

What Postscript Means to Me

A note from two of our newest volunteers



SOPHIE

A few years ago I read a book that changed my life. It's called *Everybody Always* by Bob Goff. One of the most influential things it says was to live a more fulfilling life by trading the appearance of being close to Jesus for actually being close to Him. He said that it's

wonderful to memorize Bible verses, attend Church, and repost, like, or share verses on social media—none of those are actions to get to know who Jesus is. God desires us to live and love like Him—in relationship. When I ask God who I should love and for how long (even the most difficult people), He continues to respond, “Everybody—Always”. So I sought out to love the most diverse people of different backgrounds, ages, ethnicities and beliefs. It was then I met Marsha in church. Afterwards, I had tears in my eyes the whole service. I have been volunteering at Sir Walter ever since. The connections and friendships I've made have given me unexpected love, gratefulness, a new perspective and fulfillment. As I navigate my purpose and journey in life to live for Jesus, I believe PostScript is contributing to shaping me into the woman God has planned for me.



HEATHER

Being in communities of supportive people has been a gift throughout my life, so I value being a part of PostScript to help facilitate a sense of community among residents at Sir Walter. As people, we all need meaningful friendships, and Post Script provides that opportunity for residents. I cherish the laughter, fun, and friendships that I get to be

a part of on Thursday nights with PostScript.

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www.psoutreach.org

Compassion Through Connection

When we look for what's best in a person.... we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor we're participating in something sacred." - **Fred Rogers**. This is what PostScript aspires to do each week through The Connection... (formerly Art for the Heart).

A Word from our Executive Director, Marsha Smitley

Connections. Aren't we all looking for them? At times it's not a big deal, but there are moments when we desperately long for connection to feel valued, seen and heard. Loneliness and isolation are at all time highs.

It has been a while since we at PostScript have "connected" with our faithful donors and supporters. For that we apologize. In the last year, there have been amazing opportunities placed before us. We have been pedaling as fast as we can to keep up. "We are comforting others as we have been comforted." (2 Corinthians 1:4)

PostScript has a small group of volunteers who faithfully show up weekly—preparing meals, directing and setting up art and craft projects, checking people in, giving away door prizes and cleaning up. It is incredible what we have been able to accomplish in the midst of overwhelming circumstances! God has even provided volunteers to translate English to Chinese so that language is no longer a barrier for our growing Chinese participants. To God be the glory and to all of YOU, our faithful friends, we shout out a huge THANK YOU! I love this quote from author and NY Times columnist, David Brooks, about his own journey, "I came to realize that living in a detached way is, in fact, a withdrawal from life, an estrangement not just from other people but from yourself." Connection is vital for our health and well-being as well as the health of our communities and world. Please stay connected!

Shalom,

Marsha Smitley

Our Chinese Resident Participation is Growing...

A Connection perspective shared from our Chinese translator, Jack Chen

Many Chinese residents in Sir Walter came to US as immigrants when they are old. They usually stay in their room pretty much time and have very limited social life outside their rooms and perhaps kind of lonely. The situation changes after PostScript OutReach came to Sir Walter two years ago to start Thursday's night event- "The Connection." These Chinese people started getting out of their room to enjoy the food, the friendship with the neighbor and the volunteers during the event. The language barrier seems also to disappear quietly due to their open hearts and the help from English/Mandarin translation volunteers. Cultural differences during the meeting seem not existing either.

The number of local Chinese attendance is over 15 now, which accounts for about 75% of Chinese residents here, jumping from a few two years ago. The number matters, but the two hours of quality time they have matters more. You can always see the smiles on their faces during their



Jack Chen and his wife, Linjen Huang - Our friends/translators, who help weekly...

stay enjoying dinner, art activity, raffles, games and an important part - sharing. When the event ends, they say to each other with smiles again "see you next week." "The Connection" event weekly definitely helps improve their Spiritual life.



Growing Pains...

As we now serve 50+ men and women, we are looking for individuals and groups who believe in this mission to step forward and help. We are in great need of one-time and monthly donors, meal preparation volunteers, and art, craft or activity volunteers to help us to continue the life-changing work Postscript is being called to do. Please see insert.

Other Expansion Updates...

Sir Walter has graciously provided FREE office space but with that comes the need for monthly parking (two cars at \$150 each, per month!). Of course, Wi-Fi is imperative and we now have that added expense as well.

PostScript is also in need of a van. Many of our friends are unable to get to appointments or to an affordable grocery store. They fall victim to the high-priced markets downtown. If you or anyone you know has a van they would like to donate, please reach out to Marsha marsha@psoutreach.org.

These are just a few of the growing pains requiring more donations to advance God's work. Would you consider sponsoring any these costs?

Come join us one evening and see the JOY on the residents faces. You WILL be blessed.