



The Magnifier

...news from Magnificat Houses

Magnificat Houses, Inc. (MHI)

FALL 2019

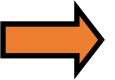
Fewer Beds Available for Emergency Housing in Houston *Magnificat Converts Residency Beds For Three-Day Emergency Stays*

With a hard winter in sight, and 200 emergency beds lost citywide this year, **MHI** is making a dedicated effort to provide more short term housing for those in immediate need. The lines grow long weekdays at our admissions center as more vulnerable women and men abandon the streets. "Emergency beds" allow for a three-day stay, during which the temporary guest, regardless of his/her situation, receives counseling and access to Houston-area resources for more stable housing. Some may qualify for a longer term tenure at Magnificat through our 90-day Vocational Rehab Program, or other Coalition for the Homeless programs including SRO or Jail Diversion.

At present three of our properties—**Scanlan**, **Bethany** and **Myriam's Hostel**—are operating at peak capacities for regular residency while turning over their 18 total emergency beds every three days. Bethany House Leader **Kendrick** said having already stabilized guests in place is a big help to those just off the streets. "They've been there, and willingly share their experiences and their plans for recovery."



**HOW CAN I HELP THOSE JUST
COMING OFF THE STREETS?**



Department of Answered Prayers, Longevity Division



John asked how he might help—30 years ago

His plaque reads: "*Magnificat Houses celebrates John Burghduff for his 30 years of continuous creative volunteerism. John has enriched the lives of our residents in so many ways, Friday in and Friday out, since 1989.*"

For thirty years, barring only Acts of God, **John Burghduff** has showed up at MHI every Friday evening, his arms full of surprises, nibbles and cupcakes and, of course, a VHS tape or DVD bearing a full length movie. Back in 1989, moved by his friend's recovery at **Magnificat Houses**, John asked **Rose Mary Badami** how he might help and she suggested some personal engagement with the residents. He tried showing them a movie, which was so appreciated that Movie Night was born and remains a highly anticipated event. John obviously loves every moment of it too: the movie selection (often by viewer request or voting), the laughter and jeers at the screen, the post movie discussions, the hanging out. Oh, and John also has a day job—chairing the Mathematics Department of Lone Star College-CyFair.



Dona Marie House Ribbon Cutting Honors Extended Family



The **MHI FAMILY** honored the **MATHEWS-ARREDONDO FAMILY** which refurbished and redecorated the living areas of the “big house” at Dona Marie Farm, which now supports three SRO apartments women and two separate men’s houses, Ignatius and Guvannina. **LEFT: Teddy Mathews** snips the ribbon held by Executive Director John Boyles. **CENTER: Janice Arredondo** accepts a plaque honoring the families. **RIGHT: Director of Women’s Houses Sr. Magdalena Cortez, MSE**, blesses the donors and areas, where the new community will blossom.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US HELP THOSE JUST OFF THE STREETS:

They are vulnerable. They’ve just taken a life changing step, and they need our support. And we need yours!

1. Donate to Magnificat! A three-day emergency stay for one homeless person costs us \$45 for basic needs, or \$100 in actual costs of providing all services listed at right.
2. Bring good clothing, including belts and shoes, to our Intake Center weekdays (8:30-3 p.m.) 3209 Austin Street.
3. Organize a clothing drive through your church, your club, your neighborhood or your high rise. Thank you!

WHAT WE OFFER OUR GUESTS WITHOUT CHARGE:

1. A twin bed in a shared room, linens and laundry included
2. Hot, home cooked meals, served family style in supportive community
3. Clothing and hygiene supplies as needed
4. Vocational and skills training, GED coaching, job search programs
5. Transportation to vocational training, recovery programs, medical appointments, and community special events
6. Loving, non-judgmental *mental health support* through our Clubhouse program, and *rehabilitation support* through AA and Mercy Street meetings
7. A shared sense of community as residents live, work, and play together with the common goal of self-reliance.

Meet Three of the “Divine Nine”



CENTER THREE: Walt, Krystal and Maia represented the nine fraternity and sorority companions who are dedicated to making a difference in the world, at Phillips 66, and at Magnificat Houses. Divine indeed!

AIA Architects & AISC Seek ‘Affordable’ Advice

Two building groups gathered local leaders concerned with housing the homeless for a provocative discussion of issues and solutions for building affordable housing in Houston. **MHI Executive Director John Boyles** served on the Homeless Design Charrette Panel, hosted by the **American Institute of Architects** in partnership with the **American Institute of Steel Construction**. Among other topics, John contributed to the panel on the role of faith based organizations in serving Houston’s homeless population, the importance of one-on-one contact with those served to help them move beyond feeling like just a number, Magnificat’s Mission to serve through programs leading to independence.



What's in a number?

25 Jubilee! The number of years **Sr. Agnes Maria** and **Sr. Maria** have been in the sisterhood, celebrated on September 21 throughout our community.

18 A sad parting, as **Sr. Gabina**, our music maestro among other duties for 18 years, is recalled to Guatemala by her order—but she leaves us laughing in her top hat.

1 Young **Mustard Seed** volunteer **Catlin**, inspired by our sisters' energy and service, chose the role of Mother Theresa for her St. Edwards choir performance on All Saints Day.

2 Number of years **Mary and Jim Boyles** have adopted **Susanna House** and its residents, who cooked a swell birthday dinner for Jim...

88 ...even his cake, upon which they graciously did not place 88 candles.

14 December 14 is run-off date for **Houston City Council District D** (ours). We welcome all candidates to visit us during election cycles, and many do.

23 Teens in the **Junior Daughters** and **Junior Knights of Peter Claver** performed for our residents after they, and their parents prepared and served a courtyard meal. These families are longtime supporters of our mission.

12 A dozen St. **Joseph Clubhouse** members volunteer quarterly to help send out **The Magnifier**.

96 See back page! It's really a big deal at Magnificat.



25

18

1



2 88

14



23



12



New Director of Development Brings Significant Non-Profit Experience to Magnificat

After a comprehensive search, MHI's Board of Directors appointed **Annette Pieniazek** (*Pen ya'zek*) Director of Development. She



ANNETTE PIENIAZEK

joined us September 30, bringing with her a 14-year history in non-profits, fundraising, grant writing, and consulting, preceded by decades in sales and marketing. Annette

has served as executive director of both **Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers** and **City ArtWorks**, and has consulted with such organizations as **Tourette Association of Texas** and **Willow Waterhole**. She would love to meet with those interested in supporting Magnificat's mission. Her email address: apieniazek@mhihouston.org.

Special thanks to:

Dr. Todd August



Photographer Dr. Todd August showed 12 of his black & white photographs capturing our Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen and its surrounds—made at the request of friend John Boyles, their viewing spearheaded by super-volunteer Annette (Nettety) Brown. Dr. August's collection will grace the freshly painted walls of MHI's business office and be seen in future newsletters.

The November showing at Cathedral Centre gave occasion for Friends of Founder Rose Mary Badami to video a heartfelt Happy Birthday ...per below.

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

96 Happy Birthday, Dear Rose Mary...



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

Thank you for all you do to support our mission!

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OUR FOUNDER TURNED 96 this November 13.

She loves to receive cards! Please send to:

**Ms. Rose Mary Badami, St. Dominic Village,
2401 E. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77021**