



Homeward

September 2014

NEWSLETTER

Volume Two

INSIDE

Our work

Remember Frank from the last newsletter? He's back! Our



clients share their whole lives with us: when they move house, when they get haircuts, and when they express themselves through art. Read more on Page 2.

Our spirit

From St. Louis to Paris to London, we share one spirit.



Depaul International Values Director, Rev. J. Patrick Murphy teaches us how important it is to "run with scissors" as we carry out our mission. Page 3.

Our team

The news, the statistics, the behind-the-scenes stuff...connect to our staff, volunteers, and supporters who span the globe. Read our publications, join us at events, do some shopping, and be part of our team. Page 4.

"Walking the Walk"

Twenty-six staff from the UK, Ireland, Slovakia, Ukraine, and USA attended a course on Vincentian values in Paris in July. Rev. J. Patrick Murphy, C. M., our Values Director at parent organization Depaul International, delivered a number of the sessions. Our very own Senior Program Counselor writes about her experience.



In July, I had the privilege to participate in the Depaul International Leadership Program in Paris. The Leadership program offers the opportunity for staff of Depaul International and its subsidiaries to take part in three days

of learning the mission and vision of St. Vincent de Paul. The program is divided in two parts. The first, in Paris, focuses on the life of St. Vincent de Paul and introduces the collaborators that enabled him to provide organized charity. The second part of the program will be in London where the lectures will focus on learning styles, leadership styles, and values.

In Paris, the course provided enlightening lectures by experts on the topic of Depaul as well as the collaborators in his challenging work. In addition to the talks there was a walking tour of the city to the churches and cemeteries significant to DePaul's history. I was thrilled to walk with this generation of contributors to DePaul's legacy. I was empowered to spend those days in Paris with individuals from all over the world who are working to keep the spirit of St. Vincent and his message flourishing. We were challenged to answer the question—"What must be done?" The Leadership course made me proud to be part of an organization that is part of a larger movement that is serving the poor with dignity, compassion and creativity. Walking the grounds, visiting the sites, and meeting with other staff committed to the Vincentian mission helped me to understand that what we are doing in this organization is much larger than ourselves, and the message of service continues to grow.

One staff member in Ireland stated that at her program they have regular discussions centered on values. They share what each of their personal value system is and what set of values are obvious to point out in their program. This impressed me, I don't think often enough we reflect on what is driving us, our work. Another colleague would like to have trainings for staff on how to work more empathetically with clients. He had witnessed some workers providing a 'tough love' kind of approach and wanted to be able to provide other tools for motivation. For me, I was drawn to our history. It filled me with such pride to know how far back the work we do dates. I am thinking about creative workshops to teach Depaul House employees about the history of the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity.

Michelle Abbruzzese, Depaul House in Philadelphia

Vice for Virtue

Depaul USA is fortunate to have on its the board of directors supporters like Curtis Tarver. We share values—celebrating the potential of people, putting our words into action, taking a wider role in society, and always believing in human rights and responsibilities. We share a vision: everyone has a place to call home and a stake in the community. And while we're here, let's point out that some of us at Depaul share Curtis' love of beer. This past August, Curtis and a friend opened Vice District Brewing Co. in Chicago's South Loop area. Without hesitation, he welcomed Depaul USA for a Beer-tasting benefit. September 15, 2014, Depaul USA executive staff based in Chicago welcomed colleagues, friends, and beer-tasters to an event to raise awareness and develop the local network of individuals wanting to improve the situation of those facing homelessness.



