“Finding a Purpose in Life” at St. Christopher’s Inn

Trevor Q. was good enough to share his touching story with everyone who attended the 12th Annual St. Christopher’s Inn Board of Directors Dinner in April. I hope you enjoy reading his words here, and how Trevor found his way at St. Christopher’s Inn thanks to the generosity of our benefactors like you!

“Hello, my Name is Trevor Q. I am a Brother Christopher and am honored by the opportunity to share with you how the generous donations you’ve made to SCI have influenced the trajectory of my life. I grew up in Rye NY, had an amazing upbringing, was involved in sports, started working at the age of 16, received an academic scholarship to Bryant University and yet somehow by the age of 19 my life reflected nothing of the future that I was thought to have. From 19-25 my self-worth, happiness, integrity, purpose, and ability to love and function as a responsible person were nonexistent.

Fast-forward through several arrests, small incarcerations, countless experiences that reinforced the idea that I was a worthless person, and pain so great that suicide looked like a decent retirement plan, I bring you to the place where Grace begins to enter my life, and it all started as it does for many of us in recovery by saying yes to help.

On January 11th 2011, I arrived at St. Christopher’s Inn with the luggage that so many of us carry--shame, guilt, self-centered fear, anger. Unfortunately, I arrived without much hope or motivation. Now if you know St. Christopher’s Inn then you are well aware of the motto that every man hears, “You are a man worthy of love and respect”- and most importantly, it is delivered sincerely and repeatedly.

How do you instill hope in those that are hopeless? Or give courage to those that are faithless? What is it that happens on that holy mountain? It might be an impossible feat to explain to you the intensity of the changes that occurred in me at St. Christopher’s Inn because it requires the belief in miracles, the acknowledgment of grace, and recognition of the Power of Love. But before I leave I would like to attempt to share what your donations have the power to do for men like me and our families.

If you could for a minute, close your eyes and try to recall how it felt when you bought your first car; or moved in to your first apartment. If you can, I want you to remember that feeling of getting on the Dean’s list, graduating from school, or when you landed that dream job that you worked so hard for; or going back to school to further your education. Here are the things that matter most to me: being there for my mother at her greatest time of need; having my father rely on me because he trusts and admires the man I am; attending my first parent teacher conference which I did last week; being called dad for the first time; not worrying that my son is going to see me drunk or high; helping others along their journey of recovery; the privilege of giving a sermon at my local church; finding a purpose in life that no circumstance can take away; and truly accepting what they told me 5 years ago on that mountain—that I am a man worthy of love and respect.

Tonight we are honoring two individuals who are not just helping the men at St. Christopher’s Inn with their support. They are also helping parents to get their son back. They are helping children who need their father; a wife who needs her husband, and the world that needs a good Samaritan. Tonight of all nights our donations have the power to do for men like me and our families.

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The Circle of Hope is a monthly giving club reserved for our supporters who want to be sustaining partners in our care for men healing from addiction. We’re filled with hope because SCI has achieved a unique 75% success rate for substance abuse treatment—the highest completion rate in NYS among like programs.

We named this special society Circle of Hope because that’s what we do—nurture hope where none existed. Men come to us in crisis and through our unique treatment program we give them the tools they need to regain their dignity and sobriety.

By making a monthly commitment and joining the SCI’s Circle of Hope, you are saying, “I want to provide hope. I understand how important it is to make treatment available to those suffering from addiction so they can rejoin their families and communities and be productive members of society.”

Why become a member?

The Circle of Hope is for those donors who want to make a deeper and more lasting impact and—in some cases—establish a planned giving legacy. As a member; you will receive personal updates directly from Fr. Bill and invites to “member only” events. But most of all, you will be a part of a society of donors whose support is helping to ensure that the life-saving work of the Inn continues long into the future.

Please go to www.stchristophersinn-graymoor.org/donate or return the enclosed envelope with your monthly pledge. Thank you!

PILLS AND HEROIN IN ATHLETES

by David Gerber,
Administrative Director of Counseling & Shelter Services

For young athletes, the pressure to stay on the field, to win at all costs, and the pursuit of scholarships often leads them down the road to prescription opiates after an injury. Once they begin taking these drugs and get the euphoric effect, the damage has been done. Many of these young athletes begin to chase that high at all costs, frequently turning to heroin when the pills run out. This growing problem among our young athletes has begun to gain national attention.

