

THE CLARION

A JOURNAL OF HOPE

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Behavioral Health Program Opens Its Doors

By Beth Ann O'Neill

On February 3, 2003, the Camillus House Behavioral Health Program officially opened its doors, and with an outpouring of response. The Behavioral Health Program was created to target gaps in existing services available to the homeless with intertwined mental health, co-occurring and substance abuse disorders. If its first month's performance is any indicator, the program has hit the bull's eye.

Behavioral Health takes a holistic approach to treatment, adhering to Camillus House's abiding philosophy that there is simply "No Wrong Door." A day in the life at Behavioral Health begins with our Outreach Specialist who promotes services available and conducts weekly Drop-In Groups. The Drop-In Groups provide a forum in which prospective clients are able to share their issues and ideas, and Behavioral Health is able to gain trust and offer a hopeful alternative to life on the streets.

Once admitted, each client receives a comprehensive assessment and is assigned to a Case Manager. Case management is specifically tailored to address each individual client's needs, drawing on both in-house services and community resources. On-site, clients are provided with day treatment, specialized groups, one-on-one therapy and psychiatric evaluation, as needed. Clients may also participate in the Work



Behavioral Health Program Team

Front row, left to right - Ellen Sheridan, Sandra Miller, Clifford Petit Homes. Back row, left to right - Azariah Asante, Crystal Ives, Beth Ann O'Neill, Kathy Garcia (Program Administrator), Jerry Bridges

Program, which enhances the Program's design to promote life skills and coping skills, as well as mental health.

With our culturally diverse professional and paraprofessional staff offering services in English, Spanish and Creole, Behavioral Health is well on its way to increasing the number of homeless persons ultimately able to transition to self-sufficiency and independence. We look forward to the addition of housing capabilities, which will only further enhance the Behavioral Health Program's ability to serve its clients' needs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 1 in 5 Americans can expect to get some form of depression in their lifetime.

Over 1 in 20 Americans have a depressive disorder every year. Depression is one of the most common and most serious mental health problems facing people today.



A MESSAGE FROM BROTHER SAVIO



“The most invisible creators I know are those artists who’s medium is life itself. The ones who express the inexpressible –

without brush, hammer, clay or guitar. They neither paint nor sculpt – their medium is their being. Whatever their presence touches has increased life.”

(J. Stone)

How often do we encounter moments of gratefulness in our lives where we can readily see the hand of God at work? Our acts of charity ... stepping stones in the journey of life, enable us to witness and unfold the providential

goodness of God to all persons we are privileged to serve each day. Gratefulness and charity can only be experienced in the moments in which we allow our hearts to be open to life. A person does something kind for you, even a very small thing, say, holding a door open for you. When you say, “Thank you” and really mean it, rather than saying it out of social convention or habit, your heart instinctively opens to that person. In that graced moment, you experience the connection between one another, even if you never see that person again.

It is God’s providence that puts people – all people – in our path. Charity and gratefulness are virtues that are put into practice everyday.

God will hold each of us accountable to take opportunity to practice charity – no matter how much and in what form. Charity is, indeed, a great thing, and a gift of God. When it is rightly ordered, it likens us to God Himself, as far as that is possible; for it is charity that makes the person. The choice is ours, in every moment!

May our gracious and generous God, who touches our hearts with His love, bestow upon you the gifts of charity and gratefulness for all that you do for the least of our brothers and sisters.

With a heart full of love and prayer,

Br. Savio, BEd

MAYORS’ 25-CITY SURVEY FINDS HIGH HOUSING COSTS, WEAK ECONOMY INCREASES NEED

According to a 25-city survey released in December 2002 by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, requests for emergency food assistance increased an average of 19 percent over the past year. The survey found that requests for emergency shelter assistance grew an average of 19 percent in the 18 cities that reported an increase, the steepest rise in a decade.

The survey also found that 48 percent of those requesting emergency food assistance were members of families with children while 38 percent of the adults requesting such assistance were employed. Among families living in Miami, 20 percent of the demand for emergency food assistance is estimated to have gone unmet during the last year. Furthermore, the number of families with children requesting emergency food in Miami increased by 49 percent, second only to Kansas City.

