



Caritas of Austin IMPACT REPORT

Living Happily Ever After

Newly married and settled into their own 3-bedroom apartment, you would never know the struggles Nanette and Robbie have been through.

“Caritas has been integral in helping me get back to where I am now. I was homeless, hopeless, and had nowhere to go,” said Nanette. Today, joy and strength emanate from her as she speaks.

After Nanette left an abusive marriage and endured a long, painful divorce, she had nowhere to turn. “That whole experience fractured me for years.” Nanette lived temporarily at a local shelter



until she found out about Caritas’ supportive housing program at Skyline Terrace Apartments.

When she moved into her own apartment there, she faced tremendous health challenges. Her degenerative disk disease caused by a horse accident that left Nanette temporarily paralyzed greatly affected her mobility. She also struggled with severe depression.

“My Caritas case manager, Megan, was incredible. She helped me get basic things like a phone, helped me connect to the medical benefits I desperately needed, and she had me start meeting with a counselor.” Nanette said having Megan onsite at Sykline Terrace Apartments was invaluable, especially when her health was bad enough that she could not leave her apartment.

“Megan helped me really get back on my feet. I became so independent and strong during my time with Caritas. I learned to love being with myself.” Megan is extremely proud of how far Nanette has come. “Nanette is an inspiration. She took full advantage of the supportive housing program and used its fundamental objectives to launch herself into self-sufficiency.”

“I was homeless, hopeless, and had nowhere to go.”

Nanette met Robbie through a friend, and they quickly hit it off. Robbie had been on his own difficult journey of struggling with addiction. He went through The Salvation Army’s rehabilitation program and came out a changed man. ***Story continued on page 3***

Caritas North Is Open!

On April 30, Caritas of Austin celebrated the opening of its second location, **Caritas North**. Nearly 150 community members attended the ribbon cutting and open house.

“This is a momentous occasion as we expand to better meet the needs of our growing and sprawling community,” said Harvey Giblin, Caritas Board President.

Caritas North will be a smaller neighborhood center focused on family and veteran homelessness, life skills education classes, and connecting people to employment. There will also be a food pantry for existing clients.



The vision for Caritas of Austin is to maintain its downtown headquarters but open several neighborhood centers like Caritas North in strategic locations throughout the city.

“Austin has grown and changed tremendously over the past 10 years, and as an agency serving

the most vulnerable families and individuals, we must adapt our services to address homelessness and poverty *as* and *where* it is occurring,” said Jo Kathryn Quinn, Executive Director.



“Our hope is Caritas of Austin will not merely deliver services but will become part of the fabric of North Austin,” she said. “We want to connect to the strengths and power of this community.”

Mayor Steve Adler spoke about Austin’s growing housing costs and economic segregation, and he commended Caritas for using best practices and innovative ideas to address our city’s most pressing problems.

North Austin community leader and Austin ISD Trustee Ann Teich closed out the remarks perfectly, saying, “Join me in welcoming Caritas of Austin as our newest north Austin neighbor!” Thank you to everyone who attended this momentous event and whose support has made this new location possible.



Happily Ever After - Continued

"I finally let God into my life," he said. Through ups and downs over the past three years, they say their struggles have bonded them and grown their faith. Now, both Nanette and Robbie are committed to helping others. Robbie is a sponsor through Alcoholics Anonymous, and Nanette is involved in The Salvation Army's *Celebrate Recovery* program. They have also been able to rebuild relationships with their family members.

Professionally, Robbie now has a career he loves working as a chef at The University of Texas. "Now I have a career, not just a job. I get so much fulfillment from my work," he said.

On Valentine's Day this year, the couple got married surrounded by their family and friends, and moved into their own apartment.

One of the things Nanette loves most is that each of her two youngest children now has a bedroom of their own. Nanette's health has also improved greatly over the past year. "My health is to where I can do all the things I want. We live in gratitude. It's taken every moment of our lives to get to where we are today." Thank you for empowering life change for Nanette and many others!

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a career, not
just a job."*

2015 Harvey Penick Award honoring ThunderCloud Subs



On May 14, Caritas of Austin honored ThunderCloud Subs with the 24th annual Harvey Penick Award for 'Excellence in the Game of Life'. The event was held at The Austin Club and featured live music from Beatles tribute band, The Eggmen. During her remarks, Executive Director Jo Kathryn Quinn said, "Like ThunderCloud Subs, Caritas is a true Austin original."

"One of the fundamental business practices ThunderCloud has always maintained is to be an engaged contributor and participant in our neighborhoods and communities," said co-owner Mike Haggerty. Since its inception in 1991, the ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot has raised nearly \$2.5 million to support Caritas of Austin's mission and work. ThunderCloud also supports numerous other local nonprofits.

Mike Haggerty also reflected, "When I went to deliver our first check after year two of the TCS Turkey Trot, I had no previous experience with Caritas. It was very crowded inside, filled with people in need and those busily trying to provide for them. People were hungry, cold, some homeless, but the feeling that permeated the building was that of a safe haven and sanctuary. From that moment, I knew Caritas was providing an incredibly needed resource for this very real, often unseen, part of our community." Thank you to ThunderCloud Subs and to all who attended and supported!

OUR MISSION

Caritas of Austin provides a service continuum for those experiencing poverty that begins with a safety net and links them to resources to achieve self-sufficiency.

OUR VISION

We envision a community where there is respect for all individuals, hope for those experiencing poverty, and opportunities for self-reliance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Felicia Herring	



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Caritas of Austin **IMPACT REPORT**

Read inside about the lives being changed because of your support!



Bobby Bones to Speak at 8th Annual Words of Hope Dinner

Bobby Bones is the most popular country music DJ in America with over 3.5 million daily listeners for his nationally syndicated, award-winning Bobby Bones Show. Bobby is considered “one of Austin’s sons” and gained popularity on a local top hits station. In 2014, Bobby won the Academy of Country Music Award for National On-Air Personality of the Year.

Bobby was raised by a single mother for much of his life. His mother battled addiction and died in her 40’s of drug overdose. He was adopted by his grandmother and never knew his biological father. Bobby was the first in his

family to graduate high school and college. He describes himself as a proud “food stamp and welfare kid” that found his way out of his tough circumstances through hard work and education. He believes every small positive decision leads to larger life altering ones.

Bobby also tours with his parody comedy band, ***The Raging Idiots***, who will be performing at our 2015 event.

September 10 | ACL Live - Moody Theater | Sponsorships available at caritasofaustin.org



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