

# COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

October 2006

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## Let Us Keep The Teaching

By Rev. Mr. Jerry D. Lawritson

*Honor*  
*Your father and your mother,*  
*In order that your days may be prolonged*  
*On the soil that YHWH your God is giving you.*  
**(Exodus 20:12. Cf. Deuteronomy 5:16. Everett Fox translation)**

Of all of the imperatives in the Decalogue, this may be the most important. Why? Because parents are always older than their children. We need to think of this very carefully. Is not the test of a people, any people, how it treats those who are older? Even Hitler tried to get close to children though they had a natural instinct not to like him. All tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. No politician wants to be viewed as anything but fond of children. But genuine care for the older people, especially those who are weak and infirm, helpless? Who makes an effort to genuinely care for them? Many societies idealize youth. None idealizes those of greater age. It was not always so. Once age was equated with wisdom, and was due respect, honor, even reverence. Once grey hair was a sign of honor and privilege. Today it is considered a disease to be covered up.

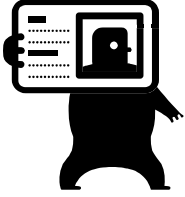
Abraham J. Heschel once said that we find more patients in the beauty parlor than in the hospital. Why? It is because in so many societies old age is looked upon as a defeat, a reason for being ashamed. In many societies today there is a not so secret contempt for the old, for those of greater age. It is considered that their time is past. They have nothing more of value to contribute. Once retired, older people are to do whatever is necessary to stay out of the way of those who are younger. The aged are to stay out of the way of those who really *do* matter because they still function in the machinery of productivity. Do we dare consider that the cult of youth is idolatry? Do we dare consider that the legend of Faust is a lesson of disintegration while the story of Abraham gives hope and light to the nations? We might want to recover in the halls of power the realization that to be retired is not to be retarded. We might want to reconsider and come to a full realization of the collective insight and wisdom that those who are older possess. We might want to learn from them the insights gained over a life time so that we might avoid some of the same mistakes and do some of the same things right.

The commandment to honor our parents is a commandment to think inter-generationally so that society can be more whole and much wiser than otherwise it will be. Staying on the soil means to have longevity not only in a place, but in existence and the march of history. Can we truly trust that any society

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## A Success Story From JSC

By Jack Blevins



You might ask “What’s in an ID?” A simple thing one takes for granted keeps another without it “stuck”, and unable to operate. Take a moment and count how many times in a week you show some form of ID. It seems we show ID for everything! The following story illustrates the importance of having proper identification.

Alan had just turned 62 and had been self-sufficient all his life. You could tell when he came in to our office he was having a hard time asking for help. Although he qualified for social security, he did not have a copy of his birth certificate, or the fee, to process the application. He was not born in CA and some states make it very difficult for people to get their own birth certificate. But in his case, Joyce Snyder Center was successful in assisting Alan to get his needed ID.

Several weeks passed by and early one morning there was a knock on the JSC door. It was Alan. He stopped by to thank us for our help. He now had income through Social Security; and had applied and gotten into a senior living facility. He smiled as he again gave us credit for him not being homeless. I had to thank him for giving us a great example of success. I told Alan that he had done most of the work. In seven weeks with some help from us, he was able to overcome some obstacles and begin his life anew.

## “Adopt-A-Family” Christmas Program Coming



Mark your calendar! The annual “Adopt-A-Family” Christmas Program is once again just around the corner. Each year this annual event brings together our supporters, many dedicated volunteers and agency staff to create some Christmas magic for those in need. CCSA is already beginning to plan and there is plenty of time to include all of those who wish to join in the festivities.

The Xmas distribution is scheduled for Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church. The number of families we can adopt is approximately 160 based upon the space available at the distribution site. Each year CCSA’s program sponsors put forth a tremendous effort to fill the extra needs of the families we serve on a daily basis. We hope to have equal success this holiday season.

