



The Magnifier

...news from Magnificat Houses

Magnificat Houses, Inc. (MHI)

Winter, 2019

MHI Partners with Rice University For 2019 Capstone MBA Project

Two teams of graduating MBAs began an intensive four-month study of Magnificat Houses starting in January, pursuant to presenting us with dual strategic business plans this May.

Annually, the highly selective Capstone Course of Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business brings together seasoned

professors and masters degree candidates, who train fresh eyes on the complex issues facing the chosen nonprofit organization.

Capstone's aim: developing recommendations to help community organizations

solve critical strategic challenges, such as major growth or expansion plans, organization turnaround strategies, and new ventures by the organization which could benefit from a comprehensive business plan.

"We are grateful for this opportunity to have a mirror held up to us by this learned panel, which is both modern and objective. Just as seeing oneself

clearly is the hardest part of being human, getting a fresh look at any 50-year institution from within can be a challenge," said MHI Executive Director John Boyles, who initiated the effort last year with Rice Professor David Van Horn, director of the Capstone MBA program.



RICE
MBA

Department of Answered Prayers

Adopt-A-House Program Cites New and Re-Uping 'Parents'

A new sponsor, **The Rockwell Foundation**, has joined our Adopt-A-House program for the 2019 season—just as five already enrolled have re-upped their underwriting commitments for 2019. We are deeply thankful, as are the residents these six houses make welcome. House plaques honoring these funders were presented in December, with more to follow.

Six houses are still available for institutions or individuals to underwrite the annual operating costs of a house, which vary by size, number of residents, and the structure's age. Expenses include meals, utilities, insurance and maintenance and incidental needs. We encourage funders to create personal relationships with their house's residents, deepening their sense of belonging to the larger community—an important aspect of Founder Rose Mary Badami's vision in 1968. But a funding-only commitment is fine too, and greatly needed and appreciated.

If you can consider joining the Adopt-A-House program, please contact Executive Director John Boyles at jboyles@mhihouston.org. Thanks!

Jim and Debbie Mensay's 2nd-season plaque was presented by Morning Star residents Nancy, Denise and Gina, at their left, and house manager Gayle at right.



A Last Look as Opus Makes Way for Progress



↓ **The Dennison Family** brings their special brand of love and joy to the women of Anawim House for a second year. Their plaque reads, "Team Denno, in partnership with The Father, Son and Holy Ghost." (That's the spirit!)



↑ **Jim and Mary Boyles** pick up their family commitment to Susanna House and the men who call it home. Grand-daughter Alexandra is in it all the way.





A WISTFUL MOMENT AT WHAT REMAINS OF OPUS MARIA as Chuck, a resident house manager, contemplates removing the etched front window of our longtime intake center, razed by city edict. The window was shattered—but we're not. We pray for, and expect, progress to follow. Opus Maria was built as a temporary structure before MHI acquired it in 1990.

NEWS TEAM interviews Clubhouse Director **Kevin Campbell** as he acknowledges our benefactor **Rebuilding Together Houston** at the rededication of **St. Joseph House**, our flagship property. The organization made hands-on repairs of Harvey damage and restored exteriors to bring our Great Lady back to landmark standards. Many, many thanks!



Grace Notes:

New Soup Kitchen Manager Found Just Outside Our Door

Over two years in service, the friendly security officer stationed at **Loaves & Fishes** was called "D.J." by many of our 300 daily diners. When we needed a new soup kitchen manager, we learned about **Damarcus Johnson's** utterly *delicious* resume: not only had he mastered the full culinary curricu-



Chef D.J. Johnson, welcome!

lum of the **Arts Institute of Houston** (even the tasty bread and pastry add-ons), but he had been running his own catering company, **Tastemakers of Tomorrow**, on the side. In true D.J. spirit, he spun off **Tastemakers** to his employees, because he felt strongly that God had called him to his deeper purpose with the homeless: "I call it **Operation Feed the People**."

Two We'll Miss

They are retiring from full time service on the main campus, but will always remain a part of the **Magnificat** family:



DAVID TAYLOR—whose last gig as Special Projects Manager was presiding over the demolition of **Opus Maria**—has also served terms on the Board and as Interim Executive Director. David will continue devoting considerable volunteer time to our soup kitchen.