ABOUT THOSE WE SERVE

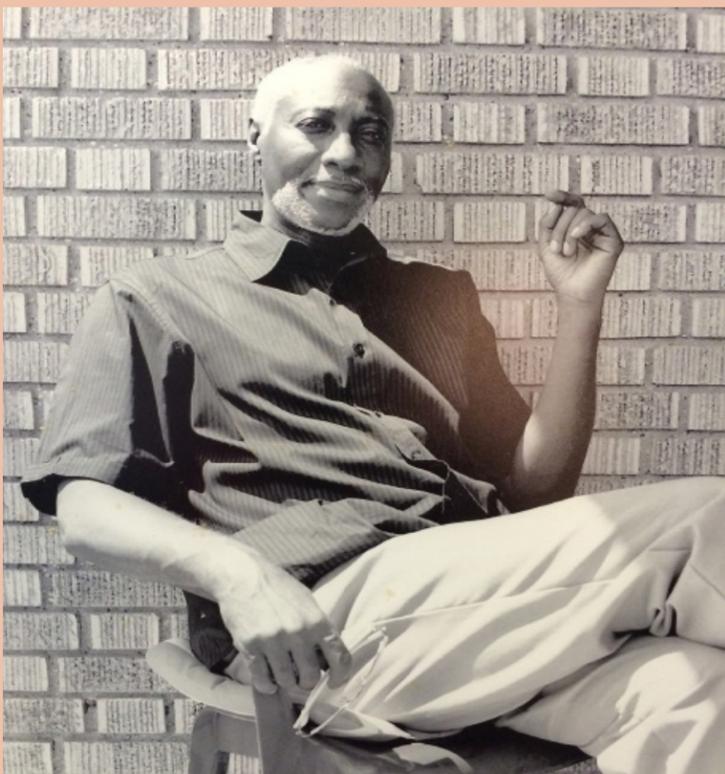
What a difference a haircut makes!

People experiencing homelessness have many barriers to employment. An address, a phone, and access to computers are only the first steps towards finding a job. Staff at Depaul House in Philadelphia work with the 27 residents there to ensure they are “work ready,” by developing resumes, conducting mock interviews, and helping residents network with local businesses. Depaul USA staff collect interview-appropriate clothing in our career closet to help men who arrive at our doors with only a few bags of items. In August, Empire Beauty School in Center city Philadelphia helped us with our goal of moving men towards employment. On August 12, 20 students and faculty arrived at Depaul House to offer haircuts, manicures, and facials to the residents. Twenty-two residents signed up so that they could look their best when they were networking and interviewing for jobs. The students were friendly and warm as they offered their skills. After his haircut and shave, Darryl said, “I feel good. I feel like myself again. When you’re unemployed, a haircut can feel like a luxury that you have to do without. I’m glad that these folks were kind enough to help us out.”



Frank Brewer (1954-2014)

This past August, Frank Brewer passed away at the age of 60 following complications after heart surgery. Frank was one of Depaul House’s first residents in 2009. He had a bachelor’s degree but became homeless after lost his job and could not find another. During his stay with us, he impressed staff and residents with his guitar playing skills, his calm demeanor and his impeccable fashion sense. Frank was always willing to listen to other people’s problems and to offer advice to help them. I would often find him on the balcony helping another resident to problem solve a situation with work, family or friends. He graduated from the program in November 2009 with a job and an apartment. He kept in touch with other residents after he left because he believed “the people who are willing to be your friend in your darkest hours are your friends for life”. His passing is mourned by all of us at Depaul who were touched by his warm spirit.



15 in New Orleans

First of all, we celebrate filling to capacity the 15 spaces in the rapid-rehousing program in New Orleans. Our task now is to provide our new residents with the on-going case management that will support them and help them stay healthy, happy, and housed.

New Orleans also got a new van. Bruce Vara was the first passenger in the new van (wearing a hat). He was housed August 26th. In the photograph you can see his “Welcome Home” basket. Mark Given, housed June 5, 2014, came along to help with the loading and unloading. Since getting into housing, Mark has shared his writing with us. See below.



For Those That Stand Long

In an area that has fallen behind is an organized coalition consisting of many offices and individuals who have chosen to apply themselves very strategically in a situation that requires much attention. Accurate evaluation is a constant process and step by step planning is most necessary to help the many scattered in homelessness. With joined efforts and persistence we accomplish much with astounding results. Many services are provided so that hopefully these people assisted can return to a healthier, more productive status in our community. Our teamwork does succeed in returning good balance and hope for those that stand long.

*Let Us Be Thankful,
By Mark Scot Given
Formerly Homeless*



INSPIRING WORDS

The Spirit of St. Vincent & the Daughters of Charity

As St. Vincent de Paul's Feast Day approaches, I am amazed at the legacy that exists today and even how that legacy has shaped me both personally and professionally over the last decade. I often think of St. Vincent's life and the early foundations of the Daughters of Charity and St. Louise de Marillac. I feel the very real connection to my own spiritual journey. Being a convert to Catholicism, I was not raised with the Saints and knew very little about them until I came to work with Catholic sponsored hospitals as a consultant. My original intention was never to join one of the hospitals, but I did and the impact literally changed my life, my perspective, and, in turn, I hope I am able to impact and change other lives.

