



HAPPENINGS

Rest in peace beloved and much missed:

Stephen Ondash, long-time volunteer and parishioner. You are missed.

Care Recipients:

- Virginia Ferrigno
- Rita Kusharski
- Helen Rohr Meyer
- Iris Bledsoe
- Willard Weston
- Rita LeGris
- Sonny Helmick



Ana Secen resides at The Westchester and is under the care of hospice

Kathy Picciano- Volunteer Coordinator has returned to the career world. We will miss your smiling face and commitment to the work you have done. Our prayers and thanks go with you.

Welcome **Cecil Slavish** to the leadership team as a Volunteer Coordinator.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

With kindness and tenderness, with open hearts and gentle ways, with laughter, empathy and efficiency, each day of the week Chicken Soup volunteers are quietly working in our community. No fanfare, no public accolades, just help for those who are ill, injured, alone or without resources. A friendly visit to someone who is alone or home-bound, a ride to a medical appointment or another important errand, or a home-cooked meal to feed body and soul.

And we have those in leadership; **Team Leaders** lovingly overseeing the services that people need. **Volunteer Coordinators** who diligently make phone calls and send emails to see who among us can fill a need. These are the works of our amazing volunteers.

You will only realize all of the good works of our volunteers through this newsletter because you work so quietly behind the scenes. But the people we serve know and value you

more than they can ever express. At times, relationships flower that go beyond our mission. But always, our so-busy volunteers find time in their daily schedules to minister to those in need. You are angels of mercy, the "salt of the earth," dependable, patient and always respectful.

We don't plan to be alone later in life with no resources such as the ability to drive, or relatives who live far away or no one local to help when we are ill or injured. It just happens. And for so many, there is nowhere to turn. I don't think many realize how unique this ministry is in Orlando and elsewhere. This safety net for people in our

community just isn't available elsewhere, so people are often forced to move to assisted living, long before they are ready to or actually have the need. There are many we have helped in the past who were able to live out their lives in their own homes because of our volunteers. That is truly amazing.

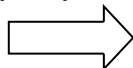
So do it! Pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. We may sit next to another volunteer in church and never know it, but there is One who does know. You evangelize through your good works as the Lord commanded in Matthew 5:16. "Just so, your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." That's you....that's what you do.



Volunteer Fran Frataccia
Robert Thompson



Volunteer Sue Monde
and
Mary Bray



WHEN ONLY A MAN WILL DO

Ok, now that we have your attention, we would like to ask for some help from the men who volunteer for Chicken Soup. Occasionally we get a request from a man (or someone in his

family) who is in need of a visitor. Generally the person is home bound and either lives alone, or with children who work. Others may have recently lost a spouse and are experiencing the grief of that loss and could just use a friend. See Page 2 for the rest of this article.

When only a man will do. (Continued.) Because they can no longer drive, it can mean a long, lonely day. Most of our volunteers who like to make visits are women. Because men normally prefer male company, Chicken Soup often cannot help. We don't get these requests often, but when we do it is so difficult to not be able to help someone who has reached out to our Church. These men are suddenly cut off from the community and often were active parishioners. It is very sad to think how they must feel....that they are no longer important to our SMM Community.



homes. If the person is able, sometimes we take him out for coffee; but only if the volunteer wishes to do so and it has been approved by the family.

So if you think you may be called to this aspect of the Ministry, please let us know. As always, it would be at your convenience with no regular commitment. And, if you have friends who might be interested in joining our team, in any capacity, please continue to be our best recruiters.

Volunteers spend about an hour visiting the person in his

Thank you for all that you do. Our parish is certainly blessed with many men of tremendous faith that translates into action.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time — they just have the heart.

Would You like to be a Team Leader or Volunteer Coordinator?

Being a member of the leadership team as a Team leader (TL) or Volunteer Coordinator (VC) for Chicken Soup is an extremely rewarding experience. Working with all of you, the team drives the organization and keeps it running smoothly. The leadership team shapes how we operate, makes decisions about how to handle situations and supports one another in our roles.

How the Leadership Team Works

After a phone assessment with someone who has requested help, I ask one of our TL's if she is available to take a new case. She can say "not now" just as you can with assignments. Once a TL is designated, she will make contact with the potential Care Recipient (CR). She sets up a time for an in-home meeting to talk about the CR's needs and what Chicken Soup might be able to do to help. If she assesses that we can meet his needs, she will set up the CR's initial services and report the information to the Team. If there are any concerns, I generally discuss them with her and we may or may not go forward at that time. If that is the case, either Mary Ann Gilbert or I talk to the person and explain

the situation.

But generally we have a fairly good idea that the CR will qualify for our help because either Mary Ann or I have conducted a phone assessment. After the TL makes her in-home assessment, she becomes his "go-to" person for future appointments. She communicates these needs on an ongoing basis to the VC. When one of you has agreed to help, the VC lets the TL know who will be helping and passes your name to the CR.

Follow through, availability and patience are the necessary traits to be a Team leader.

The VC is the person who calls or emails you. This is a two-week rotating job and



Members of the leadership team at monthly meeting .

each VC decides when "having the books" best fits her schedule. She takes requests from all TL's and keeps careful records of requests; who has been contacted and who has agreed to help. She communicates with you and the TL, not the CR.

Organizational skills and follow through are the primary traits of the Volunteer Coordinators.

Some of our records are computerized so some familiarity with a computer is necessary. However, we are not computer experts by any means, so this need not intimidate anyone who uses a computer casually.

We have a relaxed atmosphere at our monthly meetings the Leadership Team women are a lot of fun to be with always. We just happen to be all women but men are also welcome to join the team. If you want to talk about this, please call me and I'll answer questions you might have. Please give this some prayerful thought.

Pegge Stickel 407 629-9699

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You Are Our Eyes and Ears

You are the ones who see the care recipients most often. If you notice anything such as a decline in mental or physical agility, or if he or she comments about being fearful of someone or some situation, or perhaps asks for more help than you were assigned, or any other anomaly, please report it to the Team Leader. It may be a one-time issue but if we hear the same concern echoed by other volunteers, it gives us a chance to head off problems before they escalate. We always appreciate your feedback



Family, Friends and Chicken Soup

Mission Statement

To provide necessary, compassionate assistance for the frail, elderly, ill, injured or those who are in a time of crisis when friends and family cannot. To enable parishioners, who are called by Christ, to serve by providing the assistance.

Services Provided October 2012—March 2013

410 Transports
45 Visits
24 Meals
Congratulations, Volunteers,
for Your Loving Commitment



THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Team Leaders

Melissa Bunkers

Anne Dore

Bobbe Lyon

Rose Plumley

Mary Scott

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Jeannine Walsh

Ministry Coordinator

Pegge Stickel 407 629-9699

pstickelcct@aol.com

Church Liaison

Mary Ann Gilbert 407 628-1324

maryann@stmargaretmary.org

Volunteer Coordinators

Anne Dore (See Team Leaders)

Ceil Slavish

Lucy McDonough

Vickie Night

Michelle Olson

Kathy Haines

Pat Tyjeski



Lucy McDonough

