

Good Shepherd Residents Celebrate with a Day of Beauty

As the sun rose over Good Shepherd Center on May 4, Big Sunday volunteers had already arrived. Volunteer hairstylists and makeup artists gave each one of our residents a complimentary, professional makeover. Women were then led into the Center's Historic Home, where racks of donated clothing and volunteer wardrobe stylists were lined up to pull together outfits, complete with shoes and accessories, which played up our residents' best features.



Angel Guardian Resident after her makeover

During the makeovers, the children who live at the Center were taken to Barnsdall Park for a day of games, face-painting, crafts, and other activities. By late afternoon, the children returned to the Center and reunited with their mothers. The residents' makeovers were followed by a party, with great food and music, in the Angel Guardian courtyard. William "Mayhem" Romeo of NBC's "American Gladiators" made a special appearance at the party. Unlike his TV persona, Mayhem was helpful, friendly and more than happy to talk with the children and take pictures.

Big Sunday is the largest annual city-wide community service event in America. This annual event occurs the first Sunday in May, where numerous nonprofit organizations across Los Angeles County use this day to encourage everyday people to volunteer their unique skills and talents for the benefit of community service.

Staff member Margarita Tucker gives Big Sunday volunteers a tour of Women's Village



Our special thanks goes to all the folks who donated food and drinks: Brooklyn Bagels Bakery, M Café, Chaya Brasserie, Traditions Restaurant, Treat Street, Mo's Restaurant, Arrowhead Water, Fiji Water and Ize Sparkling Juice. And, of course, we're grateful for all the Big Sunday volunteers, who helped us continue our mission in treating our community's homeless women with dignity and love.

See Los Angeles as You Never Have

The dazzling book *Jewels in Our Crown: Churches of Los Angeles* features the unique characteristics of dozens of churches throughout Los Angeles County. Carolyn Ludwig, board member and publisher of the book, writes, "Inspiration for this book came to me through life's journeys...but most of all because of tugs on my heart by The Holy Spirit." Ms. Ludwig's niece, Brianne Sanada, photographed each church in exquisite detail. Accompanied by brief narratives, writer Sydney Swire describes the history of each place of worship in this eye-catching volume that has enlightened readers of all ages.

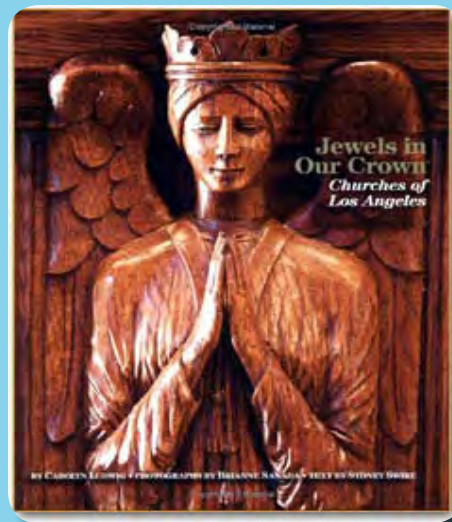
We have limited copies of this book to share with our donors for only \$35 for soft cover, \$55 for hard cover, plus tax and shipping. Proceeds of the book sales go toward Good Shepherd Center. If you would like to purchase this as a gift or for yourself, please call Ana Millan at (213) 482-1834, ext. 110.

Ways to Give

Your generous gifts are vital to Good Shepherd Center's ability to create a loving and homelike environment for homeless mothers, children and single women. There are numerous ways you can help GSC to remain self-sufficient. One meaningful way is to join our Homeless No More Society by including Good Shepherd Center in your estate plan.

Hilda Kurt, a Good Shepherd donor, remembered the Center in her will. She came from a large family and was active in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. One of 14 siblings, she was the last remaining member of her family through Ms. Kurt's generosity, Good Shepherd Center was one of five charities benefiting from her bequest. Ms. Kurt passed away last fall, and we are grateful for her contribution, which will support the programs so important to the women and children we serve.

Please consider Good Shepherd Center as you create or revise your will or trust. As a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc., a donation through your estate may be mutually beneficial. Please call Development Director Barbara G. Shepherd at (213) 482-1834, ext. 119 if either you or your attorney has any questions.



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A Swingin' Occasion at Union Station

On Saturday, May 3 the Young Professionals Group (YPG) hosted a benefit party at the former Fred Harvey Restaurant at Union Station, with proceeds funding Good Shepherd Center. The party featured a silent auction, live music, drinks and delicious food.

YPG board members Kristin Engle and Dana Gilreath and YPG founder Teresa Norland inspired the audience with ideas about how YPG can augment Good Shepherd's services through volunteer work and fundraising in order to further Good Shepherd's mission.