Since the late 1990’s, the healthcare industry, championed by the pharmaceutical companies, not only went unchecked in relation to the rampant issuing of powerful opiate pain medication prescriptions, but hospitals, private doctors and dentists were encouraged to medicate pain more liberally, and were mislead about the addiction potential.

In 2013, New York State attempted to curb the over prescribing of these medications, along with “doctor shopping,” when they enacted a new law called “I-Stop.”

I-Stop gave doctors and pharmacists online access to see what people were being prescribed, how much and how often. The new law worked brilliantly, except for one major unintended consequence. Decreased availability of these pills drove up the street cost to sometimes as much as $50 per pill, while heroin could be purchased for as little as $5 per bag, and was available on every corner.

The tragic results—overdose deaths associated with opiate pain medications and heroin overdose deaths have quadrupled since 2002. St. Christopher’s Inn has been part of multiple network news stories about this topic, including CBS, NBC and ESPN. Check our website for links to these stories as they become available.

Please join our Circle of Hope

Who better to encourage the men of St. Christopher’s Inn to keep working hard, rely on their Higher Power and stay the course in recovery than the iconic six-million-dollar man, Lee Majors!

Lee Majors, along with his wife, Faith, served as the 2016 Honorees for the St. Christopher’s Inn Twelfth Annual Board of Directors Dinner on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the historic Gotham Hall in midtown Manhattan. For the second year in a row, Roger and Elizabeth Ailes served as the honorary chairs for the event. Many notable dignitaries attended and supported including: Ray and Veronica Kelly; Mother Dolores Hart; Georgette Mosbacher; former Congressman Dennis Kucinich; Fox News’ newest morning star; Ainsley Earhardt; The Five’s Kimberly Guilfoyle; Outnumbered’s Harris Faulkner; Legal Analyst Arthur Aidala; Judge Andrew Napolitano; Legal Analyst Peter Johnson, Jr; and David Asman of Fox Business News. Greg Kelly and Rosanna Scotto, co-hosts of Good Day New York, served as Masters of Ceremonies for the event.

By sharing his story of how loss, persistence and faith in God played an important role in his 52-year film and television career; Lee Majors is an example of spiritual perseverance, no matter what challenges you face in your life, including homelessness and addiction.

Equally inspiring was Lee’s wife of 21 years, Faith Majors, who shared her story as one of three girls raised by a single mom who sometimes worked three jobs to keep food on their table. Faith shared that no matter how difficult things became for their family, her mother always reminded them that God will make a way so never give up.

As a special treat, the St. Christopher’s Inn Mens Choir performed at the beginning of the dinner and then closed out the evening with the Anthem penned by an SCI Alumnus, God Is On This Mountain.
WAYS TO GIVE: YOUR WILL, A WAY TO ASSURE GOOD WORKS IN PERPETUITY

by Edward Winters

St. Christopher’s Inn has more than 4,000 active donors, most of whom have supported The Inn for many years. Some have seen family members benefit from the program, some know of the tremendous success rate SCI has, and still others make donations because of something they read in the paper, saw on TV, or heard from a friend. Despite SCI’s many donors, only a small fraction has actually informed us that we are in their estate plans. This is not unusual.

We’d like each of our donors to consider the potential for a legacy gift to St. Christopher’s Inn as a specific portion of their Last Will and Testament.

The three most common types of bequests made through a will are:

1. General Bequest. A general bequest is one of the more popular ways to make a charitable gift by will. You simply leave a specified dollar amount to a designated charity.

   Model text for a general bequest:
   I give DOLLAR AMOUNT to St. Christopher’s Inn, to be used for its exempt purposes.

2. Specific Bequest. A specific bequest is another popular type of charitable bequest. With this bequest, you stipulate that a charity receives a specific piece of property.

   Model text for a specific bequest:
   I give DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (e.g., my residence at 123 Main Street, Garrison, State of New York) to the St. Christopher’s Inn, to be used for its exempt purposes.

3. Residuary Bequest. A residuary bequest is used to give a charitable organization all of an estate owner’s property after all debts, taxes, expenses, and other bequests have been paid. A subset of this would be a Percentage Bequest, where a particular charity or other beneficiary receives a percentage of the remaining estate.

   Model text for a residuary (percentage) bequest:
   I give the rest (10%, 25%, 50%), residue, and remainder of my estate to St. Christopher’s Inn, to be used for its exempt purposes.

