



August 2005

# H.I.S. House News

## Good Wines, Good Friends, Good Cause



*Hank Walling samples the buffet at last year's wine and cheese tasting at the Nixon Library.*

The third annual wine tasting fundraiser for H.I.S. House, "Wines of the Golden West," will take place on August 26, 2005 at the Richard Nixon Library. The planning committee expects attendance at this invitation only event to reach 300 guests this year.

Vendome Liquors in Fullerton will once again arrange for 55 wineries from all over the state to provide the selections that visitors will sample during the evening. The wide assortment, dry/sweet, red/white, floral/woody, will surely have a taste to satisfy every palate.

Dinner at Eight will encore the elegant buffet that was so delicious and visually appealing last year. Music will



*Jim and Sally McClure and Ann Walling stand poised with glasses ready to sample wines at last year's Tasting.*

be courtesy of Luis Antonio Garzon. Mr. Garzon is noted for his jazz and classical guitar styles and will give us an evening of music to remember.

This event will be the major fundraiser this year since we won't be having the annual auction in November. All proceeds will benefit H.I.S. House and will comprise a large part of the income for this year's operating budget.

Guests will be welcome to join tours of the library led by experienced, trained docents during part of the evening. The special exhibit of the replica of the White House will be open for viewing, too.

There will be a silent auction during the evening when participants can vie for lovely theme baskets, special wines, a few magnums, and much more. Capping off the night's events will be a live auction of only 5 very special items.

Invitations were mailed on July 21st. If you did not receive an invitation last year and would like to be included on this year's invitation list, please contact H.I.S. House and request an invitation. Dress code for the event is cocktail attire.

Hope to see many of you at this year's gala affair. ☺

## "Founders Fund" Receives Contributions Honoring Early Volunteers

The homeless intervention program that began with the offer to assist a single small family has served the needs of several hundred people over the years. The vision and hard work of those early caring individuals is a model to keep alive.

The "Founders Fund" has been established to receive gifts in honor or in memory of the spirit of those early volunteers. Contributions can be made in honor of any volunteer.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the "Founders Fund" to honor Dave and Elaine VanDeventer for their years of service to H.I.S. House. To date we have received approximately \$9,300.

These funds will assist shelter residents with medical, dental, prescription and eye wear needs. Historically, many of these costs were covered by our OCIS grant which is not being renewed.

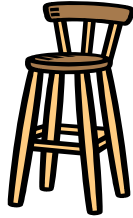
John Marshall said, "The Board felt that this was a fitting tribute to Elaine, in particular, because of her long-standing career in the healthcare industry." ☺

## Upcoming Events

Wine Tasting & Auction	August 26
Evening with Christy Mattewson	Nov. 5
Join Family-to-Family Program	ASAP

## A VIEW FROM THE CORNER "CHAIR"

By John Marshall



Through mid-year our revenues are about 20% ahead of budget and our expenses are roughly on plan. We expect revenues to be less in the second half of the year with the expiration of OCIS and HUD grants, while expenses will be about the same.

During the course of the past month, we had a fire in the middle of the night in the library room of the shelter. This was started by a large stuffed animal being too close to a computer. Fortunately no one was hurt and the shelter sustained relatively minor damage.

We are in the process of restoring the library with new children's books, carpeting, furniture, etc. If you can help out in any way, contact Teri at the shelter.

As a result of this incident, the Board and Director are taking steps to improve on the safety and operating procedures at the shelter. We are planning to add additional alarms in the side house and upstairs in the main house. The resident manager, or duty manager, will shut down the computers at 11 pm. The

new residents will be told about fire exits and extinguishers during the move-in orientation, and fire drills will be conducted on a regular basis.

We will have a paid staff person on site 24-7. This later point was not at issue in this incident, but we feel we need a staff person there around the clock. This is critical to the long-term success of the program.

The best-laid plans can still go awry as I saw first hand one morning while I was at H.I.S. House. The copier repair man came and fixed the copier to the tune of \$180. Then the appliance man came to repair the refrigerator and dishwasher in the main House. The refrigerator got fixed for \$75 but the dishwasher needs replacing for about \$300. Teri then reported that the upstairs toilet was plugged and wouldn't come free with the plunger. I suggested she call Roy to see if we can free it with the snake. I don't know where that one will take us. Placentia disposal hadn't yet picked up the old furniture out front, but some kids had a great time going through the books and dispersing them everywhere. I left about 3pm, so a lot more could still happen during working hours!

Office volunteers are needed to help answer phones during the day. If you want to share in the busy life at the Shelter, particularly in the summer months, please contact Marlene Stewart at 714-524-6754. ☺



## Administrators Assess Success Factors

By Iman El Haj Ibrahim

Those of you who have ever stopped by on a Tuesday morning would know that we come across all walks of life while interviewing for candidates, from the rehabilitating addict to the mom that just can't seem to catch a break.

