

Welcome Home Ministries Newsletter

Winter 2006 / Summer 2007



**Celebrating eleven
years of service
to women
overcoming the
cycle of addiction
and incarceration**

*Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of all
mercies and God of all
comfort who comforts us
in all our tribulation,
that we may be able to
comfort those who are
in any trouble with the
comfort with which we
ourselves are comforted
by God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Brunch Honoring the Volunteers of Welcome Home

On the 9th of June, 30 Welcome Home volunteers arrived at North Coast Presbyterian Church where they were warmly greeted by case manager Janie Hudson. After signing the Welcome Home guest book, Carmen received each one with a hug and kiss while ushering them into the lovingly decorated foyer. There they met Welcome Home's CFO Darline, and had their picture taken holding a charming bouquet of flowers.

When everyone was seated at the attractively decorated tables, Carmen introduced long time Board Member Terri Peters who asked the Lords' blessing on the food and the program.

Kimberly Platt, a Welcome Home alumni, sang, "From Cell to Celebration," a song written by her celebrating the freedom from bondage found in Christ.

The Welcome Home DVD was shown to the guests, many experiencing it for the first time.

Donna Nickel and the staff of Welcome Home presented a reading entitled "Her Story." This touching production chronicles the experiences, thoughts and feelings of women in custody, after their introduction to the ministry and beyond the "Cell to Celebration." The women's own words throughout the process of re-integration into the community remind us all once again of the Lord's power to heal and restore!

The guests were then in-

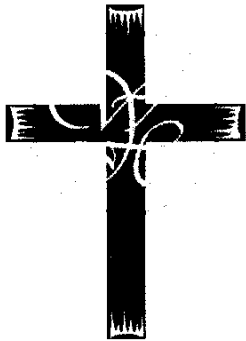
troduced to Patti Ryan and Deborah Vorgang who shared their personal journeys with Welcome Home.

The celebration ended by recognizing each volunteer with in the context of their particular participation in the ministry.

Finally, all were touched by the reading of a poem, given Carmen by the Lord especially for the event.

The traditional Welcome Home prayer circle was formed and the event was concluded with joy in every heart.

To each volunteer who was not able to attend the brunch, Welcome Home extends a heart felt "Thank You!" for all you have done in support of the women and the ministry!



Welcome Home loves launching new partnerships with community organizations that add to the ministry's ability to reach out with the love of Christ. Guidepost, founded by Norman Vincent Peal, is the latest very welcome addition to the family. The staff and publication director of Guidepost, Rhonda Jones sent 1,000 scripturally

based pamphlets to be shared with the women in jail and prison. Some of the pamphlets include, "How to Make Jesus Your Best Friend," "Hope" and "Faith Builders." The pamphlets are bundled in packages of 3 or 4 and are given to women at CIW, Puerto La Cruz, upon release from jail, and to inmates at Donavon.

The packets will also be given to WHM women in programs, and soon to be distributed to our WHM service programs. A tip of the hat and a resounding "Thanks!" also go out to the "Red Hat Ladies" who assemble the packets for distribution!

Carmen's Corner: The Piercing Cry From Silent Eyes

"I have been seeking help for our women."

Laura Chinchilla Miranda

Vice President
Costa Rica
Ministra de Justicia
y Gracia.



From left to right
Pastor Gabriella Sainz
Vice President Laura Miranda
Executive Director of WHM
Carmen Warner-Robbins

It was a nudge too powerful to resist. "Go to Costa Rica," I exclaimed, "for what?" My question was directed to Pastor Doris Lopez who had come to San Diego visiting friends, and over dinner had heard about Welcome Home Ministries.

"The women of Costa Rica would really be touched and restored by such a wonderful reentry program," she spoke as we sipped our coffee. "Maybe April would be a good time." Before we knew it, Pastor Gabriela and I were busy translating brochures, contemplating outcomes, and spiritually preparing ourselves for God's plan.

As April approached, we had a sense of calm, not knowing what to expect, but trusting completely in our Lord's leading.

Upon arrival in Costa Rica, we discovered an excited, enthusiastic community, consisting of teachers, nurses, community volunteers and pastors who were willing to be trained in the Welcome Home model. The rest of the week was one miracle after another, as the Lord opened meeting upon meeting with officials who wanted to find some hope for the incarcerated women. Most impressive was our divine appointment

with Laura Chinchilla Miranda, Vice President of Costa Rica and Ministra de Justicia y Gracia. It was her comment, "I have been seeking help for our women" that gave us the assurance of God's special leading and anointing upon Welcome Home.

