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Turning Point

May 2014



Not your typical staff meeting ...A Message From Stan Dawson

Every Wednesday morning, the staff gathers at 7:30 to look back, to look forward, and to explore how we can better serve our Guests. We begin with an opening prayer and then list prayer requests and celebrations. The calendar and other routine items are discussed.

At that point the "typical" changes into a time of personal reflections that is always spontaneous. On a recent Wednesday, Clyde opened with a story about some young people from St. John Neumann Catholic School. They have volunteered in the kitchen for years. Volunteering has a way of bringing out the best in all of us. In

addition to serving a meal, the students decided to pool their allowance money and not only showed up with fresh fruit they had purchased but also gave Crossroads a check.

Another staff reported that a man who had for years driven by our famous line on Courtland Street stopped by to give a check because he appreciated all that is done for our Guests.

Because a longtime volunteer at CCM had recently passed, memorial checks came in. Then one of the relatives came by to discover exactly 'what' this organization does. As a result of that visit, funds were donated to purchase some much needed equipment.



It is amazing, no it is **miraculous**, how often these routine staff meetings are anything but...

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That's the number of individual Guests who visited Crossroads during our last fiscal year. Of that number over 800 were women, and tragically there were 555 toddlers that came through our doors. I say "tragically" because if we do not find a lasting way to help women and children who are homeless, and quickly, guess where those children will be 10 years from now? No doubt homeless.

www.crossroadsatlanta.org

REFLECTIONS ON 2013 AND 2014



Any reflection on 2013 for Crossroads should begin with praise for our dedicated Staff led by our Executive Director Stan Dawson, and our program directors, Clyde Corbin, Emily McIver and Dominic (Nic) Heard. Their leadership has led to Crossroads' being known for its compassion and respect for our Guests. By the numbers, in 2013, Crossroads saw 3,901 unduplicated persons, of whom more than 800 were women, 555 children (most of whom were under 6) and 780 veterans.

2013 was also a very busy year for our energetic and hard working Board. In January, we adopted a new three-year strategic plan. An initial focus of the plan was the restructuring of our board into a smaller governing board (18) and a new advisory board. During 2013, we added six new governing board members – Jonathan Serrie, Susan Griffin, Pat Brumbaugh, Cynthia Tucker and Clay Bethune. In the spring of 2013, Crossroads was selected to be the beneficiary of the 2014 Cathedral Antiques Show and Tour of Homes. Our second "Saddle Up With Crossroads" gala in May netted \$53,000 under the leadership of Pat Brumbaugh. From July through December, our board collaborated with the Cathedral's committees in preparation for the Antiques Show in early 2014. Pursuant to our strategic plan, working with an outside consultant, we pursued an assessment of our programs in the fall of 2013. Our board committees this year were led by chairs Mary Hinton (Communications), Mike Ruberti (Development) and Frank Moye (Programs).

We began 2014 by adopting a resolution at our January board meeting accepting the assessment of our programs and focusing on our core services, particularly our documentation services (see page 4 for details). We also welcomed the Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt, who leads outreach at St. Luke's, to our governing board. From January 26 -February 2, we participated as the beneficiary of the 2014 Cathedral Antiques Show, which elevated our community profile and will provide needed funding for our programs. Our focus for the balance of 2014 will be assessing our current documentation services process and capacity as well as its potential need in the Atlanta community. To support that end and our other core services, we will pursue a campaign to match a generous anonymous gift we received at the end of 2013.

Wayne Vason
Board Chair

Strengthening Our Core Services

As a supporter of CCM you need to know that one of the foundation principles, established in 1996, is that need has always driven program, not vice versa. With that in mind, Crossroads engaged an external consultant to evaluate our programs/core services.

The intent was to determine the relevancy of our current structure, ascertain the organization's relevance in the *continuum of care* and to chart a future course that continues to place the need of our Guests as the number one priority. Other stakeholders, community leaders, staff, board members and volunteers were involved in this comprehensive study/evaluation.

During the remainder of 2014 we will be sharing those results with you.



Cathedral ANTIQUES SHOW & TOUR OF HOMES



A Huge Success

The Cathedral Antiques Show and Tour of Homes selected Crossroads as the lone beneficiary of its 2014 show. The competition for this honor is intense. The first snow/ice disaster of the winter arrived during the week of the show. However, the "show must go on." And, in fact, the show did go on. Only one event had to be postponed, not canceled, until the next day.

The staff, board and our volunteers worked extremely hard to support the incredible effort put forth by the Cathedral Committee - thank you very much!

Our Mission

Empowering people who are homeless to progress on the road toward economic and personal self sufficiency.

FALCONS VISIT CLYDE'S KITCHEN

We often report that some of the players visit Clyde's Kitchen during the Thanksgiving Season. Just as with the Symphony, our Guests look forward to this annual appearance. During the past

year an unusual thing happened- the wives of a few coaches were so moved by their volunteer experience that they now appear monthly to ask Clyde what his needs are. If you know Clyde, to no one's surprise, this 'adoption' happens often.



The Atlanta Symphony Visits Crossroads

For the second year, four members of the Atlanta Symphony visited CCM to share their immense talent. Our Guests thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas/classical music and the musicians made a commitment to revisit in the spring.



VOLUNTEERS are the heart of Crossroads



Atlanta's Young Lawyers give of their time at Crossroads.

We welcome your help! To volunteer call us at 404-873-7652.