NURSE LINDA MABERRY, RN, still keeps a loving eye on our founder **Rose Mary Badami** for us, after 11 years assessing incoming residents with that same loving eye.



Speaking of Rose Mary...

Our founder's great joy these days (at 95) is receiving cards and notes from the community she founded. Residents, donors, staff and volunteers are invited to write her: **Rose Mary Badami**, c/o **St. Dominic Village**, 2401 E. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77021



Our joy is all about community!

Joy in giving and in receiving, joy in service, joy in the seasons, joy in reminders of our true purpose on this Earth, joy in celebrating and lamenting as one, joy in our gratitude and our humility. Joy in being, and in being together. Thank you for all you do to make our joy possible, for you are with us in community.



(Joy in playing hooky.)

Board Gains New Leadership, Welcomes Incoming Members

Additions to the MHI Board of Directors will bring new experience and insights to the table in 2019. We welcome incoming President **Roz**



Roz Hill

Hill, a retired advancement professional, Vice Chair **Grant Kennedy**, longtime director of St. Joseph Clubhouse, Secretary **Don Aubin**, retired energy professional with Shell, and **Jermaine Davis**, a human resources and labor relations adviser.

Outgoing president **Rafael Garcia**, who completed a

two year term, will remain on the 12-member board, as will **Ed Cordes**, **Larry Cronin**, **Deacon Darryl Drennon**, **Mike Frankovich**, and **Dr. Tony Kerrigan**. Additional members will be announced. Retiring members are *Tanner Flood*, *Terence Martin*, *Frank Rynd*, and *Diana Root*.

"We are thankful for our incoming members, and deeply grateful to outgoing members who have brought a wealth of energy and guidance to our table and seen us through challenging transitions," said MHI Executive Director John Boyles.

Honoring...

Sr. Mary Jude, CVI
Jane Hayman

*Generous gifts were received recently
in their honor.
Thank you!*

The Magnifier is published quarterly by Magnificat Houses, Inc. Casey Kelly, editor; Gina Monti, resident photographer. Tribute donations are recognized quarterly. Contact ckelly@mhihouston.org.

Thank you for all you do to support our mission!

STAFF UPDATES...

SHANE MABERRY, MHI's new Director of Operations, has managed key departments since 2012, overseeing maintenance crews for all our properties and, as manager of **The Moran Center**, supervising fleet management and transportation logistics. A master craftsman, Shane has worked closely with residents enrolled in our retraining programs—home rehabilitation woodworking, metalworking, and arts programs. He holds master's degrees in fine arts and computer science. Shane replaces **John Reece**, who now manages Residential Services, "A position close to my heart," John said.



JANICE ARREDONDO fills the newly created position of SRO Housing Agent, with five years experience as assistant property manager for the Lamar Group. Janice is known to us as a frequent soup kitchen volunteer, a Visitation grounds gardener, and as organizer of our spectacular community-wide Jubilee Celebration on November 11. Serving MHI is a family affair, with husband Jorge and sons Jorge and Jeremiah *on call*. Janice is proudly on the six-year path to becoming a professed Lay Carmelite, her personal motto being, "Be the love you want to see in the world."



Ways to Help

DONATE

Kindly visit our website:

www.mhihouston.org

(same site, new web address)

Or use the enclosed envelope.

Please write your check to:

Magnificat Houses, Inc.

VOLUNTEER

Contact Larry Cronin
Director of Volunteers

lcronin@mhihouston.org

THRIFT STORES:

Shop or Donate

The Mustard Seed

1410 Elgin @ LaBranch

Anawim Thrift Shop

2102 Common

**We pick up estates &
large items:**

713-524-7333

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CITIZEN COLÓ!



Sister Gabina Coló, MSE, became an American citizen on January 16 after 18 years serving at Magnificat Houses. Officially, Sister Gabina serves as an intake coordinator and corresponds with prisoners seeking release to our houses. Unofficially, she brings joy to every special occasion with her musical verve (she plays a mean guitar, among other instruments—and don't even think about outscoring her on the basketball court).