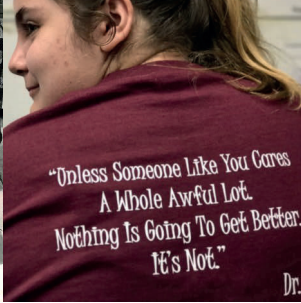


THE OPEN DOOR

FROM THE CORE COMMUNITY OF ANDRE HOUSE

FALL 2018



MAY
Kindness
RETURN TO
YOU
IN THE SAME
Beautiful
Way
THAT
IT WAS
GIVEN.



A SONG OF GOODNESS

Fr. Tom Doyle, CSC

Director of Andre House

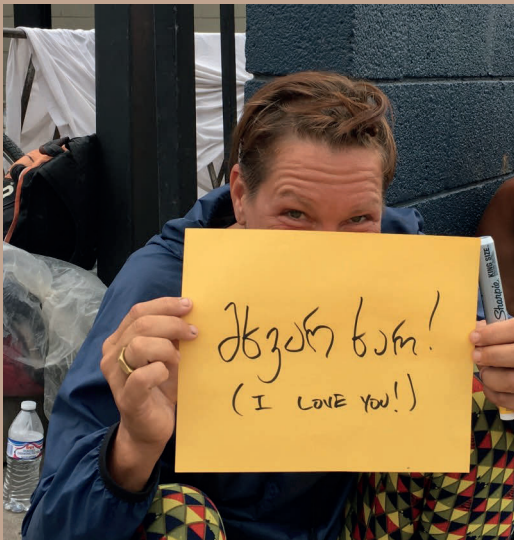
On the occasions that I go to a grocery store, I frequent the nearest supermarket. I technically live in an urban food desert, so it's a ten minute drive for me, but forty-five minutes for those whose only option is to walk. As I was checking out the other evening, the woman in front of me had \$48 of groceries. After coupons and discounts her total came to just under \$29. Her only indulgence was a single York Peppermint Pattie. She pulled all the contents of her wallet totaling \$20 and turned red faced with embarrassment. She swept up the York Pattie, returned it to the rack and fumbled with embarrassment to remove \$9 dollars of groceries.

I retrieved the York Pattie from the shelf, put it on top of her macaroni noodles, and touched her shoulder as I reached for *your* wallet and gave her a \$10 bill. The embarrassed look on her face transformed into one of surprise and then gentle gratitude. The stranger gave me a tender hug, collected her bags and departed.

The Andre House community has taught and inspired me to be a more generous person. I live and am able to share from YOUR wallet. Your generous support of Andre House makes it a thrill to allow your gift to pass through me and all of Andre House. As the wise Br. Richard, who has been managing our finances for 30 years told me in my first month, "Don't worry. God will provide." When I returned to my car, I stopped, had a little cry, and prayed in thanksgiving for all the good people who have provided for our guests at Andre House.

Whenever I encounter a guest in need, in an ironic way, I become the beggar. I am the one with need, standing before the supermarket cashier unable to pay my full bill. It is not so much your wallet that relieves me, but it is YOUR hand on my shoulder and YOUR eye contact that dignifies me and say "I see your distress Father Tom. Please let me help you."

You provide the means by which we procure beans, pasta, and hamburger for our meals, laundry detergent to wash guests' clothes, and miles of toilet paper for our bathrooms. Your gift means that we can have the kitchen and serving areas deep cleaned regularly and that are able





