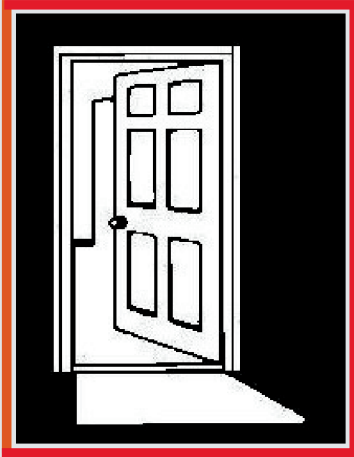


THE OPEN DOOR

FALL / WINTER

2023



ANDRE HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

MAKING GOD KNOWN, LOVED AND SERVED

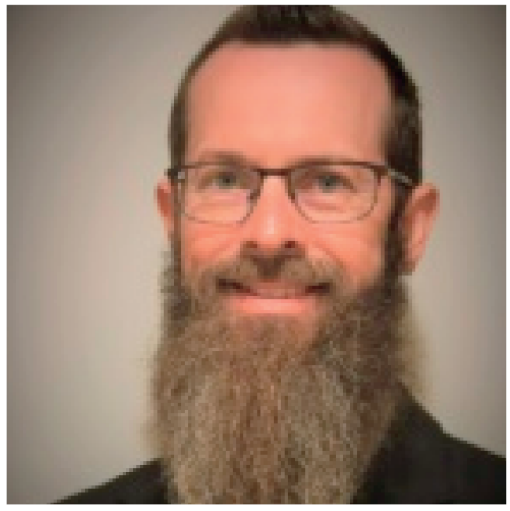


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DIRECTOR'S DOOR



If you have not visited Andre House recently, I invite you to come and see us. In the beginning of November, the City of Phoenix finished removing all the tents and encampments from the neighborhood. Some of the guests that we used to serve are now located in other areas of the city. Some guests are even in other cities now. However, some people have remained local, and are in nearby shelters. Other guests have traveled into the surrounding neighborhoods.

With the change in the area, we are seeing new faces and meeting new guests all the time. One of the biggest surprises to me, however, is the amount of guests that travel from all over the city to come down and visit us at Andre House. Some travel down for the services that Andre House offers. Others stop by just because they are in the neighborhood. However, many come down just to spend time in the community here and to see their friends. In all of these situations, our guests are always a blessing.

As Andre House wraps up the calendar year, we look in hope to birth of Jesus Christ. The entire reason we are here at Andre House is to make God known, loved, and served. All of our words and actions are oriented to that mission. We spread the good news that God Loves each and every person. And, just as the baby Jesus was born in a manger, not in a house, so Andre House looks to help all without housing to know the joy and saving Love of our God!

Holy Mary, Mother of Hope – pray for us
St. André Bessette – pray for us

Sincerely,

John Delaney
Executive Director

“The entire reason we are here at Andre House is to make God known, loved, and served. All of our words and actions are oriented to that mission.”

Ricardo's Story



Originally from California, Ricardo had worked in numerous fields, having worked in call centers, human resources departments, and performing generic clerical work. Having moved to Arizona, he achieved his Certified Nursing Assistant certification in 1996 and was well on his way to a career in nursing. He assisted at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix.

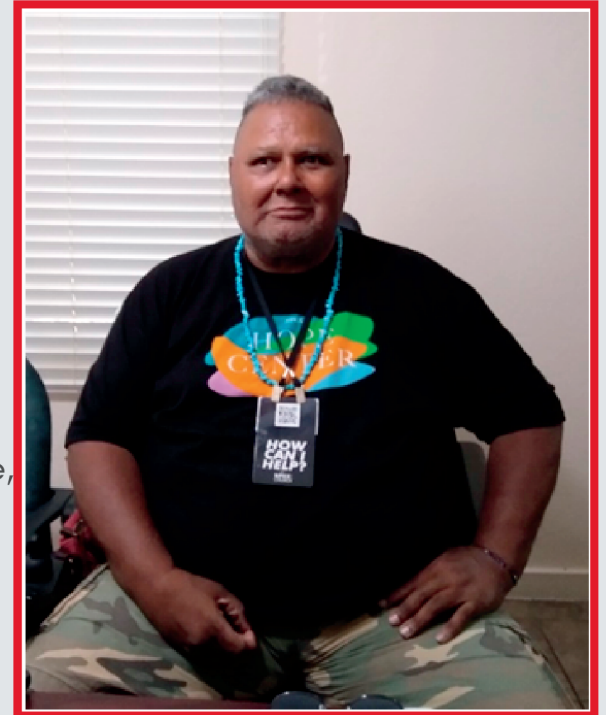
Sadly, Ricardo succumbed to addiction to drugs and alcohol, and they began to take over his life. He lost his work, his home, and his livelihood.

