



Bishop Anderson House

Annual Newsletter • December 1, 2018

Celebration

In 2016, less than a year after my arrival at Bishop Anderson House, our board engaged in a strategic planning process that resulted in some big, holy, audacious goals:

- Expand our Spiritual Care Visitor Training program (SCVT) and make it available to a larger audience via web-based technology, as well as provide support for alumni of the training.
- In conjunction with Rush University Medical Center, offer a community-based Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program for graduates of our SCVT who wish to expand and deepen their understanding of the art of spiritual care.
- Expand the web of connections between Bishop Anderson House and the Westside of Chicago.
- Have two full-time board certified chaplains by 2020.

I'm pleased to tell you at the close of 2018 we have achieved these goals!

We saw record numbers of students in our Spiritual Care Visitor Training at St. James Cathedral, Chicago and at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn. During the spring session each class session was filmed in preparation for the program's expansion. The hybrid program will include an all-day retreat followed by on-line modules. Monthly "chats with the chaplain" allow for the personal interaction that many in the program have come to love. I'm very excited about 2019 as we move this forward!

We are in the midst of our second community-based CPE program in partnership with Rush. Of the 5-person cohort, one student is doing her ministry at a hospital that doesn't have a CPE program, and the others are serving various faith communities throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Through this program BAH has met three of our goals: offering a professional track for alumni of our SCVT, deepening our relationships within the community and strengthening the relationship we share with Rush University Medical Center.

See page 7 for full details of the online SCVT.



I am most excited about a recent development that has resulted in BAH having 2.25 full-time equivalent chaplains! After having two stellar candidates apply for the job of Chaplain Fellow at Stroger Hospital of Cook County, the board voted in September to take a risk and hire both! We are able to do this because it aligns with our strategic plan and because we are receiving some financial support from Gift of Hope, the organ procurement organization of Illinois and Northern Indiana. Gift of Hope believes in the importance of spiritual care for families who are going through some of the hardest times in their lives, confronting many difficult decisions about organ transplant. Chaplains are trained to help families navigate difficult times such as these.

Join me in celebrating our successes of 2018 and please help us end the year strong by making an end of year gift to help us take spiritual care even further—touching more hearts and

lives with the power of love, care, and concern. I wish you every blessing in this holy and wonder-filled season.

Tommy



Micheal Smith and Matt Seeds

Chaplaincy Changing Lives

Through these 3 profound stories, please enter the world of our top-notch chaplains who work side by side with staff and patients in the Cook County Health System.

Micheal Smith

(Trauma, Burn and other Intensive Care Units, Stroger)

As I entered the room in the burn unit, I greeted the care patient in the first bed; he looked at my chaplain badge and immediately said, "The one you want to see must be in the other bed." Acknowledging his decline for a spiritual care visit I continued to the care recipient in the second bed and had a brief spiritual care encounter. As I was leaving the room, the care recipient in the first bed spoke again, "Hey, since you are here do you mind if I ask you a brief question?"

As he invited me to have a seat, he proceeded to share his life story of happiness and regrets and how the recent events in his life led to his being a patient in the burn unit. His reflections on his life then produced a singular question, "If I have lived my

life with an expectation to never celebrate my 45th birthday, how can I now find forgiveness and a new purpose for whatever years I may have remaining?"

Over the course of the next hour, the two care recipients and I engaged in a spirited, humorous, and at times painful, yet spiritually thought-provoking conversation about listening and responding to the voice of the Divine, overcoming fears, rediscovering hope, the challenges of making fundamental and lasting changes in our lives, and finding peace in whom we may become. I departed the room having experienced the essence and joy of chaplaincy--contributing to the well being of a person by providing relational, emotional, existential, and spiritual care.



Matt Seeds

(Trauma, Burn and other Intensive Care Units, Stroger)

HOME. I often have thoughts and feelings about home. Friends and family, the familiar comforts of safety, warmth, and love come to mind. At least, that is what I want my home to always be filled with. When you think of home, what comes to mind?

New to Chicago, I am rethinking my ideas about all of this as I create a new home for myself and my family. My work as a chaplain through Bishop Anderson House at Stroger Cook County Hospital also invites me to reconsider and respond.

I meet patients and families each day struggling with the experiences of physical and emotional trauma. Recently, I visited a young woman, shot in the arm while trying to escape gunfire near her home. As I listened to her tell the story of this traumatic event, she expressed her fears by saying,

"I will never leave my home at night again. I will never go for a walk in my neighborhood again. I need to find a way to keep my children safe."

As a spiritual caregiver, my hope is that I provide a sense of home, a sacred, safe space for others. Sometimes this just involves being with others in pain, listening or sitting in silence. Sometimes this involves beginning the hard work of helping others discover sources of strength for the body and soul to heal. As I care for others, I often hear the words "I want to go home." I have learned in my life and work that home is not always the "good place" we had hoped it would be, but it is a place we long for. I am called and I hope you are too to find ways to help others "rebuild home." We all deserve a safe place we can call home.