We are faced with a tough decision every week as administrators; having to determine whether or not each individual should be admitted

into the program. Moreover, it is our responsibility to determine whether or not these individuals are committed and determined enough to succeed in the program. We, as an agency, must distinguish their willingness and ability to accomplish a goal.

You see, regardless of how critical our assessments may be, the "program" we provide is really a test of faith, strength, endurance, confidence and hope. In all technicalities, nature has a way of weeding out the weak regardless of opportunity or choice, but nature also has a way of embracing those who are weak with the ability to be triumphant. That is

## 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

where we come in.

Through our program we find it critical that each individual is able to be self-sufficient, able to provide for themselves as well as their families without the aid of outside resources. In order for this to happen, a habit has to be broken—dependency on government assistance. For most of our residents it is a difficult task. However it can be done, as many of our clients have proven. With this goal in mind, it is very important that all of our residents are provided with the adequate

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Thankful Graduate Returns with Help for Others



Ray Mathison, our graduate that spoke at last November's auction, visited the Shelter recently. He is working for Federal Express driving trucks on long and short hauls across the country. We helped him go to truck driving school with a Helping Hands Grant.

In gratitude for all we did for him, Ray brought \$100 worth of Ralph's Grocery Certificates. 🌱

## Used Car Donation Brings New Income



*Mark Anthony Barreca donated used car to trigger string of good deeds.*

Remember the story of the stranger who made stone soup for everyone? He had the pot and the stone, but he needed water from the town well. Once the water began to boil, he put in his stone, and then lamented to the crowd that had gathered that if only he had a potato to add, the soup would taste much better. Sure enough, one villager had two small potatoes that she brought for the soup.

"Wouldn't a carrot add a touch of delicious color?" the stranger asked. A farmer dug his last three carrots and his neighbor found four small tomatoes in his little garden. One by one, all the villagers found what they could contribute for the stone soup. By the end of the day, everyone in the little community sat down to share the pot of nutritious vegetable soup.

A similar chain of contributions resulted in \$1,765 income for H.I.S. House. Former Placentia resident Mark Barreca bought a new car and wanted to give his old car to charity. Jim Gaffney suggested H.I.S. House as a worthy cause. Mark gave the car to Jim who took it to his mechanic, Sam, at CMI Service, (17071 Imperial Hwy, A-10, Yorba Linda). Sam worked on the car for 3 hours, did a smog check, and charged only the cost of parts, for a savings of over \$200. Jim and Roy Buck then cleaned the car and readied it for sale.

Teri Niebuhr contacted Cars For Causes, an organization that sells donated cars. They handle all the paperwork from the transaction and keep 50% of the selling price. They sold the car in two hours!

Others who have cars that they are willing to donate, please contact someone on the board (see pg. 2) so we can arrange the sale. 🌱

## Fire Recovery Assistance from Lennar Homes Staff



Enthusiastic employees from Lennar Homes arrived with much appreciated hands-on support after

the late-night fire at the Shelter and helped tear out some of the library subfloor that was damaged by the water. They went on and painted two side house baths, as well as the side house family room. 🌱

## Peer Giving Enriches All the Children



*Katie and Mom shared birthday celebration with shelter residents.*

Katie Hungerford just turned eight, but already she has a compassionate heart for others her age who are less fortunate than she. Instead of having gifts brought to her on her birthday, young Katie had her guests bring gifts to the children at H.I.S. House.

Her mother Sarah called the Shelter and asked for a list of children and their ages. She then forwarded the names to the guests who joined in the spirit of sharing.

Children like these model their actions on what they see, so we salute and thank Katie, her friends, and their parents. 🌱



*Twelve children received birthday gifts from Katie and her friends.*



Placentia Police Officers' Association contributes "huge" check.

(Continued from page 2) ADMINISTRATORS

tools and opportunity to do so.

As administrators, we also come across a number of barriers, in an attempt to find the most efficient way to help these families and individuals. For H.I.S. House to accomplish its goal, not only are the participants required to be committed, but society as well. This is an overall effort to create endless opportunity for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Although Will and Determination are hard to come by these days, these are the two determining factors for success. You may wonder how one goes about finding the latter, the answer is simple—H.I.S. House.

Some individuals are able to overcome any barrier, regardless of how difficult it may be. They are the individuals who put out endless and whole-hearted efforts aiming to succeed. They are the individuals striving to keep their determination. It is our job to provide them with the moral support they need to succeed.

Although many will fail, let those who succeed and benefit from our existence be the prime examples and reasons for our continued efforts. Remember that success is not up to the provider, but rather for the client to determine. Moreover, success is not measured by wealth and property, but by the ability to provide and sustain one's self independently.

Those who aim to succeed will, and some simply need a helping hand. ♻️

### Director's Note From Teri Neibuhr

Budgetary concerns heightened when long-term grant funding ran out recently. Quite remarkably, two very large monetary donations came from the community within two months of each other and helped to make up some of the budgetary shortfall. Additional support from other sources gives us the confidence to continue our efforts to aid the homeless.

