



INN Crowd News

Room at the Inn

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROOM AT THE INN

HUNDREDS COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF BREAKFAST WITH THE INN CROWD

Room at the Inn’s sixth annual Breakfast with the INN Crowd, held Friday, April 11, was a resounding success, with more than 320 guests attending the event and showing their support for Room at the Inn’s work with the homeless in the St. Louis area.

“With this year’s breakfast, we wanted to make a stand for our youngest clients—the children of Room at the Inn,” said Development Director Ana G. Schulz. “All of us at Room at the Inn were impressed and humbled with the show of support for this year’s gala.”

The breakfast, held at the St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, featured several speakers on the subject of homelessness, including Karen Wallensak, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Community Services, who gave a sobering account of homelessness in the area.

“Children are among what the National Center on Family Homelessness calls ‘America’s Youngest Outcast,’” Wallensak said during her presentation. “The average age of a homeless child is six years old.”

Wallensak highlighted the work that



Hundreds of guests listen as Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP, gives a welcoming address during the 2014 Breakfast with the INN Crowd Friday, April 11, at the St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel.

shelters like Room at the Inn do every day to fight homelessness.

“When you step back and look at the amount of work that goes on in places like Room at the Inn, it’s almost miraculous what these shelters can accomplish,” she said.

But it is not a job that can be done alone.

“Room at the Inn’s mission is only

possible thanks to the hundreds of people who stepped up to the plate to help those who need it most,” said Program Director Valorie Ferlis.

“To all of you who contributed in some way to the success of the event, we want to thank you and tell you you have made a huge difference in the lives of many women, children and families.”

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 Webster Groves Christian Church

Karen Wallensak, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Community Services was the featured speaker of this year’s Breakfast with the INN Crowd.



PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Maria Fest, CDP

Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP

Ana Lydia Sonera Matos, CDP

Mary Traupman, CDP

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Night Site Coordinator

Mary Kaminski
Client Service Specialist

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Volunteer Coordinator



Chris and his son thank a generous donor who dropped off new toys at Room at the Inn.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: A TIME FOR RENEWAL

Spring is a time of change and renewal. Now as summer approaches and spring slowly comes to an end, we see how the trees have sprouted their leaves and flowers have blossomed. Similarly, at Room at the Inn, we see every day how our clients grow personally as they find solutions to their homelessness.

One of the families currently staying with us is a wonderful example of the new beginnings Room at the Inn can provide to the less fortunate.

Our client Chris, his wife and two-year-old son arrived at our shelter almost a month ago with measured hope and many fears.

Chris said prior to Room at the Inn, he and his family were staying with relatives at an apartment. Then the landlord called. The apartment they were living in had an occupancy limit which they were violating.

Jobless, with a second child on the way, and no place to stay, everything seemed to be going in the wrong direction.

Then, his wife decided to call the Catholic Charities' Homeless Hotline, which refers clients to shelters like Room at the Inn.

"It was scary," Chris said. "We didn't know anybody. We did not know what to expect."

Upon arrival at Room at the Inn, however, Chris said the shelter gave him a chance to start over and work hard to change his condition.

"I just kept thinking, 'I need to take care of my family. I can't move backwards. I need to keep moving forward,'" Chris explained.

While working with Room at the Inn's employment program specialist, Chris was offered a job at a manufacturing company. In his application letter, Chris was not embarrassed by his current condition but, rather, empowered by the possibilities of making a positive change.

"In my cover letter I basically told them I had a family and that we were in a homeless shelter," Chris said. "I told them I needed to be a man and take care of my family and provide for them. The hiring manager said she called me because of my cover letter and said she wanted to give me a chance."

Now with a job, Room at the Inn is helping Chris find permanent or transitional housing. Chris said this experience has helped him understand that life is never over if you don't give up.

"You just have to pray and strive to always go forward," Chris said. "You have to have faith and keep searching. Everything changes for the better, if you make it happen."

