



# lantern light

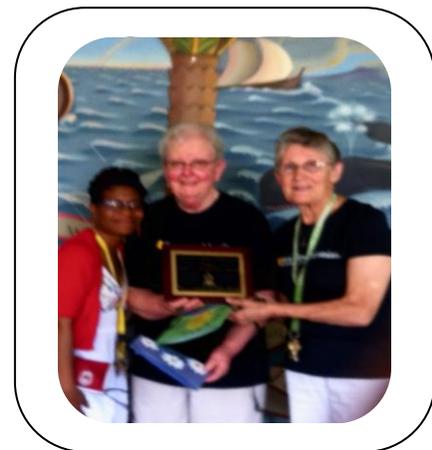
MINISTRY OF THE PRESENTATION SISTERS • NOLA

Summer  
Newsletter 2016

*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.*

## CELEBRATIONS FOR SRS. ENID AND VERA HIGHLIGHT THE MONTH OF MAY

During the month of May the board and staff of Lantern Light hosted two events that commemorated the service of Srs. Enid Storey and Vera Butler. Filled with food, fellowship and fun, these celebrations enabled almost 300 individuals an opportunity to pay homage to two great women of God that have touched the lives of so many throughout the Greater New Orleans area. Srs. Enid and Vera laughed, sighed and even shed a few tears, as volunteers and guests expressed their appreciation through acts of kindness, that ranged from performing serenades to bestowing them with custom gifts. The outpouring of love shown from the overwhelming number of those in attendance further demonstrates the huge impact both ladies have made through their dedication to do God's work as Presentation Sisters. It is in that same spirit that the Lantern Light board and staff will continue the mission of Jesus.



## HOMELESS DOESN'T MEAN HOPELESS

Sam's return to New Orleans is bittersweet. Although he was born and raised in the city, he recalls that some of his most difficult times have taken place here. Nevertheless, Sam proclaims that his love of art and the love he receives from the staff at Lantern Light and others at the Rebuild Center keep him coming back.

During Sam's adolescence his knack for drawing and painting grew. As time progressed, he rose to the ranks of an accomplished artist, as his gift led him miles from his native city of New Orleans. His artwork has been displayed all over the country. He boasts that during the peak of his career his pieces ranged from sketched drawings of individuals visiting in the New Orleans French Quarters to paintings created for major corporations, one of which included the Coca Cola Company. Sam maintains that although his battle with depression, an addiction, and his state of homelessness may have contributed to a decline in his career, his faith will not allow him to quit. He is proud of what he has achieved as an artist in the past and is hopeful of what lies ahead in the future.

## STUDENTS LEARN LIFE LESSONS WITH ORGANIZATION

Since its beginnings, Lantern Light has opened its doors to administrators and staff in search of volunteer opportunities for their students. These individuals, ranging from elementary to college age, have come from schools within the community, neighboring cities and states, as well as other countries to serve our guests in various capacities. Whether they come not knowing what to expect, or come in anticipation of what they have heard, they all show up with smiles, ready to serve. They are an integral part of the services we provide and the assistance they provide throughout the school year is invaluable.

Many schools assist in our daily feeding programs as they often supply hot meals, sandwiches, and even snacks that are served to our guests. They hold canned good drives and even collect toiletry items and other personal garments that we distribute to the homeless and the individuals that receive groceries from our food bank. In addition to aiding in the provision of one's basic needs, schools often impart messages of hope and love through serenades, musical performances, and the distribution of crosses and other handmade items. These acts of kindness are not only an integral part of the services we provide, but they are essential in teaching students a host of lessons not often found in textbooks.

## NOAAHH CONTINUES TO SUPPORT LANTERN LIGHT



On April 17, 2016, the annual Bread for the World Hunger Meal was held on the campus of Loyola University. During this celebration the New Orleans Artists Against Hunger & Homelessness (NOAAHH) awarded grants to 16 organizations that serve the hungry and homeless of the Greater New Orleans area. This non-profit organization was founded in 1985 by Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy award winning musician, songwriter, and producer Allen Touissant and Grammy award winning musician and singer Aaron Neville, in an effort to benefit the hungry and homeless of New Orleans. This is the seventh year that Lantern Light has received this honor and Sr. Vera Butler, along with Kenitha Grooms-Williams, were on hand to represent the organization. A check was presented to each agency, as well as a decorated bowl, which serves as a reminder of hunger that exist in the world.



## MAJOR FLOOD HITS LONGTIME SUPPORTER

For the past several years Lantern Light has been a recipient of St. Joseph Abbey's Pennies for Bread program. This initiative enables the monastery and seminary college an opportunity to provide loaves of bread to nonprofit organizations at no cost to use during their meals for those in need. This donation has had a huge impact on our feeding program as it has allowed us to have 200 sandwiches readily available to serve on a weekly basis to our guests.

On March 23, 2016 St. Joseph Abbey suffered a great loss after deep floodwaters destroyed their bakery and 30 other buildings on their campus. This unforeseen tragedy has dealt a major blow to this religious organization whose damages exceed \$30 million. Lantern Light recognizes the contributions St. Joseph Abbey has made not only to our agency, but to other non-profits throughout South Louisiana. We hope that you will consider joining us to ensure that this organization is able to resume the various ministries offered through the seminary and college by making a donation to the Flood Relief Fund for St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College.



## HOW CAN YOU KEEP THE LIGHT BURNING?

Join Lantern Light as we participate in Gulf Coast Bank Trust Company's, "Auctions in August." You can take part in this silent auction by donating a priceless item or unique gift that individuals will bid on beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Proceeds raised from the sale of the items will go to the organization of your choice. For more information contact Kenitha Grooms-Williams at [kagwilliams@lanternlight.org](mailto:kagwilliams@lanternlight.org).



Join Lantern Light on **Friday, October 14, 2016**, as we host our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser. For a small donation of \$10.00 you can help us raise funds to continue the services we provide, while getting a great meal! **Pre-tickets to go on sale in September.**



## LANTERN LIGHT WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Stay connected to us via e-mail for the latest news on events happening at Lantern Light.

Send us your e-mail in a message to [kagwilliams@lanternlight.org](mailto:kagwilliams@lanternlight.org).



[www.facebook.com/lanternlightministry](http://www.facebook.com/lanternlightministry)



[LanternLightMinistry@LanternLightNO](mailto:LanternLightMinistry@LanternLightNO)

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**  
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**Kenitha Grooms-Williams**  
Executive Director



**Brother Charles**  
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Catheryn Major, Social Worker



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