



The Magnifier

...news from Magnificat Houses

Magnificat Houses, Inc. (MHI)

Summer 2021

WATCH THIS SPACE



THINGS ARE HAPPENING



WHICH CAN DOUBLE OUR HOUSING & SUPPORT SERVICES TO HOUSTON'S HOMELESS

Magnificat continues moving forward on a long-term effort to dedicate our available Midtown property to the homeless and underserved, in keeping with our founding mission.

STAY TUNED!

(and prayers would be nice)

We're disappointed too, but...

COVID 19 Delta Resurgence Leaves Us Determined

Like much of the country, MHI is re-booting our pandemic procedures in response to COVID's Delta variant. Our masking mandate is back in effect on campus, with some jobs switched back to remote, and some meetings and programs reinstated on Zoom and social media.

Our soup kitchen has become a center for new vaccinations through Harris County Health, which has also stepped up general health services at our Housing Admissions Center to include bi-monthly visits. Additionally, we are offering bi-weekly social services through the Harris County Outreach Team—specialists assigned to help our residents, guests, Clubhouse members and staff navigate the social services system.

In the pandemic's 17-month reign, MHI has had no known Covid/Delta cases in our group housing, and only four cases among staff. Safety was, and remains, key to our care of those needing food and shelter.



Magnificat Term Decoder

Ever wonder the difference between a *Guest*, a *Resident* and a *Member*? All are served under the guidelines of our mission, but in different ways.

GUESTS: A *guest* is with us on an emergency basis, beginning with a 14-night stay in quarantine (during COVID); if accepted they are invited into our 90-day stabilization program. Stays may vary depending on individual need. All receive lodging, food, clothing, and training in life skills according to their ability.

RESIDENTS: In some cases, the guest needs longer to accomplish reentry, or may volunteer to stay longer to help others up from the street. Some may be incapable of living alone, and remain valued members of the community.

MEMBERS: These are participants in the accredited mental health programs of Clubhouse International, based at our St. Joseph Clubhouse. Membership is free and open to the Houston community at large. Many Guests and Residents also elect to become Clubhouse Members.

Happening in Our Ministries...

At Loaves & Fishes



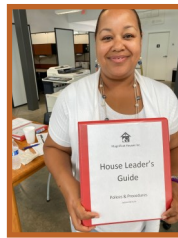
With growing pandemic-related homelessness, we continue to serve free hot meals to 350-400 daily. And wonderful volunteers materialize to make this daily miracle happen. We are grateful for the ongoing soup kitchen services of **Sr. Aida Ramirez** and **Sr. Nirta Cruz** of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, who have brought an extra measure of mirth to our work with their boundless energy. To volunteer to help prepare and serve meals, contact Larry Cronin, [LCronin @mhouston.org](mailto:LCronin@mhouston.org).

At Our Neighborhood Houses

In October **House Leaders** assembled to receive and review our updated Housing Manual, compiled by Director of Housing **Janice Arredondo**.



House Leader is a voluntary and honorary position assumed by residents or guests who have shown leadership and a desire to help others in their houses grow toward independence through full participation in the community.



At St. Joseph Clubhouse

The Clubhouse *had* happily returned to **full weekday attendance** for vaccinated members while keeping up our daily points of contact with those still homebound. Now Delta puts the fragile at risk, and we must revert to phones and computers to keep our mental health programs alive and our members engaged. So we are back to building on our **4800** non-traditional member contacts to date, and we will keep Zoom, email and phones buzzing until the current health crisis passes. And it will.



NOT SO
FAST 
THERE...

As we celebrated masks-off, the Delta variant dropped by Houston and changed CDC guidelines. While the vast majority of residents and members are fully vaccinated, we've learned more about being potential carriers, vaccinated or not. A collective PHOOEY as we imagine these face-ful days returning soon.

Chipp Thompson

1963 ~ 2021

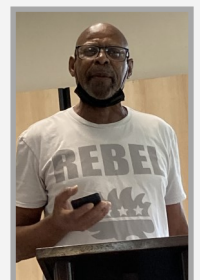
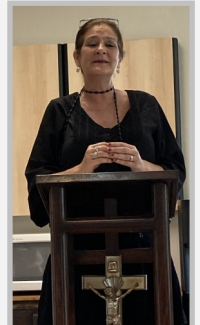
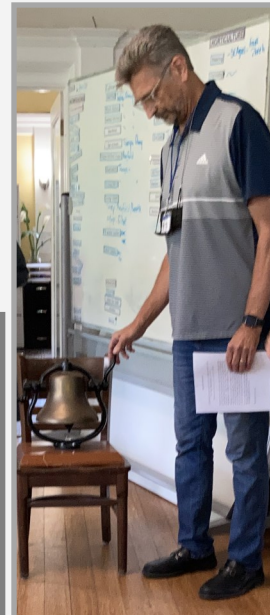


Robert Joe "Chipp" Thompson was an intermittent resident of Magnificat Houses over several years, and often volunteered at **St. Joseph Clubhouse**, where the staff and his many friends grieve his loss. Chipp turned his electric smile on everyone he met, remembered their names and stories, and sought to make their lives brighter. A natural teacher, Chipp raised his gardening and culinary lessons to an artform.

Clubhouse members delighted in his upbeat sessions, emerging with useful and valuable skills to last a lifetime. Like all of us, Chipp had his personal challenges and disappointments, but he always tried and tried again. That's a good lesson to take from his too-short life.



On July 1, 2021, Clubhouse Director Kevin Campbell tolled our traditional bell for Chipp, followed by a Mass and personal remembrances by staff and many of his friends.



Celebrating



4th of July

the return of Life as we knew it



Mission Tours



Faces! Smiles!



Friends lolling



Clubhouse Reopening



We Auctioned Off Our Executive Director



...and Jim and Debbie Mensay raised their paddles high at our Spring Fundraiser. Thus John Boyles (R) and his brother Tom Boyles pledged to prepare and serve a 5-Star menu for the Mensays and six friends—and clean up too!



Birthday Wishes from a generous donor to...

Blanca Beltran and to Vicki Luna

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. We respect the privacy of those in our care; persons pictured have offered their consent.

Help Us Meet the Challenge!

The Mabee Foundation has generously offered MHI a challenge grant toward the necessary renovation of three Lourdes apartments, damaged during recent storms and in dire need of refurbishment after decades of continuous occupancy.

The Challenge: MHI must raise \$16,162 to receive the Mabee challenge grant of \$15,000. Every contribution, no matter what size, does double duty toward making more safe, low-income MHI housing available to Houston's unsheltered.

To Help Us Help Others: Kindly donate through our website at www.mhihouston.org/donate. In the "Add Special Instructions" box at the top, add Maybee Grant to earmark your gift. To donate by check, address **Magnificat Houses, Inc.**, P.O. Box 8486, Houston, TX 77288, notation: Maybee Grant. If you wish to speak with someone about your gift, please email MLampe@mhihouston.org.



The Better Business Bureau recognizes MHI's consistently low overhead—under 10%— which means more donor dollars go to our services to the poor and mentally ill.

MHI also merits the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency, which allows nonprofit donors and funders to make educated decisions.

DONATE ANYTIME: www.mhihouston.org/donate

Thank you for your loving support of our mission!



TOP BANANAS (and other seasonal foods) are often made available between meals outside Loaves & Fishes. Our thanks to Costco, which daily shares its overstock to make these healthy snacks possible.