

spring 2018

# We're here for Recovery

## GREAT NEWS

### GRACE AND THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

Tifini has been a teacher, a social worker and a professional hair and make up artist (well known and successful). She had a blog and, with a partner, founded a lifestyle magazine and became a member of the New York Association of Black Journalists. She has three children and had a home of her own.

Then things darkened as she slipped into a jarring foreclosure. She left her home and traveled to Houston, finding work as a substitute teacher. The loneliness, extreme depression and shame of her circumstances intensified her drinking. She knew she was approaching addiction with her alcohol abuse and needed support.

Another eviction leveled her and left her alone with two children in a strange city.

>more inside

TIFINI, A RECENT GRADUATE

SANTA MARIA



"... LIFE DOESN'T END BECAUSE OF MISHAPS. TIFINI IS THE FACE AND VOICE OF *RecovHERy* AS WELL AS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE RECOVERY MOVEMENT."



# GRACE AND THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

## CONTINUED FROM COVER STORY

A friend told her about Santa Maria, and she applied for housing in our transitional apartments for women and children who are homeless. She was on the waiting list for four months, but she was persistent. She was finally accepted in February 2015.

Once safe in her new surroundings, her case manager, Erin Martin, recognized that there were issues with alcohol, and Tifini needed treatment. It was actually a big relief because she knew that she needed treatment. Here, she could be in treatment and have her children with her! She was switched to the Women with Children program and spent 120 days in treatment. Later she completed the outpatient phase while training for work.

Another staff member, Senior Director Donna White, saw something special in Tifini. She was recommended for a culinary training program through the Houston Food Bank and SER Jobs for Progress, a collaboration arranged by Educational Services Instructor, Linda Johnson. She would be the first client from SMH to be given this opportunity. She continued as an intern at Le Meridien, serving her time in the kitchen preparing meals for employees of the hotel. She loved cooking and the ability to create.

Through grace, she has found friends, hope, church and community. Erin and Donna have served as mentors to this productive young woman. Her children have thrived along with her and many times encouraged her to go on. One day, one moment at a time and a lot of hard work have proven that life doesn't end because of mishaps. She is the face and voice of *RecovHERy* as well as a proud member of the recovery movement. Your continued support has allowed Tifini the time and security to build a better future.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

It is always exciting and challenging to begin a new year! The staff at Santa Maria is grateful for the continued success and growth of our program reaching into the community. We are committed to meet the needs of those we serve by expanding our continuum of care and delivering services with the highest level of professionalism and compassion.

Moving forward, Santa Maria will continue to expand services for the entire family unit, ensuring each family member and the family as a whole is supported and empowered with a strong foundation for success.

We will also continue to seek potential participants where they are, meeting them with the full range of services necessary for recovery and stability. The two newly added criminal justice programs have started to impact women presently incarcerated and near release. The integration of services and the whole person approach is eagerly being met through staff focus and client dedication. We are proud to be part of criminal justice reform focused on women who need treatment for addiction and co-occurring disorders to improve their futures.

We have just completed a year study in collaboration with UT Health Science Center and Cizik School of Nursing piloting a practicum where undergraduate

nursing students are prepared to work with patients with alcohol and drug related problems. It is our belief that this interactive, hands-on program will aid in reducing the stigma that negatively impacts the physical and mental health of patients who struggle with these diseases. If you have an interest in knowing more, we would be happy to provide you with a copy of the published study.

And finally, please plan to join us on May 22, at the River Oaks Country Club for our annual RISE luncheon, celebrating our work and raising much needed funding. We are thrilled to be honoring Houston's own Deborah Duncan with our "Visionary Award." We will have tables of 10 and individual tickets available. Please see the Save the Date for more information.

This is a great way to become more involved and support our mission. We hope to see you there.