GLENDALE PRESBYTERIAN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO AREA HOMELESS

On Sunday, May 4th, Glendale Presbyterian Church celebrated 20 years of partnering with Room at the Inn in its mission to help the homeless women, children and families of the St. Louis area.

Room at the Inn recognized Glendale Presbyterian's milestone during the church's Sunday, May 4, service.

"Our families come to Room at the Inn devastated by homelessness," said Room at the Inn Board Chair Geralyn Frandsen, as she presented a plaque dedicated to Glendale Presbyterian. "They are fearful of going to a different church each night. However, after their visits to the churches, they remark on how welcoming you all are.

"You provide them with a good meal, warm bed, and time to enjoy being a family. You help children with their homework and act as a role model for their parents with effective and loving parenting skills."

"The longevity of their commitment truly speaks volumes about their dedication to serve the least fortunate in our community."

Chris Hotard, Night Site Coordinator.

With this milestone, Glendale joins a group of 17 other congregations across the St. Louis area who have worked alongside Room at the Inn for more than 20 years.



From left, Room at the Inn Board Chair Geralyn Frandsen presents a plaque recognizing Glendale Presbyterian Church for their 20 years of partnership with Room. Receiving the plaque is Glendale Presbyterian Church's night site coordinator Terry Ulmer.

"The longevity of their commitment truly speaks volumes about their dedication to serve the least fortunate in our community," said Room at the Inn Night Site Coordinator Chris Hotard. "Glendale Presbyterian really stands out as a group of very genuine people who make a point of treating the clients as they would like to be treated. They're always willing to take that extra step to ensure that the clients feel at home at their church."

Glendale Presbyterian has also recently partnered with Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Webster Groves, which will provide volunteer support.

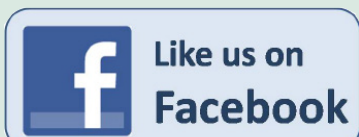
"Glendale Presbyterian truly embraces the interfaith aspects of the work Room at the Inn strives to deliver," Frandsen said.

Glendale Presbyterian Pastor Rev. Liz Kanerva said her congregation loves the opportunity to put faith into action by helping the less fortunate.

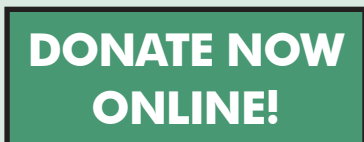
But how have they done it for more than 20 years?

"It's the passion and faith of our leaders," Rev. Kanerva said as she commended Terry Ulmer, Room's night site coordinator at Glendale Presbyterian. "There is always someone who has a renewed passion to help others, and that keeps us going."

Thank you, Glendale Presbyterian Church, for your 20 years of helping Room at the Inn's clients feel your welcoming love and faith.



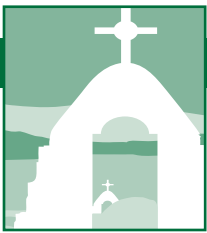
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Room at the Inn

Shelter with a purpose, Clients with a future

A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Divine Providence
3415 Bridgeland Drive • Bridgeton, MO 63044
Return Service Requested



MISSION STATEMENT

Sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Room at the Inn provides emergency shelter and a stabilizing support system to women and families in need in St. Louis County, using a collaborative, interfaith effort of congregations and organizations throughout the St. Louis Region.

www.RoomSTL.org



St. Louis County
Children's Service Fund
Keeping Kids First



Some funds for the Room at the Inn emergency shelter program for homeless families are provided by government grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by St. Louis County Human Services.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, October 6, 2014

Registration 10 a.m. – Lunch 11 a.m. – Shotgun Start 12 p.m.

Inaugural Charity Golf Outing for Room at the Inn

Webster Groves Christian Church
and Westborough Country Club present:

*First Annual
Charity Golf Outing
for Room at the Inn*

Held at Westborough Country Club

Player registration begins July 1, 2014

Sponsorships available now – CALL TODAY!

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www.RoomSTL.org/events