

Father Woody's Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

July 2008

Father Woody's Haven of Hope
operated by The Franciscan Friends of the Poor
www.fwuodyshavenofhope.org

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Summer Heat – Enemy of the Homeless

"Summer can lay claim to being the prime perpetrator in the killing of the homeless, aided and abetted by heat and dehydration."

That observation, from a blog called "Street Level", prompted this response:

"No, the homeless didn't die from the heat. Rather they died from the cold. More specifically, "From a human coldness that runs from the cold heart to the cold shoulder, and to all the coldness in-between."



A harsh observation? Perhaps. But, still, it contains an element of truth — and a challenge for all of us.

First, and most importantly, I want to thank you for your continued support of our mission at Father Woody's Haven of Hope.

That mission is simple and straight-forward: "To provide food, shelter, clothing, counseling, rehabilitation, and hygienic services to the homeless and indigent."

While our mission statement may be simple, fulfilling it is not. New guests arrive at our doorstep everyday in need of food and in search of compassion. It is only because of your support that we can serve the many new guests who are reaching out to us on these hot summer days.



Here are a few examples of how our ministry to the homeless is growing:

- We are now serving over 8,000 meals each month! That includes nearly 3,000 breakfasts, and over 4,500 hot lunches and hundreds of sack lunches
- At least 1,000 hot showers each month
- Nearly 2,000 items of clothing each month
- Hundreds of loads of laundry — more than 600 a month

In many cases, such as the private hot showers and laundry service, Father Woody's is the only homeless shelter in the Denver area to offer such help.

In addition, the two phone lines reserved for our guests are in constant use each hour we are open, as are our computers to access the internet. The homeless use these services to try to find work, keep in some contact with family, and to find other resources such as counseling.

We also dispense RTD ride tokens, offer mail service (since most of our guests have no permanent address), keep birth certificates and other documents in safe storage, and provide opportunities to attend Mass or prayer services.

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Contributions Made Easier

As you may know, credit card contributions to Father Woody's can now be made through our website, or by contacting us directly. We are now listed on the Community First Foundation's GivingFirst website, which allows donors to donate directly to us through their website. Whenever donations to Fr. Woody's are made through GivingFirst, which can be accessed directly from our Fr. Woody's website, Community First Foundation pays all of the processing fees, which is a savings to us of 3-5% of each gift! Community First connects caring donors with charitable organizations meeting the needs of the community. Their mission is to improve the quality of life by increasing community generosity and involvement.



Of course, we always accept checks and credit card donations. **Within the next 30 days we will be able to accept pre-authorized automatic withdrawals from your checking account** for your convenience. Please contact Jason at 303-607-0855 ext. 5 for more information if you are interested in making a regular monthly donation.

Board of Directors

- Richard (Dick) Campbell
- Alexandra (Sandy) Delargy
- Don E. Gallegos
- Jay Gould
- Pat Heaton
- P. Daniel Hopkins
- Fr. Vince Hovley S.J.
- Mike McManus
- John Metsker
- Joe Phillipps
- Vincent Vecchiarelli

Meet the Staff



Meet Marla "Kay" Townsend of our staff. Marla is the kitchen assistant. She helps prepare the food, helps with the serving, and helps with the cleanup after lunch. She even pinch hits as the head cook when necessary! Needless to say, we are happy to have her as part of the Fr. Woody's family.

She has lived in Denver for about 20 years, but is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana. Kay has been with Fr. Woody's for 8 months, and is the married mother of two sons, ages 22 and 23.

Covenant

Since our last Newsletter, about 450 more guests have signed our covenant, so we now have over 1200 signatures. The covenant requires that each individual agree to the terms defining appropriate behavior while they visit Fr. Woody's Haven of Hope.

Need a Haircut?

So many are in need of haircuts that we now have a couple of real honest-to-goodness professional hair stylists who can give the haircut of your choice. "John the Barber" is here on alternate Monday mornings from 8:30 until 10:30, and Mary Jean is here the other Mondays from 8:00 to 9:00. Reynolds drops by a couple of afternoons a month, and Jay Gould is still here on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00 until noon to give you the Fr. Woody's Special!



