



# The Magnifier

...news from Magnificat Houses

Magnificat Houses, Inc. (MHI)

Fall 2023

## A November to Remember

# Founder Rose Mary Badami turns 100, MHI turns 55



On November 13, 2023, our Founder **Rose Mary Badami** completes her 100th revolution around the sun!

**The founding of Magnificat Houses** was revolutionary in itself. On November 18, 1968 MHI became officially chartered in the state of Texas.

To Rose Mary, her greatest reward is “knowing you can **help a person and make a difference in their lives** . We want people to find their own hidden gifts and talents—and **renew the sense of love and belonging.**”

For **55 years**, because of Rose Mary, MHI has accomplished that and more, providing support to more than **20,000** who have come

## Celebrate Rose Mary's Legacy

**Increase the impact of your gift:**  
a generous donor will be matching the first \$50,000 of gifts in honor of Rose Mary's 100th birthday!

*This means your contribution, whether large or small, goes twice as far to enact her vision.*



Scan the QR Code or contact Shun Johnson for giving opportunities  
[sjohnson@mhihouston.org](mailto:sjohnson@mhihouston.org)

through our doors seeking shelter, while **feeding over 10 million** meals to the hungry at **Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen** and in our **safe, dignified homes**, and also, empowering members with mental health support at **St. Joseph House** (see pg. 2). The City of Houston has issued a [mayoral proclamation](#), but the world needs to know about her contributions. Her kindness and commitment to **serve the most abandoned and neglected** of our society has transformed the lives of thousands by their participation in the gift that is Magnificat. **We are so thankful for the gift of Rose Mary Badami.** We hope that you will join us in continuing her legacy for the next 55 years and beyond.

## MHI Earns 2023 BBB Winner of Distinction Award

Magnificat Houses, Inc. was one of 236 companies recognized at the annual **Better Business Bureau Awards of Excellence** on October 10, 2023. Honored as a **Winner of Distinction**, this was the third time to be **recognized by the BBB for service beyond self-interest**.

When asked what this distinction meant, Executive Director, Victor Hay said, “Receiving the BBB's Winner of Distinction award is not just a recognition for MHI; it's a testament to 55 years of **unwavering commitment and compassion**. This accolade is a nod to our relentless pursuit of excellence in serving the homeless community, a journey fueled by the belief **every individual deserves dignity, care, and a chance for a better tomorrow**. It's not just an acknowledgment; it's a reaffirmation of our mission and an inspiration to continue being a **beacon of hope for those in need.**”



# In Our Ministries...

## Loaves & Fishes

Beginning in **January of 2024**, Loaves & Fishes will be souped up with celebrity spice! We are asking *you* to **nominate your favorite** restaurant/chef to make magic in our kitchen. **Celebrity chefs** will prepare a meal using the day's donated ingredients. Chefs can bring up to five of their own *secret ingredients* to make it a signature dish and a **unique dining experience for our guests**.

Visiting chefs will have a **team of volunteers** and our chef to assist in preparation. Chefs will then create a similar recipe at their restaurant using their creation as inspiration. January's first chef—**Mitch Hargis** from **Blue Sushi Sake Grill**! Visit the [Loaves & Fishes Facebook](#) page and **tag your favorite chef** or email nominations to [sjohnson@mhihouston.org](mailto:sjohnson@mhihouston.org).



## Housing

MHI Housing and **Goodwill Industries** have partnered to empower and improve the lives of our guests. The **collaboration provides an opportunity** to attend Goodwill's **NCCER Core Construction Training**.

Classes began October 2, 2023. Three of MHI's guests have completed the program and are looking forward to **graduation in December**. They earned CPR, traffic control flagger, and **OSHA -10 Certification (Safety)**, a recognized credential in construction and an opportunity to grow. Job placement and clothing assistance is available and **graduates can earn up to \$22+ per hour**. November 13<sup>th</sup> marks the start of classes for the next cohort of **MHI guests, ready for a better tomorrow**.



## St. Joseph House

**Clubhouse Members and Staff** attended a two-week comprehensive training at *Gateway Clubhouse* in Greenville, South Carolina. The deep-dive into **The Clubhouse Model** provided a hands-on apprenticeship to the *methodology* supporting the community and evidence-based approach to the serious treatment of mental illness practiced at **St. Joseph House**.

**The experience** brought a better understanding of the [International Standards for Clubhouse Programs](#). Staff looks forward to re-energizing the Clubhouse and being better able to help members. Clarence Ewing, a long-time **member's takeaway**:  
"The future of the Clubhouse is very bright!"



## Anawim Thrift Store

**Anawim Angels** have been spreading their wings to reach more of the community. The inspired group held a successful bedding sale at **All Saints Catholic Church** which not only benefitted MHI, but also **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Casa Juan Diego, and Reach Unlimited** with left over donations! As a result, our thrift store now has a new chaplain, **Fr. Elias Lopez**.

