

We're here **I** for Recov**Her**y

GREAT NEWS

FROM CLIENT TO EMERGING LEADER

Pregnant, homeless and addicted to drugs, Michelle gave birth to her son in 2006. Family members came to the hospital to ensure that she did not leave with her newborn, because they knew she would not be able to properly care for him. CPS became involved and advised if she chose treatment, she might have a chance to regain custody. Nine days later, she began intensive treatment at Santa Maria (SMH), determined to change her life. Her son entered foster care.

“Santa Maria was the foundation of my recovery”, says Michelle. “I entered intensive treatment for 35 days and was not referred to the supportive program. I was sent home.” The counselors told her that she did not receive a referral because she was not fully participating. “They saw what I didn’t see,” she says. On her knees, praying for help, she promised she would enter any door that was opened to her. Her boyfriend made a call to SMH to ask for another chance and when granted, convinced her to return. This time, she was fully engaged. She completed her supportive program and six months of outpatient treatment.

Since then, she has never looked back. Her journey was fraught with fear and challenge, but she has learned she

> more inside

MICHELLE, THE FACE OF RECOV**HER**y

SANTA MARIA



**"I CAN'T EMPHASIZE
ENOUGH THE
IMPORTANCE OF
HAVING SOMEONE
BELIEVE IN YOU."**

– Michelle



Nadine Scamp, LMSW, CEO

CONTINUED FROM COVER STORY

FROM CLIENT TO EMERGING LEADER

must put her recovery first and let everything else follow. She attended meetings, joined Mercy Street Church and gave back to others by volunteering and advocating for her peers. She trained to become a Recovery Support Services coach serving SMH and our community for the past nine years. She has become a highly active community advocate, a mental health fellow and a great wife and mother.

Michelle did not see her son for the first month of his life and after that only had a one-hour supervised visit every two weeks. Meanwhile, the key players on her team saw real change in her with a true commitment to recovery. For the first time in many years, she saw people fighting for her. "I can't emphasize enough the importance of having someone believe in you. After all those years of being shunned and hiding, it meant everything that people began to see me differently. Their belief became my own, in myself." Ultimately, she was given custody of her son and was able to take him home. He is now a happy, typical 13 year old living with his family.

Fast forward several years and Michelle is again employed representing SMH with the Ben Taub Hospital MPAT Clinic, an integrated clinic serving pregnant women with substance abuse histories. Michelle says, "I love the team. They treat me with respect and value my life experiences. They are the right people, on the right path, at the right time."

"We are honored to have such a long-term relationship with Michelle," says Nadine Scamp, CEO. Client to emerging leader, she is the face of RecovHERy.

DEAR FRIENDS,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to dominate our lives, we debated about publishing this newsletter. Would stories about our services seem timely? In the end, we felt that our GREAT NEWS should continue, keeping our supporters in touch with our work. We hope that this publication informs, inspires and connects you even closer to our mission.

So much of our energy of late, has been focused on providing the best treatment services for our clients and their families in the safest environment. Our real heroes are the frontline staff who continue to deliver care and support daily in our residential programs. We are proud of our staff who have come together during this crisis to ensure we can continue providing essential services. As an organization, we have moved swiftly to continually adjust protocols based on the newest recommendations, find and order needed supplies and roll out new service methods such as telehealth for our outpatient programs. Of course, we have implemented all the suggested protocols and have struggled to keep sanitizing provisions on the shelf. However, we are confident that our extra precautions have been effective, with no current virus cases to report in our community.

Out of necessity, we have reimaged our annual fundraising event, initially scheduled at River Oaks Country Club, to a virtual event to be staged on May 5. We hope you will "tune in" and join us as we celebrate Santa Maria and look to the future. We are especially grateful for the sponsors that eagerly donated to our operating funds and hope more will consider joining. The donations raised through this event are vital for our financial security.

In our effort to continue expanding our reach into the community. We have outlined the program here, shared a back story of our lead staff member, Michelle, and introduced a background piece on an early client. We are honored to participate in this important work of reducing maternal mortality, strengthening the likelihood that a family can stay intact and improving outcomes for both mom and baby.

We hope that you are safe and well during these unprecedented times. We pledge to stay prepared to deliver our services with determination, faith and a bright spirit. Thank you for your continued support.

