

# THE UPTOWN UPDATE



Your direct link to the Uptown Faith Community Service Center

Volume 2 Issue 7

April 2014

## Meet the Chairperson of UFCSC Board, Ron Sperry



**Ron Sperry (on the left), Chairperson of UFCSC Board with Rick Koenig, Board Member and Organizer of the 5K Walk for the Homeless on April 5<sup>th</sup> (on the right)**

Ron Sperry, our Board Chairperson, has three children and eight grandchildren; one of his children died last year. He has been a member of Metropolitan Community Church since 1997. It was Jude Litzenberger who nudged him to serve on Uptown's Board as a representative of their home congregation. Before saying "yes," he mulled it over for two weeks. During that time, he had many discussions with his partner of 15 years, read the Bible and was nudged by God to remember that he was to help those in need.

That was two and one half years ago. Ron was Vice Chair and now he is Chairperson of the Board.

Among the talents and experiences he brings to UFCSC's Board are organizing events and raising money for causes such as AIDS and breast cancer. He was Chairperson of North Park Main Street and Southern Nevada Young America Bowling Association. For 30 years, Ron has been self-employed; for the last seven years, he and his partner, Jim Burford, now own and operate RC Awards located at 3118 University Avenue. Their business has donated products, name badges, signs and money to Uptown Center.

Ron said, "I believe in Uptown and feel very protective of the Center and its clients. I want to do all we can to help make their lives just a little bit better."

# UPTOWN

## Faith Community Service Center

4101 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92104

Phone: 619.281.8411

Fax: 619.281.8466

E-mail: [ufcscenter@gmail.com](mailto:ufcscenter@gmail.com)

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

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Bradley

Please email suggested topics and  
comments to  
[beverlybradley36@gmail.com](mailto:beverlybradley36@gmail.com)

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)

## 5K Walk for the Homeless

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 79 people participated in a 5K Walk organized by Rick Koenig. The walk began at University Christian Church, made a loop that included a tour of Uptown Faith Community Service Center, and returned to the church where the congregation's youth group served breakfast to 108 participants. The activity raised \$7,500 for UFCSC.



Photography by William West

## Center News

### A NEW WAY TO DONATE WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

Sign into [smile.Amazon.com](http://smile.Amazon.com) the next time you shop Amazon, select Uptown from the list of charities and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price.

### SIDEWALK SALE

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, donated office equipment and items from the thrift store that is now closed were sold. The sale resulted in over \$900 for the Center.

### COMING SOON

In May, the Center will begin using an electronic registration form designed by Roger Frey.

## Four Minute Bonding at the Center

Volunteers serve three-hour shifts in the reception area at the Center. The shifts, both morning and afternoon, are often stressful with unpredictable conversations along with jokes, laughter and occasional music (such as a recent spontaneous ukulele concert).

Early in April, UFCSC volunteer Cynthia (*pseudonym*) greeted a client "Hi, how can we help?" The well-spoken, poised client said he came to pick up a blanket. He added that back in \_\_\_\_\_ (his hometown) in a "snow-zone" state he'd expect to need the blanket, but not in San Diego. "That's where I grew up, too!" the volunteer said and they reminisced about on their mutual city's notable landmarks, schools and zoo. "Thanks, I won't forget this help...I'm in recovery," said the client. "And I am too," the volunteer replied and a warm handshake followed.

Cynthia has since suspected their paths had also crossed "back there"...but not with the inspiration that came about on a beautiful spring afternoon on 30th Street in North Park.