In another category of the survey, it was reported that people remained homeless for an average of six

months, a figure that increased from one year ago in all but four cities. An average of 30 percent of shelter requests by homeless people are estimated to have gone unmet during the last year across the survey cities. Single men comprised 39 percent of the homeless population, families with children 39 percent, single women 12 percent, and unaccompanied youth two percent.

These statistics are indeed startling and indicative of the growing need for our community and nation to address the problem of homelessness. Camillus House remains committed to working with our community to solve the problem of homelessness. The work is difficult, but it is also achievable.

To learn more about our efforts to expand services and build capacity

visit our website at www.camillus.org where you can learn about the new facility Camillus House envisions building that will help solve the chronic homeless problem in Miami.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS COME OUT TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH CAMILLUS HOUSE

By Joe Saceric

During these economically challenging times, we are finding more and more of our neighbors needing assistance from Camillus House. Whether it is a food box to carry them through the week or rental assistance to help them through the month, the demand for services has been on the rise. But at the same time we have seen so many of our community's most caring individuals open their heart and share their time with those who are less fortunate. Camillus House thanks its volunteers for their support and compassion!



During our Thanksgiving Day celebration we were graced with the goodwill of over four hundred volunteers. These volunteers did everything from peeling vegetables to carving turkeys' days before Thanksgiving for the hundreds of meals needed for the special day. They also made special Thanksgiving Day cards for everyone of our guests.



One of our smaller helpers is shown here sharing a moment and a meal with an elderly, disabled woman who frequently visits Camillus House.

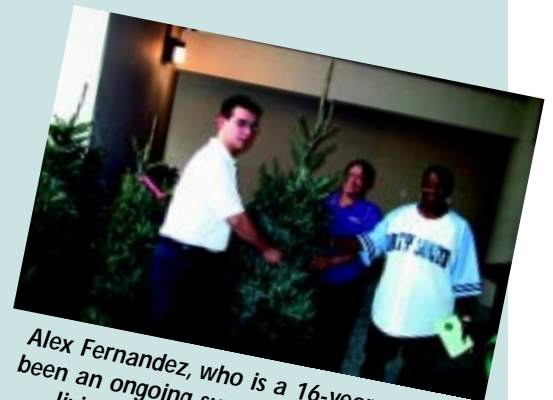


Christmas was particularly special for families living at Somerville Residence who received Christmas trees and decorations as well as toys for the Children. The occasion marked the first Christmas together for many of the families.



This year's Martin Luther King Celebration brought volunteers from the Fountain of Pembroke Pines who helped prepare and serve the special holiday meal. Guests had the opportunity to learn more about

Dr. King from the various photographs and articles that decorated the dining hall. To top off the event, all our guests were serenaded by the joyous voices of the Mount Tabor Men's Choir.



Alex Fernandez, who is a 16-year-old, has been an ongoing supporter of the families living at Somerville. Alex collected trees and ornaments for the families this past Christmas.

MEJORANDO LA VIDA DE LOS NIÑOS HAITIANOS

por Sam Gil

Hace más de diez años el Hermano Luc Jolicoeur, que por 16 años había pertenecido a los Hermanos del Buen Pastor, fue convocado para encabezar una misión a Haití para ayudar a los niños sin hogar que no tenían a quién recurrir. Lo que empezó como una pequeña misión, con escasos fondos iniciales, se ha convertido en una comunidad pujante donde prevalece la esperanza, que brinda a los niños y niñas la posibilidad de disfrutar una vida mejor.

Todo comenzó el 8 de noviembre de 1992, cuando el Hermano Luc partió de su hogar en Canadá para visitar a Miami. Fue en ese momento que el Hermano Justin Houston le pidió que fuera a su Haití natal para ver qué podía hacer para ayudar a ese país agobiado por la pobreza. Lo que el Hermano Luc encontró fue impresionante: niños que revolvían la basura buscando una migaja para comer. No tenían ropa ni calzado y, lo peor de todo, tenían poca o ninguna esperanza.

