

Dear Friends,

A few more updates.

First, we have made major progress getting help for our Trafficked lady. Her needs include better housing, a lawyer to do her T Visa claim, psychotherapy to deal with her trauma, good medical care, educational and job training. I had previously gotten her a case manager in one of the not for profits that cares for Trafficked women but frankly that case manager was doing pretty much nothing for her.

So . . . I connected with a friend who is the head of Pro Bono at one of the large "Wall Street" corporate law firms and he agreed to take her legal case. I also managed to switch her case management over to a FAR better not for profit which is competently assisting her with literally all of her needs -- housing, medical, education, job training, even socializing. They are also providing supplemental legal help. She also has access to a "Boutique" where she gets clothing, hygienic products even jewelry.

Getting her out of the DHS Shelter is a major priority. Within just a few days the new case manager had located a DV (Domestic Violence) Shelter which has an opening and which has services that specifically address some of her needs. I can not tell you the name or location but we are hopeful that she will move in there very soon.

Also, I obtained a "Notice of Confirmation of Human Trafficking" from The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. This is a determination letter stating that she meets the criteria for confirmation as a Trafficked person. This will help us hugely with the T Visa application and also entitles her to some additional benefits.

Take home lesson -- this work still carries a steep learning curve. I had never worked with a Trafficked woman and while I knew the names of most of the not for profits which work in this area I did not know which were the better ones, which ones focused on which services etc etc. Also, accessing the services remains an extreme challenge and ultimately in my case required having a connection which made it happen.

Second I managed to get Tony to Breaking Ground Drop In Center for intake. They came and picked him up on August 29th and they immediately referred him to a Safe Haven. There were no open rooms anywhere in the city that night however and Tony left rather than stay at the Drop In Center. He now does have a room assigned to him but he keeps not showing up when I schedule a pick up for him with the BG Outreach Team. The good news is however, that he is now a BG client and they are used to this sort of behavior and will continue to come when I call them. Hopefully he will eventually cooperate a bit more. Better yet they already started his Housing Packet to get him on the list for Permanent Housing. Their case workers will help him with identity documents, benefits etc. Hopefully this is the beginning of getting him back on his feet.

Third, we have a new "client." His name is Scott he is 68 years old and lives in a room he rents on College Point Blvd and hands almost his entire SS check over to his Landlord every month, leaving nothing left for food and other necessities. He spends most of his time sitting on the corner. He is severely depressed and has no family or friends. I referred him to the same agency I had to help with Jerry and we will work together to get him help with his depression and into suitable housing. This will likely be a long process.

Fourth, after seeing the (dreadful) physical condition John McArdle was in (unable to stand up much less walk, sitting in a chair on the corner his own filth for several days) I informed Breaking Ground he was not

appropriate for permanent housing. They came and met me on the street on his corner and we all agreed to call 911 and get him to the hospital. I am not sure how we will handle it if he is released but he can not go into permanent housing. He is clearly incapable of taking care of himself on any level and needs to be in a nursing home or similar environment. I am currently working with the social work department at Queens Presbyterian to see if we can get him into a nursing home or other care facility. There are a number of complications with this but I am doing my best.

Fifth, There is a new clinical coordinator at BG assigned to Sean S (the chronically homeless man who sits outside the Ambulance Corp). We had a long conversation about him and she agreed to try to get BG to initiate Mayor Adams "forcible removal" procedures for him. Sean is severely mentally ill and has no capacity whatever to make reasonable decisions or to even be maintained in a Safe Haven. He needs long term custodial and psychiatric care. I will keep doing what I can do to try to see that he gets this help.

Sixth, Jerry continues to be very happy and thriving in his new apartment. He has had the first two assessments for home care and his case manager and I are working to hopefully finalize orders for part time help in his new apartment.

Folks, this work is hard and it is frustrating but it is the work God has set before us.

Sr Ruth