

Father Woody's Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2009

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

Email: info@frwoodyshavenofhope.org
303.607.0855

Today's Good Samaritans - Making a Difference

Our volunteers and financial donors are the lifeblood of Father Woody's. You make the impossible possible. You make a difficult road smooth.

Volunteers offer their time and service in a world where time has become one of our most precious commodities. Each day, I see firsthand volunteers from all walks of life who have chosen to carve out a bit of time to serve the poor and give of themselves. Without them, we could not open our doors.

But even though we are blessed with many helpers, it seems there are never quite enough hands to do all the work that needs to be done. The need grows every day.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you clothed me,
I was sick and you visited me,
I was in prison and you came to me.
Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the
least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.

If you would like to sign up for volunteer hours, I encourage you to go to our website at www.frwoodyshavenofhope.org and click on the "Volunteer Now" button. The process is simple. Pick a day and time frame to volunteer. If you like, you can choose among various tasks – meal preparation, laundry, showers or clean-up. We can also help place you where you are most needed. If you would like to talk about the many opportunities, you can contact our volunteer coordinator, Linda King, at 303-607-0855 ext 1.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who either volunteered or donated financially last year. We received a challenge from a group of anonymous donors to raise \$35,000 in November and December. If we reached that amount, these donors pledged to match every donation. Your donations were, in effect, doubled, and we are now able to help many more people.

(continued pg. 3)

Regis High School volunteer Alex Cascio serving one of our breakfast guests



COMING IN OCTOBER- Father Woody's Silent & Live Auction

Items Include



&

Plus: Executive Chef
Cooking Demo's
&
Wine Tasting with a
renowned sommelier



A personal guided
viewing of one of the
country's most
magnificent
baseball
memorabilia
collections



Day to Day with Deborah at Fr. Woody’s

On bitter cold days, head chef Deborah Reynolds opens the doors of Fr. Woody’s early, as soon as coffee is made, pastries set out, and the ovens turned on. Deborah and her staff starts in before dawn, preparing for the day’s breakfast - it could be pancakes, bagels and sausage, or rice covered in country gravy. Meals are based on Deborah’s strategic planning; taking stock of what is in the store-room, refrigerators and freezers; keeping tabs on what needs to be used first, and what can be set aside for another meal on another day. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. It concludes at 9:30 a.m., just in time to clean up and prepare for daily lunch at 11 a.m. Deborah creates a daily miracle by using what’s on hand, creating a robust and delicious meal for our guests and making Fr. Woody’s mission a daily event: providing a place for people with limited means - often in desperate circumstances, the opportunity to step out of the bitter cold, and into a warm and secure place, where they can fill up on nutritious meals in a welcoming atmosphere.



Deborah Reynolds second from left

Board of Directors

- Richard (Dick) Campbell
- John Capone
- Alexandra (Sandy) Delargy
- Don E. Gallegos
- Jay Gould
- Cathy Grieve
- P. Daniel Hopkins
- Fr. Vince Hovley S.J.
- Mary Klein
- Mike McManus
- John Metsker
- Tom Philand
- Vincent Vecchiarelli
- Matthew Zeman

Father Woody’s Staff

- Kathleen M. Cronan
Executive Director
- Jason Dix
Office Manager
- Linda King
Volunteer Coordinator
- Melinda Paterson
Director of Development
- Deborah Reynolds
Head Chef
- Marla Kay Townsend
Kitchen Assistant
- Sr. Francine Schwarzenberger
Receptionist
- Yolanda Amaro
Laundry Manager
- Mike Mitzel
Security
- Joe Trotter
Maintenance



And not by choice...

The ranks of people who are homeless is drastically enlarged by our nation’s veterans. Jay Gould, in the Father Woody DVD puts it this way - “We have a lot of vets, Vietnam vets... and God bless them, what did they see in their lifetimes, so we’re here, we’re trying to help them out, give them a little dignity...” Studies indicate that one out of every three homeless men sleeping in a doorway, alley or under a bridge in our cities has worn a military uniform and served the people of the United States. According to the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Urban Institute, 1999), veterans account for 23% of all homeless people in America. At Father Woody’s some of those vets eat at our tables, have a private shower, access our clothing bank, and get a load of wash done. These unique services have become the Father Woody tradition of serving our fellowman.

Steve’s Story

Steve Young, for years tramping up and down the seemingly endless track of homelessness, reached a fork in the road. He made a choice one day in jail: a choice between reaching for life or toward death. He could keep feeding his addictions; he could continue a lifestyle based on walking away from personal responsibility; he could continue to live with self-deception. But at the fork in the road Steve stepped toward help. At Fr. Woody’s Steve sat down with volunteer outreach staff. Steve says that first step opened a door: “The desire to change.” That step was loaded with promise, but he says, “there was a price to pay to become well.” Steve was serious about getting better, but it takes great effort. Today, Steve is on the brink of getting housing where he’ll finally leave the place where he lies at night inside a sleeping bag upon a rough patch of earth. He avoids the old haunts that beckon him back into addictive patterns, he attends AA meetings, he talks to his psychiatrist regularly, and he keeps his outreach appointments, and he’s shifted his focus from destructive outlets into continuing education—taking computer classes through State human resources. He wonders if one day he can be a role model for others caught within the depths of addiction—he says, “I would tell them to believe there’s help.”

