



Catching Up With Clifton

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Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Inc.

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29th Annual Celebration Dinner

The 5th Annual Clifton Graduation and Awards Dinner is in the books and it was a fabulous night of celebration. It was highlighted by the presentation of graduation certificates to 17 great men who completed their time at Clifton and are now living on their own. Nearly 200 volunteers and supporters spent the evening reminiscing about the accomplishments of the last year and thinking about the challenges that lie ahead in 2009.

Johnny Myers, Director of Community Outreach and President of the Bill Maness Outreach Center at Peachtree Presbyterian inspired us all, especially the graduates, to live a life of victory by continuing to show up and stand firm, give your all, and stay until the job is complete. No truer words can be spoken and his challenge applies to the graduates and guests as they continue to transform their lives and to Clifton volunteers as we continue to serve the men of Clifton and the homeless community.

Executive Director, Alice Jenkins, and Board Chair, Leslie Prince, presented the Volunteer of the Year awards to our Grant Team – Mike Thurmond, Rocke Thompson, Bill Johnson, and Eric Weir. This wonderful group of volunteers spent the last year researching, writing, and making application to several foundations to fund the Health and Wellness Program. They were so successful that we now have funding for two years.

Our Guest Volunteer of the Year Award went to Michael Morris. There have been several projects that Michael completed this year that have proven to be very valuable to Clifton. Morningside Presbyterian Church received the Volunteer Church of the Year for the myriad of ways that they



The graduates at the 2008 Annual Dinner.

have volunteered, including providing Welcome Home Baskets for our guests who have found independent housing, and North Avenue Presbyterian Church was awarded the “That’s So Cool Award” for their financial commitment to and on-going support of Clifton Toastmasters.

Next year, we will celebrate Clifton Sanctuary Ministries’ 30th Anniversary. We hope that you’ll plan to join us as we celebrate the success of the men that we will serve in 2009 and honor the wonderful folks who, in November of 1979, stepped out in faith and went downtown looking for homeless men to sleep in their sanctuary. It will be a tremendous evening and we hope that you will join us!

Sharing the love of God we are a sanctuary to men seeking to overcome homelessness.
Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

Funding for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is provided by the City of Atlanta, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, HUD, local communities, churches and many individuals. We love you, We bless you, We appreciate you, We thank God for you!

Development Staff

Over the years, the volunteers and supporters of Clifton have always been very generous with their financial contributions to Clifton. Over 65% of our funding comes from individual donors and churches – a statistic that is unheard of in non-profits that are similar to Clifton.

However, as the Board of Directors and staff of Clifton strive to improve our services and add programs to assist our guests, such as the health and wellness program, we also must improve the ways in which we communicate our needs, both financial and in-kind, to our volunteers and supporters. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce that we have hired two development professionals to assist us in our fund-raising and communications.



David York (left) and Jim Adams

Jim Adams has come on board as our foundation and grant consultant. He has a wide variety of experience in the non-profit sector including the Arthritis Foundation and the Lighthouse Foundation. Prior to his second career in the non-profit world, Jim worked in non-profit banking for SunTrust Bank. Jim's responsibilities include foundation research and grant writing, making application to foundations that financially support organizations that provide services to low income or persons who are homeless.

We also realize the importance of reaching out to churches and individuals who haven't heard about Clifton, but are interested in our mission. Clifton has an awesome story, but we must share it! To accomplish this, David York has taken the position

as our Development Director. David comes to us with lots of development experience including serving as Associate Director and then Director of Development for Joining Hearts and Hands: A Mission Initiative of the PCUSA. Prior to that, he was on the development staff at Johnson C. Smith Seminary. David will be busy making presentations to churches and community groups. If there's a church or group that you would like us to contact, please let David know by emailing him at davidyork@cliftonsanctuary.com.

In Memory of Lewis Sinclair

Lewis Sinclair, one of Clifton Night Hospitality's original volunteers, passed away on Sunday, June 8 due to complications from the lymphoma that he had fought for 18 years. He was 93 years old and still living a very full life, when he passed away.

Beth Thompson writes that she met Lewis and his wife, Mary, at Clifton shortly after the shelter opened, as they were the Friday night hosts. In addition to Clifton, Lewis and Mary served Atlanta's homeless community through the Open Door Community and Habitat for Humanity.

Lewis was a remarkable man and had quite a remarkable life. The men of Clifton, both then and now, are forever indebted to Lewis and Mary for their long years of support for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

November Needs

The following items are needed on a regular basis by our guests.

- Dark Socks
- Belts
- Deodorant
- T-shirts
- Hats & gloves

Weathering the Storms of Life

By Peter Hunstiger

We have all seen a lot of storms and bad weather throughout our lives, me included. Some of the worst weather I ever encountered was when I was young! Whether I should do drugs, whether I should drink, whether I should do right or wrong. I thought it really didn't matter whether or not I did or didn't do them. Well, I was wrong and I have spent nearly all my life repeatedly proving to myself time and time again that it really did matter whether I did or didn't make the right choice.



