



Twelveacres

Newsletter
Fall 2005

...I was made a minister according to the gift of grace given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Ephesians 3:7

Grace. God doing for man what man cannot do for himself. Webster

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Partners in Grace: The Twelveacres Parents and Guardians Association

Twelveacres Parents and Guardians Association works gracefully and effectively with Twelveacres staff and board. TPGA partnering has been significant in the gains made here. The Association operates as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit, to support the healing work. TPGA is an important voice for the families and conservators of our clients.

Members attend open sessions of board meetings. One is designated to deliver TPGA's report to the board. At the September meeting, Joseph Madrid presented that report, excerpted below. Though not a Christian Scientist, his client-son is. Joe readily acknowledges the profound, continuing influence the healing Christ has on his child and on others. Attendees were greatly moved by Joe's report. After you read it, you will see why.

TPGA Report to the Twelveacres Board of Directors, September 9, 2005

It will be my pleasure to deliver our report to you this morning. It may be appropriate to reveal something of the emotional attachment we as parents and conservators feel for Twelveacres. I'll attempt that by redefining a word I've been thinking about recently.

That word is grace. For some, it summons a reflection on Christian scripture. Also, grace may be the reward for an act of charity or kindness. But, perhaps grace is simply the gift, spiritual or temporal, that we have within us to share with one another. By that definition alone, grace surely is exemplified by the life that we see at Twelveacres.

It's there in countless everyday expressions of spiritual intention and fulfillment. Large and small, they are manifest, yet rarely singled out as remarkable, because they have been joyously anticipated.

We've observed the hands that guide a wheelchair, the hours of patient expectation of the simplest ex-

pression of want or need, the listening for a single first word, felt the serenity of a spiritual, harmonious environment, and witnessed the beginnings of empathy and the emergence of self-sufficiency.

Each is an expression of grace that we accept gratefully. We believe that Twelveacres isn't a collection of houses, employees and residents. It's daily confirmation of an ideal, an unshakable belief that all are created by a loving God to serve Him and to serve one another; to find in each a reflection of wholeness and an unlimited purity of spirit.

In a world that appears daily to be plagued by the drugs of excess, avarice, non-conformity, irresponsibility and separation, Twelveacres stands as the place where all of those constructs are denied. It is the place where grace dwells. It is the place that our cherished ones now call their home.

On behalf of the Twelveacres Parents and Guardians Association, I extend its continuing appreciation to the Board of Directors, and to all that work daily to provide for it selflessly and with an abundance of grace. Thank you.

Twelveacres also thanks TPGA for hosting a dinner recently honoring Twelveacres' successes. Photos from that event grace the pages of this newsletter. ★



TPGA dinner guests wait for their first course



Marlie Brooks, CEO, to retire

After nearly fourteen years in various roles at Twelveacres, Marlie Brooks, Administrator and CEO, announced her retirement, effective December 31, 2005. The Board, Clients, Parents and Guardians Association and Staff received her announcement with a mixture of well-wishing, glad expectation of her fresh adventures—and a tinge of



Client and Marlie pause for a photo op at TPGA dinner

regret. Marlie dedicated herself fully to Twelveacres mission over all her years here, blessed and advanced the work and touched many lives. She will be truly missed.

Starting in 1992, as Director of Human Resources,

Marlie began professionalizing the hiring and training standards of the organization. Her expertise in the personnel field brought new light and competence to every aspect of Twelveacres as a workplace. As Director of Program and Operations, she led the organization through the waters of transition from a sequestered institution to a community-based, highly visible organization. Twelveacres early years in the community put a face and a place

on the public's concept of Christian Science healing for the developmentally disabled. Her six years of leadership while Administrator and CEO, built a staff of care-givers and trainers who display her same dedication and client-focus—and love for Christian Science healing. Marlie has also forged highly cooperative relationships with community and state licensing and regulatory agencies. Her focused work guarantees that clients can continue to rely totally and radically on Christian Science for treatment and care—and assures that practitioners continue being valued and compensated by these agencies for their consultant work for clients.