SINCERELY,

NADINE SCAMP, LMSW  
CEO SANTA MARIA

"... INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AND THE WHOLE PERSON APPROACH IS EAGERLY BEING MET THROUGH STAFF FOCUS AND CLIENT DEDICATION"

# WE "STAGE" A STORE

Following a dream of improving our clients' experience during treatment, SMH reached out to our supporters, Stage Stores, to transform a large storage room to a "store" where newly admitted clients can go to find the basic needs in clothing for themselves and their children. On March 14, the "store" will be outfitted by Stage employees. Racks and shelving, signage and beautification will make this a much-needed improvement to our welcome services to new clients.

We can use your help, too! To the right, find a list of items that we are seeking to fill the racks with targeted donations, used the most frequently. Please be sure that the items are new or only gently-used, and in clean condition.

**DONATIONS OF THESE ITEMS WELCOME AT BONITA HOUSE, 2605 PARKER ROAD, HOUSTON 77093**

**STAYED TUNED TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND FUTURE PUBLICATIONS TO SEE THIS SERVICE DEVELOP.**



## BABIES

Onesies  
Socks  
Blankets  
Bottles - plastic  
Pacifiers

## CHILDREN

Toddler clothing  
Underwear  
Socks  
Shoes - small sizes  
Casual clothing

## WOMEN

Bras  
Sports bras  
Underwear  
Casual shoes  
Casual clothing

If you are interested in hosting a drive for any of these items within your organization or company, please contact Pamela at 713-562-1272 or pvangiessen@santamariahospital.org

# BREAKING THROUGH THE CEILING

Linda Johnson,  
Educational  
Services  
Instructor



## EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Linda Johnson's biggest joy is motivating her students to do something extra for their lives! As the Educational Services Instructor of SMH, she facilitates and maintains curricula for GED, Life Skills and Career Development classes for those clients who are actively engaged in our treatment programs. She also develops and maintains collaborative partnerships within the community, related agencies and businesses that can enhance or support her programs.

Originally from Louisiana, Linda moved to Houston after her college years. She entered the corporate life as a business analyst. In 2004, she found Bonita House as a volunteer and made teaching her mission and her purpose, coming on board as a staff member to share her gift for teaching.

In her time at SMH, she has helped hundreds of women start the process of obtaining their GED. Thirty women have completed their GED certifications with her guidance. She shares their achievements through exciting group announcements and a special graduation celebration, presenting the graduate to her peers and family at our monthly Recovery Recognition events. She also teaches Life Skills and Career Development classes that teach and improve job readiness skills and strategies. These classes inspire better paying jobs, careers or support higher educational learning skills or training.

She sparks action through exploration and discovery, insisting that her students open the door to their future. She teaches them not to put a ceiling on where they want to be, but rather take full advantage of all the opportunities offered to them during their stay at Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA STAFF, ALUMNI AND VOLUNTEERS JOINED THE 8TH ANNUAL HOUSTON RUN FOR RECOVERY. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY MOVEMENT AND JOINING US IN CELEBRATING IT



# THE 8TH ANNUAL RUN FOR RECOVERY

THANK YOU  
MAREK FAMILY FOUNDATION  
THE COUNCIL ON RECOVERY  
AVE 360  
THE LAST RESORT

After having to postpone the Houston Run for Recovery due to Hurricane Harvey, the race took place at the Cleveland Park in Downtown on December 17, 2017. It was a great day for a race! The weather cooperated and the racers were sporting their holiday gear, ready to participate and show their support to the recovery community.

The event began with a non-competitive 1K Kids Fun Run followed by competitive and non-competitive 5K Run/Walk. There were over 580 participants running along Memorial Drive supported by more than 120 volunteers. Prizes were given as the runners enjoyed snacks from Nothing Bundt Cakes and Jake's Finer Foods. Katz coffee and hot chocolate were welcomed on the chilly morning.