Convencido de que había que hacer algo, el Hermano Luc volvió a Miami resuelto a conseguir apoyo para crear una misión y ayudar a sacar a los niños de la calle. Su primer aliado fue Roger Soman, (Miembro Emérito de Camillus House), inspirado por



Los niños del Sheep Fold of the Good Shepherd posan para una foto instantánea antes de entrar a clases.

la pasión del Hermano Luc y por su propio deseo de ayudar a estos niños empobrecidos.

Con su nuevo aliado y con el respaldo de los Hermanos, el Hermano Luc volvió a Haití e inició una pequeña olla popular que servía comida caliente para

docenas de niños necesitados. En poco tiempo, el Hermano Luc y una creciente base de benefactores de Miami pudieron ampliar la misión con un orfanato para niños. Pocos años después se inauguró una escuela para que los niños aprendieran a leer y escribir.

En la actualidad, gracias a los denodados esfuerzos del Hermano Luc y al apoyo de generosos amigos, el *Sheep Fold of the Good Shepherd* (Redil del Buen Pastor), que es el nombre que se le dio a la misión,

brinda esperanzas de un futuro mejor a cientos de niños que viven inmersos en la pobreza y la desesperanza. La misión tiene una residencia para más de 230 niños. Cuenta con una escuela para 450 niños y niñas que ofrece educación básica además de orientación vocacional en las áreas de carpintería, mecánica, diseño por computadora, cerámica y capacitación agrícola. Los niños también reciben capacitación práctica en la granja de la misión, donde se les enseña a cultivar sus propios alimentos y donde practican los oficios que están aprendiendo, en pequeños talleres.

Pero el trabajo no termina allí. El Hermano Luc siempre visita los Estados Unidos en busca de benefactores que puedan contribuir con elementos básicos, como medicamentos, alimentos enlatados, zapatos, artículos para el aseo personal y muebles, además de realizar un aporte financiero. Cuando se le pregunta sobre su trabajo, el Hermano Luc sonríe y responde que se considera un instrumento para que los demás puedan compartir su amor por los niños de su país.

Para ver más fotos del *Sheep Fold of the Good Shepherd* visite el sitio Web de Camillus en www.camillus.org.



El Hermano Luc, ordenado sacerdote hace algunos años, camina hacia la misa.



MENSAJE DEL HERMANO SAVIO



“Los creadores más invisibles que conozco son los artistas cuyo medio es la vida misma. Los que expresan lo inexpresable... sin pincel, martillo, arcilla ni guitarra. No pintan ni esculpen. Su medio es su ser. Lo que tocan con su presencia, tiene mayor vida”. (J. Stone)

¿Con cuánta frecuencia experimentamos momentos de agradecimiento en nuestras vidas, cuando vemos obrar la mano de Dios? Nuestros actos de caridad, peldaños en el viaje de la vida, nos permiten presenciar y transmitir la bondad de Dios a las personas que tenemos el privilegio de servir todos los días. El agradecimiento y la caridad sólo se pueden experimentar en los momentos en que nos permitimos abrir nuestros corazones a la vida. Una persona le muestra amabilidad, incluso en algo pequeño, como sostenerle la puerta abierta. Cuando usted dice “Gracias” y lo dice en serio, en lugar de decirlo por costumbre o porque es una convención social, su corazón se abre instintivamente a esa persona. En ese

momento de gracia, usted experimenta la conexión entre los dos, incluso si nunca vuelve a ver a esa persona.

La providencia divina coloca a las personas – a todas las personas – en nuestro camino. La caridad y el agradecimiento son virtudes que se deben practicar todos los días. Dios nos hace responsables por aprovechar todas las oportunidades de practicar la caridad – sin importar cuánta ni en qué forma. Por cierto, la caridad es algo maravilloso, un don de Dios. Cuando está bien concebida, nos asemeja a Dios, en la medida en que eso es posible; porque la caridad hace a la persona. La opción es nuestra, ¡en todo momento!

Que Dios, con toda Su gracia y generosidad, que toca nuestros corazones con Su amor, les conceda el don de la caridad y el agradecimiento por todo lo que hagan por nuestros hermanos y hermanas menos afortunados.

