

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 3, Summer 2014

"Make Change Count" Meters

The City of SLO has partnered with the Downtown Association and the United Way to install parking meters customized to accept donations – both cash and credit cards. Friends of Prado Day Center has been chosen as the first recipient of money collected from the meters. (See the photo on the next page.)

These meters provide a very good alternative to giving money to panhandlers in the downtown area, many of whom use the handouts to support their drug and alcohol dependencies. Money from the meters will go directly to helping the homeless in our area. You can find the meters in the following locations:

- Chorro Street at the Marsh Street parking structure.
- Broad Street at Marsh Street
- Higuera Street at Osos Street
- Chorro Street at the Mission Plaza entrance
- Higuera Street at Court Street
- Higuera Street at Downtown Center

Please support this joint effort of the City, the Downtown Association, and United Way, as well as Friends of Prado Day Center, by dropping a bit of change in one of the meters next time you're downtown. And tell your friends about them too!

Amazon Smile ☺

Have you heard about Amazon Smile? It's just like the regular Amazon that you may order from on a regular basis, but it lets you register for the charitable organization of your choice, and Amazon donates .5% of your purchase to that organization. This is a great new way to support Friends of Prado Day Center! Here's how it works:

- Go to www.smile.amazon.com.
- The first time you visit the site, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive the donation. Friends of Prado Day Center is a recognized charitable organization.

- From then on, as long as you remember to go to smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of almost all purchases will be donated to Friends.

You might want to create a bookmark so you don't forget to go to the "smile" site. Thanks to Amazon for thinking up such a creative way for their customers to support their favorite charities!

Thank You!

Bicycles are a great resource for Center clients, because they use little money, take up little space, and keep many of our clients mobile throughout the community. Last month, the SLO Bike Coalition measured 35 Prado Day Center clients for bikes that were rebuilt or adjusted by inmates at the County Sheriff's Honor Farm. The Prado clients attended a class detailing the rules and safety measures to follow when riding a bike on the road. Speakers Dan and Troy from the SLO Bike Coalition described how to "share the road" successfully with cars, make turns, and remain aware of road conditions (see photo on next page). We are very grateful to the Bike Coalition and to the men at the Honor Farm who made it possible for 35 Prado clients to have their transportation needs met!

Belated thanks to CORE (Co-Regenerate of SLO), One Cool Earth, and Cal Poly students who landscaped the front of the Center with drought-resistant plants and a drip system in April (see photo on next page). The plantings are a beautiful addition!

Success Story

One recent Prado client, a woman in her 50s, tells a story we hear all too often. The child of an alcoholic mother, she was sexually abused by her older brothers. She became a sexually promiscuous teenager, and then had two consecutive abusive marriages. Because of the series of abusive relationships, she developed PTSD, which she battled with alcohol and drugs.

She was finally able to overcome her addictions with help from a local church, and then found Prado

Day Center. After about a month, a set of chance circumstances got her in touch with her stepdaughter in Kentucky, with whom she had lost touch years earlier. The stepdaughter invited the client to come live on her ranch with her horses and dogs – all she had to do was get to Kentucky!

She kept a positive attitude, and was given \$100 by a generous woman in her bible study group. She worked with her Prado case manager to contact Transitions Mental Health, who came up with the balance needed to buy a bus ticket to Kentucky. At the same time, some generous donor left a lovely pink suitcase, with rollers, on the donation table at Prado. Center staff provided snack food for the long bus journey, and wished her well in her new life in the serenity of her stepdaughter's country farm. Sometimes all it

takes is a strong will and a little help from friends to turn around a life.

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.



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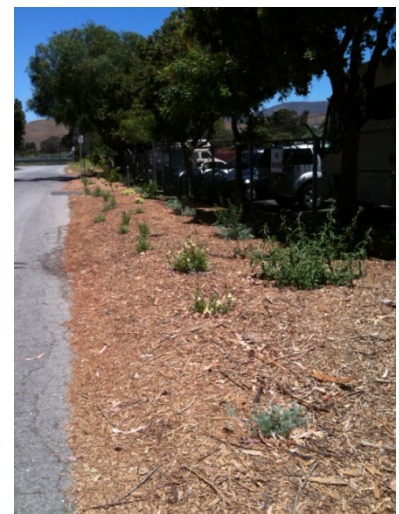
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One of the new "Make Change Count" meters in downtown San Luis Obispo



Clients learn bike safety thanks to the SLO Bike Coalition's generosity.



Thanks to CORE, One Cool Earth, and Cal Poly Students for the landscaping!