

# New E.D. Found!

During the past few months The Wright House Wellness Center has been looking for a replacement for the vacant Executive Director position. The position has now been filled and we are proud and excited to welcome Susan Wills to The Wright House Wellness Center family. Susan comes to us with many years of experience as a leader in non-profits and has worked extensively with clients from a myriad of cultures and backgrounds. She has most recently been associated with The Volunteer Health Care Clinic. Susan is very committed to leading The Wright House Wellness Center to success with her vast abilities in putting client needs first and being a leader and advocate in the community.

Welcome Susan!

## *The Jingle Bell Jubilee!*

As many of you know The Wright House Wellness Center held its first annual Summer Social this past August 1<sup>st</sup> and it was a huge success.

With nearly 50 people in attendance and much chatter about the winter version, we put on our thinking caps, expanded the vision and made a few improvements.

First of all, we gave it a name. Our Winter Social will be called **The Jingle Bell Jubilee** and will also be a Pot Luck Dinner. Clients, Staff and Board Members of The Wright House Wellness Center will come together and will be able to get to know one another, play games, win prizes and enjoy a wonderful meal together prepared by none other than ourselves.

**The Jingle Bell Jubilee** for 2006 will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm and ending at 9. As you can see we have expanded the time but we have also expanded the venue.

We seemed to be at near capacity during our Summer Social so we have moved the winter event to Kleberg Hall which is located next to our main location of The Wright House located at 4301-B N. IH-35 @ Ardenwood.

Make your plans to attend this fun and wonderful event. You will be glad you did!

**Call Mark Johansen at 236-8901 or email [mark@thewrighthouse.org](mailto:mark@thewrighthouse.org) to make your reservations.**

## **Volunteers NEEDED!**

First of all I would like to thank the many wonderful volunteers that have been working with us over the past year. Many great accomplishments have come to fruition because of your dedication and devotion to our mission.

As we head into 2007 we find we are fully staffed and beginning to run at full steam.

As more and more funding is cut by the federal government, we find ourselves pushed to raise other monies to replace those funds lost which means more functions requiring more help from volunteers. Also because of the raised awareness of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Cancer, we find ourselves in a position to teach and train others about these diseases, how to stay healthy if you have them or the best ways to prevent them if you don't.

**The Wright House Wellness Center has been and will continue to welcome and train more volunteers. Please be a part of our Volunteer Team!**

□ We are looking for people to help us with clerical duties, physical labor, help man our booth at Health Fairs and Festivals, to work during our Special Events such as Healing Hearts and many other areas of opportunity.

**If YOU would like to be a part of The Wright House Wellness Centers Volunteer Squad, please contact Mark Johansen at 236-8901 or email at [mark@thewrighthouse.org](mailto:mark@thewrighthouse.org)**

All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Orientation Class before starting.

The next Volunteer Orientations are scheduled for Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm or Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. Both Orientation Classes will take place at our 2326 E. Cesar Chavez location.

**We will need lots of help for our 3rd annual Healing Hearts Gala scheduled for Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

## **WORLD AIDS DAY FRIDAY, DEC. 1<sup>ST</sup>**

The Planet unites as we stand together to fight the devastating disease of AIDS.

Join us in the morning as we come together for a prayer breakfast and presentation whose theme is "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise-Accountability."

There will be music, a candle lighting ceremony and the following speakers...

□ Prayer with Roger Temme

□ Dr. Eduardo Sanchez - M.D., M.P.H.

□ Leatrice Bines - Employee of The WHWC

□ Dr. Brode - M.D., Austin Regional Cl.

□ Reverend Joseph Parker

□ Cantor Neil Blumofe - Of the congregation Agudas Achim

## **Good Bye / Hello!**

We have seen many changes here at The Wright House Wellness Center in the past couple of months. Some of the faces that you will remember and miss are those of Linda Williams, Marie Gonzalez and Alma Guzman. All of whom have gone onto alternative paths to enhance their individual needs in life.

### **There are also many new faces that we want to welcome.**

We have Karen Smith, a new Prevention Case Manager, Rachael Caron with RAPP, Tony Banire who is part of our SAHMSA team, Stephanie Hall, one of our wonderful Case Managers and Britt Payne who comes to us as an intern helping with Client Advocacy as well as Case Management and our newest staffer, Wendy Steward who is a Client Advocate.

Last but certainly not least we welcome our new Event Coordinator Eric Crabtree who keeps busy making our organization more lucrative and visible! WELCOME, all of you TO THE WRIGHT HOUSE WELLNESS CENTER TEAM!

## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Summer Social**

On Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 The Wright House Wellness Center held its first annual Summer Social.

Clients, Board Members and Staff of The Wright House Wellness Center were invited to participate in this Pot Luck event held in the large conference room of the East Cesar Chavez location.

Attendees were asked to bring a side dish or a dessert for all to share. With food galore, the range was immense with chicken wings to cookies, cakes to rice salad. The Black Eyed Pea, located at 9041 Research Blvd., donated Grilled Chicken Breast as the main course and The Renaissance Hotel donated a free weekend stay for the lucky winner of our raffle drawing. All clients attending received a raffle ticket upon arrival and were eligible to win. The drawing was held at the end of the evening and one lucky person will enjoy a wonderful stay away from their home for a full weekend.

