

Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 90625, Henderson NV 89009-0625

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website: www.sainttheresecenter.org

Main Campus: 100 East Lake Mead Parkway – on the corner of St. Rose
Dominican Hospital (Lake Mead & Boulder Highway)
West Las Vegas Satellite 8280 West Warm Springs Road in the San Martin
Hospital Suite # G3022



Holy Family Parish Outreach and Father Joseph picking up Christmas toys at the Parish.



One corner of the room filled with toys the clients could choose from, for Christmas.



One client, unaware, as her father shops for Christmas Gifts at Saint Therese Center.



Norman and Juanita helping feed the volunteers and Postal Workers at the annual Letter Carriers Postal Food Drive. Remember, it's early May every year! 25,000 pounds collected!

Dear Benefactors,

Spring 2013

Several clients always tell us that when they first came to the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach, they were concerned that religion would be “shoved down their throats.” They experienced the love and outreach and have slowly, but steadily increased their faith, returned to the church, some even being received into the faith and baptized. They now are eager to share that experience with others (and find themselves ready to shove religion down others throats)! We remind them of their first visits to the Center and encourage them to be firm in their faith, to remember the love and outreach they received, and to be part of it for all those who come frightened that they will be judged, condemned, and yes, have religion “shoved down their throats.”

So, here we are in the season of Lent in preparation for Easter. It is a season where Christian penance has always included three prongs: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. I would take this opportunity to suggest your almsgiving this season be shared with the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach, to be utilized in our day-to-day outreach to those members of our community infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

We at the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach are ever growing with new clients coming in every day. The youngest the other day was 18 years old. He not only had HIV, but since he failed to take care of himself, now has full blown AIDS. As you read this newsletter, you'll see we have wonderful programs and people, but what we truly need are more wonderful benefactors, like yourself, helping us with this outstanding mission and outreach. While the envelope enclosed is for you to send in your Lenten Offering, feel free to send the donation in another envelope and pass this one on to a friend. If you could make part of your Lenten Observance to get one more benefactor on board with us, that would be fantastic. We have benefactors in 47 of our 50 states (Maine, Vermont and Wyoming excluded) and over 467 cities represented! Help us continue to expand those who know and support the Center and its outreach in the community.

The clients continue to share their stories with all of us and two stories are on the back of this page. Trang and Norman are wonderful clients and are just examples of the exceptional people you are helping with your donations. Please keep us in your prayers and know that your intentions are in our prayers. Please remember that all our benefactors are remembered in the daily recitation of the Saint Therese Chaplet, as well as at the celebration of the Eucharist. Thank you for your consideration and financial support.

A blessed season of Lent and a joyous celebration of Easter to you all!

Sincerely in Saint Therese,

Father Joseph I. O'Brien, O.P.
Executive Director



On left: David, Sister Katie, O.P. and Father Joseph, O.P. at presentation of grant for food pantry and Stanford trainings from St. Rose Hospital, Dignity Health! Thanks!

“Experience the Little Flowers in Life”
Reaching out to all those infected and affected by HIV & AIDS

THE SAINT Therese CENTER



Rose Read

Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach

In the year 2013, the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach will celebrate 15 years of service to the Southern Nevada community. It seems like only yesterday we opened and our first client, a HIV+ dad with four children showed up at our door. That Christmas, we helped that one family with food and Christmas gifts. This past Christmas season, we helped over 486 families. The food distributed, for just the Christmas season, totaled over \$73,578.00, while the toys donated and distributed came to \$10,865.11. Including Laughlin (see back page), the grand total for Christmas alone was over \$88,769.85! We have come a long way throughout the years. I sometimes look back and think, "How did we become what we are and do what we're doing?" I wonder, "What is still to come?" and "Will people continue to be generous, kind, giving and loving towards the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach?" I often think, "Am I crazy in doing this ministry?" At

Father Joseph, O.P. & 2013

times I ask individuals, "Would you like my job?" Responses usually include hysterical laughter and a resounding "NO!" The maintenance of vehicles, bills, especially gas (although it's nice the price of gas is going down), and the needs of our clients can be and *is* overwhelming. However, when you see the tears of joy in a client's face as they shop for the food they need in the pantry, or pick out the specific toy they know their child wishes, it certainly makes one happy in what they're doing! This year will bring challenges and crises to our doors as usual. No doubt we will continue to reach out and help as best we can and if we have what is needed, we'll share it. Challenges abound for our clients and we are trying to meet their needs, as you will discover as you read this newsletter. I am most grateful to Michael Gatewood who is our "IT guy." Michael has up-

dated and changed the look of our website, placed us on Facebook and Twitter and we have had some wonderful responses from his hard work. While Michael spends hours on our computers, his wife, Juanita works hard and single handedly sorts many of the food drives we receive from parishes and schools. Nearing the "terrible twos," their son, Sebastian, is ever present, laughing, "helping," and all over at once. They are a family who are very involved at the Center. While not infected by the HIV virus, they have another member of the family (a cousin of Michael's) who is, and help in his honor. They are serving thousands with their tireless work. Look at the smiles in the photo to the right, and you can see why we enjoy what we do, day in and day out, year after year, over the past 14, soon to be 15 years! Thanks Michael, Juanita and Sebastian for all your hard work!



