

# THE UPTOWN UPDATE



Your direct link to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center

Volume 2 Issue 3

September 7, 2013

## Save the date...

**Oktoberfest on October 19<sup>th</sup>**



Details on page 2

## Thanks to...

- Xerox Corporation for the printing our newsletters, the Uptown Updates.
- Board member, Ed Law of First Unitarian Universalist Church, pledged \$1500 a month for 10 months to pay our Operations Coordinator.
- Those of you who voted in July when Uptown competed in the challenge contest of Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Our story, "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out," was chosen as one of 10 finalists among more than 100 entries. Voting for the best stories about projects occurred online. Although we didn't win, we were still awarded \$1000 for being a finalist.

## From Fiona....



## Hello from Virginia!

Ken and I arrived in Portsmouth at the end of July after a great drive across the country.

I have started working with an organization that provides help to homeless and low-income people and I'm really enjoying it – but I miss you all at Uptown!

People here are very friendly, but they speak with funny accents and have a hard time understanding my British English! The weather here is hot and humid at the moment and we definitely miss those beautiful California skies.

I keep up to date with Uptown's latest news and am happy that the Center continues to provide such an invaluable service. I wish each and every one of you all the best and hope to see you again when we visit San Diego.

## Client Corner....

George had been thinking of relocating from LA to San Diego and came down to check it out. He was walking down 30<sup>th</sup> Street, saw the Uptown sign and came in to see what it was. The first volunteer he met was Patti Bender who impressed him with the friendliness and helpfulness of the Center. It was then and there that he decided it would be feasible for him to get out of the situation he was in in LA and move to San Diego with the help that Uptown could provide. After he moved, a friend came with him and also signed up for Uptown's services. George used the computer center to look for jobs and got help polishing his resume. He also used the mail and food services during the months of job search and interviews. He feels fortunate to have gotten two job offers and chose the job with a schedule that fit with attending City College starting the fall semester. He is grateful for the help he has received from Uptown during a difficult period of his life. He says it was not only the services that Uptown has given him, but also the care and concern that he has received from the volunteers. "It feels good to see a familiar face. It makes all the difference and makes you feel like a real person. Uptown shows a kinder side of the world where people are trying to help." He expressed the hope that once he is on his feet he can come back and help others. He ended the interview saying, "Thank you, uptown, for helping people like me."

# UPTOWN

Faith Community Service Center

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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](http://www.uptownfaith.org)**

## 2012-2013 Data...

During fiscal year of 2012-13, Uptown provided more client services than during the previous year. From July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013 there were 27,193 client visits, an average of 109 clients per day; 19 more clients per day than in 2011-12 when the average was 90.

In 2012-13, volunteers at the Center facilitated

- **4,092** clients using computer center and distributed
- **8,768** bags of food
- **5,254** hygiene kits
- **7,292** items of clothing
- **15,200** mail for clients

With direction from the Operations Coordinator JD McDonald, between **35 and 40 volunteers** address our clients' needs Monday through Friday in shifts of 3 and 4.

## Mac's Messages...

**Uptown's Operations  
Coordinator,  
J.D. MacDonald**



Summer is almost over,  
but the heat is on!

Client use of the center is up and it has been pretty busy. Thank you to all of the clients who are patient and respectful during the busy times as the volunteers work very hard to assist everyone in a timely manner.

The Center is a "safe place" for some of our clients and many appreciate a quiet place to retreat. The computer lab has been very busy and I am glad that we have this service for the clients. I always enjoy hearing that people are applying for jobs and going back to school. Good luck to you all!

Donations of used clothing and hygiene items will help the Center. When you donate clothing we will give you a receipt to use for tax purposes. We are especially in need of socks and underwear. Did you go on a trip and bring home those hotel shampoos and soaps? Don't forget to bring them in!

## Join us October 19<sup>th</sup> Oktoberfest Fundraiser



This year Uptown's fundraiser and silent auction will be an Oktoberfest with German food, music and a no host bar. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. on October 19 at Top of the Park, Park Manor Suites, 525 Spruce Street. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased from any of the sponsoring churches, the Uptown Faith CSC at 4101 B 30<sup>th</sup> Street in North Park, or on line at [www.uptownfaith.org](http://www.uptownfaith.org) (click on the Oktoberfest tab on the menu bar). Dress in either street clothes or German costumes. If you wish to donate an auction item, you may bring it into the CSC. All proceeds go to the Center's work helping improve the lives of our Neighbors in Need. Support Uptown by coming and joining the fun! **For more information, call Rick Koenig at 619 252 2294.**