Con el corazón lleno de amor y plegarias,

B. Savio, B.H.

EL PROGRAMA DE SALUD MENTAL ABRE SUS PUERTAS

por Beth Ann O'Neill

El 3 de febrero de 2003 abrió oficialmente sus puertas el Programa de salud mental de Camillus House, con una respuesta abrumadora. El Programa de salud mental (Behavioral Health Program) fue creado para cubrir las falencias de los servicios disponibles para las personas sin hogar con trastornos de salud mental, concurrentes y de abuso de sustancias interrelacionados. Si tomamos el desempeño del primer mes como indicador, el programa ha dado en el blanco.

El Programa toma un enfoque holístico al tratamiento, cumpliendo con la filosofía tradicional de Camillus House de que, simplemente, “No existe la puerta equivocada”. Un día en el Programa de salud mental comienza con un Especialista de extensión que promueve los servicios disponibles y coordina los Grupos de presentación espontánea semanales. Los Grupos de presentación espontánea son un lugar donde los clientes potenciales pueden compartir sus inquietudes e ideas, y el Programa puede ganarse su confianza y ofrecer una esperanzada alternativa a la vida en las calles. Una vez admitido, cada cliente recibe una evaluación global y es asignado a un Administrador de casos. El propósito de la Administración de casos es atender las necesidades específicas de cada cliente individual, recurriendo a servicios propios y a recursos comunitarios. En el

predio, los clientes reciben tratamiento de día, asisten a grupos especializados, a terapia individual y a evaluaciones psiquiátricas, según su necesidad. Los clientes también pueden participar en el Programa de

trabajo, que amplía el alcance del programa para ayudar a los participantes a vivir mejor y enfrentar los problemas, y así promover la salud mental.

Con nuestro personal profesional y paraprofesional culturalmente diverso, que ofrece servicios en inglés, español y criollo, el Programa de salud mental está en el camino correcto para que cada vez más personas sin hogar puedan finalmente completar la transición hacia la autosuficiencia y la independencia. Esperamos ampliar pronto nuestra capacidad de alojamiento, que mejorará las posibilidades del Programa de atender las necesidades de sus clientes.



Equipo del Programa de Salud Mental
Adelante, de izquierda a derecha - Ellen Sheridan, Sandra Miller, Clifford Petit Homes.
Atrás, de izquierda a derecha - Azariah Asante, Crystal Ives, Beth Ann O'Neill, Kathy Garcia (Administradora del Programa), Jerry Bridges

Making Life Better for Haitian Children

By Sam Gil

More than ten years ago Brother Luc Jolicoeur, a 16-year member of the Brothers of the Good Shepherd, was asked to head up a mission in Haiti to assist homeless children who had nowhere to turn. What started as a small mission with a little seed money has grown into a thriving community where hope prevails and young boys and girls are given an opportunity to live better lives.

It all began on November 8th 1992 when Brother Luc left his home in Canada to visit Miami. It was then that he was asked by Brother Justin Houston to go to his native land of Haiti to see what could be done to help the poverty stricken country. What Brother Luc found was shocking: young boys sifting through garbage to find a scrap of food to eat. They had no clothing or shoes and worst of all, they had little or no hope.



Brother Luc, who was ordained as a priest some years ago, is shown here walking to mass.

Convinced that something had to be done, Brother Luc returned to Miami determined to persuade others to support him in what would be a mission to help children get off the streets. He found his first supporter in Roger Soman, (Chairman Emeritus of Camillus House) who was moved by Brother Luc's passion and his

own desire to help these impoverished children.

With his newfound support and the Brothers'

DID YOU KNOW?

Haiti has a population of 7.8 million people and an unemployment rate of 80 percent!

70 percent of the island's population live on less than \$460.00 (U.S.) each year.



The children of the *Sheep Fold of the Good Shepherd* pose for a quick photo just before school.

backing, Brother Luc went back to Haiti and started a small soup kitchen initially serving hot meal to dozens of needy children. Within a short time, Brother Luc and a growing base of supporters here in Miami were able to expand the mission to include an orphanage for boys. A few years later, a school was opened giving children the opportunity to learn to read and write.

Today, thanks to Brother Luc's dedicated hard work and caring friends, the *Sheep Fold of the Good Shepherd*, the mission's given name, provides hundreds of children living in poverty and despair the hope for a better future. The mission has a dormitory for over 230 boys. It has a school for 450 boys and girls that provides basic instruction as well as vocational training in the areas of carpentry, mechanics, computer graphics, ceramics and agricultural training. The children also get hands-on training through the mission's farm where they are taught to grow their own food while small workshops allow them to apply the trades they are learning.