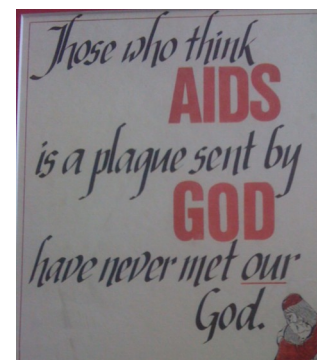
Both Father Joseph, O.P. and Sebastian worked at the Prince of Peace Parish for donations to the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach!

CDSMP, Saint Therese HIV Education, Dignity Health

This past summer, Father Joseph, O.P. and his assistant David, who is an HIV positive individual, completed training at Stanford University to be Master Trainers (ability to train others to be leaders) in the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). The CDSMP is a workshop given two and a half hours each week, for six weeks. Subjects covered include: 1) techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fa-

tigue, pain and isolation; 2) appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility and endurance; 3) appropriate use of medications; 4) communicating effectively with family, friends and health care professionals; 5) nutrition and 6) how to evaluate new treatments. There is also great emphasis on three process skills, action planning, disease related problem-solving and decision making. Both David and Father

Joseph have completed two CDSMP workshops with clients and thus now are certified instructors by Stanford University. This enables them to cross over into an HIV wellness program and allows them to offer a seven week workshop for HIV+ people to learn how to live well with the HIV virus in their lives. All this training and materials for workshops are made possible from a grant distributed by St. Rose Dominican Hospitals,



An AIDS Poster from 1984 by Damian Ministries—a thought that still stands true today!

Dignity Health. The workshops are available to our clients and anyone in the community. Call for information, (702) 564-4224.



Father Joseph, David and the workers from Aggregate Industries with the water fountain they installed—along with building a cement pad and leveling the landscaping—in November of 2012.

United Way and Support

United Way of Southern Nevada (UWSN) provides a link for individuals, families, teams and corporate groups to join together and engage in meaningful volunteer opportunities throughout southern Nevada. United Way strives to promote volunteerism and get people involved in their communities. They do this in partnership with other organizations, so they are working together to bring long-lasting change in our communities. The Saint Theres Center HIV Out-

reach and United Way have worked over the past three years on the annual Mail Carriers Letter Association Postal Food Drive. More recently we have partnered together with them in accomplishing projects at the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach using various volunteers. The workers from Aggregate Industries came out in early November and volunteered two days of work on the Executive Office Campus (see photo on left). In January, Ipsen Corporate Service

came to the Executive Offices and unloaded, sorted and crated three trucks of canned food and Ocean Spray juices. In February, they also arranged for Roark Capital and MGM Convention Center to provide more than 200 volunteers to put together 1,000 hygiene bags and 1,000 food boxes for our clients. In addition to products, Roark Capital donated \$14,000.00 to cover food and hygiene items cost! Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach is happy to be part of United Way's program activities!



Students from Basic High School in front of Christmas tree they trimmed and decorated this past December!

Basic High School Special Education Classes

Basic High School at 400 Palo Verde is just down the street from the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach Executive Offices at 215 Palo Verde. School Administration contacted Father Joseph, O.P. regarding their special Education Class coming to the Center each week and volunteering. They do repetitive work and actions, thereby helping them learn skills that could be put to use in their future as they become active working members in the community. On Tuesday mornings, the younger Special

Education class comes for two hours. On Thursday mornings, the older Special Education class comes for 1½ hours. The work they do to help the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach is in labeling plastic bags and filling them with sugar, flour, beans, or soap from 50 pound sacks. They load and unload food on trucks for the pantries at Main and San Martin campuses. The staff is most grateful for their hard work, as they save us a lot of work! We are proud to be part of Basic High School's Special Education class. They remind all of us that "People are made to succeed, NOT to fail!" (student manual).



Basic High School students and teachers with a truck they loaded with food for the pantries!



Beth Fisher, News 13

News Channel 13—Beth Fisher

In addition to anchoring the morning news on Channel 13, Beth reports on the people and places that make Las Vegas a better place to live. Beth did a spot on the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach and fell in love with the staff and the ministry. The spot aired after Christmas on all the newscasts of a specific day and then was selected by the news

staff to run the following Sunday as well! Many people locally saw it and anyone could see it on 13's website in the segment "Making Las Vegas a better place to live!" Beth returned to do a segment on Basic High School Special Education class (see above). She and Father are staying in touch on activities and hope to have the Center on often with its various stories!



