

# THE UPTOWN UPDATE

Your direct link to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center

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## Vi Residents Collect Supplies for the Center



Residents of Vi Retirement Community fill the trunk with clothing and hygiene supplies for UFCSC.

During 2013, residents of the Vi Retirement Community of La Jolla sent over 20 car trunkloads of clothing and hygiene supplies to Uptown. Vi resident and friend of First Unitarian Universalist Church, Barbara Simon (*holding the blue Vi bag in the photo on the left*), posted notices at the residence about the good work at Uptown on behalf of the homeless and needy clients.

Residents responded generously and enthusiastically to Barbara's collection drives.

### Join us April 5<sup>th</sup>

## 5K Walk and Breakfast Benefit for Homeless

The Walk begins at 8 am at University Christian Church (3900 Cleveland, SD 92109) where the walkers will receive maps and water. The walk is a loop that takes participants to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center for a pit stop, plus refreshments and tour before returning to the church. At 10 am, breakfast will be served at University Christian Church by the congregation's youth group.

Registration for the Walk is \$25 per person or \$60 per family of 3 or more. Anyone arriving with \$100 or more in sponsorships will have the registration fee waived and receive a free T shirt. Walk sponsorship forms and additional information are available at [www.uptownfaith.org/walkathon](http://www.uptownfaith.org/walkathon) .

**All ages are welcome. Please join us for this fun-filled event.**

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

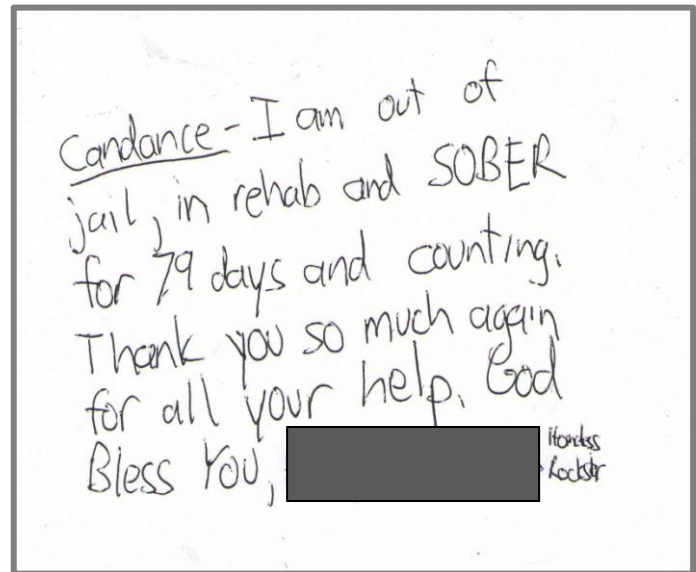
## Center updates

- Distribution of grocery bags has been increased from two to three times a week. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, food is distributed at 9 a.m. on Mondays in addition to the on-going Tuesday and Friday distributions.
- The lobby and hallway of the Center have a fresh new look thanks to volunteers Candice Claar and Clyde Simpson donated the paint and did all the painting. A renovation of the computer center with new counter tops and upgraded computers is scheduled for March.
- Ken Reid, a long-term faithful volunteer, team leader on Mondays and Board member moved to Hawaii due to work. He will be missed by the many clients whose lives he has touched. Fellow volunteers and Board members send Ken our good wishes and thanks for his gifts of service.

## From Client to Volunteer

Brian (not his real name) was a long-time client of UFCSC, dating back to the early 2000's when the Center was still run by the Alpha Project. During that difficult period in his life, he was sentenced to several prison terms. Change came later when he realized that the medical care available in prison would not be sufficient to keep him alive. Throughout this period, Brian used the services of Uptown including mail, food, hygiene, and clothing distributions and referrals for finding the additional help he needed to get well and change his circumstances. When in a stable situation and with his health returning, he wanted to give back to the community that had helped him. He now is a volunteer at UFCSC serving two shifts every week. His experience puts him in a unique position as he helps clients who are struggling in the same way he struggled.

## Thank You from a Client



The note above was given to Volunteer Candice Claar by a client of Uptown Faith Community Service Center. His name was covered to protect his privacy.