

# THE RESTLESS HEART



## UNITY & HEALTH

Volunteer Nurse Practitioner Amanda Carlson and Indonesian interpreter Cathleen Tresnawati speak with a patient at the Unity Clinic. The clinic is a free, primary care clinic that serves adults over 18 who are undocumented. The majority of the patients speak Bahasa Indonesian as their primary language.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

LACIE ANN MICHAELSON FISCHLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“What is your average day like?” This is a common question from people interested in learning more about A.D.R.O.P. and the role that we serve here in our South Philadelphia community. The truth is that this is

perhaps not the correct question as each day is unique, bringing its own joys and challenges. Perhaps the better question is: “With whom will you walk today?”

Yesterday, my pilgrimage began at the Brewin Peace Coffee Cart, where I saw a woman, a regular at the cart, joyfully run up seeking a cup of coffee. “I knew that y’all would be here!” she exclaimed, “I really needed this today.” Later,

my journey continued as I worked to find extended services for a Unity Clinic patient who needs more than what we can offer. I made phone calls and sent emails until I was able to connect her with the right resource. My evening ended much later at our Language Exchange class where we discussed verbs in the past tense and introduced Easter themed vocabulary. Our students, originally from all over South and Central America, shared their own Easter customs and traditions with us.

There are many companions on this journey, and it’s only successful if we walk together. Come, join us!



## FROM THE FOUNDER

FR. JOHN DEEGAN, O.S.A., FOUNDER, A.D.R.O.P

Modern day life is, at times, very hectic. The pace is swift and time for reflection is sparse. Yet, we need to stop, occasionally, to assess our purpose in life. What is it that God wants me to do? Am I busy with many things? Do I confuse doing with purpose?

We have all heard the plea to "stop and smell the roses."

What it means to me is that I need to take time to

acknowledge God's presence in my life. I need to take time to thank God for his loving care of me. I need to

acknowledge my weaknesses and thank God for the talents

He has given me to serve Him and my Sisters and Brothers.

Most of all, I need to develop a friendship with the

Lord, opening myself to His presence in my life. Indeed,



JOHN KILLEEN, LACIE FISCHLEY, FR. PAUL MORRISSEY, O.S.A., DEACON MICHAEL RIGGS, O.S.A., FR. JOHN (JACK) DEEGAN, O.S.A., FR. JEREMY HIERS, O.S.A. AND GEORGE MUNYAN AT THIS YEAR'S ADEODATUS CHRISTMAS PARTY.

to acknowledge that in all situations God is with me!

Our life may, indeed, be hectic but our friend Jesus is but

a brief pause away waiting, listening for our call for help.

Peace!

KARYSSA GETS HER BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED BY VOLUNTEER PHONNICA MOLLY NAROM THE UNITY CLINIC.



Follow us!



@ADROPphilly

## WELLNESS

KARYSSA VALENCIA, OUTREACH COORDINATOR & UNITY CLINIC INTERPRETER



I started volunteering at Unity Clinic in 2018. Though I initially started here out of convenience and a desire to better my Indonesian, over time my role has gradually expanded outside of language interpretation, allowing me to see how the Unity Clinic serves a crucial role in promoting health equity and social justice. Since many of our patients face systemic barriers (language barriers, lack of insurance, immigration status issues, etc.), clinics often serve as safe spaces where patients and their families can access not

only healthcare but also educational resources, social activities, and advocacy services that empower them to advocate for their rights and contribute to their communities. A fairly recent example of this was when a patient of ours mentioned that they were experiencing an adverse situation at home during a regular appointment. We were able to connect them to an external organization and eventually able to help them leave said situation. This has only reaffirmed my belief that how this clinic (and likewise other nonprofit local clinics) plays a vital role in building and strengthening immigrant communities by fostering trust, solidarity, and support networks.

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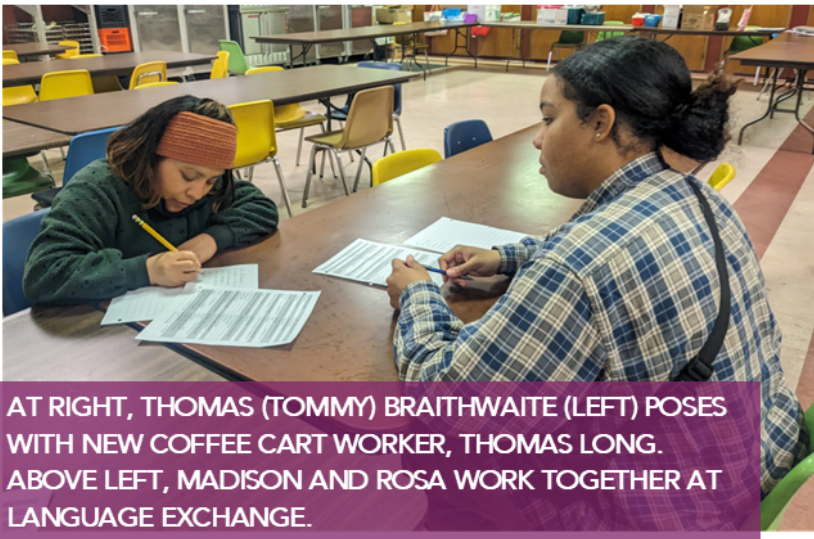
# EDUCATION

