

We're here for Recovery

GREAT NEWS

HEALING FOR A FAMILY

We hear a lot about the opioid crisis but often that information focuses on statistics, hard-hit communities and the causes of this public health crisis. Meet Holly, a woman who can put a face to the trauma and despair brought by opioid dependency but who can also shine the light on the hope and joy of the pathway to recovery and healing.

Her addiction began at age 13 with an over prescription of pain killers after a tonsillectomy. The pills eased not just her physical pain but the emotional one that she suffered after the death of her father at that tender age of preadolescence. She was not aware how deeply she was grieving, and there was no intervention to assist her to cope with the feelings of loss. Over the years and like so many others, she migrated to other drugs after she could no longer obtain those prescribed. She used cocaine, meth and later heroin in the search for something that would dull the pain and the tragic consequences of her addiction. Although early on she completed residential treatment, she was unable to continue sobriety.

>more inside



HOLLY, THE FACE OF RECOVERY

SANTA MARIA



WITH THE HELP
OF COURT LIAISON
SERVICES OFFERED
THROUGH SANTA
MARIA HOLLY
REGAINED CUSTODY
OF HER CHILDREN.

CONTINUED
FROM COVER STORY

HEALING FOR A FAMILY

Holly is the mother to three children, two born during her addiction. As a consequence of her dependency, her children were removed by CPS. She missed important milestones of their development. Along the way, she also experienced near death through overdose and traumas too numerous and private to elaborate on. She found the refuge and help of Santa Maria after the birth of her third child. A caring physician insisted she have a plan for treatment before she was discharged from her maternity hospital stay. Her mother suggested Santa Maria, and Holly entered residential services coupled with medication assisted treatment, surrounded by the support she so desperately needed.

With the help of court liaison services offered through SMH she regained custody of her children. With guidance from her peer recovery coaches and counselors, she completed treatment, enrolled at Houston Community College and secured childcare for her children. She resides at Bonita House in the sober living apartments with her family. All of her family members have been strengthened by the many services available to children and families. Holly is studying counseling and is determined to become involved in the world of recovery services as her profession. Today, she shares a warm smile, thoughtful insight into her future and the hope she envisions for her children. She asked that we recognize the Santa Maria staff "Coach Patera and Coach Traci, Mr. Tommy Austin and Ms. Amelia Murphy, my inspiring team of counselors and advocates... I could not have come this far without them!"

SHE IS THE FACE OF RECOVERY.



DEAR FRIENDS,

We continue to be blessed by incredible community led efforts that are beautifying our campuses. In the past few months, we have seen a total renovation of our Paschall center and our Jacquelyn HUD housing. Both of these transformative renovations renewed and expanded our ability to provide sober recovery housing for our clients. There are articles in this edition on both projects to highlight the groups that made these renovations possible.

The summer brought enriching camp activities for the children in our care and back to school support that started their academic year off to a great start. These activities empowered our children with better resiliency skills and brought fun to our home. Earlier in the spring, we celebrated the achievements of Santa Maria at our annual RISE luncheon. The photographs of our event are included and tell the story of a wonderful afternoon. One of the most impactful traditions at this event is the opportunity to hear from a participant of our programs, and this year did not disappoint. Be sure to save the date for our event on Tuesday May 5th and be with us next spring.

This fall, we are excited to launch Strengthening Families, a new family based prevention program for elementary and middle school students and their families. The 10 week curriculum will be delivered in several surrounding school districts through skill-based lessons where children and parents work in groups alone and then combined as a family to strengthen bonds and improve resiliency together.

And finally in this issue, meet Pattie Holecek, one of our lead volunteers, assisting with all sorts of tasks and projects. Volunteers like Pattie help us deliver the promise of our programs to our clients and our community. Without you, this work would not be possible. Thank you for your support as we restore hope to recovering women and their families.

SINCERLEY,

NADINE SCAMP, LMSW

WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO HAVE RECEIVED
FUNDING FOR THE
FIRST TIME FROM THE
CHARITY GUILD OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN, THE
HAMILL FOUNDATION
AND THE WILLIAM
STAMPS FARISH FUND.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

OUR RISE 2019 LUNCHEON WAS A GREAT SUCCESS—
RAISING OVER \$155K TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

Nearly 300 friends and supporters of Santa Maria gathered on Tuesday, April 30th at the River Oaks Country Club for our Annual RISE Luncheon which celebrates our commitment to walking with thousands of women, children and family members each year on their recovery journey.