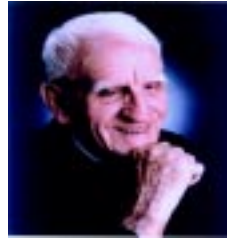
But the work doesn't stop there. Brother Luc is always visiting the United States in search of supporters that can provide basics such as medicines, canned goods, shoes, toiletries and furniture as well as financial support. When asked about his work, Brother Luc smiles and says he considers himself an instrument through which others can share their love for the children of his country.

To see more photos of the *Sheep Fold of the Good Shepherd* visit the *Camillus* website at www.camillus.org.



Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd

By Brother Savio Charron, BGS



Fifty-two years ago, a little white-haired man with a sparkle in his eyes, an Irish lilt in his voice, and a great love for the poor founded a new religious community in the downtown area of Albuquerque, New Mexico. His name was Brother Mathias Barrett and he was the founder of the Congregation of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, which opened its doors on January 19, 1951.

Brother Mathias began the first ministry, Good Shepherd Refuge, by serving used coffee grounds and stale, day old bread to the small number of homeless individuals who were in the area. A few years later in 1960, he opened Camillus House. Today, the Congregation has grown and spread throughout the United States, Canada, England, Ireland and Haiti due to Brother Mathias responding to the will of God.

This past January 19th was celebrated as Foundation Day throughout the Congregation and each local community gave thanks to God for the inspiration and movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of its Founder. Brother Mathias Barrett died, but not before seeing his community recognized by Rome as a religious Congregation of Pontifical rite. His body rests in the memorial crypt at Villa Mathias, his former home and the motherhouse of the Congregation.

In life, he knew joy and suffering, success and failure, acceptance and rejection, understanding and confusion. Today, his vision and his spirit still manages to attract and excite men and women to a life lived for the love of God, to a life of service as brothers and companions, volunteers, friends and benefactors. Characteristically, his last words were "Thanks a lot now."

To learn more about Brother Mathias or the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, visit the Camillus House website at www.camillus.org.

Camillus House Welcomes New Director of Development



In support of its ongoing strategy to end chronic homelessness in Miami, Camillus House announces the appointment of Ty Hart as its Director of Development. Prior to joining Camillus House, Ty was Vice President of Development and Public Relations for the Urban League of Broward County. He was successful in raising funds and awareness for the

Urban League through various celebrity fundraising events.

Ty brings a tremendous amount of excitement and energy to his new position where he will oversee Camillus' fundraising and planned giving programs. His passion for helping underprivileged children through inner-city basketball clinics is one of his most proud accomplishments, as was his tenure as Olympic Basketball coach of Jamaica, Senegal and Morocco during the 1990s.

Please feel free to call Ty with any of your giving questions at 305-374-1065, Ext. 303

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Learn about what we're doing to increase access to Health Care for the Uninsured and Underserved

- Learn about Community Voices Miami, a Camillus House Program that has developed a plan for improving the local health care system for the uninsured and underserved.
- Read about what local communities say is important and what needs to be done to fix the problems.
- Understand the issues facing our leaders and how you can make a difference!

Visit our web site

www.camillus.org

Read additional articles and news not in this issue

WISH LIST

ALWAYS IN DEMAND

- Towels / Blankets
- Men's pants, all sizes
- Men's shoes, sizes 10+
- Men's socks & underwear
- T-shirts & shorts
- Women's undergarments
- Feminine hygiene products
- Soap / Deodorant

- Razors / Shaving cream
- Toothpaste / Toothbrushes
- Non-perishable food items

SPECIAL ITEMS

- Toys & Stocking Stuffers for Christmas
- Window A/C units
- Vacuum cleaners
- Washers & dryers
- Brooms & mops

- Laundry detergent (bulk)
- Cleaning supplies
- Delivery truck with hydraulic lift
- Large walk-in freezer
- Welding machine
- Walking canes
- Gift certificates / passes to: Sporting Events, Craft stores, Movies, Museums
- \$10 Gift Certificates

