

A Year to Remember

By Megan Rohrer

In this season of remembrance and new hopes for the next year, I wanted to let you know all the wonderful things that happened in the Welcome Ministry this past year. Here is what has happened since I became the director last June:

Individuals who have found housing: 15
Community dinner guests per month: 90-120
Welcome Ministry meals served per month: 320
Counseling per month: 60
Pastoral care per month: 10
Religious services performed per month: 2
Toiletries and non-perishable bags given out per month: 120
Medical visits with guests per month: 16
Volunteers for community dinners:
1 for every 3 guests; 7 homeless volunteers
Volunteers for the Welcome Center:
1 for every 10-11 guests; 4 homeless volunteers

Cecilia, 67, came to San Francisco with her dog Baby after she lost most of her friends in the 9/11 attack on New York. Cecilia lived in a shelter for almost two-months where she was robbed twice. With the help of the Welcome Ministry she was able to go to the doctor for the first time in 55 years. Because Cecilia's glasses were stolen in the shelter she needed help filling out forms and getting prescriptions. The Welcome Ministry was able to get Cecilia and Baby into permanent housing at the Sister's of the Poor (despite their 3 year waiting list).

Denise and Martin came to San Francisco after Martin was injured and unable to work. Denise and Martin have been volunteering at the Welcome Ministry for over two months. As a result, their self-esteem has increased; they successfully overcame their heroine addiction found housing and jobs. Denise is currently working on getting her three children back. Denise was able to get her oldest son, Michael, back and he is living with them.

Next year The Welcome Ministry will continue to feed the hearts, minds, souls and stomachs of our homeless and hungry friends. Thank you again for all your help and support. I hope this year has been equally rich for you and yours. May you have many more fruitful years to follow!