My first true encounter with the Daughters of Charity was in Tennessee with a hospital they founded. The Community there had an amazing collection of Sisters and a few I came to know very well. My first engagement with the Daughters was through Sr. Pricilla Grimes who was the VP of Mission and Ministry for the hospital. I have many memories of her and her mentoring me, but one always comes to mind. She was in the surgical waiting room at the end of the day simply sitting with what I can only assume was the wife of a patient. It was clear that bad news had come and the woman was distraught. Sister was holding her hand and was just being present with her in a very dark hour. I kept my distance, but cannot for a moment really describe the sense of sorrow I had for woman, nor the absolute presence of God shining through this Daughter of Charity to combat that sorrow. I do not know how long she stayed there – I'm sure it was as long as was needed. I do know that at that moment I rejected cynicism and I started my journey into the Church and my faith. This was also a point where I truly understood and embraced the mission to serve the poor and vulnerable – and what a rewarding mission that has become in a world filled with such disparity.

So many social problems we face in the United States have clear connections with one another and I have come to appreciate the necessity of looking for these interactions. Consider the population that Depaul USA serves. Mental illness is common among the homeless and often poorly treated if at all. This is who we are called to serve and their illness leads them to often find refuge in Emergency Departments across the country. Sometimes it is an illness that has gone untreated for far too long or simply this is a place they know they can come. From a practical care standpoint this is the not the most optimal way to engage with them. ED's are a costly entry point into a health system. Homelessness and healthcare rarely intersect appropriately. I believe missions like that of Depaul USA establish a sense of stability for those who were once homeless and give them a further support structure via dedicated social workers and an actual home. They essentially have a support system that can help them navigate the health system and a myriad of other obstacles we take for granted in life.

I believe programs like this are at the core of being able to serve this vulnerable population and do it in a very pragmatic way that not only looks for sustainable solutions, but cost effectively, as well. Also, I find myself constantly seeking ways for things I do in a professional context to overlap with this mission. Fortunately, working in healthcare presents a plethora of opportunities to do this from direct care missions to thinking about how to use smart phones as a way to engage people from all walks of life. The first time I saw a homeless man with a smartphone sparked a whole array of thoughts about what we might be able to do in the future to better serve and connect with these people.

As the numbers of Daughters of Charity diminish in the United States, I can speak to the fact that their charism has been passed to a whole legion of people. The mission will continue as long as there are poor and vulnerable to serve. I often wonder if the Daughters ever realize the profound impact they have made on the world and the legacy that will live on.

Chris Young, Advocate for the Poor

Running with Scissors



Rev. J. Patrick Murphy, C.M. now Values Director for the Depaul International Group, retired from DePaul University in Chicago after 35 years of service. Reflecting on our values is a practice we use across all six countries the Depaul group serves.

I asked my 5-year old nephew, Declan, what he learned in kindergarten last week. Before he could answer he ran off to get scissors to open a package. His father responded to my question, "they taught him how to run with scissors."

Sure enough, he came running back with scissors—holding them in a safe way. I thought, kids are going to run with scissors, so the teachers decided to teach them how to do it right—apparently it is easier for kids to remember how to carry scissors than it is to remember not to run with them. Creative solutions to old problems, how Vincentian. I marveled at how the teachers were able to find a new solution to an old problem. The cliché, thinking outside the box, comes to mind. Finding better solutions to problems is what I like about Depaul International. In the UK staff found teenagers stealing cars at night, driving them around and crashing them. Nobody knew why. So they asked the kids. "We want to learn how to drive" was the response. So they taught them how to drive, kept them in school and then helped them find jobs. In the US, staff learned that the poor in New Orleans had sufficient services but they could not get to them regularly because the public transportation system was insufficient. They bought a used van to provide the transportation. Then they learned how to listen to service users as a social worker during the drive to enhance the service they offer. Vincent de Paul learned at Chatillon that people had great charity but they were badly organized. He organized them. He created new organizations to provide service on a regular basis where none had been available before. He had to create the box so he could think outside of it.

