

...the water I give takes away thirst altogether...

# the Well

Fall  
2005

*But I'll take the hand of those who don't know the way, who can't see where they're going. I will turn the darkness into light.*

- Isaiah 42:16

## Turning Darkness into Light

by Joshua Pulis, LMSW • Director of Programming

When Joel brought me on board this last winter, I was not fully prepared for just how harsh the living conditions are for many of *the Well's* Community Members. It is not enough that our friends have to suffer severe mental illness and social isolation; they must also endure the **spiritual darkness** that exists in many of the local boarding houses they call home.



Volunteering is Fun!

I remember my shock upon entering one such home for the first time. The walls were coated with grime. The odor was strong. Soiled mattresses were scattered about the floor, several without sheets. The rooms were crowded, some with three to four adults to a room. I was stunned and then saddened to think that many of our friends lived in such a place.

And my dismay grew as residents and friends told me of the extensive drug use, violence and rampant sexual misbehavior that occur in many of their homes. Just this month, within a few feet from our van, we witnessed the night manager at a boarding home being beaten up by a resident. Also, one of our dearest members was stabbed in the ear while walking down 10<sup>th</sup> Street, just a few blocks from the church (FYI - he is making a great recovery!). These are just two of many stories that evidence the darkness in the world in which our friends live.

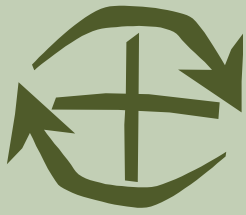
*[Continued on page 2]*

## Life @ the Well Community

- At long last, the **Community Life Center** opened on July 25 (see page two).
- In the past 2 months, we have helped move 3 members from **boarding homes** into their own **apartments**.
- We continue to average around 70-80 Community Members each week at **Saturday Night Life** for worship, Bible teaching and a fellowship meal.
- A six-person **Member Advisory Board**, comprised of Community Members, has recently been formed to lead and advise on all community matters.
- Members manage much of the Community Life Center: running an in-house Café, handling intake, cleaning the facility, handling discipline issues.



*Jesus said to her, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a well of water within them, giving them life." – John 4:13-14*



## Leadership Team

### Staff:

Rev. Joel Pulis  
Community Pastor &  
Executive Director

Joshua Pulis, LMSW  
Director of Programming

### Board of Directors:

Scott Coleman, President

Rev. Tim Ahlen  
Patsy Fuller

James Pulis  
Rev. Chris Simmons  
Leslie Vasquez  
Dr. Catherine Wood

## Financial Support

*the Well* is committed to providing life-giving community and services to those in need. Will you help us?

Our ability to provide this work is based on donations from individuals like you.

Therefore, would you prayerfully consider making a one-time contribution or becoming a monthly supporter of *the Well Community*?

All contributions to *the Well Community* are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

[Continued from page 1]

And yet, where there is despair there is also **hope** and where there is darkness there is also **light**. The Bible declares in 1 John 1:5, “...*God is light and in him there is no darkness at all,*” and in 1 Peter 2:9 it says we are “...*called out of darkness into his wonderful light*”. Therefore, it is the ministry of spreading this “*wonderful light*” that makes the work of *the Well* so vital to the lives of so many.

In August, *the Well’s Community Life Center* opened its doors and the “*wonderful light*” is being shined brightly now throughout the week. Joel and I have been amazed already at how the darkness is steadily being pushed back.

One friend, who in the past had a difficult time interacting socially with others because of his paranoid schizophrenia, is now the main café worker at the center, serving warm meals and manning the cash register. Another friend, who was one of our most disabled, is now our best janitor and his functioning is improving each day. He arrives at the Center as the doors open and stays each day until we close. He has yet to miss a day! One especially bright spot that has encouraged me personally is to sit in on morning devotionals that are led solely by the **Community Members**.

I have no doubt that our God is in this work and that his “*light*” is shining brightly in the many activities that take place at the Center. Whether it be the morning devotionals, discipleship groups, recovery classes, arts and crafts or just hanging out and playing games, God’s “*light*” is shining bright for all to see and our friends life’s are shining a little brighter too.



