



The Magnifier

...news from Magnificat Houses

Magnificat Houses, Inc. (MHI)

Fall 2022

Department of Answered Prayers

‘RoseMary’s Place’ Brings 149 Homeless to MHI Campus



...doubling our capacity to provide community & spiritual support

FINAL CONTRACTS SIGNED! After nearly four years in development, a unique partnership agreement has been finalized between **Magnificat Houses, Inc.**, **NHP Foundation** (a nonprofit developer), **Hudson** (a tax credit investor) and **City of Houston, Harris County, TDHCA** (State) and **HUD** (Federal) loan programs.

Magnificat Houses has pledged a full city block on a long-term lease, with full ownership of the new building and its grounds, which will eventually revert to Magnificat.

MHI will remain a separate nonprofit, and continue to privately fund our 54-year mission through our individual houses, Loaves & Fishes and St. Joseph Clubhouse.

Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County will play a key role in **RoseMary’s Place** by qualifying and selecting all incoming residents through its Coordinated Access database. **MHI** will welcome the newcomers into our existing community, offer social and spiritual support, and share our training programs and year-round celebrations.

See Building Q&A, P4

“Bottom line, Magnificat is called to help forge a vital support community around 149 newly sheltered single occupants. They will know they are part of something bigger than their four walls, where acceptance, growth and companionship are inevitable.”

Victor Hay, Executive Director



“We are overjoyed to announce this leap forward for Magnificat, where our longstanding work is recognized as highly beneficial to Houston and Harris County.”

Suzanne Young, Board Chairman

Santa’s Helpers Needed ASAP!
An enriching **Christmas** experience, **P4**

In Our Ministries...

Loaves & Fishes

QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF MEALS SERVED (YTD)

Daily Average 354 • Monthly Average: 9,251

SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. Can your organization pledge to cover one of these hard-to-staff days? Volunteers arrive at 2009 Congress at 8:30 a.m., help prepare and serve meals and do clean-up, and are free by 1 p.m. Contact Larry Cronin: LCronin@mhihouston.org

INSIDE DINING REOPENS!



This August, "Missy" was among the first to laud the return of inside dining for Houston's hungry. Covid had forced back gate service in to-go boxes. But our founder's plan was to provide dignified **indoor** service—echoing her grandmother, who always insisted Depression Era "lost men" come inside to dine with the family on their best china.

Housing

MAYME HOUSE (formerly Guvannina House, located on the six-acre **Donna Marie** campus) reopens this week after floor-to-ceiling upgrades.



AVE MARIA HOUSE reopened in late October after major rehabbing. Both building upgrades were underwritten by a generous MHI donor.

90-DAY PROGRAM — This new program grants an extension to guests already on the path to self-sufficiency who may need extra time to stabilize and plan their productive futures. All will have successfully completed our 14-Day Program. Guests will be grouped together in **Ave Maria House**.

THE 'TLC' PROGRAM encourages guests by noting their efforts and milestones as they journey toward independence. At left, Housing Manager **Cynthia Rogers** congratulates **Kendrick Anthony** on his 8-year journey as a valued House Leader. At right, **Pete Lugo** is cited by his housing team for completing his **Culinary Job**



St. Joseph Clubhouse

At the heart of our community, **St. Joseph's** welcoming grounds bring together residents, guests, Clubhouse members and families, staff, donors, and volunteers for fun and entertainment. **The Clubhouse** looks forward to welcoming 149 residents of RoseMary's Place—wearing much duller attire!



A Clubhouse Fall Sampling: Recently **Vicki Cruz** of **Oak Street Health** brought Bingo prizes to delight our community...and we threw parties (with group games and all the fixings) for **Labor Day** and **Halloween**.

Staff Witch Loretta Scribner & Zombie Clubhouse Director Kevin Campbell enjoy the Members at Play

Points of Pride

For the second year in a row, the **Better Business Bureau Awards for Excellence** panel recognized MHI as a **Winner of Distinction 2022**. 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 **2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency** awarded by **Candid** (formerly **GuideStar** and **Foundation Directory**).

