

From the Director



Fr. Eric Schimmel, C.S.C.

Most people know the expression, "time is relative." Sometimes hours drag on and the 24 hours of a day feel like they last longer than a week. Then there are days, weeks, or even months that pass by so quickly we wonder where the time went.

I thought of this as I looked at my calendar and wondered how we seemed to have moved from the Fourth of July to Halloween so quickly. A lot has happened in these months, most notably the arrival of our new Core Staff: Giancarlo, Kelly, and Rachel, who join returning Core members: Annie, Br. Richard and me. Yet again, God has blessed us with an incredibly talented and inspiring group of people on Core. We have had new people enter and successfully exit our transitional houses on Polk. Some people have joined us as regular volunteers, and we have continued to serve an average of 620 meals a night, 150 people a week in the clothing closet, 30

people a day in the showers, not to mention the other service areas.

At the beginning of this month, as the temperatures at night started to drop, we again began to distribute blankets to our guests. If the trends continue here as in our other service areas, we expect to give out over 300 blankets a month. To meet this demand, **we need blankets.**

Yet even as I look around and see the many needs André House has, as well as the needs of our guests, I do not fear nor panic. I know that we are blessed by generous people who support André House in so many ways. Literally thousands come through our doors to volunteer on the soupline. Others organize donation drives. Others contribute financially, either by sending a check or using the PayPal link on our website. Every little bit makes a difference. Many more support us through the incredible power of prayer. For all of your support, on behalf of all of us here at André House, THANK YOU! You are all invited to join us for our **Volunteer Appreciation Mass and potluck on Sunday, Nov 11th at 10:00am.** (More detail about this on page 6.)

Reflecting on timing and needs also led me to reflect on the upcoming election. Specifically, I was astounded by some of the articles I read online. By the end of September, both major political parties combined spent over \$1.1 billion dollars on the Presidential campaign. That is billion with a "b." I have a hard time thinking about that many zeros before the decimal point. \$1,100,000,000.00. That is over \$1,100 million. I have read that by the end of September, over \$600 million was spent in advertising alone. That is before the big push of October and early November. A fraction of that could keep André House running for quite some time.

With so many concerned about issues like the national debt, solvency of Social Security, Medicaid, let alone underfunded programs to help people escape poverty, or reintegration efforts for vets returning from active duty, I have pondered the moral ramifications of spending so much on one campaign – not to mention the vast sums of money spent on all of the other races for Congress, etc. It is conceivable that we are spending more on our elections this year than some countries' GDP.

I know it will not happen, but I have wondered what could be possible if all candidates running for office would, for every dollar spent on campaign advertising, contribute \$1.00 to one of these issues. What kind of statement would it make about public office as service if this happened? I do not expect this to happen, but...

Meanwhile, we at André House will work with you to help all who come through our Open Door. Again, thank you for the multiple ways that you support us, and I invite you to enjoy the articles by our Core Staff in this newsletter.

God bless,
Fr. Eric

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Beautiful Nature

- by Annie McAlevey

It has been a lifelong dream of mine to visit The Grand Canyon. It was the number one item on my bucket list. It was actually one of the reasons I chose André House. After working in Arizona for almost a year, I made it to the Canyon on July 16, 2012. I was not disappointed; I was overwhelmed by its wonder. As I stood at the edge of the Canyon, leaning over the railing, I wept as I reflected on the journey that led me to that moment. God has blessed me with so many wonderful things: a loving family, an amazing group of friends, and a beautiful ministry at André House. But most importantly, He has granted me a faith that I must put into action every day in order to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy with our guests at André House.

On a Saturday afternoon in the office, a guest named Isaiah was resting and chatting with two fellow guests and me. At five minutes until closing time Isaiah stood up to shake my hand, but he didn't let go. "I'd like to say a prayer," he said. He motioned to the other men, and they quickly removed their hats and bowed their heads. We all joined hands, and Isaiah began his prayer. It was a simple, quiet prayer of thanksgiving. When he was finished, we all said, "Amen." The men gathered their belongings, and I locked the office and turned off the light. As I closed the door behind me, I thought, "Wow, how lucky am I? I am surrounded by so much love and prayer by complete strangers who quickly become great friends."



Thank you Lord for leading me to Arizona where I can, in the same day, experience the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon and the beautiful nature of my friends on the sidewalk.



Laundry & Human Dignity - by Giancarlo DiLorenzo

When I step into the laundry room on Saturday afternoons and get ready for the five guests who will get their laundry done that day, I pause for a moment and think, "I am about to handle (more likely than not) all of someone's worldly possessions." It is difficult for me to wrap my head around that when I have a room to call my own some 3,000 miles away with drawers and a closet filled with clothing, and shelves upon shelves of



stuff. Here in Phoenix, I have a dresser that also has a fair number of shirts and other clothing. When I wash my clothes, I have no limit to the number of loads I can do, and I don't have to worry about someone snatching my stuff out from under my head while I sleep.

The not-so-glamorous truth about life on the streets is that people get dirty rather easily. Not only are the life expectancies of clothes here less, but the condition people wear clothes in on the street would make my grandmother cry foul.