Ricardo reached the bottom and found himself living on the streets in downtown Phoenix, and he felt the stigma suffered by the homeless. He began to share the hardships of hundreds of others who have found their homes in "The Zone", a section of the city that has long been the only home for many. "We're called nuisances", says Ricardo, "when what we're doing is working to get our lives back." **It is then that Ricardo met Andre House.** In search of food, clothing, a shower, and the necessities of life, Ricardo met people who changed his life. He met members of the Andre House CORE Team, who welcomed him with compassion and for the first time in a long time he felt God's love through the words, "how can we help you?"

"Andre House lifted me both mentally and physically, and I began to feel that I could get up again and stand - Andre House gave me a hand-up, and not a hand-out," says Ricardo. "It is nice to hear supportive words - sometimes, hearing 'good morning' can be the brightest part of a person's day."

Ricardo resolved to quit drinking and sought out AA counselling. With the assistance of Andre House's CORE Team, and a team of community organizations, Ricardo applied for subsidized housing, and secured an apartment, where he has lived for the past 3 ½ years in sobriety.

Experiencing first-hand the plight of Phoenix's homeless, he wanted to give back, and to give counsel and support, just as he had received at Andre House. He began assisting as a volunteer at Andre House, at Hope Center and other organizations, and resolved to share that same compassion to his fellow brothers and sisters on the streets. Through Stand Together and Recover (STAR), Ricardo obtained his Certified Peer Support credential in 2021, and is now a strong and valued partner in the work of returning hope to the homeless and to helping them get their lives back.



JOINING THE CORE



We are pleased to welcome a new addition to our CORE Team: Ms. Christy Bogan. Prompted by a call to bring a share of hope to our beloved guests, Christy is already very much “at home” in this work at Andre House. Allow us to introduce...

My name is Christy Bogan, and I’m from Fall River, Massachusetts. I recently graduated from Stonehill College with my degree in English. I look forward to my time on Core team, as well as meeting everyone.

I came to Andre House for a variety of reasons, but one of the main ones is that I’m not worried about my future when I’m here. I never could picture what my life would look like after I graduated. That worry of “Where will I go?” and “What will I do?” haunted me every day in my last semester of college. Despite my mental health being at one of the lowest points of my life, January to May of this year has been a gift. I came to Phoenix with the Stonehill service immersion program, aka H.O.P.E. trips, and dedicated a week to Andre House. I’ve never experienced anything like those five days here. I met guests who were so transparent, and in a way, it frightened me. Not a fear that scared me away, but a fear that left me with too many questions and I needed answers.

When I returned home, my immediate plan was to spend my summer at Andre House, go to grad school, then spend a year on Core team. I felt hopeful about this plan, but not confident or relieved. Everything began to change, and long story short, I spent all of June working here and was convinced to join Core. The moment I said my plan aloud, I wasn’t scared of imagining a future. There is something here that keeps calling me back, and on days when I’m tired or frustrated or hurting, I can feel that pull.

As someone who loves to write and loves to paint a picture with words, me describing why Andre House means so much to me, how these last two months have been, and what this job is like, I struggle to find a metaphor that will let you understand my mind. Hopefully, during my time here, I’ll be able to properly depict that picture to you. Until next time, dear reader.

“There is something here that keeps calling me back, and on days when I’m tired or frustrated or hurting, I can feel that pull.”

REFLECTIONS



GOD'S HOPE

If the state of the world is getting you down; "how can I hope?", you say with a frown.
Keep loving and serving, don't let it disturb; God's Hope's not a noun, God's Hope is a verb.

