



2019 End of Year Newsletter

Join us for the annual **Christmas EVE Mass and Brunch!**
If you did not see the "Save the Date" email last month, here it is again.

The Mass and brunch will be held on **Tuesday, December 24th... Mass at 9:00 AM and brunch to follow, approximately 10:00 AM**

Please come share a meal with our guests, donors, volunteers, Board Members, partners, & friends.

Any kind of potluck main or side dish, fruit, desert, or juice is **WELCOME** but **NOT** necessary.

And... if possible, please bring a folding chair to sit on for Mass, as we ran out of seats last year.
The more the merrier!

And speaking of the Christmas Eve brunch, come and see the new kitchen floor, counter tops and washer/drier units made possible by grants from the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.
Thank you, Sisters!!!

Also, there was a beautiful article in the Express News regarding the 2018 event.
We will attach a print-friendly version to an email soon following this one.



**Saturday, December 21st
Longest Night of the Year**



Memorial Service
for those who have died who had experienced homelessness in 2019.
Milam Park at 7 PM
Four CWH Members will be remembered.

CWH 2020 Wish List



The CWH "**cookie monsters**" are simply the bills that keep coming in... for important things, like electricity, water, gas, insurance, building and car repairs... and the list goes on. The annual CWH budget has not changed much over the years... it usually comes in between \$60,000-72,000 per year. That is pretty good since we serve about 122,400 cups of coffee and 60,000 meals per year, provide about 4,800 hygiene packs with toiletries, socks and underwear including ~300 VIA bus passes, and host over 1,500 loads of guest laundry! The \$5,000 monthly expenses also include room, board, cell phone, health insurance, a \$100 stipend, and necessities for our 6 resident volunteers. There are no paid staff.

As you know, CWH does not do any organized fundraising. We rely on the steady donations of very generous donors. However, these donations are rarely enough to pay the entire month's bills. Thanks to a huge donation several years ago, our savings account has been by pulling us out of the red EVERY month by

\$1,500 to \$2,000. But that nest egg (or gingerbread house) will be totally “eaten” by mid-2020. Sooooooooooooo... if you can spare a few dollars each month or a lump sum at Christmas...or any time...that would be wonderful!!

If cash is short, we always need the following used items:

- Coffee mugs and dinner plates. No bowls or glasses.
- DVDs but not “R” rated, please.
- Store plastic bags and larger tote bags with straps.
- Gently-used dish towels.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

“... we need your prayers. Dorothy is listening.”

This was the LAST line in the SA-CWH 2018 EOY newsletter. And ... Dorothy WAS indeed listening! CWH, (HFCC), started a new path on November 8th, 2019... Dorothy Day’s birthday! We do NOT think it was a mere coincidence, but rather a “sacred synchronicity”.

After 6 years of leisurely searching for a suitable property to begin a CW housing community... and then later over the past 5 years... a focused search by an entire team of enthusiasts, a property was located!!! And it is ideally suited for BOTH housing AND hospitality! The search was lead by Austin Hagauer, introduced to us by Gordon Hartman, and brought us to all 4 quadrants of San Antonio and as far as Von Ormy and Bandera, Texas. Finally, we ended up on 4701 Dietrich Road, just east of WW White Road between I-35 and I-10. It is 17+ acres of vacant land with many beautiful mature trees. In the 60s and 70s, it was the Towne Twin Theater (the only drive-in movie theater on the Eastside). In fond memory of the theater, we have decided to call the community the Towne Twin Village. It is at the end of VIA Route 24, a designated “frequent” route straight into downtown and to a convenient HEB, and lots of workplace options. And it is only 4 miles east of the current CWH with easy access from loop 410.

After a very busy 90-day due diligence period, hundreds of meetings searching for support, partners, and funding, it all came together in time for Dorothy’s birthday. The property has been re-zoned and purchased... and we are on our way.

If you are interested, stay tuned for a volunteer workday to “park up” the property. We are excited and can’t wait to get started!