If we are going to run with scissors, we need to find creative ways to provide service as innovative solutions. Vincent also said "Love is creative even to infinity." Are we starting our jobs every day running with scissors?

J. Patrick Murphy, C.M.
Values Director, Depaul International

"Feels Like Home" Annual Gala

November 8, 2014 means gathering together, enjoying a great meal, and supporting individuals facing homelessness. This year we honor Board Chairman Rev. Bernard Tracey, C.M. The event takes place in Philadelphia, visit our webpage www.depaulusa.org or contact Peggy Robertson for more details. As always, we will have the "Wall of Wine"—wine donations happily accepted! We welcome you!

Offering homeless and disadvantaged people the opportunity to fulfill their potential

DEPAUL INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Depaul Ukraine, though struggling with the effects of war, continues to serve. In addition to its regular service of meals and medical care, our colleagues are also helping refugee families fleeing dangerous areas of Ukraine find accommodation and connect with family members. Additionally, staff in Kharkiv are providing emergency aid to over 40 families who have fled nearby Donetsk.

The Depaul International Annual Review is now available to download from the website. Visit www.depaulinternational.org to see it.

Key figures for 2013 across the Depaul Group:

- Supported 12,900 individuals over the year, across six countries;
- Provided more than 404,000 meals;
- Provided more than 384,000 bed-spaces;
- Worked with 1,240 volunteers who between them contributed nearly 104,000 hours of their time--equivalent to 62 additional full time staff; and
- Since Depaul began in 1989 we've worked with more than 84,000 individuals.

Depaul International is in its 25th year, a definite cause for celebration. Depaul UK will be leading on organizing events to celebrate this milestone with Depaul International (which celebrates its 10th birthday), and the key date for your diaries is the afternoon of Saturday, September 27, 2014, the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul.

Depaul International's Patron, the Duchess of Norfolk, UK, visited Bratislava in May, accompanied by a number of Depaul Trustees from Depaul International and Depaul Slovensko. The aim was to revisit staff and clients in the three services, meet with Trustees, and also to thank a number of corporate companies and individuals for donations and gifts in kind.

Congratulations to our group CEO, Mark McGreevy--we thank you for these 25 years!



DEPAUL USA IN BRIEF



Pencil us in

September 20-28, 2014 is Depaul International Week, in which we reflect upon and celebrate the service of Depaul International subsidiaries around the world. Go see what is happening at the project near you!

September 27, 2014--Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul;

- Staff, clients, and Depaul USA fans are headed to a tailgate party and Phillies game together.
- The 25th anniversary celebration for Depaul--Holy Mass at Westminster Cathedral in London, England.

October 11, 2014 is World Homeless Day--"No Place Like Home" 5K Run/walk in St. Louis, Missouri.

October 31, 2014--dinner at Arundel Castle in West Sussex, England--inquire within!

November 4, 2014--come eat and be entertained as we salute our long-time leader, friend, and fan Rev. Bernard Tracey at the "Feels Like Home" Annual Gala. Stay tuned for details!

Published

Congressman Fattah Helps Award \$3 Million in Affordable Housing Grants, Online at *Fort Mill Times*, July 7, 2014.

Depaul USA's Annual Report 2013 is available on our website: www.depaulusa.org.

McGee, Kelli J., (2014) "Would you like fries with your borsch?" *Housing, Care and Support*, Vol. 17 Iss: 2, pp.103 - 110.

Lynn, Jennifer. "Northwest Philly Respite Center Gives Homeless Men a Place to Get Better," WHYY Philadelphia. May 28, 2014. Radio. Web.

Give

Support this mission, make a donation: www.depaulusa.org

Do you enjoy picking out wine? Considering donating a bottle of wine for the Annual Gala "Feels Like Home" where we will have a "wall of wine." We look forward to a memorable night--contact Peggy Robertson, 215-438-1955, for details.

Shop on Amazon? You can use "Amazon Smile" to have a portion of eligible purchase donated to Depaul USA, find out more at: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

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Offering homeless and disadvantaged people the opportunity to fulfill their potential