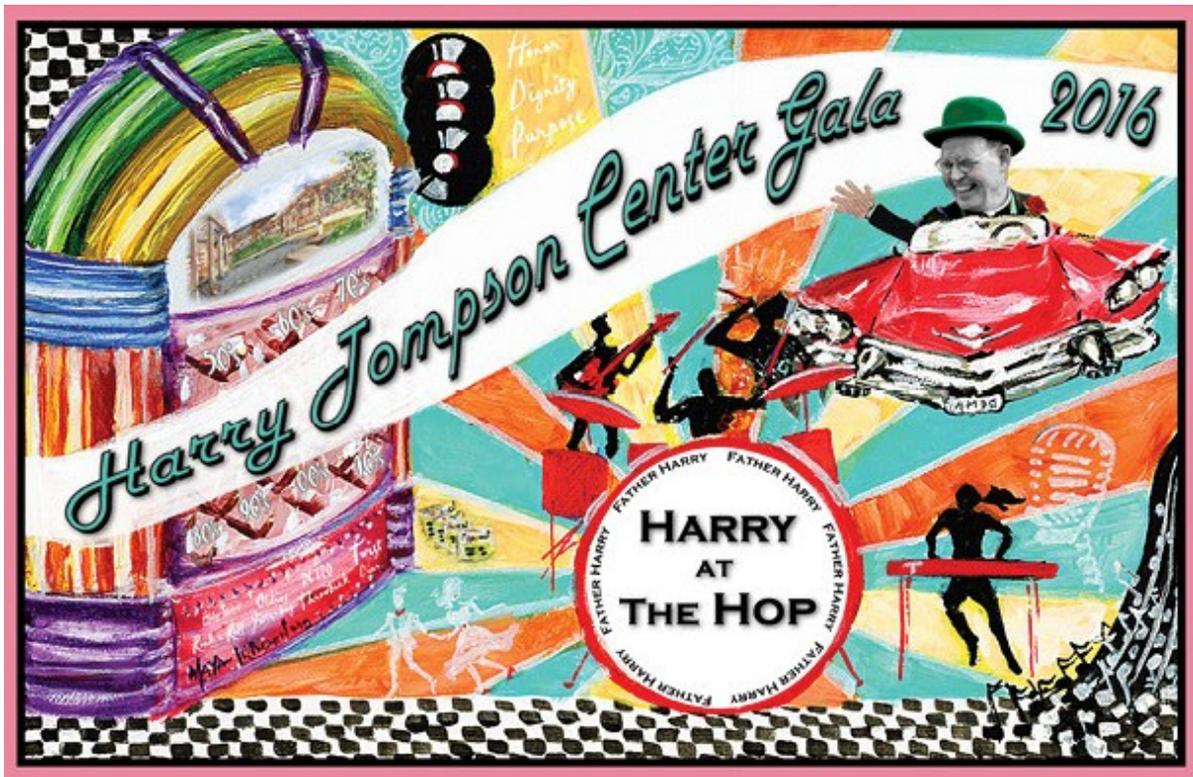


## Update on the Harry at the Hop Gala on March 12 and other news from the HTC!

1 message

HTC <vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org>  
Reply-To: HTC <vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org>  
To: RegiReyes <rrreyes121714@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 9, 2016 at 9:38 AM



### Message from the Director

A new year is upon us. Sadly, at the beginning of the year, we lost board member and volunteer extraordinaire J.F. Thompson. We miss him and we are realizing just how integral J.F. was to the life of the Center. (See "Tribute to J.F. Thompson.")

2015 was a time of extraordinary service and accomplishment at the Harry Tompson Center. Because our services are tracked in "HMIS" (Homeless Management Information System), we know that 4,978 *different* homeless individuals received services from us last year. That's a very high volume! No wonder we often feel that our heads are spinning responding to so many requests for assistance. "Do you have an extra pair of shoes?" asked a new young guest who was barefoot. "Can you explain this letter from the Social Security?" asked a 68-year old guest who we suspect is illiterate. Some don't ask for help at all, but are in great need. Coy is a long-time guest who had been living outside for over a year and was slipping into a deep depression. After much prodding, we convinced him to enter our "Rapid-Rehousing Program", which we administer with Depaul USA. Last year alone, 182 other guests joined Coy and also moved into permanent housing with our assistance.

We have much to celebrate! Please show your support by participating in the Harry at the Hop

Gala on March 12. (Thanks to all who have already sent in sponsorships, ticket purchases or donations!) This is an extremely important event for us, as it raises more than 30% of our operating revenue. With the music of the Whiskey Penguins, an awesome silent and live auction, scrumptious food from 20 New Orleans restaurants, an open bar, a chance at the \$10,000 Give-Away, there's something for everyone! If you haven't yet purchased tickets to this "not-to-be-missed" event, may I suggest (as I imagine Father Harry might have said) that you "Hop To It"?