The site will eventually have 215 units - a combination of tiny homes (100), efficiency apartments (80) and RVs (35). A much larger CW house, the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, will be built on site and will serve as the community center for both residents and those guests not yet housed or housed in other places. Not only will CW provide the its current services (meals, hygiene products, chapel services, limited clothing, laundry, mail, movies, and WiFi, etc.) but we hope to expand the current services and add new free services, such as barber and nail grooming, foot clinic, clothing closet, showers, Friday night at the movies (outdoor amphitheater), pet park, and more. We also hope to invite additional agencies to provide more formal services like physical and mental health services, counseling, case management, alcohol and drug rehab services, etc. See #1, 3, 4 and 5 on the site plan below.



Traveling Loaves and Fishes

The new year started out with the formal blessing of TLF brand new food truck ... and CWH resident volunteers joined the hundreds of TLF volunteers to celebrate! TLF is CWH’s main partner... providing and serving suppers every night (at Quincy/St. Mary’s) and also serving and providing parts of EVERY breakfast and lunch at CWH throughout the week!!! We are so excited for TLF!! Everyone thanked LaVerne for her leadership, perseverance, and hard work to make the dream come true!



Wisconsin Visitors!!!

Two families from Wisconsin visited CWH. Their grandmother lived at 626 Nolan between 1960 and 1980, before the original CWH opened at 622 Nolan in 1985. They were so excited that 626 was a soup kitchen!! They said that their grandmother always had her back door open, a pot of beans on the stove, and made fresh tortillas for anyone who was hungry, mainly those who were experiencing homelessness. She loved doing it, especially as she grew older. It was her special loving ministry and she enjoyed the “table hospitality” and chatting with her guests. The grandchildren (pictured below) said they loved helping her when they visited her during the summer and on weekends.



CWH Goes Senior

During the first 3 months of 2019, guests, volunteers and staff alike had noticed a pronounced change in guest demographics. There had been a recent influx of young guests and an uptick in loud, foul language, and aggression. The police had also noted some increase drug activity in the park nearby. On March 23rd there was an incident (drug-related) that involved two young people who had never before been on CWH property. However, some of our younger guests did recognize them from other places. The incident resulted in serious deliberation of the safety and well-being of the majority of our guests,

who for many years, were older persons. *(FYI an analysis in 2015 of the first 2000 Club applications revealed that the average age of a guest joining CWH was 57 years!)* This age demographic had recently changed with the vast majority of new members being in their 20s and 30s. This change correlated with an increase in unacceptable behaviors on property. Additionally, the list of those who had been suspended for any period of time due to violence or drug use was reviewed and everyone on the list was under the age of 50 yrs. It was a difficult decision, but CWH leadership (along with very strong urging from neighbors and city officials) decided to serve only those 50 years (the AARP definition of “seniors”) and older. During the first 3 months, the younger folks were turned away gently... always with food and beverage “to go” and any needed hygiene products. They were also allowed to continue to use CWH as their mailing address.

We were not sure of the outcome but were gratefully surprised at how smooth the transition went. Even the young folks said they agreed with the need for the change even though they were sad that they were not able to eat there any longer. Furthermore, some of the older guests who had stopped coming soon began to return and were grateful for the noticeable change in atmosphere. CWH has truly returned to the quiet peaceful refuge it had long been. It is now extremely rare to hear a loud or threatening voice or a curse word! It has really been wonderful!

A few folks have wondered about this decision and rightfully so. Please consider that now CWH is serving the “Baby Boomers”: they are the largest cohort ever in the history of the country. Throughout their cohort history, the Boomers have been the “bulge of the python” or the “grey tsunami” inducing changes in the structure of society... first the swelling of day care centers and schools, then teen programs, various adult activities and now the growing need for senior centers and housing options. So, CWH is serving the neediest of this record largest cohort, the Boomers. Our table continues to be filled each day and new silver-haired guests continue to apply for membership. So all is good.

THANK YOU!!!

David Fields, one of CWH guests, again this year, designed the cover of our Thank You card. This year it features the beautiful backyard, deck and garden. Thank you David!!!