



RIVERSIDE *Today!*

Riverside House • 968 N.W. 2nd Street, Miami, FL 33128

June/July, 2009

LETTER FROM Ms. CARMEN BELL

Dear Friends:

Hello! Welcome to the latest edition of Riverside Today. I want to introduce myself to any of you who may not know me. I'm the Communications Coordinator.



YES, I'M TALKING TO YOU . . .

For the past two years, it has been my joy and privilege to communicate what's going on in the Riverside House community as well as outside our walls. My ultimate goal is to effectively convey our message of hope, which is delivered in a myriad of ways to you, including this newsletter.

The essence and existence of Riverside House's program and faith-based component, Pastoral Care, is a direct result of one man's true story. And for him, an introduction and encounter with God changed his life completely. Therefore, his desire and the heart and soul of Riverside House and its Pastoral Care Program is to offer the same means he received freely to others who are less fortunate or disadvantaged. This is why we strive to give each person who walks through our doors an opportunity to live a redeemed and successful life through a very precious second chance.

Whether it's through our newsletters, events or our web site, I am honored to help people simply by communicating our message and mission of a second chance. Please feel free to contact me (305) 326-9799 ext. 113 to find out how you can get involved or to share your ideas of how we can work together to communicate Riverside House's mission.

Sincerely, Carmen Bell

Second Chances Fundraiser Raises \$36,000 for Riverside House

Over 100 guests attended our sixth annual fundraiser for our Pastoral Care program. We greatly appreciate all of the support!

Guest speaker, Jack "Murf the Surf" Murphy delivered an inspiring speech of hope. While serving 21 years in prison for the jewel heist and other serious crimes, Murphy met Bill Glass, founder of Champions for Life. This encounter changed his life and upon his release from prison, Jack began speaking in prisons to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. In addition to educating prisoners and ex-offenders, Murphy serves as the International Director for the Dallas based Champions for Life Ministries.

Later this year Murphy will once again partner with Riverside House during the upcoming Bill Glass Weekend of Champions event taking place August 27-29. A group of professional athletes and entertainers will spend two days in the prisons of South Florida in an attempt to reach inmates who normally never set foot in the prison chapel. The organization relies on the help of volunteer "Teammates." Each volunteer is vital to the ministry as they spend each day with inmates, visiting, encouraging and sharing one-on-one.

Riverside House is currently seeking men and women of God to participate in this exciting weekend either as a volunteer or as a financial donor. Volunteers make a difference. Sign up as a teammate to minister in the prisons, as well as many other volunteers to make the weekend a success. For more information on volunteering for Weekend of Champions, please call Ms. Forbes (305) 326-9799 or visit www.billglasschampionsforlife.org.



Paul McGlone, Cindy Bell, Clarence Hodges, Jack Murphy, Cleveland Bell

You may also send monetary donations towards the cost of the event, which is \$10,000. Please make checks payable to "Champions for Life." Please write "Miami Event" in the "memo" of the check. Checks should be mailed to: Champions for Life, P.O.Box 761101, Dallas, TX 75376.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, June 30** at 7:30 pm.: Celebrate Recovery at Riverside House
- **Thursday, August 27 to Saturday, August 29:** Bill Glass Weekend of Champions
- **Fridays** from 7 to 9 pm.: Celebrate Recovery at Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale. For more information call 954-556-4766 or visit calvaryftl.org.
- **Sundays** from 3 to 4 pm.: Riverside House Church Service. Everyone is welcome!

For more information regarding upcoming events, please contact Carmen Bell, Riverside House communications coordinator, (305) 326-9799 ext. 113.



Yvonne McClindon with Michael Nicoleau

Staff Spotlight

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Yvonne McClindon, food worker of the Residential Reentry Center (RRC) Program Services, on her 10-year anniversary with Riverside House. We greatly appreciate her loyalty and service to our clients over the past decade and look forward to her future as a member of the Riverside House family.

