



THRIFT STORE TIMES

1385 W Indiana Ave (840 S)
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
801-359-8837

4th Quarter 2008

xrdthrif@xmission.com

Make Our Mission Your Mission!

Fall Picnic

What a beautiful evening! The weather was spectacular and the food was awesome! Just look at all the smiles, as fun was had by all!



KC's Corner

How much we care depends somewhat on our estimate of the need for our caring.

Servant Leadership,
Robert K. Greenleaf,
(c) 1977, Paulist Press

The Holidays are quickly bearing down on us. Every year in November the staff all receives "the speech" from Glenn Bailey, Director of Crossroads Urban Center. The speech goes something along these lines: "When the phones are ringing off the wall, when there are 15 different things vying for your attention at once, when everyone wants something NOW, remember to smile and be as nice as you possibly can. The holidays are a very stressful time of year." After being at Crossroads for close to 18 years I can give this speech in my dreams. There is usually a lot of laughter when Glenn starts the speech and someone else finishes it for him. We always preview the speech for the newest staff members. I am sure that Glenn knows with the staff he has the speech is unnecessary but it does help to be reminded once in awhile.

"My life is my message."

Mahatma Gandhi

This year the TS staff got a sneak preview of the "new and improved speech". This new speech is probably one of the most profound things that I have ever heard Glenn ask of us as staff. It was nothing more than a simple question but the question is a very thought provoking one. Glenn started of talking about the economy being what it is and how all the direct service numbers are going through the roof. Everyone is stressed and wondering what else to do. Many times our clients seem to take out their frustration on us. They are wondering how to provide their kids with a happy holiday or even just basic necessity items. When our resources are stretched to the limits and we don't have what they need or want, their frustration shows and we catch the brunt of it. Sometimes when everything is breaking loose around us, it is hard to remember that EACH person that walks through our doors has a very unique story as to how they came to be there. Sometimes we forget that the story is as important to hear as the service we provide. Service without hearing the story is empty service. The question is "WHAT CAN YOU DO BETTER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?".

For me I pride myself on being very fair. I always make sure that everyone that walks through our doors are subject to the same rules as everyone else. No one gets preferential treatment. For me that is how I want to be known. It is important to me that I do not single anyone person out to be better or more special than another. Most of the time I honestly do not want to hear anyone's story...there is a reason with the shear numbers of people I see on a daily basis I am honestly afraid that the amount of pain in peoples lives that I encounter on a daily basis would break my mind and my heart into irresolvable pieces.

As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.

-- Donald E. Westlake

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

-- Calvin Coolidge

Anyone who has ever worked in direct services at Crossroads smokes! I can't speak for anyone else but for me smoking keeps me grounded and helps me from losing my mind. As I am writing this the time is 12:30 and we have already done 30 plus families and I have been yelled at in 3 different languages for not having the stuff they want or need. I stand outside smoking thinking "What else can I do better?". We don't have enough stuff to go around, there is not enough me to meet the demands that are being placed on me. My mind is racing and honestly tears well up in my eyes that no matter how hard I try, my best is not nearly good enough nor is my best appreciated.

Most of you do not know very much of my personal story...it is quite a vivid one but I choose to keep my personal life as separate from work as I can. There has been times in the last 18 years where the 2 blended far more than I wanted it to but Crossroads always remained a very stable presence in my life. My work with Crossroads gave me stability when every other area of my life was unstable. In the past 5 years of so my life has gradually calmed down and came together. I have pondered: "Is it time to move on? Why do I choose to keep getting up and coming to a job that is like beating your head up against the wall? Why do I keep choosing to place myself in a situation where my best is NEVER going to be good enough?" Well the answer is simple...I do it because I believe in taking what has been given to me and passing it on to others. I can never repay the gifts of kindness and support that I received over the course of my life. There is truly no reason for me to be alive let alone thriving except for the fact that someone else believed in me and my ability. They saw my value and worth when I couldn't see it in myself! So what can I do better??? I can see the value and worth of each person reading this, to each person that walks through our doors needing help, or donating time, services, or goods. I can see clearly that it takes EVERYONE of us if we are to survive this present economy stuff. It takes each one of us giving our best every day and it takes hearing the story. Sometimes when we are all out of stuff the only thing that we can give is to listen to the story.

So now I ask you "WHAT CAN YOU DO BETTER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?" It may change from day to day, it may mean more one day and less another...but if we each try to do it better everyday it can't help but make a difference. It can't help but to improve this world that so badly needs it!

NEW CONCRETE SLAB FOR DONATION BIN

Crossroads Urban Center

1385 Indiana Ave
Salt Lake City, UT
84104

Phone:
801-359-8837

Fax:
801-359-8554

E-Mail:
xrdthrif@xmission.com

Crossroads is continually blessed to have such wonderful volunteers. Ryan Wiskirchen rounded up all the supplies and labor needed to create this wonderful pad. A special thanks to Ryan and Megan Wiskirchen, Robert E. Wiskirchen, Gerald and Gail Poulsen, Robert P. Poulsen, and Corey Lukes!! There had to be some achy backs!!



***Make Our Mission
Your Mission!***

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.crossroads-u-c.org

We Really Need The Following: PLEASE HELP!!!!!!

Volunteers or Groups To Help Sort

Winter Clothing

Pots and Pans

Bedding/ Sleeping Bags

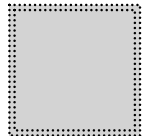
Silverware and Dishes

New Socks and Underwear

Small Working electronics

Towels

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CITY, STATE 00000