A letter for Fr. Woody from two of our guests

“Dear Cass, This letter is for all of you at Fr. Woody’s. When we became homeless we came here—we were treated with dignity, kindness & respect. Now that I am going thru a hard time I cannot tell you how much you mean to me. You have fed me spiritually, emotionally & physically. I love this place with all my heart. Seriously, words can’t express how grateful I am for this place. We truly love you,”

The need is great. As we all know by the daily news reports, more and more people find themselves out of work everyday. Many of them show up on our door step at Father Woody's seeking assistance. Because of you, we are able to help them. But the truth is we always need additional support. Your donations are important to us, not only over the holidays, but year-round. And especially during the cold winter months when hundreds of the homeless are seeking a hot meal.

There are other needs as well. The idea that each day we can shower, wash our hair, brush our teeth and don a fresh set of clean clothes is something most of us take for granted. But for the homeless, these basic needs are not always available. That's why part of our mission is to provide these opportunities for our guests.

You make a huge difference in the lives of those who have no home. Your donations are the source of all we do. You can provide a sleeping bag, bus tokens, a back pack, a pair of work boots. These are just a few of the things that give a boost to the homeless and restore their human dignity.

When you make a financial donation – or donate a couple of hours out of your busy day – you truly are a good Samaritan. You truly make a difference. You see the hardships suffered by others and are there to help. Thank you.

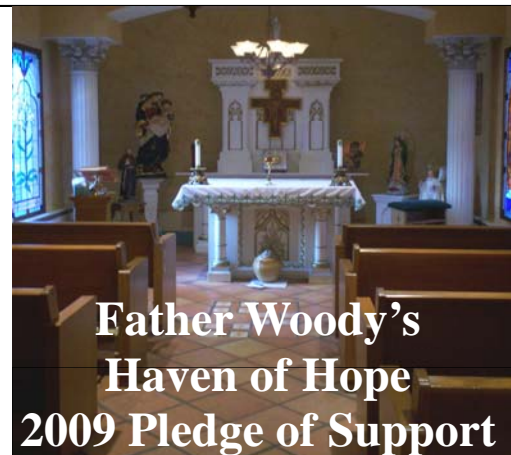
Kathleen Cronan, Executive Director

Matching Gift Challenge
November & December Donations
Extraordinary!

A heartfelt thank you to all of those who participated in the Challenge—each donation was matched, in effect, doubling our ability to provide food to the poor. Even our Homeless contributed to the cause!

Please join us for two upcoming events

The 2d Annual
Breakfast at Father Woody's
Friday, May 1, 2009
Starts at 7:00 AM, concludes at 8:00 AM
Join us for a light breakfast, tour of our facility,
conversation with our staff and a short presentation.
If you would like to join us please call
Melinda at 303-607-0855 ext. 3 to reserve your place or
e-mail Melinda@frwoodyshavenofhope.org



Save the Date!

The 2d Annual Father Woody's Golf Tournament
In Memory of Harry King
Wednesday, September 2, 2009
City Park Golf Course
8:00 AM Shotgun Start



REMINDING YOU....!

Father Woody's qualifies as an "ENTERPRISE ZONE"
Please contact the office if you have not received your 2008 DEZ form

Check Enclosed _____
Please charge my credit card:
____ AmEx ____ MC ____ VISA
Amount: \$ _____
Acct#: _____
Exp Date: _____
Signature _____

If box below is checked
 Please charge my credit card automatically at the beginning of each month



**Regis Boys – More than 650 hours
making a difference**

Ten Regis Jesuit High School boys fulfilled over two-week’s worth of volunteering beginning on Jan. 5. Their first day of service, the boys sampled various service areas until they found a niche. Ian Crock ran the front desk reception helping process guests into downstairs showers, clothing, hygiene, and laundry. Mitch Woomer, Danny and Bobby Nicolls held down the laundry, shower and clothing area with occasional stints in the dining room and at the dishwasher. Alex Cascio did it all – serving, cleaning, sweeping and mopping –wherever he was needed, he cheerfully gave 100% effort. John Dembowski and Steven McDowell were our Jack-of-all-trades in the building and ran errands. Stephen Macke, Charley Kruse, and Andrew Osieczanek were our ultimate versatile volunteers – they pulled duty throughout the building with specialties in the areas of making PBJ’s and turkey sandwiches for sack lunches. The myriad duties that keep Fr. Woody’s going takes muscle and stamina; these young men showed they were up to the task. We really appreciate their service to the homeless!

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