**[Click here to buy tickets to the Harry at the Hop Gala!](#)**

**Become a sponsor, buy a \$10,000 give-away ticket, and more!**



### **A Sneak Peek at Some Gala Auction Items!**

- **Dinner for 8 at the Jesuit Canisius Residence on St. Charles Ave.**
  - **Weekend in Natchez at the Grand Hotel including dinner & tour at Monmouth Plantation**
  - **Ralph Brennan's Restaurant Group Dinner**
  - **4 nights at the Luau in San Destin**
  - **5-night stay at Jetty East in Destin**
  - **Fairgrounds Day at the Races**
  - **Jewelry, original artwork, restaurant gift certificates, and more!!**
-



### **Guest Spotlight:**

#### **Larry Cormier**

Larry is a jack-of-all-trades, gifted in the arts. He has been a hair-dresser, a ballroom dance instructor, and is presently a singer and an artist. Before coming to the Center, Larry was an optician and a traveler. Originally from Lafayette, he has lived in Dallas, Manhattan, South Beach, and now New Orleans. He first came to New Orleans to take care of his mother, and found himself struggling. Never having been homeless, he soon found himself without a place to live. He became a regular guest at the Center for a year before being housed through the collaborative housing program of the Harry Thompson Center and Depaul USA. Larry had faith that everything would work out in the end. "I wasn't afraid, I gave it up to God and the Universe. I relaxed into it, kept a positive attitude. I have learned patience, compassion, and gratitude." Larry is painting a masterpiece to auction at the upcoming Harry Thompson Center Gala on March 12, and is excited about the creative task. When asked what he might want to paint, he replied that he was thinking about



### **Staff Spotlight:**

#### **Dyana Estrada, Center Assistant**

Dyana has only been with the HTC for 8 months, but the great work she is doing is already impacting hundreds of our guests. Originally from San Lorenzo in Honduras, Dyana found herself homeless after moving to New Orleans in 2015. She was participating in Traveler's Aid Self-Help Employment Program when she learned of an open position at HTC for a Center Assistant. Now, she spends her days helping to provide shower and laundry services to over 100 people a day at our satellite location at the VA CRRC. Her favorite part of the job? "I like working with people. I get to meet so many interesting persons. The job is a real challenge for me, and every day is different." The Harry Thompson Center is glad to have you, Dyana!

painting an angel, and he plans on using "bright and happy colors, a lot of color." We are very excited to see your masterpiece, Larry!

Every donation, no matter how small, enables the Harry Tompson Center to continue providing life-saving day shelter services to the thousands of people who look to our program for survival and hope.

**Donate Now!**

### **HTC Wishlist**

Men's running shoes  
Small toiletries  
Men's belts  
Backpacks and walking canes  
Books/Magazines/Newspapers  
Small snacks such as granola bars  
Ponchos, winter gloves, hats and coats  
Copy paper and small notebooks

### **Join us!**

**Harry Tompson Center Gala**  
**"Harry at the Hop"**  
**March 12, 2016**  
**6:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**Jesuit High School**



### **2016 Legatus Christi**

#### **Award Recipient:**

#### **Joe Clulee**

We are honored to present our long-time Thursday volunteer, Joe Clulee, with the 2016 Legatus Christi Award. The award will be presented to Joe at the Gala on March 12. This award which literally means "Ambassador of Christ" is given to one volunteer each year who has demonstrated a long commitment to our ministry while also embodying God's love and concern for the Center's homeless guests.

Joe, a "West-Banker" all his life, attended West Jefferson Senior High and worked in the oil and gas and casino industries before retiring in 2011. He and his wife Carolyn are parishioners of St. Joseph's Church. They have two children and three grandchildren. Joe spends his Thursdays volunteering at the Center, helping to coordinate the Phone Room services. This July marks Joe's fifth year of service! He initially started volunteering here because he felt the call of the Gospel to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. "God has blessed me all of my life and I wanted to give back after I retired."

A calming presence at the Center,



Joe can often be seen patiently listening to a guest telling a long story. He knows many of them by name and is constantly bringing in donations that he knows they need, such as men's shoes, jackets, and winter hats. He also cajoles his friends to donate too! We recently found out that Joe also volunteers for other causes, such as regularly visiting those imprisoned at Angola Penitentiary

We appreciate you, Joe! You are the real deal – a humble witness of God's loving compassion for the downtrodden, the outcast and the lonely.



Facebook



Website

### **Tribute to J.F. Thompson**



J.F. Thompson was one of the Harry Thompson Center's most dedicated volunteers. From the moment the Center opened its doors at its new location at the Rebuild Center in 2007, J.F. was a regular volunteer lending a hand in whatever way was needed. He was always willing to do anything to serve the Center and our guests, and did this with a generous and loving spirit. This included a variety of activities working with the laundry and shower services, telephone room and with the Welcome Kiosk.

He served on the Board of Directors for the Center and also for the collaborative partners at the Rebuild Center. J.F. even served as interim director of the Harry Tompson Center for several months in 2013. For his service at the Center, he was presented the Legatus Christi Award and the Homines Pro Aliis (People for Others) Award. More recently, J.F. was often seen at the Center checking to ensure that all of the facility's equipment was operating properly. He also helped with a variety of administrative tasks including delivering mail and checking to make sure the bills were paid. He had a keen eye for spotting areas which needed repair or attention. He was our Fix-It Man!

***Thank you J.F. for loving the Harry Tompson Center, its guests, its work and for doing all in your power to ensure that we do a great job at showering God's love and compassion to those less fortunate. You made a difference in the lives of so many. We will miss you, but your legacy will live on.***

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### HTC Staff

Executive Director: Vicki Judice

Case Manager: Kip Barard

Center Assistant: Brian Midkiff, JV

Site Coordinator: Michael Lank, JV

Assistant Site Coordinator: Melvin Simmons

Case Manager Intern: Roxanna Martin

Assistant Director: Emily Bussen

Case Manager: Jessica Lovell

Center Assistant: Oscar Medema

Center Assistant: Dyana Estrada

PR Coordinator: Regi Reyes

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