



The Magnifier

...news from Magnificat Houses

Magnificat Houses, Inc. (MHI)

Spring 2021



ABOVE: With our staff fully vaccinated, we arranged open vaccinations for our residents and guests. Almost all were eager to inoculate to keep our homes safe. Sister Magdalena stood sentry over the spatially distanced line on March 27 and April 27 for second shots.

We are proud of our Covid prevention record—with no known cases among our guest population, and three diagnosed cases among staff before vaccinations were available. We are continuing to follow CDC recommendations to the letter—but eager (like everyone else) to show our faces and see each other's.

BELOW: At our donor sponsored event, we indeed got a peek at some of those we miss. See Page 3.

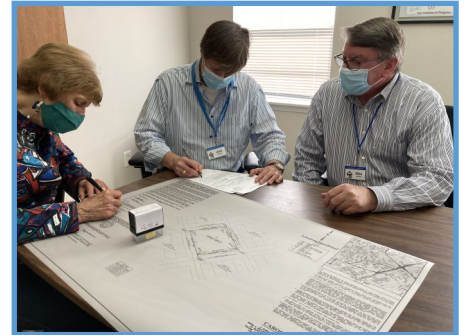


New Housing Units Within MHI's Sights

A Message from John Boyles

For two years, our MHI Board of Directors has been exploring and pursuing the best use—within our mission—for our property at 3300 Caroline, necessarily razed in 2018. Our vision for this plot is very close to becoming a reality.

With the pandemic, national homelessness has increased exponentially, attracting national development and financial partners to our table; all share our point of view that a dignified home with wrap-around support services is essential to reintegrating the chronic homeless back into society. Widely known by social agencies as the “Housing First Model,” success rates are high when permanent supportive housing (PSH) brings the homeless basic security after which the varied factors affecting this population can be addressed.



All potential residents on our campus would be assigned by City and County agencies from their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

How would this building affect MHI as we know it?

Magnificat Houses would remain a separate legal, functional and financial entity from the partner-based housing on Caroline. We will continue to serve a more immediate social need: emergency housing and temporary supportive housing (TSH) for the homeless, displaced, and former offenders released from the prison system into our 90-day reentry program.

Yes, we most certainly will need your continuing help to keep Magnificat Houses' mission alive—the lines will always remain long at our many doors. But we would look forward to the opportunity to welcoming these new neighbors into our loving environment, our Clubhouse and our many community-wide events, cookouts and seasonal celebrations.

Happening in Our Ministries...



At St. Joseph Clubhouse

MENTAL HEALTH, THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: LETS TALK ABOUT IT is theme of the 2021 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) campaign, a fundraising event to benefit mental health awareness and advocacy programs. Since St. Joseph just happens to have an elephant in our garden, members gathered there to create a visual for their annual NAMI Walk which this year—from an abundance of caution—will be virtual. Members look forward to returning to their hands-on advocacy.

Happily, the Clubhouse has returned to **full attendance** for vaccinated members while keeping up the **daily outreach** to homebound or not-yet-vaccinated members via Zoom, email and calls.



At Our Neighborhood Houses

GUVINANA HOUSE, on our Dona Marie Farm campus, received enthusiastic upgrades (paint, repairs, roofing) from Catholic school teens from all over Houston. Organized by Rafael Garcia, a board member with deep ties to the farm, the Day of Service attracted youth from St. Thomas High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit, St. Agnes Academy, St. Pius X High School and Strake Jesuit College Preparatory. (Their roof occupation was well supervised!)

SRO Upgrades continue apace at our Holy Family Apartments as six units near completion. Priced well under market, apartments are awarded to current residents who have found outside employment but wish to remain within their Magnificat community.



At Loaves & Fishes

LARRY CRONIN reports that Loaves & Fishes' daily food line numbers continue to climb, usually about 380 but often reaching 400 meals served. Some of the "new hungry" appear not to be homeless but temporarily in need. "Never do we turn away a diner or ask them questions. That's how our founder Rose Mary Badami set it up. We don't care *why* they're in line. If they're hungry, we feed them."

3C DENTAL GROUP (left) took a soup kitchen service day helping our chef prepare the food then serving the meal. We appreciate them and all the other civic-minded corporations who hands-on support our mission to feed the hungry.

Donors BIG Night Out

April 27 • City Orchard Cidery

Special thanks to our dauntless event co-chairs

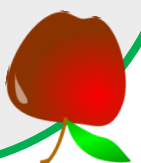
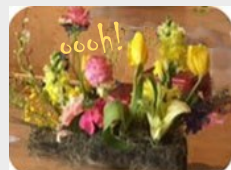
Netty Duplechain

Rochelle Kersell

We've missed our donors and volunteers during the long national hunker-down. City Orchard gifted us with this unique indoor-outdoor location where social distancing was a breeze after our masked check-in.



Special thanks to
City Orchard, Philips 66
Village Greenery & Flowers
Attendees & Supporters
Milestone Films



Houston Community Outpouring Nourishes our Mission



The Staff welcomes our generous supporters from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church



Kyle Janke (L) and Kirby Janke (R), owners of Tommie Vaughn Motors donated 4,200 masks, a daily need for guests at our soup kitchen



Our Anawim Thrift Store was desperate for space for storing, sorting and rotating seasonal goods. Clay Development stepped up



These civic-minded (and well-spaced) runners presented us with a generous grant funded by their annual Houston Half-Marathon & 10K



Ever wonder how many gift bags could fit in your trunk? A dozen, if these extra nice bags are any measure. They were lovingly assembled by a group of friends for our distribution at Loaves & Fishes



ALTER'D STATES—a chain of “cute and comfy” youthful clothing—came by to present us with a check, complements of employees and management

Thank you!



The Magnifier is published quarterly by Magnificat Houses, Inc. Casey Kelly, editor; Gina Monti, communications assistant. Tribute donations are recognized quarterly. Submit photos and news items to ckelly@mhihouston.org.

DONATE ANYTIME: www.mhihouston.org/donate

Magnificat Houses has merited the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency, which allows nonprofit donors and funders to make educated decisions.



Thank you for your loving support of our mission!



SUMMERHOUSE HOUSTON brought a group of special needs youths to feed our homeless diners on May 4, lead by Emily Padora. The group delights in being productive members of society, especially in serving others. They are eager for a return service date!