

The Spiritual Side

St. Christopher's volunteers puts faith into action

By: CHARLOTTE MILLER
cmiller@islandernews.com

Chapman Partnership for the Homeless serves three hot meals a day, 365 days a year, totaling 800,000 meals annually.

St. Christopher's by-the-Sea Faith at Work initiative steps in the first Friday of every month, when volunteers travel downtown to cook and serve nearly 500 dinners to Miami's homeless men, women and children.

When a person becomes homeless, it affects every aspect of their lives, explained Deacon Miguel Baguer. The impact goes far beyond their health and esteem, to their ability to provide for their family and their future.

St. Christopher's has been Chapman's committed partner in helping lift the fallen out of despair.

Faith at Work at St. Christopher's allots 10 percent of its budget to helping those in need. Church members pledge money, and, according to Deacon Miguel, "It doesn't matter if you pledge \$1 or \$10,000, you have a voice."

Those voices agree the money be given to those in need, especially at shelters such as Chapman, and international organizations such as Food for the Poor.

Pat and Robert Molinari and Terry and Lynne Nelson – the cooking crew – arrive around 2 p.m. to start food preparation. Dinner begins at 5:30. It's the same meal every month: baked ham, macaroni and cheese, fresh rolls, salad, homemade cake and a beverage. Word travels fast as many say St. Christopher's makes the best mac and cheese.

Portions are generous and no man, woman or child leaves the Chapman dining room hungry. Once a month, St. Christopher's gets a bill from the food purveyor, which averages out to a little more than a dollar per person.

"Chapman Partnership is grateful to us and others that help provide meals," said Deacon Miguel.

Chapman Partnership operates two Homeless Assistance Centers with 800 beds located in Miami and Homestead. Chapman helps the homeless by providing a comprehensive support program that includes emergency housing, meals, health, dental and psychiatric care, day care, job training, job placement and assistance with securing

stable housing.

Since 1995, Chapman Partnership has had more than 96,000 admissions, including 19,000 children, and a 65 percent success rate in moving the homeless to self-sufficiency. It is also recognized nationally as a model for providing care in Miami-Dade.



Deacon Miguel Baguer breaks bread before Friday's dinner at Chapman Partnership for the Homeless, Miami.



St. Christopher's-by-the-Sea Faith at Work initiative picks up the tab for dinner at Chapman once a month. Volunteers cook and serve dinner for nearly 500 homeless on the first Friday of every month. From left are Deacon Miguel Baguer, Pat Molinari, Lynne Nelson, Terry Nelson and Robert Molinari.



Terry Nelson is well-known at the shelter for making the "best ever" macaroni and cheese.

CHARLOTTE MILLER/The Islander News

Wishing you all the best in 2014! Real Estate is hot, hot, hot...

450 ALTON RD • #2503



View to the Bay & Government Cut! 3/3 unit. Slate floors in kitchen and living areas. All rooms open to a wide balcony facing south. Over 2,100 sq. ft. \$3,380,000.

RESORT VILLA TWO • #403



2 bedrooms, 2 baths with marble floors and wide balcony overlooking the lake; in excellent condition with all the Ocean Club amenities. Asking \$995,000.

MAR AZUL • #8BS



Spacious 3/3 with ocean views! Lowest priced waterfront per square foot. Over 2500 sq. ft. per tax rolls. Large master bedroom and expansive balcony. \$1,385,000.

CASA DEL MAR • #17C



2 bedroom plus den with direct Atlantic Ocean and Biscayne Bay views. Only one neighbor, no long hallways! Bathrooms remodeled. \$1,185,000.

KEY COLONY IV • #405



Lovely 2/2 split plan corner penthouse. Large balcony overlooks the beautiful Botanica gardens. White tile in living areas, wood flooring in bedrooms. \$699,000.

199 OCEAN LANE • #313



Fantastic bright apartment, 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Amenities included pool, tennis courts, gym and much more. The beach is your backyard!! \$675,000.

100 SUNRISE DR • #27



Second floor 1/1 remodeled with marble floors. Pool area. Walk to beach, shopping, restaurants and schools. \$275,000.

7600 COLLINS AVE • #704



Direct ocean views from everywhere in this highly desirable 1,445 sq. ft., updated 2/2.5 unit in Oceanblue. Unit is on two floors with a 700 sq. ft. spacious terrace. \$585,000.

1155 BRICKELL BAY DR • #PH106



Stunning 1/1 condo on Brickell, overlooking Biscayne Bay. Marble and wood floors, concierge and heated pool, convenience store, valet parking, 24 hrs. security. \$375,000.

5695 W FLAGLER ST.



High 24 hr traffic location land for sale. \$1,850,000.

RENTALS
Casa del Mar. Units TH29 & TH32. Summer rentals (3 month minimum), 2/2 on the Ocean.

For information about Key Biscayne's newest condo **Oceana**, call us today.

#1 Team – Coldwell Banker Key Biscayne
THE JOAN McCAUGHAN TEAM
International President's Circle Team ♦ Florida 100

305-775-8230

Eves: 786-390-2025 • Voice Mail: 305-365-4843
jmckkb@aol.com • www.miami87.com • www.jm10.com



Jamie & Joan McCaughan & Carlos Mandiola

REPUTATION • EXPERTISE • RESULTS
2013 Top Sales