The reigning Miss California, Raquel Beezley, came to speak and share her own experiences with homelessness as a child. "We lived in our car, garages, motels or wherever we could spend the night," Raquel said. "My mother never asked for help, but I wish there was a Good Shepherd Center when I was a kid." Raquel encouraged guests to support Good Shepherd Center, and help other women and children avoid the perils of homelessness.

In addition to the silent auction, Steve Physioc, the announcer for The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim conducted a live auction, and the evening closed with dancing and live music by The Joe Finkle Orchestra.

Our thanks goes to sponsors who made monetary and in-kind donations: The Capital Group Companies, Star Ventures, Minuteman Press, Cathe Physioc Design, Il Cielo Restaurant, Blue Ice Vodka, Fairplex, Green Street Restaurant, Mendocino Farms, California Pizza Kitchen, Cheesecake Factory, Porto's Bakery, Rosti's Tuscan Kitchen, SmartWater, VitaminWater, and Starbucks Coffee Company. And, thanks to YPG's Executive Committee and its members, whose efforts raised \$9,000 to benefit Good Shepherd Center.

The Joe Finkle Orchestra entertained the crowd



And special thanks to the Board of Good Shepherd Center, the program and development staff at Good Shepherd Center and Catholic Charities, of Los Angeles, Hollywood Locations, Eric Sokol and The Joe Finkle Orchestra, and Raquel Beezley.

If you would like to get involved in YPG, please visit www.ypgla.org for more information.



YPG Executive Committee with Steve Physioc and Raquel Beezley

Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children

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Los Angeles, CA 90026
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www.gscholeless.org

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Good Shepherd Center

for Homeless Women & Children



A Program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

Billie Jean Daniels: Serving up delicious baked goods in The Village Kitchen

Save the Date!
Good Shepherd Center's Auxiliary Luncheon

All are welcome!

When:
Saturday, September 27

Time:
11:00 a.m.

Place:
Wilshire Country Club
301 Rossmore Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90004

Silent Auction!

Drawing for a trip to Hawaii!

Proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Center.

For more information, please contact:
Isabelle Zimmerman
(323) 223-8576

I've met some wonderful people here, and these are people who work and want to change their life but cannot afford to pay rent." In early 2007, Hawkes resident Billie Jean Daniels served as a chef for Amtrak, working on the trains and cooking for the passengers. The passenger count decreased, and Billie lacked the seniority to keep her job. A lay-off started her journey to Good Shepherd Center.

Initially, she lived off a small pension and her savings, while working low-paying jobs. First as a nursing assistant, then as a cook with USC, she struggled to maintain her apartment while she sought living wage employment. She held on for a few months, but after spending down her savings, she could no longer afford her one-bedroom apartment in Long Beach.

She turned to her mother, who lived in a senior housing complex, where guests could only stay up to one month. When the month ended, Billie visited the General Relief office in downtown Los Angeles, a service of Los Angeles County's Department of Public Social Services.

In an initial meeting with a social worker, she discussed her options. A stranger overheard their conversation and encouraged the social worker to call Good Shepherd Center. In a moment of serendipity that, according to Billie could only have been the grace of God, Good Shepherd Center had one opening. Billie came over right away, and her journey out of homelessness began.

Billie had spent a lifetime in the culinary world. Starting as a child, she helped her father in his restaurant after school each day. She did the cooking, the shopping, served the food, and anything else that needed to be done to help run the business. As an adult, she earned an associate's degree in culinary arts from Long Beach Community College. Billie also worked as a cook and a chef in different areas in the hospitality industry.

Using her years of experience and her degree in culinary arts, Billie enrolled in the job training program offered by The Village Kitchen, a new bakery and café run by Good Shepherd Center and staffed by homeless women residing in transitional housing. Billie is one of seven women currently in the program who want to pursue a career in the culinary arts. Proceeds from The Village Kitchen will be used to support the program.



"I've seen God's power in my afflictions. If I hadn't become homeless, I wouldn't have experienced this wonderful part of life."

Greetings!

From the Director



The attractive Donor Wall in the courtyard of our new building honors our donors and their efforts to make a better life for our homeless guests. All of us, Board, volunteers, staff and funders, make Good Shepherd's mission a reality.

Once again, we are reminded of the generosity of all of our donors. But special thanks goes to Board members Judy Call, who led the construction of Phase III; and Judy and Steve McDonald who chaired the capital campaign, which raised the necessary funds which allowed us to complete the Women's Village. Their efforts made certain that all the construction plans and efforts became a reality!

May I quote from one of our former residents, as she left our Mother Child Residence with housing, a good job and schools for her children: "Today is a gift from God. What we do with today and the future is our gift to God, to you and to all who helped us."

