

THE RESTLESS HEART



BREWIN' PEACE

Josh Sanders of CBS News interviewed Brewin' Peace Coffee Cart worker, Tommy Braithwaite recently. The coffee cart is a project to employ people formerly incarcerated to help reduce recidivism. Watch the CBS interview by scanning this code.



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

LACIE ANN MICHAELSON FISCHLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



He shuffled up to the stand with some trepidation, most people are skeptical when you offer something for “free.” His clothes were torn and threatening to fall off, and the bag he struggled to hold was completely

useless, having completely lost its handles. Tommy looked him right in the eye and said, “Good morning! Can I get you some coffee?” The man nodded nervously. Within a minute, Tommy, had the man at ease, “I was hired here because I’m a returning citizen,” he explained proudly. Excited, the man exclaimed, “No way! I just got out yesterday!”

This occurred last week at the Brewin' Peace Coffee Cart, A.D.R.O.P.'s newest project in South Philadelphia. When we first had the idea for this project, I wanted an opportunity to help reduce recidivism and to empower a returning citizen to be the best version of him or herself possible. I have been pleasantly surprised, however, by the richness of conversation and the opportunities for a conversion of the heart that have occurred over a steaming cup of hot coffee.

Philadelphia is a big city, but the community that we are building outside the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, right there on Broad Street, has made it just a little bit smaller.

FROM THE FOUNDER

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

Sometimes we just need to be alone. The world we live in, no matter where or with whom, can be overpowering. We all have responsibilities and we need to be of service to the other for they are, indeed, our Sisters and Brothers.

I remember when I was a little one pestering my Mother for something, she would say " just give me five minutes to close my eyes and rest and then I will get back to you". We all need that break to be alone with our thoughts and feelings and reflect on our life and our journey. Quiet gives us the chance to reflect on our real selves, who we are, what are our goals, our strengths, our weaknesses.

The quiet we seek can bring turbulence for the quiet exposes the truth of who we are and our relationship to our God and to our neighbor. But the truth, as they say, can set us free. The truth can be painful but there is no gain without some pain. We need not fear the quiet for it is an opportunity to speak openly and truthfully with our Maker and listen to the gentle Spirit which will guide us to a truer self.

In your busy lives, seek, no demand, quiet. Therein you will find your purpose and you will resolve to be true to the real you. Imperfections acknowledged, fears confronted, you will come forth from the quiet refreshed and ready to be of service to those who lovingly call your name.



SOME OF THE CLINIC STAFF RELAX AFTER A BUSY NIGHT SEEING PATIENTS.

Follow us!



@ADROPphilly

WELLNESS

PATTY HEWSON, CRNP, UNITY CLINIC, CLINIC MANAGER



It has been my pleasure as a new staff member with the A.D.R.O.P. Unity clinic to have become involved with an entire community of people who are enthusiastic about doing what they can to improve the lives of others. I have been so impressed with the interpreters and providers who work so tirelessly to provide better health care

for an underserved population. The passion that the interpreters display for assisting others in their community to access services is very motivating. Equally impressive is the long term commitment of so many volunteers and staff that

have worked for many years in this community to provide access to excellent health care for those without insurance.

It is my hope that we can optimize Practice Fusion (our electronic health record) to enhance the care of our patients and streamline office procedures. With such an impressive group of those who provide supportive services such as Villanova nursing students, University of Pennsylvania undergraduate and medical students, and volunteer nurses, I am convinced that we can enhance the care we provide. I look forward to continue to expand the services provided by the Unity Clinic and to extend our reach further into the community of uninsured populations!

