



Summer 2006

H.I.S. House News

TASTING GALA AND AUCTION MOVES TO OCTOBER THIS YEAR

Attention all connoisseurs and amateur sommeliers of fine wines! The annual wine tasting gala and auction is October 13 and you want to be sure your name is on the list to receive an invitation.

The planning committee headed by Carolyn Holmes and Marion Heatherington has expanded the evening's activities to include a Buffet Dinner catered by the Anaheim White House in the East Room of the Nixon Library.

Guests will start the evening with the traditional wine tasting hosted by Vendome Liquors of Fullerton, passed hors d'oeuvres, and independent tours of the library's exhibits.

During this same time everyone is invited to take part in the silent auction that will include 25 baskets with not only wonderful wines from the Napa area and around the world but also dinner tickets, health club memberships, and tickets to athletic events and theater presentations.

After the buffet dinner, the live auction begins, and travel enthusiasts will have a field day. There is a 5-day Carnival cruise, a week's stay in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and an exotic photo safari in South Africa to be auctioned off. Those who are content to stay at home and get things organized may choose to bid on the Estate Planning Legal Services for

Family Trust.

As if these prizes are not enough, there will be a raffle for a Money Hat worth \$500.

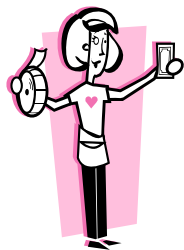
This is the primary fundraiser for H.I.S. House, and if it's as successful as hoped, it will replace vital funds from grants that have expired. The ticket donation is \$100 per person.

If you have received an invitation in years past, you can look for one again this year.

If you haven't had the chance to attend this major fundraiser for H.I.S. House, then you want to contact Carolyn Holmes immediately. She can be reached by phone at **714-996-7418** or through the email at **cholm3@sbcglobal.net**. Invitations will be mailed Sept. 1. ▲



Carolyn Holmes heads the gala committee



COMING SOON

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Entertainment Books for 2007

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As we roll into the holiday season of parties, movies, and dining out, please remember that H.I.S. House will be selling the 2007 Entertainment Books again this year.

The two-for-one coupons and special offers make this a chance for real savings, and purchasing the books from Board members or directly from the Shelter office benefits H.I.S. House. We anticipate the price will remain \$35 per book.

Call the office in September for yours, 993-5774. ▲

Measure of Success is a Relative Matter

By Jane Seymour

Some of us see the glass as half empty while others see it as half full. That reminds me of Tom, a former resident of H.I.S. House. He had lived on the streets for many years. Eventually he reached the point of wanting something better.

He first went into the Interfaith Shelter Network, and then came to H.I.S. House. He was very successful during that year, not drinking, working hard and doing well in the Shelter. During that time he decided to get in touch with some family members after years of no contact.

He flew to Chicago to spend the

following Christmas with some of his six siblings. He was so nervous that they wouldn't like him. When he returned to Orange County after the holiday, he told me that he'd had a wonderful time.

The next year things went downhill for Tom, although he always had a job. Christmas came and he went to Chicago again, but this time he was excited about going. One morning he didn't come down for breakfast. His sister went to his room to check on him. He had passed away in his sleep.

The next summer several members of his family came to California to scatter his ashes at sea, off the coast at Crystal Cove, his favorite place. He had always wanted his family to see that beautiful place, although he never thought this would be the reason to get

(Continued on page 3)

With Appreciation ~ from the Director



Alyssa Beck, Girl Scout Gold Award candidate, has completed a very unique project. Besides hosting four story time craft nights for the H.I.S. House kids, Alyssa read 100 children's books recording them on CDs. She also donated a CD player so that kids can take a book off the shelf of our library while she reads the book via CD to them.



July 29 was Serve Day. Three hundred plus volunteers from EV Free Church in Fullerton spread out around Orange County doing good deeds. H.I.S. House was the recipient of several projects. One group stripped and waxed the kitchen floor in our side house, applied a coat of paint in one of our baths, and managed a much needed floor repair in our downstairs bathroom. Prior to Serve Day, Jim Moomaw saw the need to remove drywall above the tub shower and replace it with new. Once that was completed Jim arrived with tile and installed it above the tub. Thanks to Jim Moomaw, Ken Olson, Ron Johnson, Larry Mendenhall, Norvel Frager and Peter D'Amico. H.I.S. House is blessed to have friends like you.