We want to highlight the race's key sponsors: Marek Family Foundation, The Council on Recovery, Ave 360 and The Last Resort. Thanks to their support and the many others, we were able to raise over \$43,000. The proceeds will go to recovery-based scholarships benefiting program participants at Santa Maria Hostel, STAR Drug Court and The Council on Recovery.

# AN INSPIRING PARTNERSHIP



On December 12, 13 students from the University of Houston Downtown, College of Public Service, received their Recovery Coach Diploma from Amelia Murphy, Senior Director of Recovery Support Services (RSS) at Santa Maria. To date, 35 students have received the valuable training from the RSS staff of Santa Maria. During this event, students celebrated the culmination of the Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice imparted by Assistant Professor Dr. Judith Harris. In acknowledgment to Ms. Murphy's work with the students, Dr. Harris said "UHD is so proud to have you as an integral partner in our ongoing quest for student awareness in the area of substance abuse and reentry." The evening's special guest speakers were Nadine Scamp, CEO of Santa Maria and Texas Senator John Whitmire.

Whitmire led the tone with his remarks. "Mental health is driving the criminal justice system as I stand here talking to you." He cited a study done a few years ago, where 32,000 of the 150,000 individuals incarcerated in Texas had participated in a mental health program before they ended up in the criminal justice system. "That is a sin that we as Texans should not be proud of. Approximately 32,000 people are locked up tonight in prison, because they could not get the right mental health, counseling and

medication they needed," he said.

He highlighted the creation of the BAMBI Program, a partnership between Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Santa Maria that began eight years ago as an example of a solution. He challenged us all to do more. "Using common sense and compassion we can do better."

On a similar note, Nadine Scamp, CEO of Santa Maria mentioned, "Through programs that re-emphasize rehabilitation, strong family and community engagement we can help reduce the incarceration rate and improve the health and safety of the entire community."

Ms. Scamp spoke to the students and gave a compelling message about how they can help impact the problem with their empathy. "Please remember that the person standing before you is more than just the crime they've committed. They have a name, not just a number. They are individuals who have unique history, strengths and challenges. The individual before you, does not have to be defined by their past. He or she has the opportunity for a new chance to successfully reenter society and be a productive contributing member. But often it takes all of us working together to make that success happen."

**SANTA MARIA IS PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH UHD TO INSPIRE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR TREATMENT, RESPONSE AND SUCCESS.**

*Pictured from left to right: Lillian Stephens, Recovery Coach Specialist for SMH; Veronica Aldana, Recovery Coach for SMH; Dr. Judith Harris, College of Public Service Assistant Professor; Texas Senator John Whitmire; Amelia Murphy, Senior Director of Recovery Support Services at SMH; and Dr. Juan Sanchez Munoz, UHD President*



# HOUSTON ROCKETS DAY OF CARING

In celebration of Veteran’s Day, November 10, 2017, the Houston Rockets in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense partnered with Santa Maria for a Day of Caring. It was a busy and exciting morning at our Jacquelyn House.

We were fortunate to host Houston Rockets’ staff and Houston Rockets’ players, including Ryan Anderson, power forward and Tarik Black, center.

Clutch, the Rockets’ mascot along with members of the U.S. Marines, Army, Air Force and Coast Guards were also there for this major volunteer effort.

This incredible group of volunteers helped refresh our facilities by painting seven bedrooms and one office. The Rockets generously donated all the supplies and meals for the volunteers.

We would like to acknowledge our sponsors from United Way of Greater Houston for making this Day of Caring possible for Santa Maria.

# RiSE

2018

ANEW START LUNCHEON  
BENEFITING  
SANTA MARIA HOSTEL

*save the date*

**TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018**

**11:30 REGISTRATION**

**12 NOON LUNCHEON**

**RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB**

**RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY**

**BY CONTACTING**

**713.691.0900 X2189**

**SANTAMARIAHOSTEL.ORG**



**SANTA MARIA**

2605 PARKER RD., HOUSTON, TX 77093 | T: 713-691-0900 | F: 713-691-0910



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