
What does it mean to be a church that is bruised, hurting and dirty?

HTC <vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org>

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Reply-To: HTC <vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org>

In the words of Pope Francis, "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets..." This reminds me what a volunteer said to me before he started working here, "I really want to get my hands dirty." Our work here at the Harry Tompson Center and the Rebuild Center is all about getting our hands dirty - about being in touch with persons who are suffering, bruised and hurting - to look into their faces, touch their hands and directing them to services aimed at improving their health and finding them housing. It's what we are called to do.



We are so blessed to have more than 25 weekly volunteers working with our shower, phone, medical, mental health and welcoming services. Several Catholic parishes are now sending volunteers on a regular basis and we invite more faith-based and community groups to do the same. Check out our [Volunteer Needs](#) and our [Wish List](#) on our website. Additional opportunities are available with Lantern Light and Depaul USA ministries, our partners at the Rebuild Center. You can learn more about the Rebuild Center at our Open House on May 2!

We are happy to be working with the City of New Orleans to establish a new "[low-barrier shelter](#)" to be located on the 2nd floor of the V.A. Community Resource and Referral Center. The Harry Tompson Center already provides satellite services at this location (laundry, showers and case management) and we welcome more overnight shelter beds and services for the chronically and vulnerable homeless there. Bottom line, the need is great and there's plenty of work to be done! We invite you to get your hands dirty and join us in the work to reduce homelessness and care for the homeless in NOLA!

Vicki Judice

Vicki Judice
Executive Director

Open House May 2, 4-6 p.m.!
1803 Gravier Street
Behind St. Joseph's Church



Come join us for light refreshments and experience the beautiful oasis that serves the homeless of New Orleans. Learn about the different services that the Harry Thompson Center, Lantern Light, and Depaul USA provide on a daily basis at the Rebuild Center and how to get more involved with our ministry and mission. Please park in the back parking lot and use the back entrance.

Perhaps you missed the Gala but still want a chance to support the HTC?

GiveNOLA Day is the perfect opportunity!

From 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on May 2, GiveNOLA Day is a 24-hour online giving event organized by the Greater New Orleans Foundation to ignite the giving community in Southeast Louisiana. Last year, nonprofit supporters raised and donated \$4 million to local nonprofits! This year, the HTC is a part of the movement. Go to our [GiveNOLA page](#) and share the cause with your friends and family



Story of Courage: William

William is one of thousands who has served in the U.S. military but is currently homeless. *"United States Armed forces, 8th Calvary, Support and Transport; you need it there, I'll get it there,"* William recited with such confidence that you can almost see him wearing Army green. Despite his service, he received a less-than-honorable discharge from the military for getting caught smoking a marijuana cigarette. He served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan where he was injured in a bomb explosion where he lost much of his vision.

Read more about William's [Story of Courage](#).





Volunteer Spotlight: Marissa Herzog

Marissa has been a faithful volunteer at the HTC for the past 6 months. She has had a lot of experience volunteering at various shelters and centers that offer services to homeless individuals, and considers her volunteer work part of her identity. Originally from Boston, she has lived in Colorado, different parts of California, and now New Orleans. No matter her location or situation, she has always made time to help others. When she decided to come to New Orleans, she looked into different resources available for homeless individuals and created a resource guide to give out. After giving a stack of flyers to UNITY...

Learn more about [Marissa's time as a HTC volunteer](#).

“It is like an oasis in the middle of our busy lives where God is very easy to find.”

Reflections from Jesuit Novice Marco Antonio Machado

As a Jesuit Novice, we are sent to experience different ministries, and for me working at Harry Thompson Center is one of them. I did not know what to expect before working here. I knew I was going to do meaningful work. I knew I was going to provide a moment of dignity to the homeless by cleaning showers and helping translate with Spanish. I also knew that I would get to know the stories of people who came looking for help.

Read more of [Marco's Testimony](#).

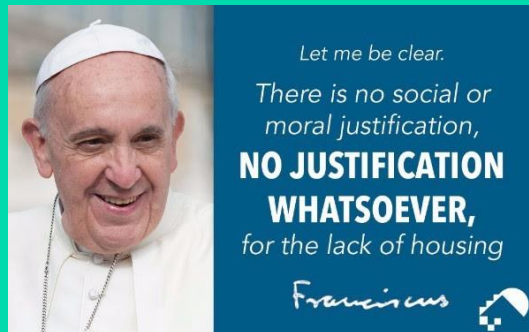


By the Numbers in 2016

5,451 unique persons visited the Rebuild Center.

Volunteers contributed 3,526 hours.

Type of Service	#Guests Receiving this Service in 2016
Showers	29,481
Laundry Loads (at the VA CRRC)	8,767
Hygiene kits	6,299
Medical or mental health care	1,452
Legal aid	154
Case management and housing placement services	405
Case management clients who moved into housing	119
Permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless with Depaul USA/HTC program	32
Phone calls	13,134
Bus tokens or shelter vouchers	1,197
Other (socks, haircuts, reading glasses, etc.)	4,866





Photos from the 2017 HTC Gala are here!

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with the Gala; our Honorary Chair Couple, our 2017 committee Chair Couple, our dedicated committee members, volunteers, restaurant contributors, auction contributors, Jesuit High School, attendees and donors.

[See more pictures from the event!](#)



Thank you to all the 2017 HTC Gala Sponsors!

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**Photo of the Pope courtesy of nlhic.org*

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