Reverend Dr. Matt Russell was presented with the Visionary Award for his over two decades of work giving voice to and building welcoming communities for individuals in recovery and others who have been marginalized.

The RISE award was presented to **D.E. Harvey Builders** and **Kirksey Architecture** for their community outreach initiatives including their donation of time, talents and resources to complete a major renovation project at our Jacquelyn facility last year.

The program also featured two Santa Maria alumni, Sharon Hadley and Courtney Mendoza, who shared their inspiring stories of success in recovery.

Each guest walked away with a gift bag full of home goods generously provided by our presenting sponsor **Palais Royal**.



Lisa Malosky, MC with our special guest speakers and Santa Maria Alumni Courtney Mendoza and Sharon Hadley.



RISE Award Recipients Matt Weber from Harvey Builders and Catherine Callaway from Kirksey Architecture with Nadine Scamp, CEO Santa Maria.



Irma Barbee from Wings Ministries leaving the Luncheon happy with her gift bag from our generous sponsor Palais Royal.



Santa Maria Board Members, Kelli Fondren, Russell Weil, Deborah Keyser, Keith Rudy with Stan Marek.

Reverend Dr. Matt Russell, Visionary Award recipient.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

GET TO KNOW PATTIE HOLECEK



Pattie was coming to the close of a long career. She had served nearly 30 years as a teacher and then an administrator in the public schools. She knew that after stepping away from traditional education, she would need to find a wonderful place to devote some volunteer hours after she retired. She wanted to stay connected to the community and she wanted to serve.

She found Santa Maria at the annual Thanksgiving feast, as she served the holiday lunch with her family and other members of Klein United Methodist Church in the dining room of Bonita House. The clients and their children called out to her and she inquired about becoming involved regularly. Since then, she has become one of our lead volunteers, assisting with all sorts of tasks and projects. Nothing seems too small or too big for her to handle. She uses her management and organizational skills with every job she tackles. Whether it is putting a storage area in order or running a summer day camp for the children who live with their mothers, Pattie keeps her hands busy and her heart full.

Perhaps her most favorite and valued role has been the leadership of our “Read and Rise” program, introducing our mothers and their small children to books as a way of bonding and learning for these young families. The program is a natural fit for her talents. She finds the course incredibly rewarding, and she knows that the women will be better parents for the experience. She values each mother, their questions and concerns, and their enthusiasm. Pattie enjoys bringing a love of reading to each family. She knows she will start with the women and it will help their children.

She also values the staff and enjoys the opportunity to assist them with small tasks so that they can spend more time with their connection and counseling roles. There is never an end to the filing and data that needs to be managed. Never an end to donations that need to be sorted, inventoried and displayed so that clients’ experience is safe, clean and filled with dignity.

She truly appreciates the gratitude that both staff and clients express to her. She says that it is a “cool moment when some small thing gets noticed, just being there.” Carmen Jones, Director of Operations says it best.... “I wish I could clone Pattie, there is so much to be done and she does everything with loving patience and care.”

**IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO
SERVE AT SANTA MARIA, WE NEED YOU!**

Contact msalgado@santamariahospel.org to find out more.

**WE’D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE PATTIE HOLECEK, OUR COMMITTED VOLUNTEER,
FOR EFFECTIVELY LEADING THE READ AND RISE PROGRAM AT SANTA MARIA.**

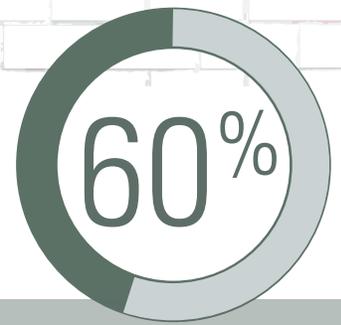
READ AND RISE PROGRAM

We are pleased to have received funding from the **Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation** to implement the **Read and Rise** family literacy program. The foundation works to improve the quality of lives through the power of literacy. **Read and Rise** teaches parents about the important role they play in their child's literacy development and helps parents gain confidence and skills to promote literacy. Participating families are also able to select books to begin building their own home library. For those mothers whose children are not residing with them on campus, we are able to record them reading the books and then send both recording and books to their children, promoting both family literacy and helping maintain the parent-child bond.