MADISON MORTON, VOLUNTEER

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer with the A.D.R.O.P. Language Exchange Program. I had no clue what to expect but I can honestly say that I was pleasantly surprised! The structure is different than any other language program I have heard of before - and I loved that. Both the native Spanish and English speakers learn each other's languages. This simple change in learning structure makes it so much more comfortable for those who are trying to learn English. In settings like these it is easy for the English speakers to dominate the conversation and create a sense of inferiority among the Spanish speakers. By creating a sort of "give and take" approach both speakers are given an even playing field. Both are stumbling over words and being corrected on pronunciation, and most importantly, both are learning. I had a wonderful

experience at A.D.R.O.P. with my partner Rosa, and it was much easier for us to communicate because I am bilingual. Rosa and I were able to talk about fun things like our favorite foods and clothes to wear. I am not sure if we would've had such a great conversation without the structure of the A.D.R.O.P. program because it allowed us to see each other as the same. She corrected my bad pronunciation and I helped her write phrases in English, most importantly, we saw each other as equals and that was my favorite part of it all!

*MADISON IS A FIRST YEAR STUDENT AT ROSEMONT COLLEGE, SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE LANGUAGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AS PART OF A SPRING BREAK SERVICE EXPERIENCE.*



AT RIGHT, THOMAS (TOMMY) BRAITHWAITE (LEFT) POSES WITH NEW COFFEE CART WORKER, THOMAS LONG. ABOVE LEFT, MADISON AND ROSA WORK TOGETHER AT LANGUAGE EXCHANGE.



# JUSTICE

THOMAS BRAITHWAITE, BREWIN PEACE COFFEE CART WORKER

Brewin' Peace has been instrumental in my recovery and reentry into society. I'm blessed with the unique opportunity to give back in a simple, yet powerful way. Not only do I provide people with a warm cup of coffee, but also a friend and someone to talk to. Something as simple as a cup of coffee and a conversation could potentially save someone's life or deliver them from destructive thoughts. I am extremely grateful to have the chance to help people who need it the most.

On one occasion, it was a normal morning of serving coffee and conversation when F., a 15 year old boy who was on his way to school, jumped off his bike. He asked for some coffee and I gave it to him. I asked him how his day was going. He said his Grandma was constantly nagging him about school, and claimed to have not missed a day all year.

I stressed to F. that God, Grandma, and school are the most important things in his life. He seemed to agree and told me that he's lost several friends to the streets. Peers he grew up with constantly pressure him to ditch school get high and get involved in the violence that plagues our city. He went on to tell me that he had seen my coffee cart on the news, and that he was inspired by what I do. I thanked him and let him know that I got his back and he can come get coffee and check in anytime. Before getting back on his bike and heading to school F. gave me a hug and let me know that he's got his eyes on the prize and he's not gonna give in to the peer pressure. As he rolled away on his bike, I was beaming with pride. This is what Brewin Peace coffee cart is all about.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT TOMMY WAS RECENTLY HIRED BY VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY IN A FULL TIME POSITION IN FOOD SERVICES. CONGRATULATIONS, TOMMY!**



**The Mission** of the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor is to build bridges between providers, recipients and community leaders across economic, political and religious spectra. A.D.R.O.P. accomplishes its Mission by matching individuals with identified needs to known resources in order to build better communities.



### BUSY TIMES AT A.D.R.O.P.

A number of the Unity Clinic interpreters went for CPR training recently; at right, Nicole Budiman practices compressions. Above, Members of the Villanova Band pose after a hard day's work of volunteering for Villanova's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. At the bottom right, the Brewin' Peace Coffee Cart encourages conversation and builds community.



This Augustinian Ministry relies on your donations. If you are able, please make a donation today by visiting [augustinianfund.org/donate](http://augustinianfund.org/donate) Thank you and God Bless.