The Soroptimists of Placentia Yorba Linda made their final organizational donation. The club will soon disband due to lack of membership. A second generous gift arrived from the Placentia Police Officers' Association. The Placentia Roundtable continues to support us as well, and the Family-to-Family program is a constant avenue for donations.

On behalf of the Shelter residents and the Board who work to support the intervention program, I want to thank these and all the people who provide financial assistance for H.I.S. House. ♻️



Director Teri Niebuhr accepts the final check from Amanda of the Soroptimists of Placentia-Yorba Linda.

### 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:
- Roy Buck
  - John and Marcia Griffin
  - Maria Luinger
  - Frank and Jackie Campbell
  - Conley and Jane Thatcher
  - Jerry and Nan Keating
  - Robert, Kathryn, and Matthew Erbach

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring Tea Profits



After the tea was poured and enjoyed, a quick read of lingering tea leaves would indicate that

the spring tea and fashion show produced a bit of good fortune for H.I.S. House and a lot of good fun for a gregarious group of H.I.S. House supporters. Community volunteers modeled clothing from Stein Mart and approximately \$3,000 was raised by the event held on May 21.

Mari Atherton coordinated the tea with the help of her family and small committee. She has volunteered to do this task again next year. ☺

## Second Step Program

By Ken Kleckner

In 2003 the H.I.S. House staff proposed a new program called "The Second Step Program" to the Board of Directors. The purpose of this was to expand the transitional program to include longer term housing to successful graduates of the shelter's regular program. Our goal was to move these graduates from H.I.S. House into short term housing at an affordable cost allowing the graduates to continue to save toward self-sufficiency.

The city made available to us a home located near the shelter that they own as part of their redevelopment agency. Thus the

Second Step program had a location.

We are able to provide low rent housing to six persons at any one time for a period of six months. This allows the families to continue to save toward self-sufficiency, to continue in our ongoing programs at H.I.S. House, and to build toward a future.

During the time this program has been active, twenty individuals have been able to continue their positive progress and eventually move into permanent housing once their time in the Second Step Program was up.

This is a single family home and the residents are required to work together to ensure all aspects of home management are kept up. They do all outside work in the yard and do all inside cleaning and maintenance. We are able to provide them with a furnished home including washer and dryer so as to make the transition from homelessness, to community living, to single family home living as easy as possible.

This additional program has proven to be a great motivator for all residents at H.I.S. House.

In June there were two families living in Second Step. Two major maintenance projects of trimming trees and repairing the fencing around the property were brought to the attention of City personnel. ☺

## H.I.S. House History

Second in a series by Ann Walling



### Getting Our Act Together

In the early days of the shelter there were no rules, no policies, only a group of volunteers who wanted to help others to a better life but knew almost nothing about running a shelter. It soon became evident that we needed to begin to do some organizing and planning. How much help could we provide? Would residents need to be working? And if so, why didn't this father living in the shelter seem motivated to get a job? How were these people going to be fed? How could we provide for the needs of young children?

A committee was formed to help formulate basic rules and talk about funding. Many of those committee members continue to serve today!

Funding was needed, of course, and we received our first "major" gift from *One Great Hour of Sharing*, a national, annual, special offering taken by many mainline churches, but in this case it came through the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. We were also awarded \$2,500 from the

Orange County Register Charity Fund. Soon we felt comfortable in expanding and there were now two families living in the shelter. We learned that, just as different families cannot always co-exist with out conflict, so it is true in homeless shelters. It was not unusual for our pastor or committee members to be called on to handle dissension, sometimes in the middle of the night!

In 1990 another milestone occurred when the city of Placentia asked us if we could help provide shelter for a large extended family of 14 who were threatened with eviction when the city declared their rental house unsuitable for habitation. The family became residents and the house was suddenly full. The men in this family were working as gardeners, the mother and the grandmother kept the house immaculate, and all eight children were in school. After a few months the family received a court settlement from an unrelated lawsuit and were actually able to purchase a small house, their very first.

Next issue – "We need a paid staff person!" ☺

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Watch For Updates!!

The Community Resource Committee will have a H.I.S. House volunteer recognition event in the latter part of September, in order to thank all the generous volunteers who give so much time an energy to the Shelter. Marion Hetherington and Roy Buck agreed to head this up. Watch for further details in this newsletter and local newspapers.

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

## Thrift Shop Update

We appreciate all of the positive responses we are getting for the proposed "thrift shop" whose mission is to provide a continual funding source for the H.I.S. House Shelter.

The donations keep coming and we are grateful to all of you. Many of you have indicated you are keeping things for us and we thank you for that. Be patient, please. We are still looking for an appropriate location with a reasonable rent. Our preference is to be in Placentia or the surrounding area.

If any of you know of a possible space please call:

Cynthia Marshall (993-2407)

or

Barbara Goff (528-3561).