A Finance 101 class taught by CSUF Professor Charlie Juster is now in session. The fourth Wednesday of the month our residents are instructed in subjects such as Budgeting and Financial Planning, Credit Cards and Credit Scores, Income Taxes, Identity Theft, Life Insurance, Payroll Cards and Purchasing an Automobile. Charlie is an expert and we are so happy to have him as our Finance Professor. I have been told by several residents that this is a great class! Thanks, Charlie.



Katie's birthday gifts to children at the Shelter

Last year about this time you may have remembered reading an article about an eight-year-old girl who instead of having gifts brought to her on her birthday requested that they purchase gifts for the children living in H.I.S. House. Well, here it is one year later and Katie Hungerford has turned nine and, you guessed it, again celebrated her birthday by presenting gifts to the kids at H.I.S. House. As before, her mother called the shelter and was given a list of the children's ages living here and gifts were purchased for each child. Children like these model their actions on what they see. We thank Katie and her friends and salute all their parents.



Old cell phones and empty printer cartridges can be recycled at the Shelter office. Enough folks have dropped off these items during the last several months that we were able to earn an extra \$100 for the support of programs at the House.



Our wish list includes:

- Volunteers to answer the phone
- Glad Ware (plastic containers)
- Freezer Ziploc bags
- Diapers
- Toilet Tissue and Paper Towels
- Coffee Makers for Graduates
- Toasters for Graduates

As Charity's Closet approaches six months of operation, things are going well, better than anticipated.

In August we had our first big sale featuring a "Buy One Get One Free Jeans and Denim Special." All other months we have a 50% sale of some merchandise. There are special sales planned for each month this fall. We continue to receive compliments about the shop and the good quality of our goods. Please continue your generous donations.

Sales continue to be strong. At this point we were able to give the shelter a \$4,000 check and will give another for about the same amount in early September.

The All-Volunteer staff is working hard, putting in many hours as we go through this first year of developing policies and merchandising strategies, and deciding where to store our super "stuff."

We thank everyone who has been supportive. If you can volunteer in one of any number of ways, call the shop (993-4687) and leave your name. We will call you back. ▲



H.I.S. House depends upon the generosity of community neighbors. Please help us advance your work by remembering H.I.S. House in your will and estate planning.
Thank You!



Family-to-Family Donors

Family-to-family is our community challenge gift-giving program where one family supports another. In its fifth year, this program enables people to connect with each other in the spirit of human compassion. To play a part, just make an *annual* contribution of at least \$50.00 per family.

Contributors this quarter include:

- Jerry & Nan Keating
- Gary & Carrie Wicke
- Marilyn Crow
- Jean and Bob Turner
- William & Karen Mangold
- Walter & Katherine Hovey
- Rich & Jackie Shumway

Sincerest thanks to participants of this program and the many other generous individual and institutional donors who regularly support the Shelter.

Extend your family by taking on one of H.I.S. less fortunate. ▲

VIEW FROM THE CORNER CHAIR

By Jeannine Ford



I remember a song that Nat King Cole use to sing entitled "Lazy, Crazy, Hazy Days of Summer." He would sing about "soda and pretzels and beer." Of course he was talking about summertime and all good things that people can think up or do at summertime: picnics, barbecues, going to the beach, drive-in movies, vacations, baseball games, just hanging out and enjoying our friends, family, fun and the entire experience. Summertime was the greatest time to enjoy all of this and he also sang that "you'll wish that summertime could always be here!"

Well unlike the song, the days of summer are no longer here but are winding down. We're headed into fall again. It's time for school to start up, more traffic on the highways, and now we have to come out of our summer naps and re-focus ourselves in preparation for the fall months ahead. There's much we need to accomplish before the winter months set in. So it's that time again when we pick back up those tasks and all those other things that we let just sit there for the summertime. Those projects that "it was just too hot to fool with" or "really

didn't need to be done right now, maybe later" are now awaiting our much needed attention.