Who hopes to make money, without even moving; who hopes for a trophy, without their proving.
Who hopes for a job, without even applying; if I told God's Hope was a noun I'd be lying.

If you keep doing His Will, by helping your neighbor; you can dare to hope in your Merciful Savior.
So don't let the world disturb or perturb; the world's hope is a noun, God's Hope is a verb.

A VOLUNTEER

A PLACE WHERE WE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN NOT: ANDRÉ HOUSE

I wish the people outside the zone were more like people at André House.
We don't need to know your story or first name to be kind.
We have a common language of compassion and dignity.
We master the art of doing what you can, when you can.
And even when the problems we face are more wicked than challenging, we remember that we can do hard things.
Which sometimes means sharing a smile.

You can find André House in what is deemed "The Zone" -
which is sort of like the Island of Misfit Toys except it exists in the same world as everyone else.
It's just forgotten or ignored or pushed away.
Probably because it's at 11th Avenue and Jackson - the equivalent of six feet apart in city planning.

What others don't know is that André House shares the same intersection that many do in life: Pain and Unpredictability.

And the problem is that life events don't know
the difference between zip codes.

But we do.

Because the people of André House have had more servings of pain and empty promises than those of bread and butter.

So when you are here, don't let guilt consume you when your empathy weighs your smile down.
Remember to look around - you'll see crooked teeth, uneven grins, and a holy smile or two.
And maybe you'll be reminded that our smiles can be broken but our spirits don't have to be.

Which reminds me of my first dinner service at André House.

A woman had stepped forward to my dessert station in line two.

I tried not to freeze.

I tried not to let my tears escape.

As I complimented her hat and selected her desired dessert of choice, she quietly said thank you and smiled -
revealing a sweet smile that had seen too much.

As she walked away, I felt my heart strings fray.

As if the weight of it our shared humanity was too much to beat through.

she had a black eye.

bruised. yellowed. scared.

she still smiled.

Even though I was aware of the general bleakness surrounding domestic violence statistics,
I still returned her smile with one of my own.

She showed me that we can all do hard things, especially for each other.

I imagine maybe the hardest thing she had done was leave her reality that night for dinner.

And she came to our house - André House - instead.

Which is why I wish the outside world was more like André House.

Where we don't need to know anything about each other to be kind.

We don't need to judge your background to lend help.

We can be authentically vulnerable and open in ways we would never imagine possible outside "The Zone."

We encourage each other to take time to heal.

And the only way we heal the world is to heal ourselves first.

And the world could use some healing.

Which, again, is why I really wish the outside world was more like André House.

Maybe then we could heal each other.

Together.

Without zones.



HEALING IS LONELY (EXCERPT)

Everyone has rented a room in oblivion
in a past life,
but this is the next life
and in this life
healing is lonely
and beautiful
and forever.

AUSTIN DAVIS

EMILY Z. COMSTOCK

Cheyenne's Story



Cheyenne, the oldest of 4 children was born and raised on the Hopi Reservation. Cheyenne was a model student and National Honors Society high school graduate, completing her education with a 3.8 GPA.

She aspired to pursue a career in law and moved to Mesa, AZ to undertake Judicial Studies at Mesa Community College. During this time, she became pregnant and returned to the reservation, beginning work as a teacher's aide at a local school.

While teaching, Cheyenne would not give up on her pursuit of a professional career, enrolling in a paraprofessional program which offered financial aid to those on the reservation who pursued a degree.

In 2014, Cheyenne was already a full year into the program at 24 years old, and despite great strides in advancing her career, unknowingly started down a path of self-destruction. She was introduced to methamphetamines and soon entered full blown drug addiction.



Despite completing her elementary education degree program in 2015, graduating with a 4.0 GPA, and commencing her teaching internship, Cheyenne chose to abandon everything – internship, career and family. She came to the valley with her husband with literally a car and the clothes on their backs with hopes of starting a new life. Within 6 months, she and her husband were homeless.

Cheyenne's parents and sister looked everywhere for her, but she *"chose not be found"* as she would relate. Her first encounter with Andre House was a sobering experience, realizing for the first time in her life that she would have to *"get on a waiting list to take a shower. How could I have let this happen?"* Cheyenne was touched by the compassion shown to her by the CORE staff at Andre House and greatly appreciated their efforts to help. There was still, however, a rough path for her ahead.

