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## What's New at the Harry Tompson Center, One of Immaculate Conception's Outreach Ministries to the Poor

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**The "Jewels of New Orleans" Gala will be held March 15, 2014** in the Jesuit High School Commons from 7 to 10 p.m. Honorary Chairpersons for the event will be **Gayle and Tom Benson**. Many Immaculate Conception parishioners are helping to plan this exciting event under the dynamic leadership of our 3 Co-Chairpersons Dr. Maya Irimpen, Leigh Blakeman and Stacy Pellerin. Highlights for the evening include a silent auction, a live auction, food from many of our finest New Orleans restaurants, music by the New Orleans Ragtime and Dixieland Band and the St. Peter Claver Gospel Choir, entertainment by the 610 Stompers and more! Check out auction items soon on our Facebook page.

There will be a \$10,000 Give-A-Way with only 250 tickets being sold for \$100 each. Sponsorships are being solicited for the event and range from \$350 to \$15,000 with each level offering various extras such as Give-A-Way tickets, table reservations, etc. For information about sponsorships, how to purchase \$75 gala tickets or \$100 raffle tickets, please contact Vicki Judice at [vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org](mailto:vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org) or 504-273-5547 ext. 135.

**Cold Weather Response** - During this recent bout of cold weather, the Harry Tompson Center staff and volunteers have been busy distributing coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, underwear and other donated items to our guests who are extremely grateful for them. Immaculate Conception parishioners donated many of these life-saving items.

**Services** - An average of 150 people are frequenting the Center these days, most seeking basic services such as showers, laundry, restroom and/or phone services while another 15-20 daily seek more intensive services including psychiatric treatment, medical care, legal services and/or case management services. Presently, about 6 Immaculate Conception parishioners volunteer on a weekly basis at the Center. Data entry and public relations volunteers are still needed. If interested, please contact Emily Bussen at [ebussen@harrytompsoncenter.org](mailto:ebussen@harrytompsoncenter.org).

**Ending Homelessness** - 68% of our guests are chronically homeless, meaning that they have been living on the streets or in emergency shelters for a very long time AND they are disabled or very vulnerable. Since September, we have helped to house over 100 of our most vulnerable guests as part of the national "100,000 Homes Campaign" through a variety of methods: placement into a Permanent Supportive Housing program, a senior housing program or into low-cost apartments paying their own rent. Since June 2013, New Orleans agencies participating in the Campaign have housed 545 persons. Contact Vicki Judice at [vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org](mailto:vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org) to see how you can become involved in this exciting initiative.