Their work is gaining the attention of thrifting influencers, **Too Cheap Blondes** and features on the **Fox 26 Morning Show** and **Click2Houston**, raising awareness for this gem, nestled in NE Houston at 2102 Common St., and for MHI's work to uplift struggling Houstonians.





## Because of Rose Mary's dedication throughout the decades...



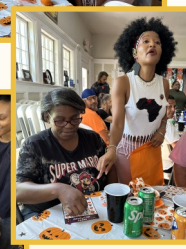
...the seeds of transformation she nourished...



**GRADUATE PRIDE:** The first cohort from MHI's partnership with Goodwill's NCCER program benefit from a job ready wardrobe at **Career Gear**. They also gained lifesaving skills after earning **CPR** and **OSHA 10 Safety** credentials.



**HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS** kicked off the holiday season with a fun-filled Halloween pizza party at the **St. Joseph House**. Members and guests enjoyed bingo, music, dancing and fellowship.



...have borne fruits of excellence...



**ANAWIM ANGELS ACTIVATE:** These longtime volunteers jumped into action hosting what is hoped to be an annual bedding sale at **All Saints**.



**NATIONAL THIFT STORE DAY** brought **Fox 26 Morning Show's Lina De Florias** and **Jenna and Pippa of Too Cheap Blondes** to explore Anawim and share with thrifting enthusiasts.



**MHI STAFF** members strive to provide the highest level of service possible to those we serve. Earning the **BBB Awards for Excellence Winner of Distinction 2023** is a joyous group effort.

**MOTIVA GOOD NEIGHBORS** having fun and making a difference visited **Loaves & Fishes** to hand out hygiene packs and to prepare and serve a nourishing meal for our hungry guests. Motiva team members also organized Anawim warehouse inventory for upcoming sales events. To bring your team to **experience the unique atmosphere of giving and receiving** at our soup kitchen or for other volunteer opportunities, **contact Shun Johnson at [sjohnson@mhihouston.org](mailto:sjohnson@mhihouston.org)**.



...and have flourished in the soil...



**Upward and outward! RoseMary's Place** is taking shape, nestling nicely among other Mid-town developments. Soon, construction materials will clear for a courtyard and **community** for **149** of Houston's chronically homeless as **MHI** doubles capacity next year.



The corner of **3300 Caroline** at **Stuart**, the former location of **Opus Maria**, intake office for MHI, has a new look!



# STAFF NOTES



## CASEY KELLY

(Un-)Retired

Casey Kelly wrote, directed, and edited the 22-minute video *The Magnificat House Story* in 2011-12; wrote the coffee table book for MHI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; founded this quarterly newsletter *The Magnifier*; and created brochures and other publications for Magnificat Houses where she has worked and volunteered since 2010. Her contributions to our community and our culture are immense and resonant, and her positive impact, undeniable. We wish her the best in her happy (un-)retirement!



## LORA MARSHALL

Accounting

Native Houstonian Lora comes to MHI with 20 years of experience as an ER nurse at Memorial Hermann, 15 years of accounting experience, and a servant's heart. Her volunteer efforts include Sarah's House, Saving Grace,

Clothed by Faith, Bridge Over Troubled Waters and recently, Jane Around the World. MHI is a community where she can put her passion for helping others into action.



## TOYA ROBERTS

Assistant Chef, Loaves & Fishes

A volunteer since age 8, Toya answered the call to be a part of something greater, to show appreciation for her blessings, at Loaves & Fishes. She's looking forward to meeting new people and putting a smile on people's faces at the Soup Kitchen.

## FAREWELL FAITHFUL SERVANT, JOHN ANDERSON, DEAR FRIEND OF MHI

Few members of the Magnificat family supported Rose Mary's vision more than **John Anderson**. The Navy veteran, Shell Oil retiree, avid rock hound, all-around Renaissance man and lover of God's people, **passed peacefully on June 11, 2023 at the age of 92**. He brought many superbly qualified friends to make this community flourish and to see the mission thrive. John was **MHI's longest running board Chair (1986 -2015)** and even after his retirement, regularly attended Sunday Mass at **Loaves & Fishes**, where he continued to minister to the most abandoned and neglected of Houston by his presence. **Memorial service will be held on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2023 at St. Joseph Clubhouse from 10 am – 1:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests tribute gifts to MHI.**



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Magnificat's ongoing, responsible stewardship means you can give with trust and confidence. For the third year in a row, the **Better Business Bureau Awards for Excellence** panel recognized MHI as a **Winner of Distinction**. MHI also earned the highest possible **Four-Star** rating from **Charity Navigator** (citing MHI's commitment to *good governance, financial health and accountability*); and the **2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency** awarded by **Candid** (formerly GuideStar and Foundation Directory).

DONATE ANYTIME:

Via our QR code, or  
[mhihouston.org/donate](https://mhihouston.org/donate)



## Thank you for your loving support of our mission!



This excited and happy diner raises a toast of gratitude for a nutritious and delicious meal at Loaves & Fishes. MHI raises our glass to you for the continued support you provide to feed Houston's hungry six days a week. We couldn't do it without you.