Riverside House Graduate Gives Back with the Creation of the Recovery House

At Riverside House we aim to give people a second chance at life and we are proud of each one who graduates from our programs. We find that many graduates go on to accomplish goals they never dreamed they'd reach. It is always a privilege to share their stories and in this issue of Riverside Today, we'd like to commend Desmond

Meade, a former graduate of the Riverside House Substance Abuse program for his role in creating The Recovery House, which he owns with Frank Hernandez.

Located in the Hialeah/ Miami Springs area, The Recovery House is a 3/4 transitional home for those leaving substance abuse recovery programs.

Home amenities include free Internet and HD cable; a full set of weights; central A/C; washer and dryer; newspaper; breakfast at Denny's; and a monthly raffle for free rent.

In addition to his work at The Recovery House, Meade has an associate's degree in paralegal studies and is currently obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. He then plans on enrolling at Harvard Law School. His post-graduate goal is to return

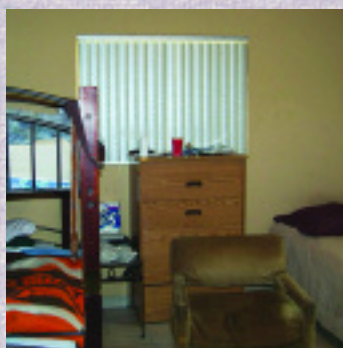
to his community and enter the legal field in the public services arena.

As Meade's partner in The Recovery House, Frank Hernandez manages the day-to-day operations. Having been a police officer, firefighter, and mailman, then losing it all to substance abuse, he understands the need for second chances. Following the footsteps of his father Angel Hernandez, who organized the first youth baseball league in Hialeah and has a park named after him, Franks' main function is to help as many people as he can regain their lives and successfully reenter into society.

For more information on The Recovery House, contact Desmond Meade (305) 244-2577 or Frank Hernandez (786) 337-2231.



Desmond Meade, Michael Nicoleau, & Jason Johnson



MEN-TO-MEN FORUM RECAP

An ongoing initiative, Riverside House's Men-to-Men forums aim to promote meaningful discussions on the issues that men face as well as encourage fellowship and mentoring. Here is a brief recap of the most recent topics discussed:

"Let's Start Making Money"

Facilitated by Michael Nicoleau, Riverside House board chairman, this interactive Forum addressed wasteful spending, investing, and saving. The participants were encouraged and inspired providing significant input on these sensitive topics.

"Women, Wives, and Marriage"

Pastor Arthur Jackson of the Keys to Life Church concentrated on relationships with women, and the importance of getting to know the person before pursuing marriage. He emphasized that the people closest to a person will determine the outcome of their life and how to determine if a relationship exists for the betterment of one's future.

For more information regarding this event, please contact Carmen Bell, (305) 326-9799 ext. 113.

Thanks Sofitel!

The Sofitel Miami hotel, a luxury hotel located at 5800 Blue Lagoon Drive, recently donated toiletries for our clients "welcome bags" in honor of the Hotel's Earth Guest Day Drive. In addition to promoting green programs, the Hotel aims to partner with local humanitarian initiatives to bring awareness to social responsibility as well as to incorporate new knowledge/skills in the daily lives of employees.

For more info on the Sofitel Miami, visit www.sofitel.com.



Sofitel's Sammy Espinoza, Catering Mgr, RH Yvette Forbes and Carmen Bell, Nallely Ponce, Benefits & Payroll Admin., Katherine Saborit, HR Dir., and Lazaro Briot, Housekeeping

DONATION INFORMATION

CLOTHING CLOSET: We'd like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated apparel to our clothing closet. We are thrilled to announce that we do not need additional clothing at this time. However, we are in need of supplies, including shower shoes. To make arrangements to drop off your donated items, please contact Yvette Forbes, (305) 326-9799 ext. 104 or Carmen Bell, (305) 326-9799.

Send your monetary donation to:

Riverside House
Attn: Cleveland Bell III, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2325, Miami, FL 33101-2305



You may call our administrative office (305) 326-9799 ext. 113. Credit cards (Visa and Mastercard only), checks, and cash donations are accepted.