



Newsletter

Community Help Mission	April 2014	Edition 8, Volume 1
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Content	Assistance Provided –	March 2014	YTD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages from the Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monies Distributed CHM - • Monies Distributed Salvation Army • Number in Household – 12 Adults/11 Children 	\$ 140.00 \$ 832.77	2,471.06 2,532.36

FROM THE DESK OF PAT

At A Boy Alan

Alan Ohler has lost 51 pounds since this past August. When I asked him what prompted him to do this, he told me that he was a diabetic, but more than this, he didn't like what he was seeing in the mirror. It was getting embarrassing to keep buying larger pants. Now Alan is 51 pounds lighter - smaller pants and from the looks of things he is going to need even smaller pants. His goal is to weigh 200 pounds and with the help of his VA support group I feel for certain he will make his goal. Alan meets with his support group twice a month and is very committed to keeping in the program and meeting his goal.

Alan is an inspiration in the office; he works with us twice a month. It seems with each pound he loses he gains more internal joy & laughter. I feel that he will be able to relate to people who are having similar problems with positive encouragement.

Just for the record: E HEAP has extended their sign-up date from March 31 to April 15th. We still need to encourage those coming in to apply to E HEAP before we can help them with any gas bill through Salvation Army.

Blessings & Peace to All,

Pastor Pat

FROM THE DESK OF DIANE

Wow! I am totally excited about our new Response Ability Workshop. Staff met late in March to review the rough draft of the workbook, and to do some interview training with Pastor Bob and Fr. Vince. Staff role played some of our more colorful clients and we developed interventions to control difficult or confusing situations. Joan Johnston did a remarkable role play of a client who is my personal favorite. I can't role play her because her flow of ideas makes me dizzy.

Joan did a spectacular job! Janice Taylor played her boyfriend--or her fiancée or her husband--it changes every time they come in the office. Anyway, this individual has done his homework. He figured out who we are as a Christian organization, learned to speak our language ("Praise Jesus!") and put forth a well thought out effort to manipulate us out of money while continuing to malfunction in the community. Joan and Janice did so well it was a Laugh Out Loud moment in training!

Pat Pearl did another of our regular clients, also a prime candidate for the Response Ability Workshop. It was a spot on interpretation of this particular client!

Having worked through the workbook, some revisions have been made to make the process easier to navigate. Pastor Bob offered a values clarification tool that connects the dots better than what was in the first draft. Fr. Vince uses a budget tool that has current spending side by side with the newly developed budget--easier to use than the original, which did the same thing on two different pages.

Staff has been asked to offer input in terms of what we need to implement the workshop, i.e. colored markers, spiral notebooks, things I have not thought of. Staff is also invited to offer ideas about what office supplies might keep our record keeping easier.

Our next staff meeting is April 11, 10:15-11:45 am, at The Christian Community Center. NOTE: This is a change of location from our original plan to meet at the Library! Fr. Vince and Pastor Bob will be leading us in the further development of the coaching relationship and how being a coach differs from being a counselor, a friend, a therapist, a fairy godmother, etc. Then we will go through the revised workbook page by page and prepare for launch!

This workbook will be an excellent tool for the recently unemployed whose income has been suddenly cut in half while rent, utilities, car payments remain the same. It will also be most useful to holding accountable those clients who mismanage resources and regularly use charities to meet basic needs. The workbook ends with the client developing an individual action plan to get their finances in order. The client then signs the plan and so does the coach. This makes it a contract, a copy of which will be kept in the client's file. The client will be accountable for working the plan. We will not continue to help them financially otherwise. We WILL help by offering the workshop again . . . and again . . . and again. Whatever it takes!

I very much appreciate each of you for the energy, the love, the commitment you have dedicated to making CHM a real force for stability in this community. I am starting to get calls from other organizations wanting information on how, exactly, we do what we do. We are definitely on the map, and it is your work that has put us there. Peace, Blessings and Thanks to all of you!

Diane Geiselman, Project Director