



lantern light

MINISTRY OF THE PRESENTATION SISTERS • NOLA

Winter
Newsletter

Lantern Light was established as a collaborative ministry of the seven congregations of the Presentation Sisters that make up the Conference of Presentation Sisters. The Presentation Sisters were founded by Nano Nagle in 1775.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

For almost three years Angel dreamed about the new life she desired to have. She longed for a place to call home, but finances and the woes of the lack of affordable housing in New Orleans made it seem impossible. When things were good she was able to stay on a friend's couch and when things really got bad she stayed in shelters and even sometimes on the streets. While she felt like her life was spiraling out of control, she never lost hope.

This past December Angel spent her first Christmas in her new apartment and the feelings she had could not be put into words. While she was thankful that the services provided for the homeless by Lantern Light had sustained her when she needed a place to find resources for shelter, she is even more grateful now that the food bank sponsored by our agency enables her to fill the pantry in her new home.



Kenitha Grooms-Williams

OUR PRESENTATION STORY:

In 2005 we, five Presentation Sisters, under the auspices of the North American Conference of Presentation Sisters, began ministering to the poor and homeless of the city of New Orleans right after hurricane, Katrina. Presently for the past two years there are only two Sisters here, Sister Vera and I, Sister Enid. We know well that things cannot remain the same forever. It was the decision of the Conference that we look for another way to continue the work that we began in 2005. During these past ten years we have built up a wonderful group of volunteers. We have established a Board of Trustees who has demonstrated that they hold Lantern Light's future as a very important part of the future of New Orleans. Presently the Board has hired a new Director, Mrs. Kenitha Grooms-Williams. Ms. Beth Monahan has been hired as the Kitchen Coordinator. We have been assisting in this transition.



If nothing ever changed there would be no Butterflies.

We believe that the Presentation Spirit will continue into the future here at Lantern Light through the laity. As religious congregations begin to age they are finding what a rich resource there is in the laity of our church. It is now time to step aside and encourage the laity to take their place in the leadership in our church. They are our Butterflies. We are so proud of them. We thank you for your support in the past and we encourage you to continue your support of Lantern Light into the future. Your time, talent and financial support are so important to the future of Lantern Light.

Sisters Enid and Vera



Calendar Raffle Winners

- Dec. 1. Sylvia Bourgeois, Louisiana
 2. Rev. Ernest Hardesty, Arkansas
 3. Edward Otterstedt, New York
 4. Fran Brown, New York
 5. Sr. Marion McLinden, New York
 6. Sr. Paula Cormier, Massachusetts
 7. Sr. Nancy Chiarello, New York
 8. Bobby Comeaux, Louisiana
 9. Fran Brown, New York
 10. Marianne Sabrier, Louisiana
 11. Tim Riley, Louisiana
 12. Jane Nalty, Louisiana
 13. Florence Volpe, Massachusetts
 14. Sr. Barbara Hobbs, Connecticut
 15. Regina Maloney, Louisiana
 16. Rev. Ernest Hardesty, Arkansas
 17. Sr. Vera, Louisiana
 18. Frances Feigler, Louisiana
 19. Salvar Failla & Lloyd Ledet, Louisiana
 20. Grace Gretchen, Louisiana
 21. Sr. Barbara Hobbs, Connecticut
 22. Kevin Marrero, Louisiana
 23. Sr. Michaeline Green, Louisiana
 24. Donna Foley, Louisiana
 25. Lucille Couello & Madeline Fucite, N.J.
 26. Donald Ellis, Louisiana
 27. Cheryl Cusimano, Louisiana
 28. Carol Pfister, Louisiana
 29. Elaine Bergeron, Louisiana
 30. Juliette Bellau, Louisiana
 31. Edward Otterstedt, New York

The Spirit of Christmas Felt at Lantern Light

During the month of December Lantern Light was the recipient of monetary contributions that were received through the efforts of their Christmas Calendar Raffle and the Archdiocese of New Orleans' Catholic Foundation, "Give Catholic Day" campaign.

The Christmas Calendar Raffle, which was held annually by Lantern Light for several years, resumed in 2015 and was a great success. Appeals for the raffle were made through our Fall Newsletter, as well as flyers that were posted around the Center. Donations began pouring in towards the middle of November and by end of that month, the number of participants rose to almost 250 donors. As a result of your generosity, the Christmas Raffle raised almost \$10,000.00.