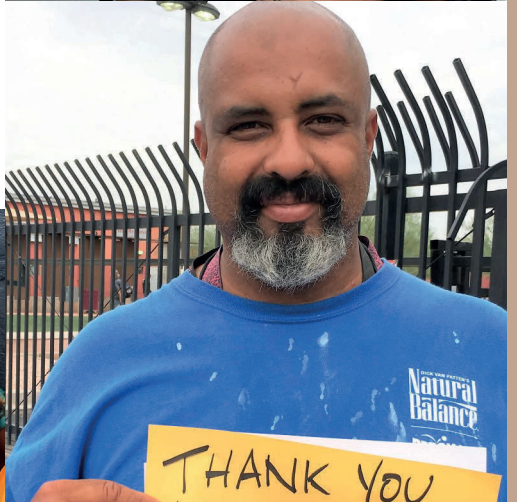
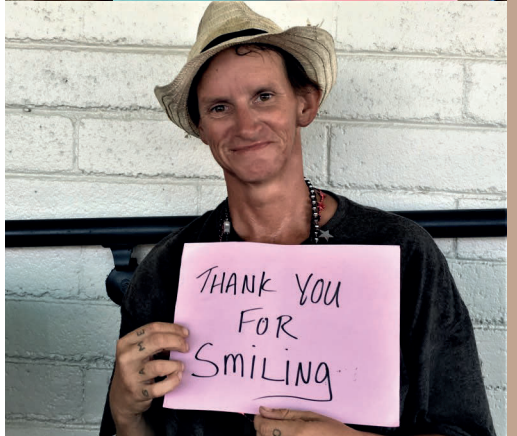
to contract with a fire suppression company that makes sure our smoke alarm system and fire extinguishers are ready if needed.

You purchase the hundreds of mops and brooms that clean not only our facility but are also lent to guests to clean outside along the periphery. You have purchased for our guests an open wi-fi system by which they can communicate, electricity and outlets to charge their phones and ankle bracelets. You purchase the gas that propels our van to St. Mary's Foodbank each morning to procure 500-1000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. You provide health insurance for our amazing 5 members of the Core team. Occasionally we have a guest who wears size 4XL, and because we don't receive clothing donations that size, he is treated to newly purchased underwear, shorts and T-Shirts. Deodorant, razors and toothpaste are bought in bulk and have dramatic impact on personal hygiene.

In the winter you turn cold water into hot coffee and in the summer you make cold Gatorade with the help of your ice machine. Last week, young parents with 4 children under the age of eight years showed up at dinner with no place to stay. Dad is hanging sheet-rock but hasn't received his first pay-check. The six of them were so grateful for two full size beds for two nights in a motel. Someone donated a bike and we gave it to a young man who can now accept a job because of it . . . thank you for the \$26 dollars he needed to get a used tire and tube for his bike. He was riding around our parking lot like a kid on his birthday.

I share the Safeway and other anecdotes to sing of your goodness! Because of you, we have the privilege of living, ministering and sharing with people who live around the threshold of economic survival. We are so grateful for your gifts that everyone of us is more conscientious of how they are used, than we are when we use our personal resources.

Andre House doesn't receive any direct funding from the government. We rely entirely on the support of family. We count on you every day for prayers, encouragement and resources. You are our family and we thank you for taking such good care of our guests.



THE TAPESTRY OF PHILANTHROPY



When I meet someone for the first time at Andre House, my favorite question to ask is "how did you find us?" Each story is so interesting and holds meaning for the teller; I love to hear about what hooked someone and what kept them connected. People don't just find Andre House, Andre House finds *them*. And keeps them. My favorite story is that of last year's Core Staff member Casey. She found a brochure of ours in a train station in the middle of the country.



Had my friend Gordon not sent me the job listing for a Development Director, I never would've known about Andre House. I was half-heartedly looking for a new job after having been through what felt like a million interviews when Gordon told me to check the Andre House website. *I don't think I can write another cover letter*, I said to myself out loud while I was typing the name into a Google search.

After sitting on the information for a couple of weeks, I decided to apply and really thought nothing of it until I was invited for an interview. And as they say, the rest was history and I had a story of my own.

And as much as I like to ask my favorite question, I get to answer what seems like everyone's favorite question to ask me: *"So what do you do here?"*



My position as Director of Stewardship and Development is new and it was important for me to participate in each of our services when I started so I could tell others about the work we do authentically. And I *worked*. From the organized chaos of meal service for 600 during the dead of summer to scrubbing showers for guests who humbly shared with me that this was their first shower in days, I got to meet guests from all walks of life and live the story of what makes us so special. Having those hands on experiences is not something that every development director gets to have but it was a critical experience for me. It cemented me to our mission and influenced the vision of fundraising for Andre House; A vision that looks a lot different than the traditional stereotype.

