

May 2014



Volunteer Spotlight

In April, Crosspoint welcomed a new library volunteer, Sister Rose McHugh.



Sister Rose has returned from a 25 year career working with the people of southern Africa. She was in Zambia when the AIDS pandemic began its devastation in Africa and she quickly became

deeply involved in caring for orphans and vulnerable children. Sr. Rose was very engaged in prevention education and through their efforts, AIDS rose from a completely taboo subject to one that could be openly discussed and dealt with. Sr. Rose drove patients to the hospital several hours away to ensure they received their medications or other treatments. She also embraced the care of the "forgotten ones", helping to provide food and housing to the elderly who had lost extended families and been pushed aside during the pandemic. Beyond this work, Sr. Rose raised funds to establish a dormitory for girls to go to school, which now provides 44 girls with the opportunity to attend high school every year. Sr. Rose raised the quality of life of many of the gracious people of Zambia. She represents a great treasure for the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and her work at Crosspoint will elevate us all.

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on
MAY 6th!

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News from The Summit

Client Spotlight



Mr. Michael Alvarez entered the program on June 21, 2013, and did exceptionally well in both the residential and outpatient programs. While at Crosspoint, he volunteered to assist in a large-scale community volunteer project to help repair a home severely damaged by fire. He surprised many people on the project, including the project supervisor, with his construction skills. Mr. Alvarez is an excellent artist and is very imaginative and creative. While in the program, he drew many pictures and displayed his talent for others. Mr. Alvarez was released to his home in August 2013 and successfully completed the program in October 2013. He resides with his wife and built an upstairs bedroom for them with an en-suite bathroom. He took pride in his work and updated his case manager on the progress. During his time at Crosspoint, Mr. Alvarez' success was at least in part attributable to his very open communication pertaining to his programming.

Community Corner

Crosspoint continues to participate in many community projects. Our goal is to support and help in projects that have a positive impact in the community. These projects are represented by a cross-section of staff, clients and community volunteers.

- ◆ A 12-person Crosspoint team of residents and staff participated in spring cleaning at the Quaker Meetinghouse on Vandiver. Volunteers helped change filters, build a new park bench, install a bicycle rack and catch up with landscaping. An equal number of congregants worked with our crew to prepare the meeting house for another year of service. The congregants showed their appreciation by providing a pot-luck lunch that included a variety of home-made dishes.
- ◆ Catholic Charities Wellness and Community Resource Fair was held at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church where 8 residents volunteered to do set-up services.
- ◆ A four-man crew trimmed, mowed, pruned and picked up trash along Yucca Street. Neighbors commented on how much of a difference this group of Crosspoint residents made in this section of the neighborhood.
- ◆ After participating in Crosspoint's 7th Annual Community Resource Fair in 2013, Alamo Colleges Mobile GO Center made a return trip to provide services to residents at Crosspoint in April. Personalized services made available by Alamo Colleges staff included assistance in applying online to any of the Alamo Colleges, financial aid information and options, college awareness and career exploration.

Reintegration Rituals

In an effort to counter the degradation rituals an offender encounters in our criminal justice system, Crosspoint formed a workgroup to develop a set of rituals aimed at helping them feel accepted back into their community and mark their progress toward full restoration of citizenship. As the result of this reintegration workgroup effort, led by Senior Unit Manager Louis Pachecano, a number of progress markers have been developed.



When formerly incarcerated citizens enter the program, they are given "Welcome Home" bags containing a variety of useful items during group orientation. Clients are awarded certificates for major accomplishments to include: obtaining employment, starting school, releasing to home confinement, volunteer community service activities and Crosspoint graduation. The group has also developed a list of smaller accomplishments for which the residents receive informal recognition. U.S. Probation Officers and a graduate of Crosspoint's reentry program also serve on the workgroup.

When we feel accepted, we are reintegrated. When we feel forgiveness, we are redeemed. When we feel whole, we are restored.