YOU helped feed families this Christmas and facilitated gifts for children of the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach and your donations for Christmas totaled \$88,769.85.

New Refrigerator Trucks

The Engelstad Family Foundation gave the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach a grant to purchase a larger refrigerated truck for fresh rescue as well as major donations of cold and frozen foods. After researching and working with a couple of dealers, Father Joseph decided on going with TEC of Las Vegas. There will be a new (2013) 26-foot long HINO refrigerated truck purchased as well as a used (2007) 24-foot long HINO refrigerated truck as the grant monies covers the expense. At

the same time, two of our existing vehicles will be retired and their good parts kept to have a third vehicle of its kind in great working order. This is a side of the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach that is not pretty or a fun side, but it is an absolute necessity. We must have the equipment (and in good working order) to have food on the shelves in the pantries and items picked up when necessary. These vehicles will help in many ways, including great billboard advertising for the Center's outreach

once the trucks have the lettering placed on them. It is hoped that we will have roses and rose petals flowing down the sides of these trucks demonstrating Saint Theres's shower of roses. Theres promised to do good on earth while she is in Heaven, allowing her shower of roses to fall on the earth where needed. The Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach is a visible place where those roses fall and now our trucks say it! Look for us on the road as you drive in town!

Milestone Event

On March 17, 2013, Father Joseph O'Brien, O.P. will celebrate 35 years as an ordained priest in the Catholic Church and as a member of the Dominican Order. Thirty of those years working in HIV/AIDS ministry!



New trucks will allow the pick up of ice cream as Feed The Children has us pick up pallets of Magnum Bars and Starbucks Mocha Frappuccino.

Easter Baskets

Easter baskets are always fun to make, but when you make over 1,000 of them, it can become tedious. Thank goodness for the students at various schools as well as the volunteers at several parishes who help make baskets for the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach. We are most happy to have the involvement of Mrs. Thompson and the students at



Hard workers at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Outreach making Easter Baskets

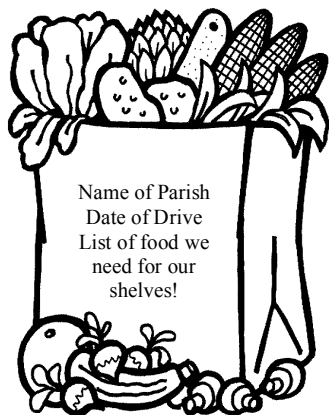
Saint Francis de Sales School. Also included are the wonderful members of Outreach at Saint Joseph Husband, of Mary Catholic Parish. Easter baskets lift the spirits of our clients and their children. This year, thanks to United Way and Roark Capital, we will also have Easter food boxes to go along with the candy filled Easter baskets.



David with two of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary Outreach volunteers and a truckload of Easter baskets

Parish Food Drives—Need More

Does your Parish hold a food drive for the Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach? If it does, "great" and "thanks." If not, can we set one up? Usually, we have bags to hand out the week before and then follow up the next week with bins for collection. We also have a truck to put everything in and for people to see, as well as a place to drop off donations during the weekend Masses. Help us fill our shelves. We can



Sample page of what is stapled to a bag and handed out the week before the Parish Food Drive.

easily set up food drives and you can hold them once a year, every other month with us and Catholic Charities (or every several months between organizations), or simply every month. Let us know how we can help you help us! People wish to help, so let us give them an avenue to do so. St. Francis of Assisi Knights and St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Outreach have it down to a science that works. Feel free to call them for ideas!



Family receiving Easter baskets at Saint Theres Center HIV Outreach

All Mail & Correspondence:
Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach
P.O. Box 90625
Henderson NV 89009-0625
Phone: (702) 564 4224
Fax: (702) 564 0604
Email: aidsproject@dioceseoflasvegas.org
Web: www.sainttheresecenter.org

Saint Therese Center, named after Saint Therese of Lisieux, is a Catholic ministry that welcomes and serves people of all faiths and extends the Lord's healing to all persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Emphasizing wellness, Saint Therese Center reaches out to those touched by HIV/AIDS to provide spiritual, physical and emotional support, educational and social services in a spirit of love and compassion.



"Experience the Little Flowers in Life"
Serving the HIV community since 1998



www.facebook.com/SaintThereseCenter



www.twitter.com/sttheresecenter

Laughlin Outreach Going Strong...



STC Staff loads the Cargo Van and then staff members drive to Laughlin arriving at Saint John the Baptist Parish Church.



Clients help each other with food boxes, cold and frozen items, flowers, water and other great surprises.