The sponsors who have supported us in previous years will receive letters of invitation in mid-October. We will be taking reservations to “adopt” a family on a first come, first serve basis and we hope to accommodate all those that wish to sponsor. There are many opportunities for much needed volunteers to help throughout the program and on distribution day. For more information you may contact Doris Hargis, program coordinator, at 858-274-5186; or view complete program information on our newly created website: [www.ccsasandiego.org](http://www.ccsasandiego.org).



## Let Us Keep the Teaching..... continued from page 1

that denigrates old age and exalts youth almost to the point of divinity has a long future to depend upon?

Today there are many fears that can come upon a person. But for the elderly there is a new fear. It is the fear of medical bills. How can an elderly person on a fixed income keep up with the medical costs, say of a prescription for heart medicine? If we truly took the commandment seriously as a society would we not sell the sacred objects from our houses of worship to help one sick person, to allay the fear of the elderly in the face of rising health care costs? Where is the outrage? Where is the action built on honoring the aged?

Again and again priests, ministers, rabbi's affirm for the aged within their congregations that the value and grandeur of human life is not reducible to a specific function within society. It is false to say that a person's life has lost value or meaning because a function they once filled is no longer theirs to fulfill. Every human life has an intrinsic value, a grandeur beyond social control or judgment. Do we know that human existence cannot derive its ultimate meaning from society since society itself is in need of meaning? Society has no ability to assign or not assign true value to a human being. Because a person is aged, or even infirm does not mean they have lost their grandeur or their ultimate value. Such a person still retains significant being. Because of this it is a lie for social attitudes to relegate them to the sidelines as though they are of no longer any importance. By the same token, the aged person cannot rest on what has been already achieved. No person, of any age, is removed from the requirement to search for and do righteousness all of their days. Even the infirm can still cultivate a deep life of devotion in prayer and in words of wisdom given to those they encounter. Allow me a personal story. My maternal grand-mother was forced to go into a long term care facility when she was 90 years of age. She went from a beautiful and spacious home to sharing a small room with one other person. For the first year all she wanted to do was die. That was her ardent prayer. She did not die. So, she awoke one morning to the realization that since she had always been a deeply devout person and devotion to God meant service, that she would undertake such service in the facility where she now found herself. For the next four years, until her death at the age of 95, she made a point everyday of visiting the new comers and those most afflicted with depression in that facility. At her funeral many of the staff appeared to give testimony to what that had meant to them and to the rest of the patients. She was, in that place, considered a saint. To be aged is to be able to exhibit what has been learned over a life time about devotion, love, reverence, and wisdom.

So, it behooves all of us to encounter the aged person, the old, with the affirmation of their dignity, ultimate value and the wisdom they carry. We all may be thankful that CCSA in its ministry does just this. CCSA is seeing an increase in aged clients. Some come needing food. Some come needing help with prescriptions. Some have other needs. Some use the Medical Mobile Unit that comes to the Clairemont office regularly. In any event, CCSA, working within the limits of its own resources, tries to help each such client. At the very least, each aged client is given the dignity that they are due, the respect they are due, the affirmation of their grandeur and ultimate worth. This is acting out of wisdom. It is keeping the commandment. And that is what CCSA is all about.



*“Every human life has an intrinsic value, a grandeur beyond Social control or judgment”*



## In Memory:



CCSA recently learned of the death of Fran Warner, part-time staff and volunteer coordinator at the agency from 1989 to 1993. Fran remained an avid CCSA supporter through the years from her Sherman Oaks home where she lived with her husband. Fran passed away from complications of long-time heart disease. Those who knew her have many fond memories of her working at CCSA and her client-focused service to those in need.

## Escrip Update

We now have more than 500 people participating in *Escrip* and donating extra money to CCSA as they do their grocery shopping. If you're not already participating, but would like to, call CCSA @ 858-274-2273; or go to [www.ccsasandiego.org](http://www.ccsasandiego.org) and click on the link to *Escrip* info about becoming a CCSA supporter.

## Hunger Walk 2007

The CCSA Hunger Walk is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, April 28th, 2007** at Mission Bay. The walk will begin at 8:00 a.m., with registration, warm ups and welcomes beginning at 7:15 a.m.

