

Memorandum from



The newsletter of Friends of Prado Day Center
P.O. Box 12444
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
www.pradodaycenter.org/donate.html

Volume V, Number 1, Winter 2014

The Culinary Carnival Is Right Around the Corner!

The 5th Annual Friends of Prado Day Center Culinary Carnival will be held on **Thursday, February 27, 2014 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Embassy Suites ballroom.** That's right, it's on a Thursday evening – which many of us think of as the beginning of the weekend!

We are very grateful to our food and beverage vendors: Bon Temps Creole Café, Embassy Suites, SLO Splash Café, Café Roma, Ventana Grill, Del Monte Café, Mee Heng Low Noodle House, Jaffa Café, Blackhorse Café, Two Cooks Catering, Novo, Tahoe Joe's, Tap It Brewing Co., Cass Winery, Firestone Walker Brewing Co., Claiborne & Churchill Winery, Tolosa Winery, Castoro Cellars, Einhorn Beer, Baileyana Winery, Saucelito Canyon, Ancient Peaks Winery, Talley Vineyards, and Chamisal Vineyards. No one will go home hungry!

We also are planning a live auction featuring get-aways here in SLO and abroad, gourmet dinners, and more. Don't miss this fantastic evening! Tickets are still available at sloculinarycarnival.com/buy-tickets.html for \$60 each. Our generous sponsors (whom we will list in the next newsletter) are covering our costs, so your ticket price goes entirely to the operation of Prado Day Center.

Using Your Donations Wisely

Some of our regular donors have told us that they do not need to receive a "thank you" letter each time they donate. We have finally devised a system to avoid these repetitive letters while still acknowledging your generous donations. We will soon begin to mail postcards to acknowledge each donation. For privacy reasons, the postcard will not contain the amount of the donation. At the end of the year, you will receive an itemized letter of your donations for the year for your tax purposes.

This system will allow us to redirect a good deal of money from administrative costs to the operations

of Prado Day Center, while also satisfying the tax preparation needs of our wonderful donors.

Case Management - Part II

For our last issue, we interviewed Mary Lou Zivna, a case manager at Prado Day Center. For this issue we interviewed **Anthony Wilshusen**, one of Mary Lou's case management clients, to get a view of case management from the client's point of view.

Anthony was born here in San Luis Obispo, but at age 10 his father moved the family to Alaska. He grew up living at various times in Alaska, Arizona, and the Central Coast. Anthony is a cancer survivor, and unfortunately suffers from a number of medical problems, including a degenerative spine condition that requires him to wear a back brace.

Anthony's most recent job was Special Projects Manager at a records management company. He specialized in medical offices that needed their records stored and retrieved on request. It was a good job that Anthony loved. But in 2006 his department at the company was shut down, and he and his coworkers were laid off. At that time, Anthony had just completed a course of chemotherapy. He had some money saved, but finding another job under his circumstances was very difficult. Eventually his money ran out and he found himself at Prado Day Center and Maxine Lewis Shelter.

Shortly after finding Prado, Anthony found Mary Lou Zivna and became one of her case management clients. She has guided him through the sometimes frustrating procedures he has to follow to get appropriate medical care and to apply for housing. In the past year, Anthony has been hospitalized three times, and Mary Lou has connected him with social workers at French Hospital who have been extremely helpful finding him interim housing after his hospitalizations. Recently she has been helping him work with the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO), an agency whose mission is to assist the county's lower income citizens secure and maintain

long-term housing. Anthony is now near the top of HASLO's list of applicants, and hopes to be permanently housed soon.

Anthony is very grateful for the entire case management program. The hardest part of it, he says, for both clients and case managers, is working with bureaucracies. They can be difficult to negotiate and agonizingly slow. The best part of case management, Anthony claims, is Mary Lou. "She has made *such* a big difference," he says. With her help, he knows he's not alone when dealing with his homelessness and his health issues. And he knows that by sticking with case management, he *will* find permanent housing and an end to the chaos of homelessness.

Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about Prado Day Center, visit www.pradodaycenter.org. To make donations, go to www.pradodaycenter.org/donate.html.

If you would like to volunteer, either at the Center or on a committee with the Friends of Prado Day Center, please call (805) 786-0617.

Since 1997, **Prado Day Center** has provided essential day-to-day services for homeless and working poor members of our community. The Center provides food, showers, phone message service, and many other services. **Friends of Prado Day Center** provides support funding for Prado Day Center. **CAPSLO** (formerly EOC) manages the day-to-day operation of Prado Day Center. **The People's Kitchen** coordinates hot lunches served daily at the Center by organizations throughout the county.



P.O. Box 12444
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Luis Obispo, CA
Permit No. 325



Our very generous community provided an amazing selection of clothing, bedding, toys, and more for the Prado Day Center Christmas party.



Many happy clients had a very Merry Christmas thanks to the generosity of members of our community.



Local chiropractors held their annual Chirofeed at the Center, providing BBQ lunch, manicures, haircuts, adjustments and gifts. We are so grateful for their generosity and support!