

Martin's Volunteers' Newsletter

February/March 2004

Beyond Food and Love

Serving food and maintaining a safe and harmonious environment is Martin's first priority. But as most volunteers know from experience, we are often asked for more. **ALL** services beyond basic food are discretionary and are based on the available volunteer help.

Here are some guidelines:

Blankets (when we have them): All open hours

Clothing (when available): Tues. & Thurs., 9 to noon

Emergency clothing: All open hours

First Aid supplies, feminine hygiene products and condoms: All open hours.

Razors, toothbrushes and paste: Tues. and Thurs. breakfast (5:30 to 7:30 am)

Socks (when we have them): All breakfasts (5:30 to 7:30 am) and Tues. and Thurs. 9 to noon

Telephone calls, mail, pet food: Available at the discretion of the crew chief. Telephone calls require an escort. Guests are never to be left unattended in the office. Telephone use is rarely possible during Sunday brunch.

When we are not open, food is only to be given out at the discretion of the crew chief and the person answering the door. A volunteer who admits a guest to use the bathroom is responsible for the guest until they leave.

If you have any questions about all this, please be sure to ask your crew chief.

Community Thrift: You Give, Martin's Receives

Community Thrift is a store that helps nonprofits in the community by giving back some of the proceeds from the sale of items you donate to them.

Their address is 623 Valencia Street and they accept donations from 10 am to 5 pm, seven days a week. The loading dock for donations is on Sycamore Alley, parallel to 17th and 18th streets, between Mission and Valencia. Call first to be sure your items are acceptable (861-7483)

When donating items on behalf of Martin's, please refer to Martin de Porres, or to Code 69.

Donations are tax deductible, so ask for a receipt. On it you are asked for an estimate of your donation's tax deduction value, usually 1/3 of the item's value new, or an estimate of the second hand value.

Pack items in boxes or bags. When donating clothes, remove the hangers. Please note that Community Thrift cannot accept personal computers or software.

How to Prevent and Defuse Volatile Situations, Martin's Style Sunday April 4, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Every couple of years we try to review our basic methods and philosophy of making Martin's a loving, warm and SAFE place for our guests and volunteers. Sometimes we have to proactively engage people who are angry with each other or with us. Sometimes we have to set limits with people.

* How do we do that effectively and lovingly?

* Why would we have to ask someone to leave? For how long? On whose authority?

* How can your crew be a team and support the person dealing with a conflict front and center? When and how should you call the police?

We'd like to have at least two people from each crew attend this engaging and instructive training.

RSVP's appreciated, but please come if you haven't.

Jim Haber
415-552-0240

MEMORIAL

A memorial for Hippy Danny, long time guest and volunteer, will be held at Martin's on May 2 at 4 pm. Danny, who came to Martin's in the late 80s, was an integral part of Martin's and he and his dogs Ruby and Gretchen brought great joy to the place.

Danny had open heart surgery several years ago and recovered at David House before returning to the Senator Hotel where he lived for the last eight years. Danny died peacefully at Fort Miley in January.

Martin's usually holds two memorials a year. Our large Annual Memorial is the first Sunday in November, the other is held in the spring.

At our memorials we say a few prayers, share remembrances, cry and laugh and then have a little something sweet, to sweeten the sorrow.

Our memorials let us and our guests share time together that is very special and moving. Our memorial tree in the garden reminds us of all those we have loved and lost, and how they always live on at Martin's and in our hearts.

I invite you all to come to Danny's memorial. We hope his family from Massachusetts will be joining us.

Anyone who is in need of an opportunity to grieve once again and to remember all those we love is welcomed.

In God's love,
Barbara

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What We Need

Martin's supplies a variety of items to our guests. We appreciate donations of these items:

* **Toiletries** - : Soaps, shampoo, lotions all those little bottles hotels give you.

* **Towels**: : Clean bath towels for shower days no other sizes, please.

* **Socks and underwear**: New or newly laundered men's items.

* **Blankets**: Clean blankets, **NO** other bedding.

Martin's continues to have an official "no clothes" policy because at times we have been overwhelmed with clothing inappropriate for our guests; neckties, children's clothing, women's dress clothes, high-heel shoes, etc. If you have clean men's casual clothes such as sweatshirts, jeans, sweaters, jackets, socks, we may be able to give them to our guests.

Other items should be taken to Community Thrift (see page 1) where their sale will help Martin's.

Is there a copier out there?

Right now, we are using a fax machine as a copier. The office could really use a working copy machine. It doesn't have to be new, just functional. Check to see if your workplace is replacing an old one. A donation to Martin's is tax deductible, remember.



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