

News from The Summit



Client Spotlight

Ms. Sylvia Colston is an example of the saying "you can't keep a good woman down". Ms. Colston arrived at Pryor House in 2008 with one primary goal; to regain custody of her two "special needs" children. She used her Crosspoint experience to get all of the help she could to better herself and prove that she deserved to get her sons back. She participated in our substance abuse treatment program, parenting classes, NA meetings and the weekly group sessions at Pryor. While in the program, Ms. Colston obtained employment at a Marriot and found a two-bedroom apartment. She released from Crosspoint after five months and contacted the CPS worker who had previously told her she would never get her kids back. The CPS worker was so impressed with all that Ms. Colston had accomplished that she agreed to refer her to legal assistance for restoration of her parental rights. She was allowed to have visits with her oldest son, and succeeded in finding her youngest son who had been "lost" in the system. In 2010, with the help of her attorney and the CPS worker, Ms. Colston walked out of the Bexar County Courthouse with both of her boys. Today, the family remains together and they are doing well.



Meditation Garden

Work on the long-planned meditation garden has been completed. Centered on a masonry gazebo erected by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, the garden will be available to clients for quiet prayer and reflection throughout their stay. Transitioning from incarceration or from homelessness are often daunting tasks and a place for quiet solitude can be a healing experience. With a river rock water fountain as its centerpiece, the meditation garden will contain evergreen bushes and flowering herbs that will set it apart from the Summit grounds and enhance the spiritual ambience of the setting. Benches placed in the garden will encourage residents to "sit and stay" for a while, to allow for peaceful contemplation.

Crosspoint Internship



Ms. Margarita McAuliffe is a doctoral student at the University of the Incarnate Word studying Organizational Leadership. She is currently engaged in an 80-hour practicum at Crosspoint. Margarita's primary focus is conducting a comprehensive analysis of the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This is a follow-up to an analysis that was conducted in the Spring of 2006. Margarita is interviewing a cross-section of staff, board members, funders and service partners to determine areas of need and future directions.



Community Projects

During the first quarter, Crosspoint residents and staff continued projects begun last year. In preparation for the Martin Luther King March in January, our residents volunteered their services to complete exterior renovations on the Greater Faith Institutional Church on Martin Luther King Drive. We continued on interior projects there on March 17 and March 31, completing painting of the sanctuary. On March 3, Crosspoint returned to the Denver Heights Community Garden, again under the supervision of Director of Operations Joe Shaffer, to dig in to some much needed spring weeding. During March, residents and staff of Crosspoint's women's facility participated in graffiti abatement work in Tobin Hill, just north of downtown. Crosspoint residents voice satisfaction with these opportunities to give back to the community.

Crosspoint staff also once again took part in the Martin Luther King March activities. Staff helped set up and take down chairs and marched with fellow citizens. CEO, Dr. Kevin Downey was one of the speakers at the Early Morning Worship Program sponsored by the Greater Faith Institutional Church.

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