, 2005 had a St. Patrick's day theme, and Key Center was decorated to reflect this colorful holiday. STAR committee is the Support, Tracking And Review arm of H.I.S. House that maintains a connection with graduates from the transitional living program.

The attendees, though limited in number, had a good time. A total of thirty-one people came for the evening's festivities. There were

twenty graduates and children. Also attending was one H.I.S. House Board member, five STAR committee members (of which two are graduates), four H.I.S. House staff members, one guest, and Morris who provided the music for the event.

Attendees dined on pork roast with Chipotle sauce, church potatoes, and homemade cream corn. The highlight of the meal was the dessert of green cupcakes and Rice Krispie

treats that reflected the party's theme.

Attempts were made to reach all of the graduates by phone and invitation. Personal calls were completed with updates for twenty-one graduates (eight graduates even stated that they are willing to help with the thrift shop being planned).

The STAR Committee consists of Maggie Wilson, Krista Rossi, Robin McNair, Gail Pauella and Dean Cassidy. ♦

## Stay in Touch

The Executive Board can be contacted via our website:

[www.hishouseplacentia.org](http://www.hishouseplacentia.org)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair— John Marshall  
 Vice Chair— Jim Gaffney  
 Recording Secretary— Jeannine Ford  
 Corresp. Secretary— Barbara Goff  
 Treasurer— Ted Mar  
 Past Chair — Ken Kleckner  
 Member-At-Large — Monica Banas  
 At-Large/Mailings— Ann Walling  
 Director— Teri Niebuhr

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Community Resources—  
 Carolyn Holmes  
 Admission & Interviews—  
 Frank Campbell  
 Assist. Treasurer— Betty Orr  
 Donations in Kind— Jane Seymour  
 Facilities/Maintenance— Roy Buck  
 Long term Planning— Frank Campbell  
 Health & Safety— Marlene Stewart  
 Newsletter— Kathy Frazee  
 Policies/Procedures— Monica Banas  
 Support, Track And Review (STAR) —  
 Dean Cassidy  
 Thrift Store— Cynthia Marshall

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

Publicity— Betty Escobosa  
 Office Volunteers — Marlene Stewart  
 Website — Eric Schreiner  
 Legal — Monica Banas

## Case manager on duty...

By Angel Monestere, Case Manager

It's 9:03 a.m. as I walk in the office; the phone is ringing. I answer it and provide the person with the appropriate information. I rush to my desk, only four or five feet away, before the phone rings again. By the time I end that call a volunteer walks in and I let them take charge of the phones. Just by him/her answering the phones, even for a couple of hours, it allows me to get more done. I thank the heavens for volunteers! I grab my keys and do a walk-through of the house and open it up. During my rounds, I usually come across a resident or two who have questions and/or requests—that is where my day truly begins.

The next item of business: have a morning brief with Teri, the astonishing Program Director, regarding specifics of a resident's case. We discuss the program, I get approvals and Teri's insight and/or opinion. Now, I can get busy earning my salary. I start with childcare billing, typing memos to residents, calling social workers, updating forms, answering emails, and gathering referrals for residents. In addition, I meet with social workers, probation officers, police detectives, family consultants and counselors.

I share my insight and experience with Lauren and Melissa, our fantastic Cal State University Fullerton interns. I often work with the lovely Mrs. Melanie, our part-time billing assistant, with childcare, medical and housing billing; really I just need to supply the paperwork. My exceptional colleague, Iman, and I are in constant communication; we can look at each other and know what the other is thinking—telepathic? We are always trying to find new ways to help the residents. (Phonetically Iman's name sounds like E-Mon)

The time has come to meet with a resident—in a flash I change from a

simple office administrator to "Super Case Manager." I am able to collect data and record it with the stroke of my pen, able to give sound advice on budgeting finances with the aid of my multipurpose calculator, able to provide insight on résumés by using our résumé writing software, able to provide any kind of referral by flicking the pages of the Rainbow Resource Directory and keyboarding on my great Dell computer. My most beneficial tool is the ability to listen, which is the easy part. Can you



believe the government had to pay six million bucks for Steve Austin to have good hearing? Then we adjourn and everyone's happy. Poof...in an instant, I change back to being an ordinary office

administrator.

