



Story of Courage: Kenneth Bridgeman



"I've led an interesting life."

Kenneth "Kenny" Bridgeman has indeed had a very interesting life. He was born on a reservation in Alabama, as a part of the Creek Indian tribe. He had a big family growing up as one of eight siblings.

After a severe car accident, which resulted in the death of two family members, his family became scattered. Kenny found himself in and out of boys' homes or staying with relatives. At age 14, while living with his grandmother, he started working in a mill. He fondly remembers coming home late every night to his grandmother, who would wait up for him and talk with him until the early hours of the morning. His

grandmother was also trained as a traditional medicine-woman, and in turn taught him.

Eventually, he was brought to New Orleans in 1960 and was living at the Milne Boys' Home. He stayed in New Orleans until the draft during the Vietnam War forced him to relocate to Atlanta for basic training. Instead of joining the Army during the draft, Kenny instead volunteered to join the marines, and stayed in the military for eight years. When he finally left the service, he had achieved the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. After volunteering for every training he could, he eventually saw combat and somehow....

[Read more about Kenny's journey on our Stories of Courage!](#)



Staff Spotlight- Liam Fitzgerald

Liam has been a familiar face at the Harry Tompson Center since 2011, when he first started volunteering at the Harry Tompson Center. Now he is a member of the Center's staff as a Center Assistant. Liam is hoping to one day get a degree in Social Work so that he can continue working with programs like the Harry Tompson Center. Below is a blog that Liam wrote after a particular significant experience at the Center for him.

"A couple months ago someone I knew stumbled into the Rebuild Center. I graduated with his brother from Jesuit High School. Coming from a privileged background, this was the last person I thought I would see come to utilize the services we provide to those without a home. Seeing him was a strong reminder that homelessness can happen to anyone..."

[To finish reading Liam's blog, click here.](#)



Volunteer Spotlight: Stephen Rice

Stephen Rice is a senior at Jesuit High School who volunteered three times a week at the Harry Tompson Center during the past summer to complete his service hours. Stephen has decided to study social work after he graduates thanks to his experiences at the Harry Tompson Center.

In a reflection he wrote about his service, he said "**When I wonder what struck me most about the experience, I think back to my first day on the job... I wandered out into the common area and discovered the overabundance of greenery and modern structure of the facility; and the welcoming attitude of everyone there**".

Though this summer was his first time volunteering at the HTC, it has had a profound impact on Stephen's life. He has decided he now wants to study social work when he goes to college, with a focus on struggling and poverty-stricken families. His daily interactions with the guests at the Center have been a humbling experience for him, and helped him realize just how passionate he is about helping others.

Stephen mostly worked the showers, an integral part of the services offered by the HTC. With around 80-100 guests using the shower each day, his help was very much appreciated.

In his reflection piece, Stephen ended his writing by summing up how his experiences at the Center helped him grow in several different ways; stating that "**Overall, this experience drove me to be a more compassionate, more fulfilled person...**" Thank you for all your hard work Stephen, and good luck!

Happenings at the HTC





Congratulations to the graduates of the 3rd Bike Class!

Congratulations to the third graduating class of the Bike Program! Robbie and Ronald were very proud to get their bikes which will now make it easier for them to get around the city. Many thanks to Marin, the owner of Dashing Bicycles, and Jorge, a volunteer, for their help in making this possible. There are already several folks signed up for our next class, so don't forget to donate your ride-able bicycles to the HTC to help us keep this program going! Knowing basic bike repair and maintenance can help our guests either become or stay employed and we are excited to continue our success. We are always in need of donated ride-able bicycles for our guests to work on, so if you have any that you would like to donate please contact Vicki Judice at vjudice@harrytompsoncenter.org.



Thanks to the Academy of the Sacred Heart!

On September 17, Academy of the Sacred Heart sent 17 volunteers to beautify the Rebuild Center as part of their Global Day of Service! Staff, students and parents weeded, pruned palm and bamboo trees and cleaned up very nicely to help keep the Center a beautiful oasis for our guests. Thank you to everyone who helped keep our center beautiful!



Registering to Vote

On September, friends of the HTC volunteered to help navigate guests through online voter registration. Thanks to allowances of using cross streets or other outdoor locations, even those without a permanent address can be registered to vote. Thank you, Sue and Paul, for

#iGIVECATHOLIC

**#IGiveCatholic is
quickly approaching!**

An international day of giving following Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it is a chance for people to show their compassion by giving back during a 24-hour giving period on November 27.

Mark your calendars! Advanced giving begins November 16.

Thank you for your consideration in scheduling a gift to show your support to the Harry Tompson Center.

helping our guests achieve their constitutional right to vote!



**Introducing the
HTC Instagram!**

Follow us [@theharrytompsoncenter](https://www.instagram.com/theharrytompsoncenter)

[Donate Now to the HTC!](#)



Mark your calendars!

Harry Potter Trivia Fundraiser for the HTC!

November 8, 2018

Grits Bar, 530 Lyons Street

Doors open at 6, quiz starts at 7.

\$5/person to play, up to 6 people per team. [Register to attend here.](#)

Specialty drinks, cool raffle prizes, and bragging rights await!



[HTC Website](#)



[NEW! HTC Instagram](#)



[HTC Facebook](#)



[#iGiveCatholic](#)

Copyright © 2018 The Harry Tompson Center, All rights reserved.

HTC Subscriber

Our mailing address is:

The Harry Tompson Center

1803 Gravier St.
New Orleans, La 70119

[Add us to your address book](#)

504-273-5547

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