Unfortunately, the needs of the homeless don't slack off during the summertime. There are always needs, always an individual or a family that is in need of help.

So as you re-focus your efforts in preparing for the fall months ahead, please remember that there are those in need and that the help that you so graciously provide to H.I.S. House, be it volunteering your time either at the Shelter, on a H.I.S. House committee, or at Charity's Closet; providing a much appreciated donation of clothing or money; or coming to the H.I.S. House Wine-Tasting event in the fall is always much appreciated and much welcomed . . . summertime and anytime!

Please remember to put the "H.I.S. House Shelter" back on your fall "To Do" list. The residents, director, and board members rely on your continued help and support! ▲

(Continued from page 1 —SUCCESS)

together.

Many of us felt that somehow we had failed Tom, but his family thinks of H.I.S. House as "angels." They think we returned their long-lost brother to them, if only for a very short time.

This summer Ralph and I were driving home from St. Louis and we decided to make a detour through Kansas. There we met Patty, one of Tom's sisters, and had a wonderful visit with her. We spent a few hours talking about her brother and seeing how thankful she was that she got to see what a truly wonderful man her brother had become.▲



Second Step Program



Sometimes a family reaches the end of its stay at the Shelter but is not quite able to move on

successfully. High housing costs and job difficulties can be factors that prohibit a complete transition to independent living.

For this reason the Second Step Program offers residents additional time to settle issues that will make a new life possible. It is still group living but it offers more independence

and a gradual shift into greater financial responsibilities.

The Second Step facility is another major concern for H.I.S. House board members. Maintenance has been handled by volunteers in the past, but the constant attention the building needs as well as landscape issues and safety restrictions now requires a more professional approach.

It is hoped that a gardener can be retained to manage the exterior maintenance, thereby freeing volunteers and board members from this task. Cost relating to this position would be added to monthly utility charges that residents are currently paying. ▲

H.I.S. House History

Sixth and final in a series by Ann Walling



In 1996 the H.I.S. House committee became more official and adopted new bylaws, and the committee became the Board of Directors for the shelter. A Community Resource Committee was started to encourage broader community involvement in the shelter. In May of that year we saw the final payment on the mortgage and we were debt free.

The need for shelter in the homeless community continued and it was time to talk about expansion and renovation once again. Another grant was awarded and 1,200 square feet were added with an expanded second story on the original house. Now the shelter could accommodate 40 people in its beautiful, new, renovated buildings. A family or and community organization adopted each bedroom and made it welcoming for a new resident to the shelter.

High rents in our area made it

difficult for graduates to find affordable housing. Recognizing that some of our promising graduates needed additional time to make it on their own, we entered into an agreement with the City of Placentia in October 2002 to use a property the city had purchased for low income housing just a few doors from HIS House. We now had a place for select graduates to stay while they continued with schooling or job training.

We remember significant people in our shelter. Louie was one of our first residents who came from the streets of L.A. wanting to change his life – he did and along the way put a face on the homeless for us and made others want to help. There was a mother who finished her L.V.N. and became independent and successful. There were many who got their first jobs ever, and others who had been successfully employed and even been

home owners but had suffered a job loss, divorce or some downturn in their life and they needed help to start over. We remember our “technical problems” – sprinkler systems that caused major flooding, plumbing that continued to back up, dishwashers that wouldn’t work, refrigerators that defrosted and spoiled food. And we remember those that we didn’t seem to help, those who left because the “rules were too strict,” those that fell back to their previous use of alcohol or drugs, those who really didn’t want to work. But, most of all we think of the hundreds who have lived at H.I.S. House whose lives were helped and enriched and who have been able to start again because we were there.

Thanks to the financial support, the prayers, the donations of all kinds from so many, we have been blessed beyond anyone’s imagination in those early years.

Placentia Presbyterian Church

H. I. S. House

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Email: office@H.I.S.houseplacentia.org

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 2006.



Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____