

August 2015



# Journeys

A Newsletter of Travelers Aid International

## OUR NEWS

### **Update on the Membership Directory**

As we strive to build the first Membership Directory since 1998, we still need the information from a number of our members. In the coming weeks, the staff will be calling to interview those members who have not completed our directory survey forms. We hope to have 100% participation before we print the directory. [Here is the information form.](#)

### **"Greyhound Therapy"**

In July, Travelers Aid posted a comment to [a story in International Business Times](#) on "homeless dumping" or "Greyhound therapy." This was the second story in July - the first was in the *Tampa Times* and quoted Daystar Life Center Executive Director Jane Walker. In case others in the press maybe doing similar reports we are preparing a factsheet to help frame a local response and we are most willing to issue supportive quotes from this office.

## YOUR NEWS

### **Powers Testifies before the Senate**

Edward Powers, executive director of HOPE Atlanta, on July 29 told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that additional funding will be needed for local agencies, like his, to

meet the Veterans Administration goal to end homelessness among the veteran community. [Read Ed's testimony.](#)



As a follow-up, Ed wrote an Aug. 10 guest column in an Atlanta newsletter, *Saporta Report*, recounting the story of Joe, a veteran of the recent conflict in the Middle East. He and his family were homeless when they came to HOPE Atlanta, seeking help in getting off the streets. "We helped them find stable and affordable housing they needed, and we also offered financial support until Joe could find a job." [Read Ed's column.](#)

### **Family Aid Boston's CEO Makes the News**

Richard Ring, Executive Director of Family Aid Boston, was quoted in the July 25 edition of *Spare Change News* as the "street newspaper" explored the latest census reports on homeless families. [Read the story.](#)

### **Swapping Information On-Site**

On July 28, Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit CEO Edna Bell and Director of Development Anne Carter traveled to Chicago to get a first-hand look at Heartland Alliance's supportive services for veterans and their families designed to help homeless vets.

### **CEO Receives National Recognition**

The Commission on Economic Opportunity, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., received national recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy for successfully conducting one of 16 Weatherization Innovation Pilot Projects. The project was the only one which met its performance goals, came in under budget, and leveraged more funding than it had planned. [Learn more.](#)

### **Volunteers are Blogging**

In mid-summer, *Huffington Post*, an online news and commentary site, invited volunteers from our airport members to blog about their experiences as volunteers. To date, two volunteers are participating. Mac Cassells, a Travelers Aid - Dulles volunteer, has had two blogs published. [Read the Earthquake.](#) [Read the Blackout.](#) Travelers Aid Inland Empire volunteer Gary Garfield expects his first blog to be published shortly. [Learn more about this blogging opportunity.](#)

### **Free Dinner Offered as Recruiting Tool in Milwaukee**

A \$75 gift certificate will be awarded to any Travelers Aid - Milwaukee volunteer that recruits a new volunteer to work a weekend shift. [Learn more.](#)

### **Melbourne Offering Workshop on How to Ride the Rails**

In the coming weeks, Travellers Aid Australia will begin offering Community Travel Training, a free educational workshop designed to provide participants with an understanding of public transportation, mobility and accessibility issues, ticketing along with city and regional travel. [Learn more.](#)

## **IDEA EXCHANGE**

### **Airports: From Band Aids to Breast Pumps**

Travelers Aid at Chicago O'Hare International Airport has been accommodating nursing mothers for the last 18 months. The agency invites nursing mothers to use its staff offices and it also has a breast pump available. [Learn more.](#)

## Social Service: When You Don't Know Who to Call

If your agency cannot provide assistance to an individual, do you know who to call? Here is a list of national service providers that just may be able to help in your situation. [Learn more.](#)

## MILESTONES

### *New Hires, Promotions and Retirements*

Chicago - *Phillip Nightingale* has joined Travelers Aid as a part-time resource pool worker. He is currently also working as a flight coordinator for an air ambulance company.

Daytona Beach - Effective Aug. 15, *Mark Geallis* is the new executive director of Halifax Urban Ministries. He replaces *Rev. Troy Ray*, who retired after 12 years in the position. Geallis joined the agency in 2012 as the director of community relations and development. Troy is leaving to become executive director of a faith-based nonprofit organization called Open Arms International, a ministry in Kenya. [Learn more.](#)

New York - *Patti Englert* joined the Travelers Aid - JFK Airport team on Aug. 1 as the assistant manager. She replaces *Yasmine Triola*, who left in June after 8 years of service.