I never know which direction the day will go because of the many variables that pop-up all through the day that require equal or immediate attention, so things can get backed up at times. Just take a look at my desk at 5 p.m.

There are three things that I remember throughout my day: remain accountable to H.I.S. House and my residents by being flexible; handle the unexpected and complete my daily tasks efficiently; utilize all the available resources to help me get the job done and always maintain a positive attitude. Then I end my day with a smile.

I do not consider this a job because it comes to me naturally, so my stress level is low, which is healthy and good for everyone all around. I do dread the day I have to get a *real job* because it will not be as fun or challenging as H.I.S. House.

P.S. Did I mention they gave me a pager, also? I guess one can say I am on duty 24/7. ♦

## Boutique Sale Foreshadows Thrift Store



*Mary Gatto (l) and Cynthia Marshall share some time at the boutique.*

A benefit boutique was held March 5 to raise money for the programs and residents of H.I.S. House. Gently used items as well as new donated products were offered at bargain prices.

Since other fundraising events were happening in the city that day, the Community Resources Committee chairperson, Carolyn Holmes, and committee members were happy with the net income.

"About \$1,004 was collected and will be spent on childcare services, counseling and new classes," said Teri Neibuhr, the shelter's director.

Plans are in the works to open a neighborhood thrift store with items donated to H.I.S. House. A committee comprised of Cynthia Marshall, Barbara Goff, Jim Gaffney, and Winnie Westberg is in negotiations for a nearby location and hopes to have it open for service and sales by the end of the summer.

We're asking everyone who has items to donate to the Shelter to please hold on to them for the next couple months until we have a definite space where we can sort, store, and sell them. Your help in organizing the shop in this way is, as always, really appreciated.

In addition, anyone who is willing to help staff the shop one day a week should contact one of the Committee members to volunteer. ♦

### Director's Note

## Volunteer Spotlight



*Rupal Ramani and Lindsay DeRose have given many hours of volunteer child care to the Center*

For this edition of the H.I.S. House newsletter I was asked to write about a volunteer. However, if I write about one of these young ladies, I must write about the other. Why, because it is rare that you see them apart.

Rupal and Lindsay are H.I.S. House regulars as they have been volunteering at our shelter for two years. Not only are they both adorable young ladies, but they have hearts of gold.

If you stop by the shelter on Wednesday evenings, you will find them helping or holding children. Before Ms. Diedra, our Childcare Coordinator, arrived on the scene, they both organized and led the children in crafts, games, and story time.

The girls began volunteering to fulfill the 40 hours of community service graduation requirement of El Dorado High School. However, if we add up the hours these girls have spent volunteering, it is four times that of the requirement.

As seniors, H.I.S. House will not have the privilege of seeing their bright, shiny faces next year as off to college they go. However, the staff and children of H.I.S. House will never forget them. Thanks, Rupal and Lindsay. ♦



## Graduation Day is a Big Step for Residents

When a family or single person leaves our program prepared to meet the challenges of daily living, we are happy to say goodbye and good luck.

Since January, three single mothers have achieved self sufficiency. One mom moved to Fullerton, one to Placentia, and one graduate moved to our second step program and is in the process of looking for permanent housing. Two of these moms have two children and the third has one child and is expecting her second.

The goal that all the residents must meet in order to graduate from the program is threefold:

They must secure employment, save enough money for permanent housing (equal to one month's salary), and the most difficult part of the program in this housing market, they have to obtain permanent housing.

Last years' success was record breaking . . . 16 families, one couple and seven single people graduated from our program for a total of 62 people.

Before graduation, however, the residents are dependent on H.I.S. House supporters. As a reminder, in the kitchen items that are always running out: aluminum foil, Baggies, both sandwich size and storage size, Gladware and coffee. Paper towels and toilet tissue are constantly needed. ♦

## Family-to-Family Program



Family-to-family is our community challenge gift-giving program where one family supports another. In its fourth year, this program is based on an annual contribution of at least \$50.00 per family.