Once the guests come to see me to get their laundry done, I write their names down and the number on the bags I give them. The bags are numbered so that each guest gets two bags they can stuff clothing into. We will wash whatever clothing you can fit in those bags. For safety reasons, we wear gloves to do the laundry, but it isn't too complicated. We pat down the various pocketed clothing that comes in to make sure nothing goes into the wash that shouldn't. Next, the two bags of clothing go into one of our four washers. We add detergent and sometimes a little bit of bleach so that the clothes could be properly cleaned.

The washers usually take about 35-40 minutes and then the clothes are off to one of four dryers. Once the dryers are all done, we fold all of the person's clothing and place them in

a white garbage bag where we write their name, the day they came in, and the bag numbers that we originally gave them. Guests have three days to come pick clothing up. If they don't, André House reserves the right to donate the clothing back to our Clothing Closet.

During this Fall Semester, André House has a number of ASU students who are participating in Service-Learning classes that require them to work for 50+ hours at different sites in and around the Valley. On Saturdays,

I have had the pleasure of working with one of those students. Joel is a Senior studying History/Secondary Education. He will graduate this Fall and is getting credit for coming to André House. The credit goes toward an education class he attends once a week that talks about different societal issues. Homelessness is one such issue being explored in Joel's class.

When it comes to working with the homeless, there is no easy way to go about asking questions about the how's and why's of their story. There is no magic formula to help them realize that they still have all of this potential. There is no easy way to help them avoid the temptations of the street. Unfortunately, the temptations of the street (drugs, alcohol, and the like) can literally suck you in and keep you in a cycle of perpetual hopelessness and helplessness. The street evokes a more primal set of instincts; survival is the endgame. At times, it feels like our guests come off as less than human in the eyes of others. To us, they are guests.

By doing the laundry, it is my hope that clean clothes will stimulate a feeling of better times. *We know not where all of our guests come from, and we know not where they will all go, but we know that while they are in our care, we will afford them every bit of human dignity they deserve.*

The Gospel According to the St. Mary's Food Bank

-by Kelly Allen



St. Mary's Food Bank is where André House gets most of the food we serve on the Soupline. Much of the food St. Mary's receives is from local grocery stores. The stores will purchase "too much" food to make their shelves look full and to offer many varieties of products to their customers. What cannot be sold is sometimes donated to the food bank. Often the food is not sorted; apples, carrots, oranges, and lettuce will all be in one box. This presents a challenge when all you need are carrots.

Every Thursday, promptly at 7:30am, Br. Richard comes in a big white cargo van to pick me up and go to the St. Mary's Food Bank. One Thursday I was feeling particularly discouraged by the thought of going to the food bank and not having what I needed for that evening's Soupline. Br. Richard and I still ventured on, and to my surprise, we found more than enough food. When we got back to André House, we unloaded all of the food into the walk-in fridge. Later that afternoon we also received a very large produce donation. I had never seen the fridge so full.

In the gospel that morning (Luke 5:1-11) we read about Simon. He had been out fishing but had not caught anything. He tells this to Jesus. Jesus directs Simon to lower his net again. To Simon's surprise, when he pulled up the net, there were so many fish the boat nearly sank. There were so many fish, he called on his friends for help. Once they got back to shore, they left their boats and everything to follow Jesus.

The Lord reminds us to never doubt what He will provide for us. Whether fishing or at the food bank, the Lord will provide for us.



Thanksgiving Eve Memorial Service

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November is a month of remembrance in the Catholic Church. Because of this, on **Wednesday, November 21st**, Thanksgiving Eve, the André House community of staff, volunteers, and benefactors gather at White Tanks Cemetery in Litchfield Park to remember all of the homeless men and women who have died. This powerful memorial service is a reminder to all of us of the brevity of our life on earth and prepares us to truly give thanks on Thanksgiving Day for the many blessings in our lives.

Every Thursday, deceased homeless and indigent persons for whom no relatives can be found to assume burial responsibilities are laid to rest in the bleak White Tanks Cemetery. Present to honor them are only the members of a chain gang from a local prison, who provide the labor, and a rotating minister or priest to offer burial prayers. The André House staff presides over these services several times a year.

The service will begin at the White Tanks Cemetery no later than 8:00pm. See our website, www.andrehouse.org, for more details.

How to be a Friend

-by Rachel Smith

When I first left for André House I had one main concern, something that always worries me when I leave for a new place: will I find friends. I was leaving behind a college where I had invested four years of relationship building. People who had quickly become my family and support system were soon going to be thousands of miles away.

After being here for a short while, I began to realize that I was far too busy to even worry about making friends. My fellow Core Staffers are amazing, and the volunteers have been wonderful. To put it simply, making friends has never been this easy. This particular thought caused me to reflect on our guests and their daily struggle of finding even one person they can trust. Many times I have been that person they come to for aid, but I often lack the particular resources needed to assist them. Whenever this happens, I find myself frustrated as I realize that I am just another person unable to bring them shelter or the comfort of safety. I become another person they cannot trust.