Fundraising conjures images of run/walks for charity, gala dinners with rowdy live auctions, telemarketers interrupting your dinner begging you to make a gift to your alma mater, and Girl Scouts convincing you to break your diet and fill your car full of Thin Mints (not that I've done that...). A lot of the front facing grind that results in big money quickly is what people think when they think of fundraising.



Melia Smith

Director of Stewardship
and Development



I've done all these things and for as many Girl Scout cookies I've purchased I should have an honorary badge.

The problem with this perception of fundraising is that a lot of it isn't influenced by the practice of philanthropy. It works, but it isn't sustainable because fundraising is one thread in the tapestry of philanthropy

So what is philanthropy? At Andre House, philanthropy is a spirit of giving that is built on meaningful engagement with the work we're doing. It is a practice of gratitude, giving, connection, honor and respect.

Money doesn't happen without philanthropy but money doesn't drive philanthropy, it's a result of it. And it is a practical importance. Without money we can't serve meals, turn the water on for guests to take showers, gas up the cargo van to pick up food from the food bank and pay our staff fair wages so that they can do this tough work in a way that no other agency does.

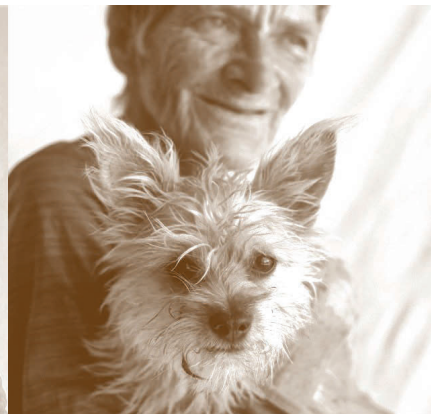
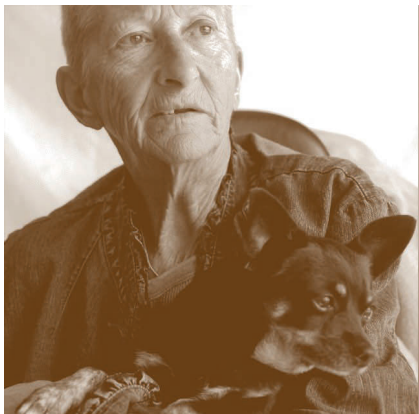
Andre House's culture naturally lends itself to the practice of philanthropy because the values that drive it - kindness, generosity, community, and respect-are values that are already built into everything we do; philanthropy is just in our DNA.

It's not just giving money and it has nothing to do with wealth, real or perceived. Philanthropy is also the precious time, resources, advocacy that people commit to our guests. And this spirit of philanthropy isn't limited to our supporters.

I see it among guests when they give of themselves when they seemingly have nothing to give. Offering to help sweep the parking lot before dinner. Sharing a spare pair of socks with a complete stranger who has none. Helping someone navigate the confusing and bureaucratic world of homeless services. I've seen it come full circle when a former guest who now works for a pre-school recommended us as the recipient of a fundraiser that the pre-school held.

So, when I get to hear that story about how someone found us, it's not just a story about them writing us a check once a month or coming to chop potatoes and get their hands a little dirty. It is a special and personal look into the *why* behind their giving and it's an honor for us to get to be a part of that story. I can't wait to hear yours!





The Climb *Lauren Schmidt Core Staff*

Here at the Andre House, we are climbing a mountain that grips the hearts of almost every living person. That mountain is loneliness. Mother Theresa once said, "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." Being lonely attacks the mind, it attacks the heart, and it attacks the soul. So many of our guests when explaining why they fell victim to drugs or alcohol say it was to escape the loneliness they were experiencing and ease the pain of feeling unloved, unwanted, and unworthy.

The feeling of being unloved, unwanted, and unworthy sheds light on just a few of the trials and tribulations along this journey up the mountain. However, at Andre House, people find they are never truly alone because we are a community striving to get to the top of that mountain together—no matter what it takes. Our hands are open, our arms are open, our hearts are open to every person that walks through the doors of the Andre House—it doesn't matter if you are a guest, volunteer, donor, board member, or staff member—we are here and waiting to receive you with open arms and open hearts.

