

THE UPTOWN UPDATE



Fall 2012
Volume 1, Issue 2



Your direct link to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center

What's New?

We have witnessed a busy summer at the Center with many new clients signing up for our services, bringing our current client base to over 2900.

The Medieval Nights Fundraiser was a great success at the end of July and raised over \$8000 for the Center. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the organizing and to all those who attended the event!

In September we began to distribute a limited number of one-day bus passes for clients with urgent local transportation needs, helping them get to medical appointments, visit the Social Security office, attend job interviews etc.

On a sad note, we

learned that former Uptown volunteer and friend Terry Scully passed away at the end of July. Terry was a dedicated volunteer for over a year at Uptown, and will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor as well as his commitment to the Center.

Our new Operations Coordinator J.D. MacDonald took over on September 1st and has been doing a great job keeping the Center running smoothly and efficiently. Read more about J.D. overleaf!



Client Corner....

"My name is **Jeff** and I was asked to share my story and my experience of Uptown with you.

"I had just been released from prison for the umpteenth time, but this time was different and I made a promise to never break any laws, no matter what. At 51 years old, with no family and no-one in my life, it was time.

So I wound up walking through the doors of Uptown. There I was greeted with a smile and a kind word about what they could do to help and it was just what I needed: not a hand-out but a hand-up.

"Within 2 months I was able to find a house owned by a generous couple who gave me a room and a safe place to lay my head. They work with me on the rent and



*Uptown Faith
Community
Service Center
Volunteer:*

Patty Bender

Volunteer Profile....

"When I retired 18 years ago from teaching, there was no doubt in my mind that I would need to find things to do that would fulfill my belief about the importance of giving back to the community. I have been active in the United Church of Christ La Mesa for 45 years so always had a source to serve. When our church became one of the sponsors of Uptown, I decided to become a volunteer. I started working within the first months after Alpha Project left. Working at the Center gives me a perspective on how our lives are entwined in ways we can never understand or estimate. Helping someone who comes into the Center to solve a problem, listening to someone's concerns, or simply being there brings home to me that we all have these things in our lives, but that some have more of them than others. I feel it is a privilege to work at Uptown, and I plan to volunteer as long as I can."

that has enabled me to work on improving my situation.

"Uptown and its volunteers have given me a home base to work from, by providing me with a mailbox, use of a computer as well as helping with clothing, food and hygiene items – the basic tools to becoming a productive member of society.

"It is so infectious that I have actually been able to help other people. It is places like this that all our communities need. Uptown has truly been a godsend for me and I know for a lot of other people. If there ever was a charity to get behind, this is the one. So I just want to say thank you to all its volunteers and God bless."

UPTOWN

Faith Community Service Center

4101-B 30th Street
San Diego, CA 92104
Phone: 619.281.8411
Fax: 619.281.8466
E-mail: ufcscenr@gmail.com
www.uptownfaith.org



Newsletter Editor: Fiona Mitchell

Please email comments to
fhmitchell@hotmail.com

Meet J.D. MacDonald...

Uptown welcomes its new Operations Coordinator...

Cheers and a hearty welcome for J.D. (Jeremy Daniel) MacDonald, who officially took over the post of Uptown Faith Community Service Center Operations Coordinator on September 1.

MacDonald, a San Fernando Valley native who's lived in San Diego since 1995, brings along extensive retail executive experience including a stretch at Nordstrom Rack.



A recent fundraising walkathon for Uptown led to his involvement with the remodeling of the Uptown Thrift Store in Hillcrest in June.

"We recently decided not to move into larger quarters," he said, "but hope to possibly expand the computer room, over-crowded clothing rooms, and increase hygiene supplies - with the eventual possibility of other food options and even an in-house social worker/case manager".

Meanwhile, MacDonald stands in awe of "our great volunteers and Board members as we continue this wonderful outreach..."

A Tribute to Edie Hunt...

Maire Hunt remembers her late mother, Edie, long-time active supporter and champion of Uptown's cause...

'My Mother, Edie Hunt, was a wonderfully opinionated and passionate woman and a friend to many people here in San Diego. She and my Father, Ben, moved to San Diego in June 1965 and raised their family of four - myself, Shawna, John and Ben. Edie loved San Diego, the weather, the people and the myriad opportunities to practice nursing, join organizations and contribute to her San Diego community. In the 1970s and 80s she volunteered as a playground monitor at Saint Vincent's School, joined the Parent Teacher Association, the Saint Vincent's Italian Catholic Federation and Altar Society and became a member of the UC San Diego Hospital Auxiliary Board.

In the early 90s Edie joined and volunteered with several more community minded and spiritually based groups in San Diego. She became an active participant and supporter of Uptown Interfaith Community, Alpha Project and the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice. She served on the Boards of Townspeople and UC San Diego Hospital's Bannister Family House. She was a member of the Downtown Lions Club and attended Mary Magdalene Apostolic Catholic Community here in San Diego. My Mom was a little bundle of energy who loved to be gainfully employed with any projects she believed would benefit people in the San Diego community.

My Mom was always a volunteer, into-action woman. She understood without actions, no changes or progress would ever occur, so she liked to be in motion and enjoy what she was doing at the same time. My Dad, my siblings and I miss her very much. Life is so different without her physical presence in the house. I feel very grateful to have been asked to write about my Mom for the Uptown Update. I am confident Edie would be honored and very pleased that a Memorial Fund has been established in her name, keeping her presence around the Uptown Community and allowing her to continue to offer a volunteering hand. Edie would accept this as the highest tribute of her efforts and time while here with us on Earth and on her behalf I want to say "Thank you!"