From 2015-2020, Cheyenne struggled under the tow of addiction, and though completing her certification as a teacher and teaching in Winslow, AZ for 4 years, she would find herself an active addict during classroom time. Her world came crashing down after a fentanyl drug overdose in March of 2020, which derailed her career hopes, and from which she nearly lost her life.

Cheyenne's addiction went on for another two years before she finally sought help. In March of 2022, she would enter a 90-day rehabilitation program, wherein she was offered another chance with the assistance of service-directed recovery organizations. These efforts had a remarkable impact on her, where she is now an active and regular volunteer serving the homeless and hungry of Andre House and a host of other organizations.

She is reunited with both of her sons, is celebrating 16 months of sobriety, is working as a behavioral health technician, and is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work degree.

"I am very grateful for Andre House and everything they do. They are truly there for the people who need their services; Andre House helps people get back on their feet".

LITTLE SISTER: HOPE

FR. BRIAN KENNEDY, C.S.C

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

In the biblical triad of faith, hope and love, St. Paul says that “the greatest of these is love.” Love (or charity as it’s also called) certainly takes center-stage in the Christian life, but faith and hope are essential while we still walk the earth. The French writer Charles Peguy personified hope as a “little sister” that walks in-between her “taller sisters” of faith and charity, and so we can easily overlook her. While it may appear that the older sisters are guiding her by the hand, it is in fact the little sister who is enthusiastically pulling them along the way: “Come on, let’s go!” In his poem, *The Portal of the Mystery of Hope*, Peguy writes:

Faith is a loyal Wife.

Charity is a Mother.

An ardent mother, noble-hearted...

Hope is a little girl, nothing at all.

Who came into the world on Christmas day just this past year...

Here at Andre House, I’ve met this little sister, Hope. Yes, here we celebrate faith, in prayer and sacrament. And charity is what we’re known for: *“Making God known, loved and served,”* as it says on the side of our building. We love our guests in many ways, in our works of mercy and hospitality: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked. And where do we find hope? I often meet her out among our guests, holding them by the hand. When our faith in God or in one another falters, or when our charity grows weary from our many labors of love, that’s when little hope shows up with her endless energy and contagious enthusiasm. She often speaks to us through our guests, when they offer kind words of encouragement that we don’t expect from those carrying such heavy burdens. And yet in the cross we find our hope – symbolized by the cross with anchors above our front gate.

I’ve also found that hope likes to question the way things are, in the way that children often do. *“But why?”* she constantly asks us, in the face of poverties and injustice. *“That’s not fair!”* she is often heard to say. *“Can’t there a better way?”* Hope is childlike and therefore impatient, unsatisfied – because hope knows what has been promised her and she’s eager for its fulfillment. I think it was hope whom Jesus meant when he told His disciples: *“Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* Thank God for our little friend, hope, pulling us by the hand in the right direction.



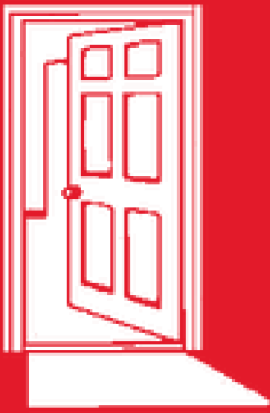
“Faith is she who remains steadfast during centuries and centuries.

Charity is she who gives herself during centuries and centuries.

But my little Hope is she who rises every morning.”

- Charles Peguy





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If you file taxes in the state of Arizona, your donations to Andre House may qualify for a tax credit under the AZ Charitable Tax Credit. This dollar-for-dollar credit allows single filers to get up to \$400 and joint/married filers up to \$800 in credit on Arizona state taxes. Consult your tax advisor for advice specific to your tax situation. When claiming the credit, make sure you fill out form 321 and reference Andre House QCO number 20467.

Do you operate a foundation or charitable trust? Please consider making Andre House a priority in your grantmaking goals in the 2023-2024 year!

To ensure the doors of Andre House remain open to serve the future homeless and hungry of Phoenix, have you considered a legacy gift? Please consult your financial planner/attorney to explore including Andre House in your estate giving plan.