Magnificat's ongoing, responsible stewardship means you can give with trust and confidence. Our low overhead, under 10%, assures 90% of donations go directly to serve the poor.

Thanks to you!

Magnificat proudly shares all our awards and citations with you whose continued support make all our achievements possible.



We are grateful for...



...the return of inside diners—seeing them rediscover the joy of community as they see old friends and make new ones.

...Main Street Theater, whose young actors trained for challenging roles by volunteering at our soup kitchen—then organized a food drive to benefit our diners and residents. Their awesome total?



...the beautiful face of our founder, Rose Mary Badami, as she absorbs the news about RoseMary's Place—on her 99th birthday!



...and founding volunteer Clarice Snokhous, who helped Rose Mary launch Magnificat back in 1968.

...and Corporate Volunteers, who remember us with Days of Service and donations—such as the Olin Corporation (below), and...



...New Hope Church brightening our L&F diners with smiles and thoughtful essentials. And...

...Barnhart Crane & Rigging, whose generous gift helps so many!



...a spirited Clubhouse Halloween Spooktacular with the treats of community, preceded by...



...the return of the Labor Day Picnic Lunch—on the actual date celebrated nationally—a Clubhouse standard.



RoseMary's Place Q & A

Where will the new building stand?
What functioned there before?



The building site is bounded by San Jacinto, Caroline, Francis and Stuart streets, where every weekday 12-18 homeless applied at the **Opus Maria Intake Center** (3300 Caroline), near **Maranatha House** for men and **Visitation Convent**. All services and functions have been relocated to the Moran Center (1410 Elgin) or elsewhere on campus.

When will RoseMary's Place begin construction?

NHP Foundation intends to begin in early 2023, with occupancy starting in 2024.

How will this affect homelessness in Houston? Significantly. As 149 move from the streets into dignified single apartments, urban concerns are also eased—such as feeding, sanitation and crowded camps. **RoseMary's Place** is one of the largest housing initiatives in Texas.

Isn't "Rose Mary" two words? Indeed! But copyright and usage issues nixed our first-name choices—and *Badami Place* tested poorly. We like NHPF's pick, **RoseMary's Place** which suggests a mother figure welcoming the homeless home.

The Magnifier is published quarterly by Magnificat Houses, Inc. Casey Kelly, editor; Gina Monti, assistant editor/photographer. Tribute donations are recognized quarterly. Submit photos and news items to ckelly@mhihouston.org. Magnificat respects the privacy of those in our care; persons pictured have offered their consent.

DONATE ANYTIME: www.mhihouston.org/donate

Santa's Helpers Needed!!!

Our volunteer organizer can no longer help round up Christmas gifts for our residents—to appear under the trees they help decorate. Can you help by organizing, acquiring gifts, creating gift bags? It's an edifying experience for families, friends and organizations.

Gift deadline: December 20

Contact: Greg Lueb 346-406-9915

Gifts our guests like best:

Warm Stuff... like hoodies, hats & gloves, scarves, throws, pajamas

Fun Stuff... like games, puzzles, art supplies, earbuds, scratch-off lottery tickets; for women, make-up bags and new cosmetics to sample

Gift Cards... especially Walmart (easy via public transportation) and McDonald's—both cards instantly usable. Other gift cards welcome!

Practical Stuff... like new wallets, watches, hats and teeshirts with personality, exercise togs, small potted plants—plus your finds!

Things guests don't need:

Regular underwear, socks, toiletries or cleaning items of all kinds. These are already supplied in our mission to meet our guests' basic needs. We keep our houses amply stocked for them.

YOUR fresh ideas are welcome and appreciated!

Thank you for your loving support of our mission!



SAVE THE DATE! MHI's annual FUNdraiser will be held at St. Arnold's Brewery on Thursday evening, April 20, 2023. **Here Comes the Sun**, will be a festive celebration with live music, food, drinks, and silent auction. **Want to help?** We are seeking sponsors, underwriters, connections, and exciting auction item donations: art, luxury goods, one-of-a-kinds, travel & entertainment tickets and unique experiences. Please contact us at:

HereComesTheSun@mhihouston.org