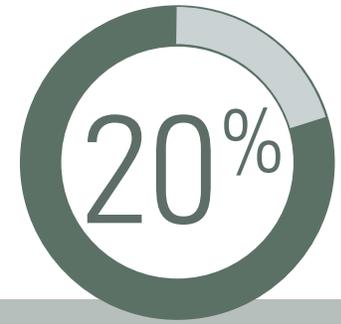
Research presented by the National Center for Education Statistics indicates that family engagement is one of the most important factors of literacy development. Also, this research indicates that children enter kindergarten at a higher reading level when they have a positive learning environment in the home.

On Wednesday June 26, we celebrated the first group of Santa Maria participants who completed the six week **Read and Rise Program**. It was rewarding to hear them share the many benefits they experienced, not only for their children but also for themselves, since starting these sessions. One client expressed, "My baby attempts to repeat the words that I read." Another said, "This class showed me how to make reading fun for my baby and myself."

We'd like to recognize Pattie Holecek, a committed Santa Maria volunteer, for effectively leading the program at Santa Maria. We are grateful to be able to offer **Read and Rise** to our young families.



of low-income families have no children's books in their homes



Only 20% of all 4 year olds in poverty can recognize all 26 letters of the alphabet, compared to 37% of their peers above the poverty level

BOTH SANTA MARIA AND THE BARBARA BUSH HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION STRIVE TO INSTILL SKILLS THAT WILL HELP MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.



PASCHALL IS THE VERY FIRST RESIDENCE WHERE SANTA MARIA BEGAN OFFERING SERVICES TO WOMEN.

PASCHALL RE-OPENS ITS DOORS AS A SOBER LIVING HOUSE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

On Friday April 12 we hosted an Open House at PASCHALL -Women's Recovery Residence and Community Center. Paschall is the very first residence where Santa Maria began offering services to women. Renovations were done inside the house where a total of 10 bedrooms and three bathrooms were updated. The home gleams with a fresh new feel and look.

We especially recognize the incredible work of our General Contractor, **Total Restoration**, for leading this project. Their attention to detail and dedicated craft have brought new life into this old home.

We also offer special thanks to **Mr. Swatantra Jain** for donating four beautiful dressers and six chest of drawers for the bedrooms. **Ladds Corporation** put the icing on the cake with the gift of 100 sets of bedsheets for Paschall. They were so generous, there was even enough to share with the Women With Children (WWC) program at Bonita House.



Sara Kulzer and Mathew Krause from Total Restoration with Carmen Jones, Senior Director of Operations and Housing of Santa Maria

GHBA AND HOMEAID PARTNER TO RENOVATE HUD HOPE HOUSING AT JACQUELYN

GREATER HOUSTON BUILDERS ASSOCIATION'S (GHBA) REMODELERS COUNCIL (RMC) AND HOMEAID RECENTLY PARTNERED TO LEAD A RENOVATION PROJECT AT SANTA MARIA HOSTEL JACQUELYN

Years ago, HomeAid Houston identified the valuable services that Santa Maria Hostel provides



for women struggling to regain self-worth and hope for a better future. Their interest also extends to female veterans who are facing homelessness. HomeAid shares the same dedication to helping women in need and had served SMH in the past with renovation projects. So when called upon to form a partnership with GHBA members, HomeAid eagerly agreed to pitch in and contribute. The HomeAid and the GHBA RMC team composed of Melanie Heinrich with **TriFaction Remodeling & Construction**, Cassie Milam with **The Detering Co., Remodelers Council**, President Sherry Pruitt, owner of **Whodid It Designs & Remodeling**, William Cole, owner of **Divine Renovation**, and Donna Buenik, Director of Builder Programs for GHBA, came together to remove doors, add drywall, and provide a fresh coat of paint in six bedroom units of our HUD Hope Housing program. Light fixtures and carpet were also replaced. In addition, they relocated the laundry area and installed two new refrigerators. Individual closets were also built in all six bedroom units for the residents. New furniture was added in the common room for an overall make-over.

All six apartments have been transformed, and coupled with our recent bathroom renovations, they look completely new! Our sincere thanks to GHBA Remodelers Council and HomeAid for this amazing renovation!



SANTA MARIA

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