Our hope is that everyone who walks through our doors knows they are worthy and they are loved. Because the truth is, we are all broken in our own way. No one can deny the desire of knowing what it means to be truly loved to the depths of their hearts and even more so to know they are worthy of that love. At the Andre House, we have a motto that says, "to make God known, loved, and served." I'd like to go a step further and say it's to make God within each human person known, loved, and served.

What does it mean to be known? It means to be in relationship with someone and to know the depths of their hearts. To know someone is to know God and make Him known. By getting to know our guests and volunteers, we are getting to know a unique piece of Christ that would otherwise be left unknown. What does it mean to be loved? It is the realization that you are a gift and a blessing that is worth the sacrifice of time. It is knowing that you are worth sitting with hour after hour because of how precious you are. There is no greater privilege here on earth than to love and make a sacrifice of your time to be truly present with someone. I thank God everyday that I get to experience this life-changing love with many of our guests.

Lastly, what does it mean to be served? In order to give, we must first receive. Receiving takes great humility. It takes being uncomfortable, and ridding yourself of pride. Our guests teach us this so quietly each day. Given how vulnerable their situation is, they choose to let go of pride and ask for our help. Whether it's a cup of water, a change of clothes, a shower, or a friendly smile, they teach us what it means to truly be able to receive. Even more so, they give us the great blessing of being able to serve and love God within each of them.

I want to personally thank you for the continued support you have given to the Andre House. Whether it has been through the gift of your time, money, prayers, or donations, you have given us the opportunity to continually make God known, loved, and served as we journey up this mountain of loneliness together.

Presence *Ryan Daly Core Staff*

In the four short weeks I've been present at Andre House, I've interacted with a lifetime worth of people; from materially poor squatters, to wealthy business people, to those suffering from addiction, to those suffering from loneliness, to suffering from irritable bowel syndrome, to refugees seeking asylum, to people who have taken a tumble due to no fault of their own. Everyday these people walk through the doors, each equally if not more extraordinary than the last.

The motivation of each person walking through the door is slightly different but what is consistent among all is the search—a blanket, a safe place to sleep, relief from the wife and kids, community service hours for high school, or just a cool place to chill with the homies. Regardless of the subject of inquiry, each person contributes to the human community. Each individual is a philanthropist.

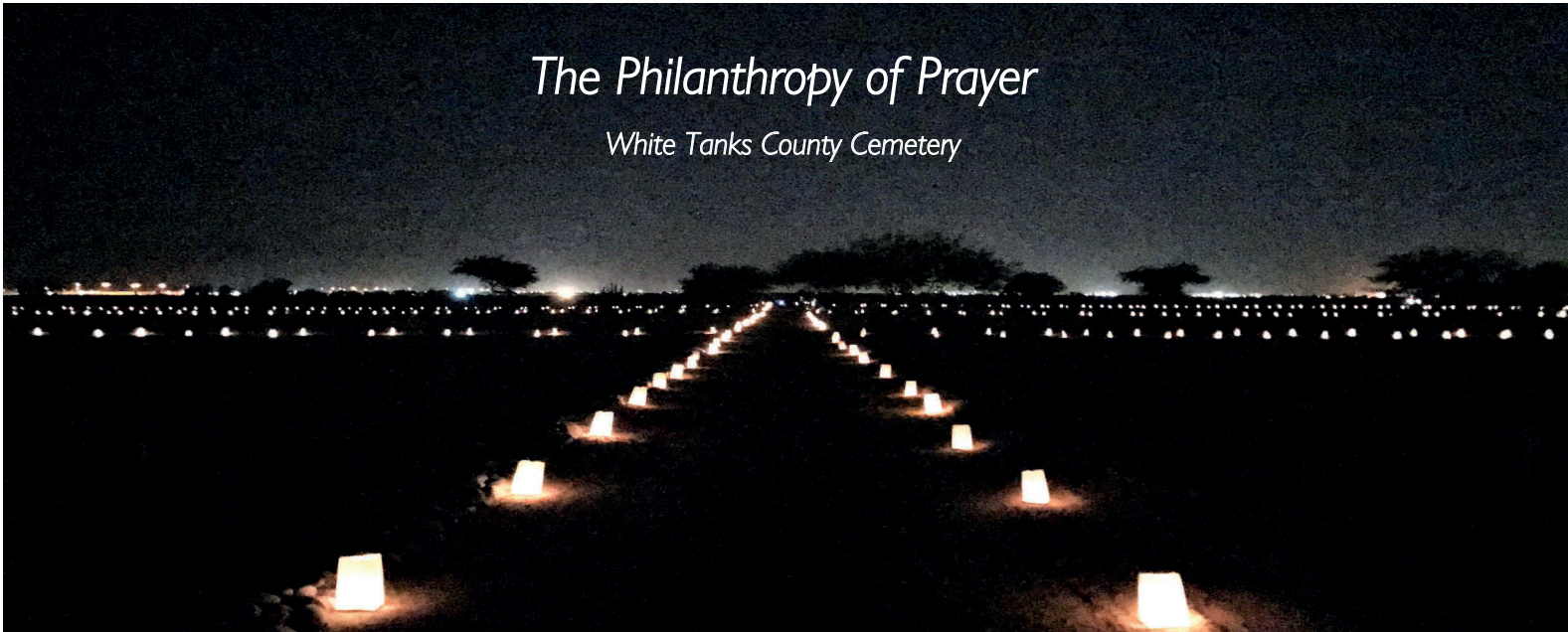
My first encounter with the concept of philanthropy was in a United States history textbook that told the story of the late Andrew Carnegie, the benefactor whose name is plastered on the side of music halls and universities up and down the East coast because of his financial contributions. At that point in time, I understood a philanthropist to be someone with a deep pocket and thirst for notoriety and immortality.

