



Greetings from Angela House!

August 2015

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A message from Maureen

“Look to the past with gratitude. Live the present with passion. Embrace the future with hope”

When I read this quote from Pope Francis, I was struck by the appropriateness of his words to our life here at Angela House. These past fourteen years would not have been possible without the care, concern and support of you, our generous benefactors and community partners. Gratitude most closely describes the attitude that both staff and residents strive to embody.

Living the present with passion can be a challenge. Whether struggling to recover from addictive and at times dangerous behaviors or struggling to maintain an aged building in order to provide a safe and nurturing environment. Passion really is the very thing that keeps us going...we are passionate about our residents and they are passionate about their journey of transition back into society.

Hope however, is the driving force here at Angela House. Every woman who comes through the door is hoping for a better future, a future that will allow her to move on from past mistakes and be the person who God created out of love.

As we look toward completing our second year in this new space, we are filled with gratitude, passion and hope and we are ready for the challenges ahead because we trust that we are not in this alone. Thank you for sharing this journey with us.



Lightning struck and killed a lovely tree on Mount Carmel Parish grounds this July. Since the tree was just behind Angela House, the lightning broke out several of our windows, fried part of our HVAC compressor, broke light fixtures and caused some other damage. We were without full power for quite some time, causing chaos with our phones, computer systems and electronic appliances.



We attended the Great Day Houston! Program as audience members in June. Host Debra Duncan was just as lively off air as on! From left, Stephanie Kutra from Phoenix House and St. Pius X summer intern Sara Colion joined us for the outing.

From a Resident

By Patricia



My name is Patricia and I never knew I always was and always would be loved by God. Sometimes I felt he did not know I was even alive. Today I know he has always had a hand on me or I would not have made it out alive. He brought me to Angela House,

a place where you feel real unconditional love. Sister found it in her heart to allow me to come in here to learn about me and why I chose to do the things I have chosen all my life. With the groups we have here, even down to the smallest things we do, you feel loved. You know you can make this thing called sobriety work. I don't need drugs or men to fill this hole anymore. Here I'm finding life, love and honesty.

The people who work here, Sister, Tammie, Maria, Teresa and Allison plus all the volunteers – you know they were hand-picked by God to help lead us. They stop whatever they are doing to listen, help and allow YOU to find the solution. They guide and care so much. You understand you are worth it. You know only God can do what is being done here. And once you feel God's love you know you can love yourself and you are worthwhile in this life.

To the rescue!

Our clothing room had gotten a bit out of hand – we had many donations come in at once, and not enough



time to organize it. Enter Louise Jones, Betty Witte, Jerry Earthman and Peggy Shallock. It took most of a day, but they whipped that clothing room into beautiful shape, brought lunch, and kept us all entertained to boot! Thank you so much for your hard work and for giving your time to us at Angela House.



Thank you, Miss Rose!

The ladies of Angela House were treated to an amazing lunch at Carrabba's Restaurant on Voss this summer. The ever generous and gracious Rose Carrabba welcomed the ladies to an afternoon they will never forget, and the ladies are still talking about how delicious the food was, and how kind everyone was to them. It was a wonderful opportunity for the ladies to put on their best clothes and best manners and try out that new life they have been working so hard to achieve.



We love our summer interns

and appreciate all the time and talent they bring to Angela House. This summer we hosted 5 wonderful high school and college student interns to Angela House. Shown left is Jenna Shely, who put in her mandatory 100 hours as part of her commitment to community service as a rising senior at St. Pius X

High School, and then came back to give more of her time! She made a big impression on the staff and residents with her kindness and openness to helping others. Thank you to Jenna, Sara, Hayley, Alina and Mackenzie for a wonderful summer.

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POWER UP with Stream Energy!

Save on your electricity while helping your favorite charity, Angela House!

At no extra cost to you, a percentage of your payment to Stream Energy will come directly to Angela House. There is a link on our website (www.angelahouse.org) with more details on the program and how to sign up.



The mission of
Angela House:

“To successfully transition women into society after incarceration.”

www.angelahouse.org

Thank you to Michael Kramer and the wonderful people at *Evolution Realty* and *Evolution Printing* for their generosity in making this newsletter possible.

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Gift Cards

- Kroger, Fiesta
- Walgreens or CVS
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- Family Dollar Gift Cards
- Movie Gift Cards

Miscellaneous

- Forever Postage **STAMPS** (Urgent Need!)
- Zipper storage bags (snack & gallon size)
- Twin Sheets (Urgent Need!)
- Heavy Duty Shower Curtains
- 15-40 Gallon Trash Bags (Urgent need for 15 gal.)
- Bath Towels (urgent need!)
- Cases of 8.5 x 11 multi-use paper
- Reading Glasses

You can also check our website, www.angelahouse.org, for links to some of the items we need.

THANK YOU!

incredible, transforming blessing we have received at Angela House. Where we are not only surrounded by compassionate, strong and driven staff members that truly care about our recovery, regarding all aspects of our lives, but are stern enough in their affairs to strengthen our morale. The road to recovery is one that many have stumbled across repeatedly, to no avail. The thought of never using drugs again, become consternate. Crippling us with fear and anxiety. Realizing that that too had become a trigger to our relapse. Sobriety is more than an action, it is a state of mind. A state in which too many of us were unable to produce. Here at Angela's house we have learned that coming to this state of mind cannot be done alone. We must ask for help. To me, that thought was preposterous. My feelings toward it hostile and combative. How could someone else be able to help me overcome this disease, when it is mine to deal with, I thought. As I take the guidance of all the volunteers and staff members here I have learned that pride was my worst enemy, and that it was apparent that what I knew of being sober and clean was improper and inaccurate. The first few weeks here was antsy. All I kept hearing was "wait. It wasn't time." I felt like I was sitting idle in a world so driven by this rat race of life. I had to move, I had to make things happen. But Mrs. Tammie was right, as she most often is. I wasn't ready. I wasn't ready to tackle this life on life's terms. I was still immature in the aspect of sobriety. As I sat there patiently, taking full advantage of every class and every opportunity I had to grow. I started noticing something. This flower that was for too long hidden in the shadows, was beginning to blossom by the light and guidance that was enveloped in every inch of Angela House.

Accounting is Fun

Well, it is now that Stephanie Avioli has joined us as a volunteer at Angela House. Stephanie comes to us once or twice a month to make everything run like clockwork. Stephanie has also joined the Board of Directors as an Ad Hoc member of the Finance

Committee. We are so grateful that Stephanie is willing to share her valuable time and talents with us.



Terri is Ready to Roll



Resident Terri shows off her certificates from SER: Jobs for Progress. She earned a certificate to operate a warehouse forklift, and also shows off her Flagging and Core Curriculum certificates. Terri is also an accomplished cook, but has had trouble finding work in that area because of her background. We are helping her explore other areas of employment.

Student National Pharmaceutical Chapter of the Year



Pharmacy students have been integral to the Healthy and Whole health education program. They have organized a hugely successful health fair, initiated a smoking cessation class, and volunteered over a hundred hours teaching and developing classes. Largely because of their work with HHH and Angela House, their chapter won Student National Pharmaceutical Chapter of the Year - we are so proud of the students!