SINCERELY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nadine Scamp".

NADINE SCAMP, LMSW, CEO

**WE PLEDGE TO
STAY PREPARED
TO DELIVER OUR
SERVICES WITH
DETERMINATION,
FAITH AND A
BRIGHT SPIRIT.**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

TWITTER FOR GOOD ELEVATES HOUSTON



THE IMPACT THESE TWEETS MADE IN OUR COMMUNITY IS IMMEASURABLE. WE, AT SANTA MARIA, FEEL HONORED AND TRULY GRATEFUL TO TWITTER AND VOLUNTEER HOUSTON FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO MAKE OUR BELOVED HOUSTON A BETTER PLACE.



On Thursday, January 16, **Twitter**, with the coordination efforts of **Volunteer Houston**, deployed nearly 4,000 volunteers to 51 different nonprofit organizations throughout Houston. Santa Maria was honored to be among the selected sites that involved two different projects for these Twitter volunteers, lovingly dubbed “Tweets.”

The first group of 30 “Tweets” repackaged baby wipes and laundry detergent into individual packages for our clients. This project was completed in the ballroom at Hilton Americas Houston. A second group of 50+ volunteers was transported to Bonita House, where after having lunch and a brief introduction to our organization, the group tackled different projects including: repainting three bathrooms, one long corridor and our training room, a spot where they applied detailed paint work and inspirational quotes. They also helped to sort and organize clothing and linen donations in storage. Together these two groups contributed close to 400 volunteer hours to Santa Maria!

Another amazing way Twitter gave back to the local nonprofit organizations was through an in-person training session where Twitter best practices were shared. Marketing Manager, Mayda Salgado, was able to participate in this exciting workshop, assisting her to develop a more effective and engaging presence on Twitter.

THESE EVENTS WERE PART OF THEIR “TWITTER FOR GOOD” GLOBAL CONFERENCE THAT BROUGHT TO HOUSTON ABOUT 4,400 TWITTER EMPLOYEES FROM 35 WORLDWIDE OFFICES.

A FIGHTING CHANCE



By the time Summer was 33, she found herself in a desperate situation, living in and out of motels due to her substance use disorder and in an abusive relationship. She was referred to CPS, who removed her three children from her care. Without her children, she spun even further out of control. She recalls, "I felt like I had fallen into a hole in which everything was so negative." When she finally decided to step out in faith and ask for help, she was 28 weeks pregnant and physically dependent on opiates.

Through a referral from a community partner, she was enrolled in the new integrated care program, MPAT Clinic at Ben Taub Hospital. She received support of not only her counselor, but her own team of doctors, a psychologist, a psychiatrist and recovery coaches.

After she gave birth to a healthy baby girl, she continued to receive supportive services and was even gifted with the baby's basic needs. Summer was discharged from labor and delivery, but the baby needed to stay briefly

in the hospital. As part of the new program, Summer was the first person to utilize Ben Taub's neonatal mother's apartment. She had the comfort and convenience of being on the property, close to her baby and the medical staff.

Summer was linked to and has since completed residential treatment services at SMH. She is working as a home healthcare provider part-time, while she continues to participate in SMH's outpatient services in the evening. She is living with her mother and working toward a place of her own. Summer also stays engaged with her postpartum services through Ben Taub. Her parenting coaches continue to help her obtain the resources and support she needs along her recovery journey. CPS is in the process of closing her case and returning custody of her children. Summer reflects, "This is the best I have ever felt about myself. I am very grateful for all of the blessings that have been placed in my life."

TRUCK FULL OF GOOD DEEDS



Practicing social distancing with Houston's own "Mattress Mack," Mr. Jim McIngvale, at Santa Maria Bonita House.

In the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, "Mattress Mack," Jim McIngvale delivered basic needs to SMH for our residents and their families. His Gallery Furniture truck pulled up out front loaded with milk, toilet paper, shampoo and other toiletries — not once but multiple times. Each delivery included special ready-to-eat meals that fed the 200+ moms and kids at Bonita and the 100 women at Jacquelyn. The donations were worth thousands of dollars and brought cheer to a weary staff. We are so very thankful to leaders in our community like Mattress Mack who are able to impact directly the lives of a very vulnerable population during this health crisis.