We played an Ice Breaker game where players had to interview and get to know others to see who had participated in certain activities in their lives. The winner received a \$20.00 gift card to The Black Eyed Pea.

Approximately 45 people attended this wonderful event with much talk and anticipation for the next social to be held during the holiday season on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. It will be expanded a half hour longer than the first social and will run from 7pm to 9pm.

This Holiday Event called "The Jingle Bell Jubilee" will also be a Pot Luck style dinner with The Wright House Wellness Center providing the main course with clients and staff bringing side dishes only. The Board of Directors will provide delectable dessert goodies.

We are expecting a bigger turnout for "The Jingle Bell Jubilee", so this event will be held at the meeting hall next to the main location at 4301-B North IH 35.

Please call Mark at 236-8901 to make your reservation.

Many thanks is to be given to our great volunteers who helped to move table, chairs and did a wonderful job transforming our upstairs conference room into a lively colorful gathering place with colorful decorations, table centerpieces and streamers.

**Remember to join us Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for our first annual "Jingle Bell Jubilee". Call Mark at 236-8901 to make your reservation.**

## **BIG Thanks!**

Leah Graham, our Director of Programs has been acting as Interim Executive Director during these past months that have found this position vacant.

She is a small woman in stature but big in heart, ideas and leadership.

We, at The Wright House Wellness Center, want to thank her for all of the work and dedication she has brought to the duties of E. D. that she tackled and accomplished so beautifully.

We know that she will continue to be a great influence of The Wright House Wellness Center.

**Thank You Leah, you're the best!**

## **The WHWC Book Exchange**

The Wright House Wellness Center East Cesar Chavez Location is proud to promote our first ever Book Exchange Club.

It costs nothing to join the club and should be fun to watch grow.

We ask that anyone who has a book, bring it into us and exchange it for a book they have never read, then after you finish that book bring it back and exchange it for another. Bring two and take two or however many you can contribute or read.

We want to provide literature for our clients to learn from and enjoy. Whether you are looking for non-fiction or fiction, we have a selection just for you.

Don't have a book to bring? That's OK, we want everyone to have a chance to read, just come into our East Cesar Chavez location and make your selection.

The WHWC Book Exchange will be open the same hours as our office. If you have several books you would like to donate, please call Mark Johansen at 236-8901 and arrange a time to bring in your donations.

## **Healing 'Arts A Huge Success**

The Healing 'Arts Auction which ended on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> was twice as successful as last years inaugural event.

A closing ceremony was held at The Wright House Wellness Center's Main House location where entertainment, food and drinks were provided and where the results of the auction were announced.

This year, over \$3000.00 was raised (after expenses) for The Wright House Wellness Center which was more than double the monies gathered during the previous year.

Good Job and Many Thanks to all of the artists who contributed the beautiful and compelling works that contributed to our cause.

There are some pieces still available and they will be listed on our website as well as be available for viewing at the Main House.

# Calendar of Events

## December

- Dec. 1           WORLD AIDS DAY  
Dec. 6th       Volunteer Orientation at ECC location 6:30pm  
Dec. 8-10      Luminations - See The Wright House Wellness Center's tree among others at  
The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Dec. 14           **"Jingle Bell Jubilee"** – Pot Luck Dinner  
This event will start at 7pm and be held at Kleberg Hall next to  
The Wright House Wellness Center Main House located at  
4301-B North IH-35 @ Ardenwood.  
**This event is open to all clients, staff and board members to**  
attend. Please call Mark at 236-8901 or email  
mark@thewrighthouse.org to make your reservations.
- Dec. 20th-Jan. 3rd   Holiday Break  
**We will resume services on January 3**

## January

- Jan. 3           Reopen after Holiday Break  
Jan. 10         Volunteer Orientation at ECC location 6:30pm  
Jan-TBA        Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

## February

- Feb. 14th       **The 3rd Annual Healing Hearts Gala**

**The Healing Hearts Gala** will be coming up before you know it. We would like to start signing up Volunteers for this event as soon as possible. Email mark@thewrighthouse.org or call 236-8901 to get involved.

## **A Fond Farewell**

For those of you who have been a part of The Wright House Wellness Center for some time, you may have run across a couple of wonderful fixtures here at Main House location and the East Cesar Chavez location. Those fixtures are the smiling and welcoming faces of Ms. Cindy Arndt and Ms Victoria Ruiz.

Both of these generous ladies have been working with us for several years as part of the Parks and Recreation's program as senior aides and have been greeting you and answering phones at both locations. Unfortunately this program is going through major changes and The Wright House Wellness Center will no longer be able to participate.

We bid a fond farewell to these near icons of our organization who have come to be loved and respected by the clients and staff of The Wright House Wellness Center.

As these two matriarchs forge into the future full of awesome adventures and new people, we wish them both the best in whatever they do.

Thank you, Cindy and Victoria, for years of wonderful dedication and service to The Wright House Wellness Center. You will be greatly missed.