The highlight of our entire trip was walking among the women in the jail, and experiencing Jesus' love flowing and touching each woman. As Pastor Gabriela and I reached out to weary bodies, aching hearts and broken spirits, we could feel a bonding and a connection only made possible

because of our Lord's presence. As we passed by the women, tears filled their eyes as they were clinging to any form of hope and promise for a future; for a new life, and for a loving and caring family.

Welcome Home shall be returning again this fall to begin our training for volunteers, assessment of needs by the women themselves, and continued communication with public officials involved and/or concerned about reentry issues.

New Volunteers Join Our Family

With the volunteers of Welcome Home filling such an essential role in the everyday life of the ministry, it is always a blessing when new volunteers join the family.

The women's ministry at Discovery Church of Carlsbad has become a regular contributor to the women by collecting beautiful bags filled with lovely lotions, perfumes and other girly goodies so near and dear to every woman's heart! These bags are set aside as special gifts for the women's six month follow-up celebration. This is an added blessing to them as they continue in their success.

In May Deborah Vorgang and Suzanne Cittel visited the San Marcos United Methodist Church to pick up goodie bags for the first time and to present our ministry to the congregation.

Deborah gave her testimony and many were deeply touched by her story of tribulation leading to restoration. As a result of this meeting, Lisa Nass-Abel expressed an interest in becoming actively involved as a volunteer. Lisa is now at the office on Thursdays and Fridays, where she performs administrative duties and assists with the groups that meet on Friday.

Lisa, together with her husband Jesse, recently renovated the boutique at the Barnes St. office. They changed the drab wall color from boring gray to butter cream yellow, with paint provided by Brenda Todd of the "Red Hat Ladies." On two of the walls Jesse installed closet organizing hardware for hanging and shelving, then finally, a

carpet! The boutique is now a quiet, calming oasis where the women can enjoy "shopping" for the clothing donated by loving contributors.

Early in June, Karla, Suzanne and Deborah presented Welcome Home to Calvary Chapel Oceanside during both services and between services spoke with those who desired more information about the ministry. Five contacts were made with people interested in becoming involved with Welcome Home.

Welcome Home thanks God for His provision in adding those who desire to serve our family.

Celebrating National Recovery Month with Welcome Home

S-More Recovery is the theme of the celebration of recovery being held on September 21, 07, beginning at 6:00 pm, at Bucca-ner Park in Oceanside. Participants will roast marshmallows on coat hangers for smores while listening to stirring testimonies of those who have found success in recovery.



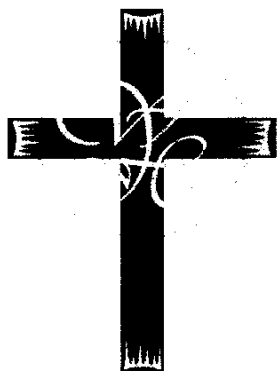
The event will bring just some of the wonderful organizations and programs together that reach out to those in addiction. Welcome Home's desire is to bring recovery awareness to North County. More information will be available soon, so mark your calendars and be sure to plan to attend!

**Call Suzanne at
760.439.6381
for more
information.**

**Visit the newly updated WHM
web site at
www.welcomehomeministries.com**

**Or write to us at our new
e-mail address
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“For I know the thoughts that I think
toward you, says the LORD,
thoughts of peace and not of evil,
to give you a future and a hope”

Jeremiah 29:11

New King James Version

How You Can Help

*Want to get more involved with Welcome Home?
Here's How!*

- ◆ Volunteer as a receptionist, data input specialist or office administrator at the Santee or Oceanside offices;
- ◆ Help sort and hang clothing in the newly decorated boutique ;
- ◆ Mentor a woman;
- ◆ Contribute to the support of a woman in treatment;
- ◆ Offer services to the women by monthly designated giving, including bus passes, dental restoration, eye glasses and California ID;
- ◆ Package Guidepost materials for distribution; and
- ◆ Pray, Pray, Pray!

The Harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out
laborers into His harvest.” **Jesus** Matthew 9:37

In loving and tender memory of
Grace Engman
who in her
passing acknowledged
Welcome Home Ministries
and the wonderful hope and blessings
they are giving to so many.