There are many ways you can help with this walk. If you are a member church, and you have a youth group at your church, consider asking the Youth Director to incorporate the Hunger Walk as a service project for their youth group. The youth involved can spread the good news of CCSA and its mission to sponsors, and also invite their own families to join them the morning of the walk. If your church has a school, this is the time to give them information about the walk so they can put it on their schedule for the year. If you have some new idea's for inviting more people to the walk please call Jeanne McAlindin (619) 276-1169. All volunteers are welcome to help with the details of the walk on April 28th 2007!

## Volunteering At CCSA: It's Good Medicine!

By Matthew Wuest

I've been reading a book entitled "The Healthy Mind, Healthy Body Handbook" by Dr. Sobel and Dr. Ornstein. The chapter "Healthy Helping" is quite intriguing as it sheds some light on habits for healthy living.

According to the authors research supported the following:

- A helping and caring relationship with another person can actually improve the health of the helper. Helping others improves the health of our society and our world.
- It is healthier to forget about your own health problems and concentrate on caring for someone else. Excessive preoccupation with your own comfort can lead to depression, poor health and a life without much meaning.
- Volunteers may experience a "helper's high", increased self-esteem, and reduced signs of stress. Seeing the response of the person you are helping is extremely beneficial to the volunteer.
- Volunteers with strong social ties have lower rates of cancer, heart disease, depression, and arthritis.

If all this is true – perhaps this why we have so many sweet, healthy, and "mature" ladies as our volunteer core at CCSA !?!



## The Joyce Snyder Center By Jack Blevins

The following excerpt by Pat Guest, former CCSA director, from a previous CCSA newsletter revisited, is relevant and confirms the source of strength that keeps the careful balance of CCSA intact.

“I want those of you who support the work **we** do (meaning CCSA as an agency) that there is distress in the loss of community support as a result of closure of so many programs and agencies; but **we** know where **we** get our support and **we** know the reason **we** are still here. **IT IS YOU**-- because of your faith, your good nature, your altruism, your empathy, or all of the above -- who keep us going by providing us with the means to help those in need.”

It is through God’s grace that the Joyce Snyder Center continues to be able to serve many deserving people. The decrease in clients seen in recent months has disappeared and an average of 125 people per week are coming in for service. We had 518 service visits in August keeping our dedicated volunteers busy in their daily work.

### Current Volunteer Needs at JSC:

- Intake and/or Food service volunteers to work directly with clients on Wednesday (AM & PM shifts), and Friday mornings.
- Volunteer Nurses are needed for the Nursing Clinic. There is a particular need on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The clinic is generally held in the morning hours between 10am to 12noon. This is a special opportunity to give a little of your time and skills to a special-needs population.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Jack Blevins at the Joyce Snyder Center. (858) 272 – 0163.

### August -Client Stats

#### Clairemont Center

Applications- 276

Adults- 368

Children- 219

#### Joyce Snyder Center

Applications- 241

Adults-241

Children- 5

Clients served- 510

**Total CCSA Clients Served- 1164**

### September- Client Stats

#### Clairemont Center

Applications- 226

Adults- 328

Children- 219

#### Joyce Snyder Center

Applications- 261

Adults-267

Children- 17

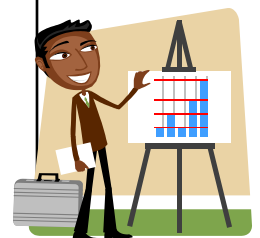
Clients served- 480

**Total CCSA Clients Served- 1027**

### Time-out For Gratitude


A moment of recognition goes to Marsha Meyer for her dedicated service to the Joyce Snyder Nursing Clinic.

Marsha has volunteered skills as a registered nurse in the PB clinic over the past several years. The clinic continues to be a valuable asset to homeless with health needs.