Sincerely,

Sister Julia Mary

From the Board



Dear Friends,

As my presidency comes to a close, I think of all the wonderful people whom I have met. It has been a very rewarding experience to work with you on this mission, and I greatly appreciate your support of Good Shepherd Center. Together we have witnessed many successes, the most recent of which has been the completion of the Women's Village. Women's Village III, the third and final phase of the Village will provide not only additional housing for homeless women but also expanded employment and social services for all of Good Shepherd's residents.

Thank you for making Women's Village III and all of our facilities and services possible. Because of you, Good Shepherd Center continues to care for the many homeless women and children of our city who are in such great need.

Upon my departure, our current Board member William Dahlman has taken on the role of Board President.

Kathleen Palmer
Board President

Special Events

Big Sunday

Makeovers



Party



NBC's American Gladiator William "Mayhem" Romeo with residents



Completion of the Women's Village

The opening of Good Shepherd Center's Women's Village III provides improved services in housing and workforce development



On the bright sunny morning of June 12, throngs of Good Shepherd's donors, Board members and other volunteers, residents, staff, partner agencies and other friends gathered to celebrate the completion of the Women's Village, with the dedication of Women's Village III - the third and final phase of the Women's Village with three major components - a new Transitional Residence for 21 employed women, an Employment and Client Services Center serving all Good Shepherd residents, and The Village Kitchen, a casual bakery/café.

Colleen Williams, KNBC news anchor, hosted the ceremony, noting that

"Today is the culmination of a dream that began 13 years ago, when Sister Julia Mary conceived the idea of a safe, supportive and caring community where women and their children could take advantage of assistance...to move from the cold reality of homelessness to confident, self-sufficient lives in the community at large."

Center Director and Founder, Sister Julia Mary Farley, welcomed everyone to the celebration. She emphasized that "This final phase of The Women's Village...focuses on employment, because stable employment at a living wage is such a key component of achieving and maintaining a self-sufficient future, so that our residents never become homeless again."

Judy McDonald, Board member and Co-Chair with her husband, Steve, of the Campaign for Good Shepherd Center, thanked all of the generous donors whose contributions and support made the new facility possible. Judy also thanked the community members, Board members and construction professionals whose vision, dedication and hard work over the last 13 years have resulted in the Women's Village of today. She presented a portrait of Sister Julia Mary, by artist Susan Gordinier, which will hang in the lobby of the new facility.

Good Shepherd resident/The Village Kitchen trainee, Billie Jean Daniels, shared her experiences with homelessness and her current success. (See cover story for more on Billie.) When she lost her job and had nowhere else to go, "I was led (to Good Shepherd Center) by a stranger... It's where love abides."

City Council President Eric Garcetti and 4th District Council Member Tom LaBonge, both longtime supporters of Sister Julia Mary and the work of Good Shepherd Center, joined in the celebration. Council President Garcetti said, "If you want to know what a living saint looks like, she's right here."

Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc., concluded the ceremony by blessing the new building.

The Belmont High School Jazz Band added to the festivities throughout the morning. After the ceremony, guests were treated to tours of the new facility and delicious baked goods, provided and served by staff of The Village Kitchen, which opened to the public June 23, and provides on-the-job training in the culinary arts.

Dedication Ceremony of Good Shepherd Center's Women's Village

Residents, staff and community volunteers celebrate the opening of

Women's Village III

June 12, 2008



Top Row - Exec. Dir. of Catholic Charities, Msgr. Gregory A. Cox, City Council Pres. Eric Garcetti, 13th District, KNBC News Anchor Colleen Williams, Sr. Julia Mary, Board Member Judy McDonald and 4th District Councilman Tom LaBonge; Board Member Judy Call being honored for her leadership in construction of Women's Village III; staff of The Village Kitchen - Shelley Briggs, Emily Noel, Eva Hain, LaNesha Jackson and Judith Gil; Middle Row - Good Shepherd Board Member and advisor to The Village Kitchen, Sue Campoy; the delicious offerings of The Village Kitchen; Sr. Julia Mary with Good Shepherd Board President, William Dahlman; Bottom Row - a few supporters of Good Shepherd Center; Board Members Judy McDonald and Carolyn Ludwig presenting our Founder with a portrait by artist Susan Gordinier, depicting Sr. Julia Mary with child residents; Belmont High School Jazz Band



The Village Kitchen
1667 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90026
(213) 481-1542
Open M-F, 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Great Food, Good Works

Now open! The Village Kitchen offers fresh baked goods, sandwiches, soups and salads while introducing the community to issues relating to homelessness. Training for homeless women who staff The Village Kitchen is possible through partnerships with Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Hollywood WorkSource Center, and support from donors like you. Chef Manager Jaime Turrey and Board Member Sue Campoy have developed an enticing menu, so please join us in the "Kitchen" to meet Billie Jean and our other resident-staff in person.