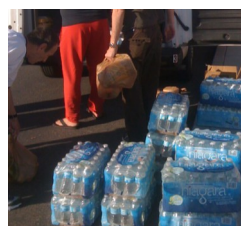
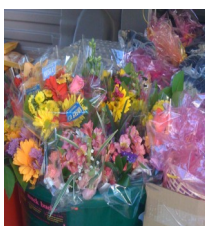
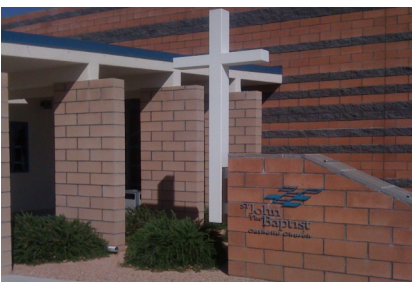
November Outreach Total:
\$2,678.60 in donated items.

December Outreach:

*This included not only monthly food, but a complete Christmas dinner and Christmas gifts of towels, aprons and family board games—all donated!
Value: \$4,326.74*

To the left, each client received a tower of boxes and bags full of Christmas goodies from STC Outreach!

Women's group in Laughlin sew quilts for clients including blankets, hats and pot holders in a wonderful array of colors!



The Laughlin Support Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month and over the past 14 years have only missed twice; once on a day when a truck broke down en route (in the middle of July!) and again, that fateful day when the terrorists attacked, September 11th. We are grateful to all those who help make this group work!

Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Clients Tell Their Stories

Trang
HIV+ since 2009



“Hi everybody! My name is Trang. I’m Vietnamese. I have immigrated in the US for only 10 months. I was a teacher of High School in Vietnam. I had a beautiful family with 2 daughters. I love them very much. But after I met a lot of troubles in my life. In the year 2000 I had M.D. It made me lose my job and my husband. I felt very miserable and bored. I couldn’t take care of myself and my children, so I decided to immigrate in the U.S., to live with my mom and my sisters family. Before immigrating, my doctor said I had trouble with my blood test, I had HIV from my husband.

Oh, I cried a lot, I was so disappointed, I didn’t want to live anymore. But my friends, my students and my family advised and encouraged me to be brave to overcome everything and to live because of my lovely daughters. They are still young. And I tried my best to overcome my diseases. In 2010, I was immigrated in the U.S. When I lived here, I also met a lot of difficulties because I am a single Mom and a handicapped woman. I have no money, no job, no insurance and no house. I still try to live and to do exercise everyday to cure my M.D. Four months ago, the doctor told me I had Cancer. Oh I don’t know how I felt and I just smiled at myself.

One day, AFAN introduced me to the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach. So I am supported food and food vouchers every month to help my family. I am very happy this month, I had a chance to join the Retreat of Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach for three days. They are wonderful days in my life, I got a lot of loving, caring and sharing of Father, Brother, Toni, Nikita, Edwina and everyone. It made me more confident to face my diseases, and I enjoy helping and sharing with everyone.

I will try my best to overcome everything. I will always smile! Thank you Father Joseph and everyone! I love you.☺”

Norman
HIV+ since 1996



“My story starts back in 1995 in Hawaii. I was married with five children, had a great job, and even started my own business. Times were great. Then one day in 1996, my doctor said that he had some bad news. I had contracted the HIV virus. I was shocked. I did not know what to say. I knew that my children had to get tested and I was so scared. Thank the Lord, all their results were negative. Shortly after, my marriage fell apart and I lost my business and my job. To get away, I moved to Las Vegas to get my head on straight, but I started to do drugs, drink a lot, I was under a lot of stress, depressed and thought often about suicide. Then one day, I heard a voice that told me you have to take care of your children. It took a good year or so for me to accept the fact I was HIV+ and I realized that I had to think of my responsibilities as a dad.

I got a great job here, all the while keeping my HIV status a secret. Ultimately, I wound up getting all my kids here with me and was taking care of them, as well as myself. Boy, was this hard on me (five teenagers are a handful, to say the least).

The stress of everything on my shoulders was almost too much to bear. I got so sick that I lost my job and had to cash out my little bit of retirement that I had managed to save, just to feed us and keep a roof over our heads, but I did what I had to do. One day while at my doctor’s office, I heard someone talking about the “Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach” and was encouraged to go down there and they would help me. I still had some pride, but I had to think of my children. We were all hungry, so I went. What a wonderful place it is. Since I wasn’t working and I had some legal matters to take care of, I asked if I could do my community service there and Father Joseph said yes.

The Saint Therese Center saved my life and kept me from going off the deep end. Thank you Father Joseph for caring for me and helping me take care of my family. All of my kids ultimately wanted to go back to Hawaii, so one by one I sent them back when they were ready. I am still a volunteer at the Saint Therese Center and continue to try and always do the right thing. Today I am happy and blessed beyond words. Thank you Saint Therese Center for making my life what it is today.”