Fr. Woody's Staff

- Kathleen M. Cronan
President
- Deborah Reynolds
Head Chef
- Marla Kay Townsend
Kitchen Asst.
- Laura Bezinovich
Receptionist
- Jason Dix
Office Manager
- Yolanda Amaro
Laundry Mgr.
- Don Benavidez
Maintenance

OUR THANKS

Fr. Woody's could not function without our volunteers, who are the best in town! We are so grateful for their help. Some come to prepare food, serve or clean up our facilities. Others scour the internet for good deals and donations. Still others purchase items for us, or pick up food and other donations to keep us in business. God Bless you all!

Fresh Produce at the Right Price

Denver Urban Gardens and students from the Denver Center for International Studies have teamed up to plant a garden in our yard at 707 Lipan Street. Tomatoes, peppers and zucchini have been planted. Father Woody's will be the beneficiary of the harvest. We will be eagerly awaiting late summer for the truly fresh produce, certainly a blessing!



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I believe there are several reasons that the demand for our assistance is increasing so significantly. First, our new building allows us to help many more people. Second, the current state of the economy means more people are without homes and without jobs. And, third, every day we strive to follow Father Woody's directive: "We are here to serve, not to judge."

Of course, none of this could happen without your help.

Please, during these hot summer days, keep us in mind. Keep us in your prayers. And, if possible, keep us in your charity.

Your donations directly help feed and clothe the homeless. We are thankful and they are thankful. And with your help, we will make sure that no one who comes to us this summer receives a "cold shoulder."

— Kathleen Cronan, Executive Director



Woody's Wish List



Are you traveling this summer? When you stay in a hotel or motel, please bring us any unused containers of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, or soap. They are perfect for our guests.



In addition, we are always in need of:



- Razors
- Reading glasses
- Socks
- Underwear
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Batteries of all sizes



The bargain stores frequently have such items (except batteries) on sale.



ENTERPRISE ZONE REMINDER

Father Woody's is certified as an Enterprise Zone project because of the services it provides to the homeless.

Donating a minimum amount of \$100, one time or cumulative for the year, provides you, the donor, a 25% tax credit on your Colorado income tax, in addition to any other deduction you are eligible to take for the donation.

APPRECIATION AND THANKS

Father Woody's would like to offer a special THANK YOU!

to the following companies for providing generous donations to us

- Boyer's Coffee
- Crescent Electric Supply Company
- Tony's Market
- and to
- KWHD TV 53
- for their support

Please remember to support these companies who are making a direct difference to those less fortunate!



...from a guest

Just wanted to thank you for the breakfast and t-shirt

Signed, "The New Guy"

....a note from one of our donors included with his generous donation...

It is my privilege to continue with your new mission in Denver...the location is also very nice- a comfortable neighborhood setting. I spent 2 years living in an overnight shelter and I well remember how comforting it was to get out of the cold or heat during the day...I too am still "disabled", however God has allowed me to be a small blessing in this way. In Christ our Healer....



Guest and Volunteer Earns GED

David Trujillo is one of our guests who dropped out of high school 30 years ago. He is a single father of two, ages 24 and 4, and is living in a shelter, or on the street. By coming here to Father Woody's Haven of Hope he was able to get his immediate needs met, which allowed him to concentrate on his studies. David recently obtained his GED, and walked in the graduation ceremony wearing his most prized

possession: the cap and gown provided by Fr. Woody's. With his newly obtained identification card and GED, he is looking for work. He is now volunteering at Fr. Woody's 6 days a week while he seeks full time employment.

**September 10, 2008
Charity Golf Tournament
benefiting
Father Woody's Haven of Hope
In Memory of Harry King**

There is still time to get your reservation in, but slots are filling up fast! We need to have your reservation and payment no later than August 25th, 2008. The tournament will be held at City Park Golf Course, 2500 York Street Denver, CO 80205. Mail in your registration fee or register on line at: www.frwoodyshavenofhope.org.

Mission Statement

To provide food, shelter, clothing, counseling, rehabilitation and hygienic services to the homeless and indigent.

**Father Woody's
Haven of Hope**
Operated by the Franciscan
Friends of the Poor

1101 W. 7th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204

Nonprofit org
US Postage Paid
Denver CO
Permit No. 1165



**"We are here to serve not to judge."
Rev. Monsignor Charles B. Woodrich
"Father Woody"**