Jim Croegaert

(Project Connect of the CORE Center)

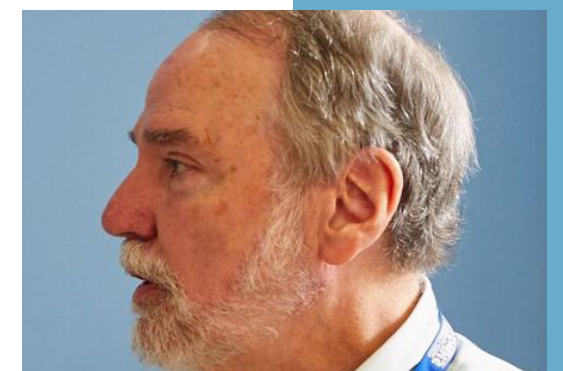
Three people in the grip of serious addiction, two dealing with heroin, one with alcohol. All dealing also with HIV. One is receiving methadone treatment at the hospital, hoping to transition to a residential facility where she can get the help and support needed to stay off the street and away from the cycle that has repeatedly drawn her in. I listen and we talk about her strengths and weaknesses, what works for her, what works against her. She wears a mask (I do too) but when she talks about her resilience her eyes smile in a beautiful way above the mask. We talk about ways to get support (including the CORE Center and Project Connect) and we pray for those strengths to help her make good decisions. We pray for her life, as she knows it is in the balance if the addiction keeps winning. I pray for her now as I write this, and hope she is able to access the resources offered by the CORE Center, to get strength wherever she can; for the smile I saw in her eyes to radiate from within her.

I had somewhat similar visits with the two other patients struggling against addictions they know will take their lives if they do not change. The power of this self-destructive force both mystifies and humbles me. I know God has planted something uniquely good in each one. I pray for that to prevail. I go on to visit a patient who has been in the hospital for

"...When she talks about her resilience her eyes smile in a beautiful way above the mask."

nearly two months, dealing with literally one thing after another, but his main issue is that of cancer, but with so many tentacles. He is not even fifty years old, but weary of all his treatments, which are not really helping him. Is it time to consider palliative care? We pray for guidance, and for a way through that will help him experience what freedom he can in whatever time is allotted him.

It is hard to know for sure what are the ultimate effects of the visits I can make to these Stroger patients through Bishop Anderson House. But I believe they matter, because these people matter. To us. To God.



Headline

Need Article

Social Media

Social Media and the Mission of Bishop Anderson House

One of the transformative pieces common to both spiritual life and the healing process is their narrative nature. The way we experience our lives and our world has long been expressed (and therefore experienced) in the arc of a story. When we at Bishop Anderson House consider our story and our mission, it is with this in mind. Our drive to communicate through social media is partially to illustrate the ways that our story-telling process can be spiritually liberating, community-building, and can be an integral part of our own organization's healing.

Bishop Anderson House is deeply rooted in Chicago, and therefore we are deeply immersed in the trauma and story of this city. As we talk about

our future hopes and dreams it is with deep realization that we carry with us the story of our place and people. Our healing paths are linked.

The majority of my past 10 years has been focused on the city of Paris. I have been directing shoots for fashion magazines and brands, and serving as artist-in-residence at the American Church in Paris. My story was immersed in that of Paris' story. So it with fresh eyes and imagination that I arrive now to Chicago and to the work of Bishop Anderson House. All that I learn about this city and this organization is new for me, and I am eager to keep learning and digging. I am also relatively new to formal conversations about chaplaincy and spiritual care, and though my family has always practiced spiritual care in intentional ways, it has been helpful to learn best practices and the language of spiritual care.

Five years ago my father was killed, and my family found that grieving publicly, even through social media, helped model the grief process and the forgiveness process for our community. Even our messiest moments led toward the healing and transformation of our friends and family. I think about this often with my work for Bishop Anderson House. How can telling this story lend a hand in the liberation and healing of Chicago? How can telling all that we have experienced and are dreaming up for the future... how can that set our communities free?



We are always grateful when your financial gifts arrive at the office. Donations come from near and far, of all amounts, and when combined they swell to become a miracle. A miracle of a chaplain's visit or a life transformed by Active Listening. A miracle made real on this earth by you, our donors. Thank you.

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This listing does not reflect donations made after the press date of October 30, 2018.
CC indicates a contribution to the Capital Campaign.

Please give today to reach our year end goal of raising \$16,000 by December 31. Your support creates these miracles on earth.

Give online today at our secure website:
www.bishopandersonhouse.org/donate/
or return the enclosed envelope.

Spiritual Care

The Future-ing of Spiritual Care

Mark your calendars for an exciting and cutting-edge event in the Spring of 2019!! Bishop Anderson House will partner with writer, speaker, and Executive Director of The Center For Inclusivity, Alicia T. Crosby, to curate programming that explores the “future-ing” of spiritual care. This three part panel series will investigate how individuals and communities can cultivate creative and affirming space for spiritual expression and care for and by those who've felt shut out of religious discourse. Special attention will be given to discussing how we can promote equity for those who have historically been marginalized or erased in conversations about spirituality.



How to Give Article

Need Article



Don't miss the Art of Healing 2019!

We will be back at the Chicago Cultural Center on Sunday, March 19, 2019 for our annual benefit, **celebrating the successful completion of our Capital Campaign and an amazing 2018.** Please mark your calendar now and plan to be with us! Purchase your ticket at the 2018 price (\$125) before December 31st on our website www.bishopandersonhouse.org.

Our Alumni Are Our Greatest Asset

When I interviewed for the position of executive director at Bishop Anderson House nearly four years ago, one of the questions I asked was “What are you doing to support alumni of the spiritual care visitor training program?” There was silence. I knew this was a critical area to develop with nearly 1,000 alumni of our 26 year old program scattered throughout Chicagoland. I’m so pleased to be working with Rose Cicero, an alumna of our program, to co-facilitate a monthly drop-in group for those that want to come together for support and consultation as they visit people in their respective contexts. We kicked this off at an alumni event on September 29 at St. Mark’s Glen Ellyn and will be rotating the group from Bishop Anderson House (Chicago); the western suburbs; and the near north suburbs. To join, please email Rose at alumni@bishopandersonhouse.org.

Tommy





Bishop Anderson House

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CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!

May 19TH
Sunday
5 to 8pm

The Art of Healing returns to the
spectacular **Chicago Cultural Center**

Come meet our 2 new chaplains
Toast our generous Campaign donors

Bring us into our 71st year in style!

