How a few minutes can make a world of difference

Right after the 2 p.m. closing time on a recent Tuesday—just as we were about to lock the Humboldt door, a young woman entered Shepherd’s Crossing with a worried look on her face. As she entered, the volunteer greeter said, “I’m sorry. We’re closed. You’ll need to come back on Thursday.” Warren Holmes, director of client services, was nearby and heard the exchange. The woman’s sagging shoulders sent Warren a message that Thursday might be too late. “Tell me what’s happening,” he said to her. She showed him a shut-off notice for her water service with a past-due bill of $130. This was no time to lock the door! This was a first time visitor to Shepherd’s Crossing with no previous information on file. Warren had her fill out the necessary client information form and learned that she was a single mother with one child. She worked at a fast food restaurant, earning around $400 per month. With housing assistance, she was able to support herself and one child. A JOB Corps graduate, she was bravely trying to make it on such a meager income. She had put her car up on blocks to save gas money and was sharing a baby sitter with a neighbor.

Warren quickly decided to pay the water bill. He then asked, “Do you have any other bills?” Reluctantly, she admitted to a past due electric bill which also had a disconnect notice. Under further questioning, she said she had a gas bill coming due in a few days and it also would have a disconnect notice. To her utter amazement, Warren got on the phone with the two utility companies and the City Water Department and arranged to pay all three bills. “I can’t believe it! You are going to pay all of my bills?” she asked through freely flowing tears. “Is it OK if I give you a hug?” With others present, Warren gladly accepted the hug and her heartfelt thanks. What would have happened if the door had been locked when she came to the Crossing?

Our supporters have done so much for us during this past year. Several churches have designated a certain amount each month or each year, some had a cookie exchange day, many women’s Bible study groups donated money, one of the churches had a plant sale and another held a bake sale at the Pumpkin Patch in October.
Message from the President

The weather sure has been all over the place this winter—we’ve had our shares of highs and lows! I have plants that are already trying to peek through—they’re almost ready to green up and grow. It will soon be time for greening and growing with Shepherd’s Crossing and the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, too! On April 22, we have a unique opportunity to grow our Endowed Foundation funds to ensure a healthy future for Shepherd’s Crossing. See the Mark your Calendar! item elsewhere in the newsletter. All you need to do is bring ‘a little green’ (as in dollars) to Colony Square Atrium between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Funds will be matched by various donors—so your donation will grow to make an even larger impact! This is a great time to invest in your community by growing the green for Shepherd’s Crossing. Encourage your Bible study, women’s group, fraternity, or group of any kind and size, to pitch in to plant a whole lot of green that day! Looking forward to a blooming good time!

--Diana Chapel, President

Meet our Intern: Emma Rose Wheatley.

“Since August I have been interning at Shepherd’s Crossing, where I have had the privilege of being under the supervision of Beverly Olson. Hailing from the rural town of Otis, Kansas, I stumbled upon Manhattan Christian College in order to pursue a lifestyle of ministry and serving the Lord. After a couple of healthy degree switches, I landed on a Bachelor’s of Science in Family Ministries with an emphasis in Pre-Counseling. As a degree fulfillment I needed to find an internship, and Shepherd’s Crossing proved to be the perfect place to learn about interacting with men and women in a social-work-like manner. With my internship wrapping up, it is easy to say that I have learned something invaluable about the importance of loving, listening, and going the extra mile. Soon I will be graduating, but until then I will be pursuing a career in wedding and lifestyle photography as well as a life with my husband who just recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan. I am continually thankful for the growth I have gained from working with Shepherd’s Crossing and the charitable attitudes of all involved, counselors and directors alike.”

Emma Rose Wheatley

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