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK AWARD

WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO MAC FOR HIS NEARLY TWO DECADES OF COMMITMENT TO SANTA MARIA AND FOR HIS CONSTANT SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.



Robert "Mac" McMillan, an extraordinary Santa Maria (SMH) volunteer, was one of the nine finalists of the 2019 Community Quarterback Award and was awarded a \$5,000 donation to benefit our organization. The Community Quarterback Award is presented annually by the Houston Texans and BP to recognize outstanding volunteers from local United Way agencies working to improve the Houston community. This is the third year in a row that an outstanding volunteer from SMH has received this award.



IN JULY 2019, SANTA MARIA PARTNERED WITH BEN TAUB HOSPITAL TO ESTABLISH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY OB CLINIC DESIGNED TO LESSEN STIGMA, REDUCE BARRIERS TO PRENATAL CARE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MATERNAL CARE FOR WOMEN WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH WITH A NEW COLLABORATION

In July 2019, Santa Maria (SMH) partnered with Harris Health's Ben Taub Hospital to establish a multidisciplinary OB clinic designed to lessen stigma, reduce barriers to prenatal care and improve the quality of maternal care for women with substance use disorders. SMH's Caring for Two (CFT) staff are now integrated with Baylor College of Medicine and Harris Health staff at the MPAT Substance Use Disorder High Risk OB Clinic.

Harris Health System started universal screening for pregnant patients; women meeting the high risk criteria are referred to the MPAT Clinic. SMH Caring for Two services include initial patient engagement, where a coordinator meets with each new patient to explain the program and engage moms-to-be in services. The staff provides ongoing care including; health care navigation and care coordination, linkage to medication assisted treatment for substance use disorder and residential or outpatient treatment as needed, parenting education and coaching, mental health screening and counseling, peer support recovery coaching and assistance with transportation, education, employment and housing throughout pregnancy and postpartum. CFT staff attend weekly MPAT clinics and rotate with OB, psychiatry, anesthesiology and psychology to see new and established patients. They also participate in weekly joint staffing and monthly team meetings. CFT staff is present at the hospital for labor and delivery, consults and in meetings serving as the patient advocate.

The scope of the collaboration increased with announcement of an award to the project at the beginning of the year by Texas Health and Human Services (HHS), "In December 2019, Texas was one of 10 states selected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a

new model of integrated care to increase access to treatment and improve outcomes for postpartum and expectant mothers with an opioid use disorder who are enrolled in Medicaid. " This funding was a timely investment to the MPAT Clinic and will provide training to health care providers for universal screening and referral of pregnant women at-risk for substance use disorders. It will also leverage hospital and community outreach efforts to engage women earlier in their pregnancies with integrated care.

Substance use in pregnant and postpartum women contributes to maternal mortality and poor health outcomes as well as preterm birth, low birth weight and neonatal abstinence syndrome in newborns. Texas is one of the states with very high maternal mortality rates and SMH has been extremely proactive in seeking solutions for our community. "The huge rate of morbidity from overdose and complications drew me to this work, says Dr. Carey Eppes, chief, Obstetrics, Ben Taub Hospital and assistant professor, Baylor College of Medicine. Taking care of those with substance use disorders is not an area that other healthcare providers are readily engaging in, so this collaboration is so important. I luckily work with people who run to problems instead of running away."

Michelle Hansford,* Outreach and Care Coordinator, leads the SMH team at Ben Taub. She says, "We all collaborate to provide for the needs of our patients. The whole team participates and learns from one another." Dr. Eppes agrees, saying, "Nadine (CEO of SMH) and Michelle and all the other team members have taught us so much! We have learned to look at people more holistically, with less bias and that is so emotionally rewarding."

*see Michelle's personal recovery story on the front page

THIS YEAR, WE INVITE YOU TO

2020

RISE

IT IS
VIRTUAL,
BUT CAN
IT GO
VIRAL?

OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR AND NOW WE FACE A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO OUR FUNDING. OUR VITAL WORK MUST CONTINUE TO SAVE AND CHANGE LIVES.

YOU CAN BE A PART, ONLINE AND
IN OUR HEARTS. ENCOURAGE THOSE
YOU KNOW TO JOIN US ONLINE
AS WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

www.santamariahostel.org > help.pavetheway.org > riseluncheon2020.org

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SPONSORS ALREADY ON BOARD**

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