**Monies donated this quarter will be used for clothing and emergency car repairs.**

Participants last quarter include:  
Dixie and Gordon Shaw  
Monica Banas  
Sheila and Michael McHenry  
Carolyn and Jim Gaffney  
Ed and Barbara Hemmerling  
John And Cynthia Marshall  
Charles and Marjorie Bell  
James and Marjorie Pinkerton  
Charlie and Kathy Frazee

Yes, we want to join the Family-to-Family Program. Our family promises to donate at least \$50 for the support of a H.I.S. House family this year and succeeding years so long as we have sufficient income. Our check is enclosed for 2005.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## H.I.S. House History

### First in a series



The house located at 907 N. Bradford was originally a farmhouse built around 1915 and was a private residence for many years. More recently it served as a sorority house for a group at CSUF and later part of the house served as a meeting place for the Knights of Columbus from St. Joseph Catholic Church. When the property was put up for sale in 1989 the Presbyterian Church right next door was in the midst of a building program. There had always been a desire for the church to own the property but it always seemed too expensive, especially at that moment when they were in debt for their own new buildings. After all, the purchase price of \$360,000 seemed astronomical at the time. But God had something planned they never dreamed about. Despite the misgivings of a number of church members about incurring more indebtedness, the property was purchased with the help of the church's higher governing body.

Concurrently Placentia Presbyterian Church, along with many other area churches, was involved in a ministry to feed the homeless living at Featherly Park. An idea began to grow in the heart of one particular church member that this vacant property could perhaps be used to house a family living at the park. A meeting was held one Sunday after church and a group started to brain-storm about what would be needed for it to be used as housing for the homeless. A particular family had been identified to be our first residents. A father, mother and a newborn baby would come home from the hospital to this house instead of a rain-soaked tent in the park. And thus our ministry to the homeless began. The name H.I.S. House was chosen because it could be viewed in several ways—homeless intervention shelter or—as God's House, that is, H.I.S. House.

Next time – Learning to operate a shelter from scratch! ♦

## For All Their Help, We Give Thanks

H.I.S. House is grateful to the following people and organizations for the many wonderful donations and gifts they bestow on us.

**Placentia Police Officer's Association** gave \$1,250.

**Roundtable Women's Club** handmade turtle pillows for all children leaving our program.

**Glaxo, Smith, Kline** pharmaceutical sales team led by Jim Hansen presented our kids with nine build a bears.

**Jenny Owens** made ninety-one pillow cases as part of her Black Belt Service Project. Jenny is Assistant



Sensei (to **Leslie Owens**) for the H.I.S. House Karate Class at Blessed Sacrament Martial Arts Academy. Leslie donates her time to our kids every Wednesday evening.

**Brownie Troop 2188** toured the shelter and brought, what else, but delicious Girl Scout Cookies to our residents.

**Yorba Linda Brownie Troop lead by Amy Senna** brought four Birthday-In-A-Bags (a birthday gift and party supplies) for our kids.

**Members of Messiah Lutheran** painted our park benches and Jan

Strand brightened up our upstairs bath (it's now YELLOW).

**Eric Jamison** entertained the kids with his stories about music and he showed several interesting instruments.

**Western State College of Law Christian Legal Society** provided Easter Baskets for all of the children.

The parishioners of **St. Mary Magdalene Church** in Orange also provided beautiful baskets for our children.

Sunday, January 30, members of **Temple Beth Shalom** came by and brought food, games and music to entertain our residents.

**North Cities Quilt Guild** once again donated quilts for the children that come through H.I.S. House

**Curves** Anaheim and Placentia donated an office full of food.

Lastly, our two fabulous Youth Leaders for Literacy grant recipients, **Leah and Garrett** for coordinating and hosting the eight-week reading program for our kids.



*Young readers visit with the cat in the hat at a recent gathering.*



Placentia Presbyterian Church

**H. I. S. House**

PO Box 1293  
Placentia CA 92871

Phone: 714-993-5774  
Fax: 714-993-5768  
Email: [office@hishouseplacentia.org](mailto:office@hishouseplacentia.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FULLERTON, CA  
PERMIT NO. 214