

THE UPTOWN UPDATE

July 2012
Volume 1, Issue 1

Your direct link to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center

What's New?

Welcome to the first issue of the Uptown Update!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide supporters of Uptown with the latest on what's been happening at the Center and introduce you to the people who make up the Uptown community.

It has been an exciting summer so far. At the end of April we had our annual Walkathon and brunch, and were able to raise \$7000 to help Uptown continue its commitment to helping the homeless and those in need.

Thanks to an extremely generous donation, it has also been possible to fund a part-time position for an

Operations Coordinator to oversee the running of the Center. Former volunteer Fiona Mitchell was recently appointed to this position, and is working hard to get more volunteers onboard, improve client services and expand operations.

We need your help!

If you can spare just 3 hours a week to volunteer at the Center, please contact the Operations Coordinator:
fiona@uptownfaith.org

We are also in constant need of hygiene supplies to give to our clients – travel size bottles of shampoo, lotion, deodorant, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors etc. Any donations of these items would be gratefully welcomed!



*Uptown Faith
Community
Service Center
Volunteer:*

*Anna Von
Richter.*

Volunteer Profile....

Anna has been a volunteer at the Uptown FCSC since July 2010. A member of UCC La Mesa, Anna dedicated her professional life to helping others as a registered nurse, and is continuing this sense of service by her unwavering commitment to Uptown. As our phone specialist, she has provided invaluable assistance to people who call the center looking for help. Anna says, *"Being able to listen to people and sometimes just provide a kind word can make all the difference in someone's life."* Anna volunteers at the Center two mornings a week and is loved by clients and volunteers alike for her warmth, energy, and great sense of humor.

Client Corner....

In each newsletter we will introduce you to a client from the Center who has kindly allowed us to share their story with you.

Our clients are the reason that Uptown exists and we are honored to be able to play a part in making a positive impact in people's lives.

Robert has been a regular client at Uptown for the last few

years. Although he struggled with an alcohol addiction for a lot of his life, Robert is proud to be celebrating 6 years of sobriety in November this year. He says that the Center has provided him with a place where everyone can be themselves and no-one is turned away. *"It is not just the food, clothing and services that make a difference, but the volunteers themselves. They are caring and*

compassionate, and it's a comfortable environment where everyone is welcome."

Robert says that Uptown has played an important part in his ability to stay sober, and he often stops by just for a chat and to see a friendly face.

Look out for the next newsletter which will introduce you to another Uptown client!

May 2012 Stats:

Total clients served	2072
Food bags given	667
Hygiene packs	361
Computer visits	380
DMV vouchers	58
Clothing room visits	520
Visits for mail	1166



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We're on the Web!

www.uptownfaith.org

Uptown is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to helping the homeless and those in need within the City of San Diego. We are supported by a group of Member Churches, who generously assist the organization both financially and by providing volunteers to staff the Center. If you would like to learn more about how you can help support Uptown in its vital mission, please visit our website:

www.uptownfaith.org

Upcoming Events:

Medieval Nights Fundraiser

Friday July 27th - 6pm - St Paul's Cathedral

Please join us for our biggest fundraising event of the year – a banquet and silent auction to help raise money for Uptown. Tickets are now on sale and details of how to purchase them can be found on our website. You can also find details about how to donate items to the auction.

A Word from the Coordinator...

It has been my privilege to be involved with Uptown for the last 2 years, first as a volunteer and now as the Operations Coordinator.

We are touching people's lives every day, sometimes in the simplest yet most meaningful ways. Giving people the respect they deserve and treating them as valuable members of our community is something which is priceless, and is arguably the most important service we provide.

On another note, due to an unexpected 32% increase in our rent at the Uptown Thrift Store, only six days after we completed renovations there, the Board of Directors has made a business decision to

close the Store, located at 3505 5th Avenue, effective July 31st. Please come by and shop between 10 am and 6 pm any Tuesday - Saturday during July! We are sure you will find a great bargain and help us reduce the inventory as we consider our future options for this enterprise.

Uptown Thrift

3505 5th Avenue

San Diego, CA 92103

Tues – Sat, 10am to 6pm

CLOSING JULY 31ST

Finally, I would like to say a big **thank you** to everyone who has any kind of involvement with Uptown. So many people graciously devote their time and energy to help the organization thrive, and without all these generous souls, we would not be able to function as we do. We are deeply grateful for your support!

Fiona Mitchell – Operations Coordinator