Then on December 2, 2015 the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans held its first ever, "Give Catholic Day" campaign, which encouraged Catholics to make donations to schools, parishes, and other social justice not-for-profits that also practiced the Catholic faith. Through this initiative, Lantern Light received \$3,000 in monetary donations, in addition to an anonymous gift of \$50,000.

We are truly grateful for the overwhelming response we received through both initiatives and know that these funds will help us to continue serving the homeless and poor of our community.



Christmas Art Shines at Volunteer Reception

On December 4, 2015 Lantern Light held its annual volunteer thank you reception. This event gives the organization an opportunity to show volunteers how much they truly appreciate the gifts and talents they contribute during their time at the Center.

During the reception the ministry showcased arts and crafts created by guests who participate in the art program. Among the items displayed was an assortment of pinecone ornaments, which came in an array of colors and featured the name of a guest. All attendees were encouraged to take a home a cone and remember the guest named on their cone during prayer time.

FEEDING PROGRAMS BOASTS VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

At the highlight of Lantern Light Ministry's services are the feeding programs, which provide daily meals and groceries to the homeless and low-income families that reside in the community. Each day the doors of the Rebuild Center open, the ministry serves a morning snack and lunch to its guests. It is estimated that just within the first month of 2016 Lantern Light has served almost 2,000 guests during breakfast and more than 4,000 individuals for lunch. While a variety of food items is served during the breakfast and lunch hours, the one constant in both services is the groups of volunteers that prepare and serve both meals.



Since its inception, Lantern Light has long maintained that much of the success of their feeding programs has been achieved as a result of the many volunteers that contribute each day. While many individuals have been assisting for several years, there are several volunteers that have joined the organization within the last year. They range from elementary age, to the golden years of life and on any given day you can meet people from all races and faiths working together to serve mankind. We are truly grateful for the individuals, families, church groups, and organizations that enter our kitchen doors every month and we salute them all one by one.

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Adams and Reese	Deacons Class of 2015	Irish House	Shirley Boudreaux
Al Dowty	District Attorney Office (Orleans)	Jane Nalty	Sr. Nancy Hale
Ancient Order of Hibernians	Divine Mercy	Jean Barras	Sr. Pauline O'Reilly
Anita's Grill	Dong Phuong Oriental Bakery	Jeff Surprenant	Sr. Regina Peterson
Barry Green	Donna Foley, Family and Friends	John Browne	St. Catherine of Siena
Belinda Gail & Carla Prout	Donnie Schmidt and Friends	Jorge Arzuaga	St. Clement of Rome
Brother Martin High School	Edmund	June Cognavich	St. Dominic SIGN Club
Brother Sean	Elizabeth Bertucci and Friends	Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Bucktown Boys	Ephesus Community Services	Linda King, Family and Friends	St. Joseph Abbey
C.J. Restaurant	LSU Students	Lion's Club Central City	St. Paul Episcopal
Cabrini High School	Francis Bologna	Maurice's Bakery	Stephen & Claudia Braud
CJ & Edlie Kerrigan	Gaylin Lambert and Family	Mount Carmel Academy	Susan Selva
Community of Ephesus	Ginger LeFevre	One Miracle	Sylvia Robinson
Community of John	Good Shepherd	Parkway Bakery	Touro Synagogue
Da Wabbit	Honorable & Mrs. Jay Zainey	Patti Jourdan	Ursuline Academy
David Hardin and Friends	Hugo Kahn	Red Hats	Zea's Restaurant
Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club	Irish Channel Marching Club	Regina Maloney	

SERVICES OFFERED AT LANTERN LIGHT

Groceries for area residents

Birth Certificate Assistance

Prescription Assistance

Financial Aid Assistance

Daily Lunch

Notary Services

Mail

Case Management Services

ID Assistance

Lantern Light is a ministry that was founded by the Presentation Sisters. The mission of the organization is to provide a place of peace, support, and encouragement to the working poor and homeless, in downtown New Orleans, as they rebuild their lives.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in changing the lives of those who come to
Lantern Light.

The staff of Lantern Light Ministry



Beth Monahan
Kitchen Manager



Sr. Enid Story & Sr. Vera Butler



Brother Charles
Mail Man



Cathryn Major, Social Work Intern



Kenitha Grooms-Williams
Director



Donna Foley, Food Bank Coordinator



1802 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

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