## “CCSA Goes Back-to-School With Success!”

By Carole Denton




CCSA really met with success this year as it distributed its annual school program. We are completely indebted to our supporters for our success and would like to thank all of those that made donations to this year’s program. CCSA is truly grateful for such generous support! The tremendous outlay of financial resources and goods distributed to families and their children once again demonstrated the desire of our supporters to see that as many needy children as possible receive necessary supplies to help them get off to a great start in the classroom. It’s wonderful to see so many people investing in the future of children.”

More than 370 backpacks were recruited from the congregations of our member churches and other donors. Donations of school supplies were more than plentiful to fill the backpacks full of essential school supplies to help children build life-long skills and confidence. Our donors were very supportive with their financial contributions as well this season. CCSA was able to purchase gift certificates from Target and Payless Shoes stores for program participants.

The children that participated were either referred through on going programs at CCSA or by other area social service agencies. More than 150 children case managed through agencies such as SAY-San Diego, Boys and Girls Club of San Diego, and Bayside Community Services received “Back-to-School” packages at the program giveaway held on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Clairemont Service Center. After the ‘give-away’, CCSA staff and volunteers assisted an additional 225 children with school items during walk-in service at the center. This year a total of 377 children received backpacks stuffed with school supplies, and a gift card from either Target or Payless along with new socks and underwear. The caring and compassion of CCSA supporters helped these children return to the classroom full of confidence and ready to get to work in the classroom.

With such overwhelming support coming from our donors, every effort was made this year to serve as many children as CCSA possibly could. At September’s end, knowing there were still kids with need, we gave our leftover school supplies to needy children at the Nativity Prep School in downtown San Diego as well as to Casa de las Pobres in Tijuana. CCSA feels tremendous satisfaction in the efforts accomplished this year. We more than doubled the number of children we were able to serve over the previous year. So many people help us towards this success. We were once again duly reminded of the strength we have from our member churches and other donors as a combined group. **CCSA thanks you and is truly grateful for your continued commitment to all of the programs you so faithfully support!**



**“AT TIMES, OUR OWN LIGHT GOES OUT AND IS REKINDLED BY A SPARK FROM ANOTHER PERSON. EACH OF US HAS CAUSE TO THINK WITH DEEP GRATITUDE OF THOSE WHO HAVE LIGHTED THE FLAME WITHIN US”**

Albert Schweitzer

## CCSA is On-line Too!

More and more people turn to the internet for information and making everyday transactions. Why? Because it's so easy once you know how. You can now visit CCSA on-line! CCSA's newly created website is friendly and easy to use for on-line surfers of all abilities. Our website address is: [www.ccsasandiego.org](http://www.ccsasandiego.org). The site gives a complete tour through our programs and activities.

### **A Few Things to See & Do on-line with CCSA:**

- Overview of Agency Services and Programs
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Check CCSA's "**current needs**" List
- Apply to Become a Volunteer
- Make Financial Contributions On-line
- Sponsor a family in the "Adopt-A-Family" Christmas Program



You can also ask questions about CCSA at: [ccsainfo@nethere.com](mailto:ccsainfo@nethere.com). You will receive an answer by return email. Our website was created by Jeanne McAlindin and Ann Gibson of Now Productions, and will be updated regularly to provide you with the most current agency information.

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## CCSA NEEDS YOUR HELP!!



As the summer season comes to a close our food supplies are typically low with many of our regular donors on vacation through the summer months. At this time of year both CCSA Service Centers begin their busiest service period. Recently we have experienced cutbacks through the government food programs that have supplemented us for years. We are now more reliant than ever on the donations that we receive from our member churches and other donors. We have a need for specific items that are “pre-packed” in the food bags we distribute to our clients.

### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Cereal-family size boxes  
Peanut Butter  
Jams and Jellies  
Canned Tuna  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Spaghetti Pasta

Beef Stew  
Pork ‘n Beans  
Vienna Sausage  
Canned Fruit  
Mac ‘n Cheese

Donations can be dropped off at:

**Clairemont Service Center**  
4167 Rappahannock Ave.  
(858) 274-2273