EDUCATION

NICK OLANO, VOLUNTEER



A.D.R.O.P. ESOL classes have always been such an incredibly rewarding experience for me. As a third year volunteer, I'm glad to say that I still look forward to class each week. What I love is that the learning environment is so warm, open-minded, and nonjudgmental. Each per-

son can fully immerse themselves in learning without the fear/anxiety of being judged or scrutinized. What's unique about A.D.R.O.P. is that EVERYBODY is a student. What I mean to say is that the ESOL classes just don't have a teacher-student dynamic, but rather each individual has the opportunity to learn from one another. Even though my role as a volunteer is to teach English to Spanish-speaking adults, I learn a great deal from them as well. In addition to helping me improve my own Spanish, these people openly share their perspectives, ideas, and cultural values. It is because of this reciprocal nature of A.D.R.O.P. that I'm grateful to say I've developed many friendships with the people that attend ESOL.

Nick is a junior at Villanova University and a volunteer with the evening ESOL classes.

THE BREWIN' PEACE COFFEE CART TEAM. FROM LEFT: GEORGE MUNYAN, FR. JEREMY HIERS, O.S.A., TOMMY BRAITHWAITE, LACIE FISCHLEY, AND TOM BENDER.



JOAN (2ND FROM THE LEFT) WITH SOME OF HER ESOL CLASS

JUSTICE

THOMAS BRAITHWAITE, BREWIN PEACE COFFEE CART WORKER

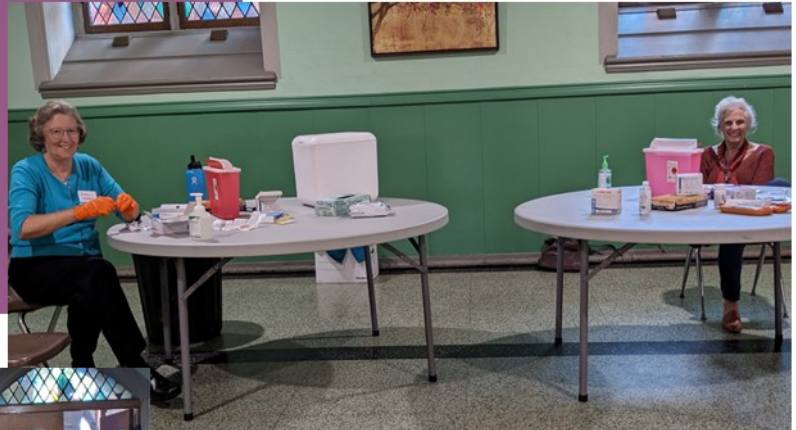
Last year around this time, I had recently been released from the custody of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. I was arrested, convicted, and subsequently incarcerated for events that transpired while I was lost in the world of addiction. I've experienced hardships that most people will never have to endure. I spent a year in solitary confinement with 23 hours a day spent locked in a cell. At the time, I wasn't sure if I would survive and maintain my sanity throughout, but my faith remained intact. God delivered me from evil, but not before I learned some important lessons. In the present day, my life looks very different. Being a reentrant makes it difficult to obtain employment that

a person can be proud of. A.D.R.O.P. saw the real me while the majority of people saw me as an inmate/convict/lost cause. Brewin' Peace, the coffee stand that A.D.R.O.P. hired me to run, has influenced my life in a remarkably positive way. Giving out coffee to strangers and friends is fulfilling. I can share my story to someone struggling who needs to feel like they can relate to somebody, be an active listener for someone who is experiencing a rough patch and may need to vent and just talk about any issues they're going through, and it can be as simple as just giving somebody a cup of coffee. Nowadays, doing the next right thing is something that I take pride in. I've been blessed with a second chance at life and for that I am forever grateful.

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.

COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINIC

The Unity Clinic recently went on the road! A.D.R.O.P. held a free flu vaccine clinic at Annunciation Church. Below, community members wait to be checked in. At right, Clinic Manager Patty Hewson, CRNP and Claudia Filippino, RN await the arrival of patients to begin vaccinating.



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



DAYS OF SERVICE

Above, Villanova students pose for a photo after volunteering as part of the St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service this September. Left, Students from St. Augustine Prep pose for a photo after volunteering with us last June. Note former A.D.R.O.P. Executive Director Fr. Tony Burrascano, O.S.A. on the right!