My understanding of philanthropy has since changed. A philanthropist is someone that is a friend to humanity; and friendship simply requires presence.



The Philanthropy of Prayer

White Tanks County Cemetery



“And may perpetual light shine upon them. Lord hear our prayer.” The voices of the generous hearts who have gathered, fill the brisk evening air. Luminarias line the burial pathways, shedding a comforting glow on the resting places of so many who were invisible in their final days. The prayers being shared by those who are present this Thanksgiving Eve, float across the landscape, filling the dark voids with grace. Then rising to the heavens, they carry blessings to the souls who had so little during a lifetime. These are the prayers for those who had no one to mourn their passing. The elderly woman who died quietly in a nursing home, the newborn abandoned by a mother when it’s birth was stilled, the man who slept on the corner of 11th Ave and Jackson, or the man who spent his life in jail. The bodily remains of these souls rest here, where it may seem no one cares. But those who have gathered this night will dispel that myth.

“It is an ancient tradition in Christianity during the month of November that people would go on pilgrimages to cemeteries to honor the deceased. Although only their earthly bodies remain, we believe that it is an expression of love and mercy to visit their bodily remains and pray for the care of their eternal soul,” says Fr. Tom Doyle. As those who have shared their hearts and prayers walk through the medallion marked graves, placing carnations on each, the strains of song can be heard “Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas; and to hearts broken, God is near; The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.”

The Andre House Community respectfully invites all to

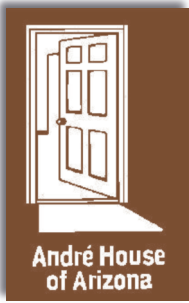
Thanksgiving Eve Memorial Service and Candlelight Vigil

For those who have died without loved ones present

Wednesday, November 21nd, 2018 7:30 p.m.

White Tanks County Cemetery 5000 N Alsup Rd. Litchfield Park, AZ (turn North just past 159th Ave and Camelback)





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\$400
 provides **320**
 individuals
 experiencing
 homelessness and
 poverty
 an evening meal

\$800
 provides **640**
 individuals
 experiencing
 homelessness and
 poverty
 an evening meal

DONATE NOW AND APPLY TO YOUR 2018 STATE TAX REFUND!

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.

For more information or to make a donation to Andre House visit www.andrehouse.org

Andre House PO Box 2014 Phoenix, Az 85001