



You Are More Than Social Workers

HAPPENINGS

Robert Thompson is recuperating from his stay at Winter Park Hospital at Regent's Park Rehabilitation Center in Winter Park. Visitors are welcome.



Heaven opened its doors for two beloved volunteers who, in addition to their work for Chicken Soup, made a huge impact on our community leading and volunteering, serving on Boards and leading social activism programs. They are missed by many. Rest in peace beautiful ladies

Susan Gable
Mary Rumberger

Why do Chicken Soup volunteers do what they do to help so many? That has a seemingly simple answer. Because it's the right thing to do for those in need within our community.

But, in reality, it goes much deeper. It goes right to the soul of Jesus' message to us as to how we will be judged. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty

and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Matt 25:35-36. Jesus' words confused the people to whom he spoke and they asked when they had done this for Him. And he answered, "Whatever you did for these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt. 25:40.

They can be confusing words to Christians today as well because generally we don't see the outcome of our financial charity. But you surely can see the difference on the faces of the people you visit, transport or feed. The smiles, the gratitude and relief felt in knowing that someone is there to care about them is apparent to all.

Oh yes, you are much more than social workers, you are

those selected to bring forth the Kingdom of God and commissioned by Jesus Himself. Just as he sent the apostles to make disciples of all nations, he also sent you. But you are never alone, the Holy Spirit is with you and as Jesus said, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

God bless you and bring you peace,
Fr. Walsh



Robert Thompson



A LOVE STORY



Talking to an almost-centenarian is a rich experience. 98 yr. old Robert Thompson is a care recipients of Family, Friends and Chicken Soup. A plain, unassuming individual, Mr. Thompson is easy to please. He doesn't ask for much. In fact it was our Chicken Soup team that suggested we keep taking Mr. Thompson grocery

shopping each week after his wife passed away.

It was November of 1952 when Robert met his bride-to-be at a dance at the Irish Center in the Bronx, New York. They were married in a lovely Catholic ceremony. The marriage would last for more than half a century.

Robert and Lenora never had children. "I guess it was just not in God's plan," Mr. Thompson said. He

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

526 North Park Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32789

407-647-3392

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SERVICES PROVIDED

June through December, 2013

1294 Transports

67 Meals

50 Visits

Congratulations on this wonderful work!



LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

We receive many kind thank you notes from people you have helped and there

is not enough space to include them all. But we wanted to share the following.

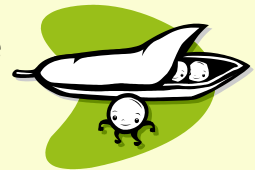
"To All of the Ladies and Gentlemen of Chicken Soup,"

"Thank you for helping me through another chapter of my life with Family, Friends and Chicken Soup. I am recovering from major back surgery and everything you all did helped me so much. When I couldn't lift up to get to the door, your hands rang the bell for an appointment to deliver a welcomed meal. You all are so great, kind and charitable even among your busy schedules. God is great and put you in helping at times of "harm's way." Thank you. And God bless you always with many rewards of love, praise, honor and outstanding obedience. God knows all the great work that you do on this planet."

Love, Mary Bray

A Love Story (continued)

also shared that they were in good health into their 80's. They traveled a lot in their retirement, mostly by car. A trip to Hawaii, though a dream come true for this devoted couple, was the last time Lenora would fly. That didn't stop them from traveling. They saw wonderful sights in the United States, Canada and Mexico plus Nassau in the Bahamas. They visited the National Parks and his eyes lit up when I asked him about one of his favorite places to visit. He spoke of the Grand Canyon with awe. What wonderful memories he has to sustain him. "I was her chauffeur," he said, "she decided on a vacation spot every year and off we went. It's painfully obvious that Robert misses his dear Lenora very much. He rather sheepishly admitted that he still talks to her all the time. He still dreams about her too. "We were like two peas in a pod," he said. To stave off loneliness Robert watches TV, goes walking and sometimes takes a bus ride to Fashion Square Mall just to get out among people. He likes to catch the sales at Publix that start on Thursdays.



Robert worked for Anaconda Wiring for 25 yrs. and Lenora worked for America Bank Note Company as a proofreader. After 9 years of marriage and no children, they decided to focus on their careers and save for the future. It was a wise decision and allowed them to retire, come to Florida and buy a Condo. They have lived here 34 yrs. Robert stressed again that they had a wonderful life up into their 80's. In August of 2007 Lenora was diagnosed with cancer. The next three years were heartbreaking for Robert as he stood constant vigil. Family, Friends and Chicken Soup took him to visit his beloved Lenora regularly up until her death January 23, 2010. Chicken Soup continues to help him with transportation to the grocery or doctor and Mass. He is endlessly grateful for our help.

VALENTINE PARTY!!!



You will receive an invitation later but we wanted you to mark your calendars for February 11 for our annual Valentine Party for our Care Recipients. We were unable to have one last year because Lent started so early and many were disappointed about missing the opportunity to socialize. It is not often that they get invited to a party so we hope you will save the date and stop by for a chat and brunch between 10:30 and 12:00. More information to follow.