

THE UPTOWN UPDATE



Spring 2013
Volume 2, Issue 2



Your direct link to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center

What's New?

Warm spring greetings to all our Uptown friends and supporters! The Center has continued to be busy this spring and although the economy is starting to pick up, there are still many of our neighbors who need a helping hand to get back on track.

On March 9th we held our annual 5K walk for the homeless and were delighted to raise over \$7000 for the Center. Despite the threat of rain, a record number of walkers turned out, and the post-walk brunch at the University Christian Church was attended by over 100 people. Check out our website for more details and photos!

Our clothing supply remains well stocked thanks to Auntie Helen's Thrift Store, and generous donations from our supporting

churches mean that we are now able to purchase a constant supply of much-needed hygiene items.

Clients continue to use our computer room to stay in touch with family and friends, update their resumes and apply for jobs. Several have indeed found employment as a direct result of using Uptown's services, and the client phone continues to be a vital resource for potential employers to contact clients and set up interviews.

Finally, a couple of our long-term volunteers have said goodbye in recent months as other commitments demand their time. A huge thank you to Scott Gurney and Kino Daniels for all the help and commitment they have given to Uptown. They will be missed by both clients and volunteers alike.



*Uptown Faith
Community
Service Center
Volunteers:*

***Bob & Mary
Parkinson***

Volunteer Profile....

Meet Uptown's "Dynamic Duo", Bob and Mary Parkinson! Members of Kensington Community Church, and married for an amazing 53 years, Parky (as he likes to be known) and Mary are regular Monday afternoon volunteers at the Center. Parky came to Uptown in the spring of 2011 and has endeared himself to both clients and volunteers with his quick wit and great sense of fun. Mary came on board over a year ago, and as well as keeping a keen eye on Parky, she has become our data entry specialist and helps with the critical job of keeping our client spreadsheets up to date. Parky and Mary have an amazing amount of energy and contribute greatly to the team spirit of Uptown. Parky has even been known to arrive a few minutes late to his Uptown shifts because of scheduling conflicts with his Zumba classes! We thank them for their continued dedication to Uptown's mission.

Client Corner....

Fontaine has been a client at Uptown for the past 3.5 months, when he first came to use the computer room, mail and phone services. He had tried to look for work using the computers at a local library, but being homeless he had several bags with him and was not permitted to take them inside. When he arrived at Uptown he was able to keep his belongings with him in the computer room and start his job search.

After several months of job seeking, Fontaine has just been hired as a college counselor, and will begin employment toward the end of the month. He says that Uptown directly helped him to find a job: he was able to find clothing suitable for interviews, use the Uptown phone number to receive calls from employers, update his resume and apply for jobs online, and receive mail at the Center.

He says that the volunteers are friendly and helpful and that Uptown offers a broad range of services. Coming to the Center also helped him to stay sober, as it gave him some much-needed structure in his life. In addition to visiting the Center on a regular basis, he also attends daily AA meetings at St Luke's on 30th Street. We wish Fontaine all the best in his new job and thank him for sharing his story.

UPTOWN

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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 take a look at our website: www.uptownfaith.org

-March 2013 Stats-

Total clients served	2260
Food bags given	739
Hygiene packs given	436
DMV vouchers	52
Computer room visits	344
Visits to collect mail	1242
Clothing room visits	638

Pastor Riggs Retires...

Uptown's current Chair of the Board of Directors, **Pastor Wayne Riggs**, will be celebrating his retirement at the end of April. Pastor Riggs grew up in rural Virginia and entered the Navy as a Chaplain in 1957. During his 31 years of active duty service, he served with the Seabees, the Marines in Vietnam and was stationed on an aircraft carrier during the Middle East war in 1973. After various major staff assignments as Captain, he retired from the Navy in 1988 and was called as Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in 1990. Since then he has been actively involved in all matters concerning the North Park community. About 5 years ago he learned of Alpha Project's services to the homeless and began channeling his church's food assistance to this cause. For over 2 years he personally purchased food from the Navy commissary and delivered it himself to the Uptown Center, which was still run by Alpha at that time. When management of the Center was returned to Uptown, Pastor Riggs joined the Board of Directors, and was elected Chair in October 2011. Under his compassionate guidance and leadership, the Center has flourished and the practices that he and his Executive Committee have introduced will allow the Center to grow for many years to come. His compassion, humility and generosity are the hallmarks of his character and the reason that he is so well loved by all those who know him. We wish Pastor Riggs all the best in his retirement and know that he will be greatly missed both at Uptown and at his Church.



Save the Date...

Our Annual **Medieval Nights Fundraiser** will be a little later this year, on **Saturday October 5th**. Please save the date and come along to support us on this fun and entertaining night. The evening will include a silent auction, great food and musical entertainment.

Medieval attire optional!!

Date:

Saturday, October 5th 2013

Venue:

Great Hall

St Paul's Cathedral

2728 6th Avenue