Marlie's retirement plans include moving to her new home in Grants Pass, Oregon. There she and her daughter, Lori, will live on their adjoining farms. "Our Ms. Brooks" plans to go into the full-time practice of Christian Science.

We all wish you the absolute best as you launch into these fresh and invigorating new adventures!

After an extensive search, Twelveacres Board of Directors hired Lin Watts from Phoenix, Arizona who joined the organization in August. Since then he has been in a training program under Marlie's guidance and mentoring. Lin will assume the position of CEO/Chief Administrator as of December 1st. A future newsletter will profile him more fully. ❤️

Vocational Education Program Reinstated!

We are pleased and grateful to announce the reinstatement of Twelveacres Vocational Education Program. The Isabel Foundation of Flint, Michigan has awarded us a significant grant designated



Client and board member, Jill Grimes, enjoy a table joke at the dinner

for resuming this program. We are also deeply appreciative of the generous gifts several donors have earmarked for this work. Like Twelveacres itself, this program is unique in the field of training those labeled

developmentally disabled. Radically different from other approaches, ours presumes that ability is already present in each client. Our job is to provide an environment in which those abilities manifest and grow. We already have many documented successes in the Vocational Education Program. We're on tiptoes to see all of the clients coming into their own—demonstrating an ever-higher sense of freedom and dominion—and employment geared to their abilities and interests. 🔄

Donations to the General Fund will be gratefully accepted. You may send a check or donate online at www.twelveacres.org/donations.htm

Healing the Unhealable — It's What We Do!

Christian Scientists must take a radical stand against any claim or false law alleging unhealability. “What cannot God do?” (*Science and Health* 135:20) So, what, then, should we be doing? As part of its ongoing series, Twelveacres is planning Healing the Unhealable talks in the Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago areas. Multiple talks are being discussed for Arizona, Ohio and areas on the East coast. If you are a *Journal*-listed practitioner and would like to give a talk in your area, please contact us. If you would like to help us organize a talk, or want updates on talks planned for your area, let us know. (linwats12@aol.com or 408-341-0400 ext. 106) Supporting an activity that challenges

the assumptions and so-called laws of the carnal mind, inspires, blesses and heals many—and advances the Cause of Christian Science!

To request a copy of the talk, “*Catching up with Soul*” given in Oakland, CA last Spring by Marjorie Dagnall, CS, call 408.341.0400, ext. 106. ★



Board President, Melissa Whitmore, chats it up with a client at the TPGA dinner

“What cannot God do?”

Current Progress and Healing at Twelveacres

In Braeburn House, a client stepped up to the question: “Am I my sister’s keeper?” with a big “yes”! Distressed, the “sister” told staff that she missed her Dad. The “keeper” client, a close friend, overhearing the exchange, asked what the trouble was. Staff explained, then asked if she’d like to comfort her friend. She told her that her parents were both in heaven, then clearly said, “You’re alright. Everything is okay. You’re okay. God loves you.” The first woman listened closely to her friend, then happily continued with her morning activities. The great part, beyond the quick turn-around for the distressed client, was that this other client usually speaks softly, in broken mumbled sentences. Hearing her voice her understanding of the truth was also new.

One afternoon, again in Braeburn, a client was talking loudly while the House Manager was trying to do paperwork. The manager asked for the client’s help. Could she be peaceful and quiet so that she might get her work done? “Okay you need quiet, I’ll be quiet,” and for the next hour she was quiet. Another great example of intelligent love selflessly—and instantly—expressed.