Having a valid will is fundamental whether you are 25 and just starting out in life or 80 and living in a retirement community. Your will is a personal statement as to how you wish the fruits of your life’s work to be distributed. It is also a tool that, used properly, can do a great deal of good for many people.

President’s Message

changes affecting all providers in New York State, and we must be fully prepared to meet these new challenges. For example, March 27, 2016 was the deadline set by New York State for electronic prescribing of all controlled substances. In order to be in compliance St. Christopher’s Inn needed to purchase and install specialized software that allows our practitioners to e-prescribe medications securely through an “ultra sensitive exchange.” Thanks to the good work of our team, this massive undertaking was accomplished ahead of schedule.

Another change that will take effect on July 1, 2016 is the transition of all of New York State from fee for service Medicaid to Medicaid Managed Care. You are probably aware that most treatment covered through a managed care program requires prior authorization, additional supporting documentation, and follow up. This change is significant because of additional staff time and resources to make sure our men get the treatment they need to be successful in their recovery. St. Christopher’s Inn is fully prepared to meet this challenge.

The Franciscan Friars of Atonement have been welcoming men in need to St. Christopher’s Inn for the last 107 years. With the expertise of our professional staff, along with your continued support, we plan to open to men in crisis another 100+ years, giving them the tools they need to live a life of hope in recovery.

LOSS OF A GIANT
- PAUL MANZO

We are very sad to share with you the loss of one of our own at St. Christopher’s Inn. Paul Manzo, who served as Food Service Director at the Inn for more than 35 years, died on Friday March 4th after a long battle with cancer. Paul saw many changes over the years as he fed thousands and thousands of men, but his dedication to the Franciscan Friars of Atonement, the mission of the Inn, and to his part in the recovery of these men never wavered. The outpouring of love for Paul by so many Brothers Christopher that he served and touched over the years was overwhelming. Here are some of the comments:

• RIP to the man who cared about so many and made the best pancakes
• I was there in 1991 - I remember him very, very well—the food, the talks. I worked with him in the kitchen for a spell. He was as dedicated a man to us as anyone.
• RIP Big Paul. Thanks for your time and the love you showed us in the kitchen.
• Such a big loss for every man who is a Brother Christopher. Thank you Paul. You will be missed,
• Was an absolute pleasure to work for. I still have a shirt he gave me. Rest in peace Paul. God bless.
• God bless him. He touched and brought joy to so many lives. I’m blessed to have met him and saw the love and strength he lived with. We all have a new angel watching over us.
• RIP Brother Paul Manzo. Much love to you from the Holy Mountain. I’m a man worthy of love and respect.
• R.I.P. He will be missed. He was a great man. Had the pleasure of being in the kitchen with him and Janet—two very nice people with a great cause in life to help addicts beat their addiction.

President’s Message

At St. Christopher’s Inn, keeping up with the trends in Healthcare is a strength we are proud of. As our friends and benefactors you may not be aware of the changes taking place, but St. Christopher’s Inn is governed by the same regulatory
AMAZON WISH LIST

Look at the smile on Br. Benny’s face! That is because of a generous donor who found our “Wishlist” on Amazon and responded! We have many necessary items on our Amazon Wishlist like underwear, socks, notebooks and folders for our clients. We also have a few “luxury” items on our list like reading glasses and work boots. Of course we have a few “reach” items like an electronic blood pressure cuff for our medical department, and gas-powered push lawn mowers for keeping the grounds beautiful.

One thing that is no longer on our wish list is a bench-top sander for Br. Benny to use when he handcrafts the beautiful wooden Tau crosses, the symbol adopted by St. Francis of Assisi. This is no longer on our list because a very generous donor purchased and shipped it to Br. Benny!

If you are interested in helping out by purchasing an item on our Amazon Wishlist, go to Amazon.com, search for St. Christopher’s Inn, and check out our public wish list! Or you can type this link in to your browser: http://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2RRKTM2S8991C/ref=topnav_lists_1

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE TEAM

St. Christopher’s Inn Board Members:
Fr. Bill Drobach, SA
Don Ehman
Michael Elms
Mark Goldberg
Patricia Lennon
Valerie Mastronardi
Alan Meckler
Guy Novo (not pictured)
Robert Okulski
Fr. Charles Sharon, SA
Mary Siri
Elaine Taylor
John Torpey (not pictured)
Kevin Verronneau

Executive Team:
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Jim Mickler, CFO
Marianne Taylor-Rhoades, COO