Peter Hunstiger, Food & Nutrition Coordinator

A little over two years ago Hurricane Katrina hit Mississippi and Louisiana. I was in Atlanta at the time living on the street physically sick and homeless. An opportunity arose to get to Louisiana to do cleanup work with a crew from South Carolina. I took the opportunity; I felt it didn't matter whether or not I went. I thought it would be a good way to change, to start anew!

The crew and I arrived in New Orleans in late September and worked for six weeks, night and day, doing cleanup work for the Army Corp. of Engineers. We finished our sector and waited on our government check of \$18,000. The two young owners of the company got the check and cashed it. They gave me all of \$400 and put me out at gunpoint near Kiln, Mississippi.

So there I was stuck again in unknown territory in the woods of Mississippi which was right on the fringe of the main area of devastation in Bay St.

Louis. I got lucky and got a job doing logging; removing downed trees, for the next four months. By that time my sleep apnea and heart problems were causing me major problems on the job so I had to go. I purchased a small Chevy Blazer and went to New Orleans. Where I found work with another contractor doing construction and cleanup.

Well as my luck would have within two weeks I found out that this contractor from Wisconsin had a drug problem and I'd never get my money. He up and disappeared. No payday!

I gave up! The more I tried the worse it seemed to get, I figured it really didn't matter whether I tried or not, it would never get better so I gave up!

I lived in my Blazer, panhandled at gas stations and grocery stores making hundreds of dollars a day and smoking and drinking it away for the next several months.

I had decided it really didn't matter whether I lived or died! My health was deteriorating quickly, I couldn't stand up for more than a few hours at a time, or my legs, feet and body in general swelled up with fluid. Like the STA-Puff marsh-mellow man and my sleep apnea kept me sleepy or sleeping all day long.

This life style continued until July 24, 2007. I stopped in a convenience store to use the bathroom and when I came out my truck was nowhere to be found. Here I was in West New Orleans in a t-shirt, flip-flops, and shorts, no I.D. and 38 cents in my pocket. Well this was it! Could it get any worse, did it really matter whether I tried anymore?

I decided it was time for a change! Maybe it did matter whether I tried to do the right thing. The Good Lord had kept me alive through all this! Obviously there must be something left to do in this life! I had survived my wrist being broken when a truck fell on it, a ten day stay in ICU for an IV antibiotic for a staph infection. Maybe it was really time to give my faith in God a try.

I got bus fare to a local church, St. Catherine's, that had helped me fix my truck before and that had let my father mail me a letter there two months before. While I was standing in the rectory with the secretary the phone rang and she answered, looked up at me and said "It's for you!" Here I was

in a town with no friends or family and I had a phone call! It was my father in Memphis. For some reason he just new I'd be there! St. Catherine's put me on a bus to Atlanta with a non-refundable ticket (insisted upon by my dad, no trading it in for drugs or alcohol).

I arrived in Atlanta on July 28, 2007 and went straight to Grady where I got medicine for my blood pressure and heart.

I lived on the street for almost two more months constantly working to rebuild my health and regain all my I.D.s; birth certificate and life! On September 17, after waiting two weeks for an opening at Clifton Sanctuary my case worker from St. Joseph's Mercy Care, Kewya Anuld got me in the door.

On September 28, I went to Grady for a stress test and came out two days later after heart surgery to implant two stents. Things were changing. It really did matter whether I cared and whether I tried.

October brought two months of trying to get a \$1,700.00 sleep study and a C-Pap machine donated to help alleviate my sleep apnea and to bring it to a close.

My prayers were answered by St. Vincent de Paul Society and the American Association of Sleep Apnea. The weather was getting better, the more faith I had and the more I did try the better and easier the weather was to deal with.

January 20, I moved to Joe's Place from Clifton Sanctuary. I had been helping in the kitchen since my arrival at Clifton. Cooking has always been my passion and occupation. With my health I can't cook on a commercial level as I did for 30 years. As of February 8, 2008 I became the Food Coordinator for Clifton Sanctuary.

I had come full circle. From being on the street addicted, sick and unemployed with no faith to employed, healthy and learning how to make decisions based on faith. The weather does change but only I can control my weather! I have to decide on a daily basis whether or not I want to live or die, by using or not using, by caring or not caring, and by believing in the person that has carried me through all this, My God!

Belt Tightening

Many of us have tightened our belts lately...many of us have waited in long gas lines lately...many of us have seen foreclosure signs in our neighbors' yards...& wondered what is going to happen next.

But what if you had no belt to tighten, or no car that needed gas, or no mortgage or rent to pay?

Recent economic realities cause us to have the jitters, and who can blame us? But these sorts of issues have been the economic realities of our guests for quite some time; for some, this has been their economic reality for most of their life.

As you tighten your belt, please consider going just one notch further and provide financial support for a Clifton guest. So they can have a belt to tighten, too.



Night Hospitality by The Numbers Second & Third Quarter of 2008

Quarter	2 nd	3 rd
Guests Served	57	48
(of these 40% were age 50 and above)		
Employment	10	7
Housing	14	14
Programs	2	5
Benefits/Other	4	3
Total	30	29

52% of our second quarter and 60% of our third quarter guests had positive outcomes. **For the year 60% of our guests have had a positive outcome!**