Ronald & Kelly

## The Community Life Center is OPEN!

*...a place to hang out with friends*

*...a place to receive hope*

*...a place to discover purpose*

**Tuesday-Thursday • 9:00am–3:00pm**  
**Meeting at Cliff Temple Baptist Church**

- Everyday, 9:30am - Morning Devotional & Prayer
- Tuesday, 10:00am - Dual Recovery Anonymous
- Wednesday, 9:00am - LIFEgroup
- Thursday, 10:00am - Arts & Crafts

**Other activities include:** games, movies, case management help, field trips, mental health support groups, computer access, video games, library, free coffee, life-skills training, vocational support

**Location:** Cliff Temple Baptist Church • 125 Sunset Avenue (in north Oak Cliff)  
*(enter behind the Chapel, at corner of 10th Street & Zang Boulevard)*

## Volunteer Needs!

The Community Life Center is now open Monday - Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm. Therefore, volunteers are needed! We seek individuals who are seeking a **meaningful experience** working with a needy, but beautiful population.

- **Shift Director(s)** - Much of the center is Member run. However, a friendly supervisor is needed to guarantee smooth, overall functioning. We seek to fill (2) shifts per day (9am-noon; noon-3pm).
- **Van Driver(s)** - Some of our membership live too far to walk, and so we offer pickup/drop-off service. We need to fill (3) shifts per day (8:45-9:15am; 11:40-12:40pm; 3:00-3:30pm).
- **Encouragers** - We seek volunteers to come and simply “hang-out” with Community Members. Share a cup of coffee, play a game of foosball, talk about life.
- **Specific Programming** - We are seeking individuals that have experience and/or interest in leading the following: mental health support groups, Bible studies, arts & crafts, life skills, computer education, landscaping & gardening.

## Fast Stat

.....  
Mental disorders are common in the United States and internationally. An estimated 22.1 percent of Americans ages 18 and older - **about 1 in 5 adults** - suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. When applied to the 1998 US Census residential population estimate, this figure translates to **44.3 million people**.

(NIMH website)



A look in the hallway of the new Community Life Center (from left: Pat Packard, Michael Hammond, & Joshua Pulis)

## Open House

On Sunday, August 28, we hosted an Open House at the Community Life Center. Supporters from various congregations (Cliff Temple Baptist, Covenant 08, Park Central Baptist, Journey, and Park Cities Baptist, among others).

Thanks to all who came! Your enthusiasm and words of encouragement keep us going!

Blessings!

## “Venice in the Moonlight”

An original comedy/drama by Carole Harrell,  
*a Dallas playwright, mental health advocate & Community Friend*

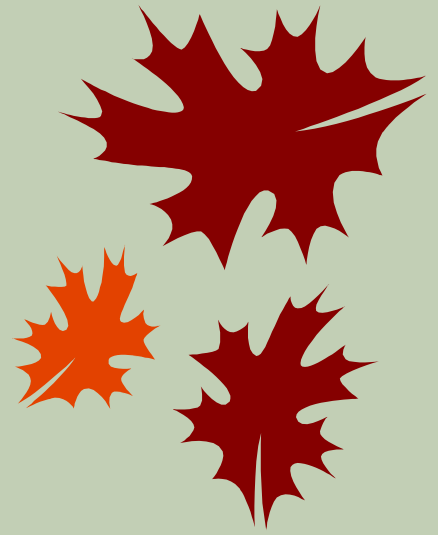
**Theater & Dessert • Friday & Saturday, November 4-5**  
*All proceeds will benefit the Well Community*

- **Cliff Temple Baptist Church • 125 Sunset Avenue**
- **Doors Open: 6:30pm / Play Begins: 7:30pm**
- **Tickets: \$12 (General Admission)**  
*Each night dessert will be served before the play*

See enclosed insert for more details.



**Fall 2005**



In Dallas County, no other faith-based organization focuses exclusively on low-income people living with mental illness.

PHONE: 214/942-8601 • WEB SITE: [www.WellCommunity.net](http://www.WellCommunity.net)