



Magnificat Houses,

P.O. Box 25415

Houston, Texas 77265

Opus Maria - Residential Services 713-520-0461

St. Joseph House - 713-523-5958

Loaves & Fishes/Miryam's Hostel - 713-224-1373

www.mfhouston.org

It is surprising, but understandable, why some do not know what the work of Magnificat is: it is a ministry and not a social agency. A social agency is first a secular operation with specific job descriptions. In a ministry the primacy of love is the operating factor. "The gospel can be reduced to a sentence: love one another as God loves you. This is the basis of the solution to all human problems" (Mother Teresa). The main factor in dealing with the unwanted, the unloved and the distressed poor is in making them welcome and needed (and they are), to accept them as they are. We do not work with people at Magnificat in groups. We treat them as individuals, no different from ourselves. They are our suffering brothers and sisters. It is a different concept, and it is done out of love of God and love of one another.

The houses are run by the residents themselves. Everybody has a role to play. It is like a family - where everyone is wanted and needed. The staff is there to support them, encourage them, and show concern and love. Like in a family there is someone who gives direction, help and guidance, there is someone who nurtures and they all contribute in some way to making a house a home. They support one another, and they are proud of their responsibilities and accomplishments. Since the houses in the Compound are together, they visit, socialize, form relationships and feel part of a family. The staff knows **each individual**, and knows their needs, and treats them with concern and "love". The problem is to know how to reach that person, to receive them as equals - not clients, consumers or what the going words are now. You have to reach **that individual** as all are not alike.

If you familiarize yourself with the works of Mother Teresa, who sent her sisters out into the "slums" to do the Works of Mercy, then you will understand our work. Love includes understanding, sympathy, compassion, devotion and service. In our work, "the slums", the needy, the displaced, the indigent come to us. In our country, there is a different kind of poverty. The "slums" comprise "the streets", the drugs, alcohol, prisons (which are multiplying) etc., so in a way, we do not go to "the slums" - the people in need find a way to our doors.

At the hour of death we believe we will be judged according to the words of Jesus who said,
--I was homeless - you took me in We have eleven houses where we take the homeless in. Not only the homeless, but those in need of the shelter. We do not discriminate. (We accommodate - - there is always "room in the inn")

-I was hungry and you gave me food Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen feeds thousands of people yearly. We feed the residents three meals a day in the houses. Friends and people who support us have outings, picnics in our Brennan Park - sharing their time and offering friendship.

-I was sick and you took care of me: Magnificat's Health Services take care of the sick, obtains the necessary paperwork to be eligible for services, etc. It is not a simple matter to get people accepted into clinics, etc. They need birth certificates or Texas identification, Gold Card, statement regarding income etc. Health Services also takes care of dental and eye care plus keep a record of appointments and arranges for transportation when needed. St. Joseph Clubhouse is available for those with a mental diagnosis, and Morning Star Hostel for people with HIV/AIDS. It is a mammoth job accessing the need, applying for aid, securing appointments and seeing that they are kept, plus seeing people are compliant with their medications.

I was in prison and you visited - the prison ministry is our main population at this time, and we favor those who are sick, been in prison 15, 20, 25 years or longer and are now incapable of employment.

"Truly as I say to you, what you do for the least of my brothers, you do unto me."

If you want to know what the MINISTRY of Magnificat is, read books on Mother Teresa. Our ministry is patterned after hers - love of God, transferred into love of one another, the most needy of our brothers and sisters.

We encourage you to pray for Magnificat and its work, follow its spirit, and adopt its aim.

It is not difficult to understand our work if you consider it in the realm of faith and the gospels.

We are grateful for each one of you. Rose Mary