In Flores House, the manager tried something new with a non-verbal man to improve their communication. She reversed their roles. He became the teacher. She wanted to see what he would

do if she didn’t get up when he took her hand to indicate he needed something. So, she just scooted the chair along on its wheels when he pulled her hand. He stopped, looked at her and pulled again. She scooted again. He then put his hand on her back and gently pushed. He laughed and so did she. He stood a moment, sat on her lap, got right up again pulling her hand and making a sound. This said to the manager, “This is what I want you to do: get up.” She stood up. He smiled triumphantly! He had reached his student!

Situations like this, Love’s shepherding and instruction, have helped another Flores man see that he really can appreciate and relate to his housemates. He has begun awakening to the capabilities of his housemates. He has become less self-centered and more helpful and loving to all.

Finally, another man in Flores House recently changed day programs. Formerly, when asked by staff about his day, he’d respond, “I can’t remember.” Now he readily tells them all about what he did. Also, his penchant for collecting everything has decreased. If he asks for something, staff discuss with him whether he really needs the item. When given a reason why he doesn’t, he’ll often simply agree and drop the subject. This is big progress! He used to be relentless about both collecting and talking staff into giving into this propensity. ♥

“...another example of intelligent love being selflessly and instantly expressed.”

Board Member Perspective: Jill Grimes, Tucson, Arizona

I recently had my first tour of the community—and of the six homes that comprise Twelveacres. Wow, what a treat! Can you imagine? In every house, from the most severely disabled to those who can go out and work in the community, every bed was made, and I mean made with a nice bedspread and everything tucked in. There were pictures and photographs and, in some cases, awards from Special Olympics events, on the walls of the bedrooms—really making these rooms individual, warm and inviting. One young man had a guitar standing up next to his bed which he plays and strums along with his favorite songs. Another had posters of athletes. He showed me his collection of movies and music. Everyone's clothes were all picked up and the clients themselves were clean, quiet, poised and settled. In one house were several women, some drawing at a table, others strolling around. One woman sat on the sofa, her arms crossed over her chest with a stern look on her face. I looked her in

the eyes and talked to her about her pretty shoes. The scowl dissolved and you should have seen her smile! Twelveacres staff is amazing in their dedication, patience and involvement with these men and women. I can only imagine the amount of effort it takes to accomplish what they do. It is my privilege to be a part of this activity and all of you should know how appreciated you are for any support you are able to give. These men and women do experience spiritual healing, in an atmosphere of love, dignity and respect, because you care. 🌟

TPGA and Collin Street Bakery Launch 2005 Holiday Fund-raiser for Twelveacres

TPGA supports the work at Twelveacres in many ways. One is its annual holiday fund-raiser: the sale of those famous and truly delicious Collin Street Bakery Deluxe Fruitcakes and other Native Texas Pecan Cakes. Several sizes are available. To order, or for more information, please contact Karl and Connie Untch, 7203 Via Carrizo, San Jose, CA 95135. Phone: 408.274.4149.

You may also contact Collin Street Bakery directly. If you do, please ask that your order be credited to Twelveacres Parents and Guardians Association, Inc. or TPGA. To order directly: phone 1.800.747.8781; ask for the Bakery Club Sales Department, Ann Ogren, sales representative. Please order only from her to insure that Twelveacres will benefit from your purchase. Twelveacres clients heartily thank you for your generous support of this TPGA effort! 🌟



Dinner guests enjoy after dinner discussion

From May 1, 2005 through October 16, 2005 Twelveacres received greatly appreciated donations in the names of the following:

In Memory of:

Nancy Belote
William & Mary V. Bird
Leslie Bronson
Wynne Byrnes
Margaret Caldwell
Mary Baker Eddy
Michael Eliot Ford
Elsa Forsblad
Dr. Dick Froese

Irma Gibbs
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Jack Richards
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John Searles
Ann Spaulding, CSB
Anthony Strapple, Jr.
Laurie Latzer Webb

In Honor of:

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Robin Collins
Margaret Double

Erwin Haefner
Amy Hellyer
Barbara Koehler

Debbie Mueller
Laura Spaulding
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Shari Tobias
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