It is easy to become bogged down in these thoughts. I am often frustrated that I cannot do enough to find our guests a job or a home or furniture or the right sized pants. Many of these men and women spend their days waiting in our parking lot for each of our services because there is not enough time in the day for them to eat, shower *and* find shelter. They often are forced to choose between basic human needs so much so that tasks like finding friends end up taking a back seat. When I asked one of my favorite guests, William, if he had any friends outside of our parking lot, he quickly replied, "Nope." William is friendly, caring, gentle and funny, yet he does not feel safe forming a bond with any person on these streets. Knowing how important the friends in my life have been, I could not believe William manages making it through each day without such a support system.



As it turns out, William does have at least one good friend, and he made me very aware of it the other day. He had been writing a note on a piece of scrap paper while I was watching the Pascente Office. Without saying a word, he handed it to me as he left. It read:

Friend,

It's good to know you; it's nice to know you care. A friend is someone who knows all about you and still cares about you. A kind word will never go unheard. Too often they go unsaid. You always have a warm smile and a kind word, and I thank you for that.

I will always be your friend.

William

This note meant more to me than any random gift I have received from the guests since being here at André House. It told me that the simplest connection I can make with a guest means more than I will ever fully comprehend. A simple smile or a genuine, "How are you doing today?" may be all a guest needs to make it through that day. My goal this year should not be to make friends but to be a friend. Thanks to William, I am more aware of the importance of a smile than I ever was before.



Volunteer Appreciation

Mass & Potluck Brunch



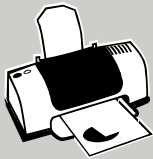
We love our volunteers and want to show our appreciation for all you do to make André House a Center of Hospitality for our guests. Please join us for Mass and a potluck brunch at our Hospitality Center.

Please bring something to share & join us!

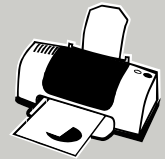
DATE: SUNDAY, NOV 11, 2012
TIME: 10:00AM - MASS, FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK BRUNCH
PLACE: HOSPITALITY CENTER
 213 S 11TH AVE

NOTE: There is an 11k race in Phoenix on this day. Consider alternate routes, avoiding Washington and Jefferson. Check race website for details: www.veteransdayrun.com/run/phoenix.

THANK YOU!



OLD INK CARTRIDGES?



Please donate your old printer ink cartridges to André House. See below for donation address & times.

For a complete list of needed items, click on the Donate link on our website: www.andrehouse.org.

THANK YOU!

DONATION ADDRESS & TIMES:

André House Hospitality Center
 213 S 11th Ave
 Phoenix AZ 85007
 (Northeast corner of 11th Ave & Jackson)

Mon - Thu 10:00am to Noon & 1:00pm - 4:00pm
 Fri CLOSED
 Sat & Sun 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Mailing List



Do you want to be removed from the mailing list? (STOP!)



Does your name or address need to be corrected?



Are you reading a friend's copy of *The Open Door* & want to be added to our mailing list?



If any of these are true, then please use the enclosed envelope and **send the mailing label on this newsletter** with either the changes that need to be made or the word "REMOVE" on it. The list will be updated before our next mailing.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Teresa Hipp:

Email: coordinator@andrehouse.org

Phone: 602-255-0580 x302.

If you leave the information in a voicemail, please leave a phone number in case there are questions. Thank you!

****André House's mailing list is not sold or given to any other organization****

Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit

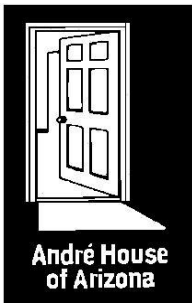
It's easy to take advantage!

This dollar-for-dollar credit from the State for charities helping the working poor no longer requires a baseline year of giving. Donors need only itemize their taxes to benefit from this credit. When you donate to André House, you can receive the tax credit by completing Form 321 when you file your tax return. Single individuals can earn up to a \$200 dollar-for-dollar tax credit (married, filing jointly, can earn up to \$400.) For complete details:

- Call the AZ Dept of Revenue:
602-255-3381
- Check out the AZ Dept of Revenue website:
www.azdor.gov/taxcredits.aspx
- Contact your accountant



The benefit of the **Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit** is the charity gets the money and the donor gets a dollar for dollar reduction of Arizona State tax. How can you lose?



André House

PO Box 2014
Phoenix, AZ 85001
Phone: 602-252-9023 or 602-255-0580
www.andrehouse.org

The Open Door



**Join us every First
Friday for Mass and
a Potluck Supper at
1203 W Polk at
6:30 pm**



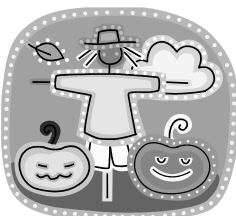
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Paid
Phoenix, AZ
Permit No. 2751



André House Needs List: Fall Focus Items....



- Ground Coffee
- Frozen Whole Turkeys
- White tube socks
- Blankets
- Jackets & Sweatshirts
- Men's Jeans (sizes 28-38)
- Men's Underwear (sizes 28-38)
- Men's Tennis Shoes (sizes 8-12)
- Sleeping Bags
- Deodorant



Thank you & God bless!