Travelers Aid - JFK Airport volunteers *Doug Kent* and *Sherrille Marcelin* and staff member *Maureen Chan* were recently recognized by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey with Above & Beyond awards for their exemplary efforts in assisting passengers

Oklahoma City - Upward Transitions has hired *Ray Bitsche, Jr.* as its new chief executive officer. Bitsche brings 28 years of leadership in public service and non-profit industries and was most recently CEO of Sunbeam Family Services. He replaces *Dana Chism*, who recently left after 8 years of service. In addition, *Periann Pulliam* has been promoted to chief operations officer and *Harold Powell, Jr.* has promoted to fill Pulliam's former position, volunteer coordinator. [Learn more.](#)

San Diego - *Ron Dennison*, the Travelers Aid Society of San Diego program manager, who has been serving society's most frail and vulnerable for 24 years, has announced his pending retirement. He has been the program manager for 14 year.

Tampa Bay - *Clara Reynolds* assumed the top position at the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay on July 1. A former Crisis Center board member, Reynolds had been the president of Success 4 Kids & Families, a non-profit she founded 10 years ago. [Learn more.](#)

## CALENDAR

### *Your Fundraising Events*

**Sept. 2** - Crisis Center of Tampa Bay's Beer and Bow Ties at Coppertail Brewing. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 3** - Baltimore Catholic Charities' Ryder Cup golf tournament at Country Club of Maryland. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 12** - Montgomery Family Guidance Center 5K/10K Walk/Run at The Shoppes at East Chase. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 12** - St. Vincent de Paul of Marin County's Pennies from Heaven gala, St. Hilary Church, Tiburon. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 15** - Baltimore Catholic Charities' Dragon Bowl 2015 at Mustang Alley's, 1300 Bank Street, Baltimore. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 19** - Daytona Beach's Halifax Urban Ministries Motorcycle Giveaway at OC Bikefest, Ocean City, Maryland. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 19** - Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin's 27th Annual Green & Gold Gala at Lambeau Field Atrium. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 19** - Help of Southern Nevada's Fifth Annual Pig-A-Thon at Sunset Park. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 24** - Commission on Economic Opportunity's Food Truck Rally at River Commons, Wilkes-Barre. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 24** - Help of Southern Nevada's Tea, Trends and Tranquility gala at Mandarin Oriental Hotel. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 26** - Baltimore Catholic Charities' 2015 Ten Oaks Cup Polo Match at Marama Farm, 5610 Chamblis Drive, Clarksville. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 26** - Total Ministries of Spartanburg's Hub City Empty Bowls at Chapman Cultural Center. [Learn more.](#)

**Sept. 30** - Traveler Aid DFW's 2015 Golf Classic at Bear Creek Golf Club. [Learn more.](#)

**Oct. 18** - Nashville Rescue Mission's Music with a Mission at Schermerhorn Symphony Center. [Learn more.](#)

**Oct. 29** - Hope Atlanta's Heroes for Hope Award Dinner at Fox Theatre. [Learn more.](#)

**Nov. 6** - Baltimore Catholic Charities' Concert featuring Peter Breinholt and Declan O'Rourke at 725 Fallsway, Baltimore. [Learn more.](#)

**Nov. 6** - Jacksonville Catholic Charities' Festival d'Vine at Treaty Oak Park. [Learn more.](#)

**Nov. 7** - Heartland Alliance's Candlelight Ball at The Palmer House. [Learn more.](#)

**Nov. 24** - Nashville Rescue Mission's Tracy Lawrence Turkey Fry. [Learn more.](#)

**Nov. 26** - Nashville Rescue Mission's What Do You Run For 5K. [Learn more.](#)

# TAI Headquarters Staff

**Dave Asselin**, President/CEO

[dave@travelersaid.org](mailto:dave@travelersaid.org)

202-546-1127 ext. 101

**Andrea Itkin**, Senior Director, Transportation Programs

[andrea@travelersaid.org](mailto:andrea@travelersaid.org)

202-546-1127 ext. 103

**David North**, Director of Social Services Programs

[dnorth@travelersaid.org](mailto:dnorth@travelersaid.org)

202-546-1127 ext. 104

**Thomas J. Smith**, Manager of Communications & Development

[tom@travelersaid.org](mailto:tom@travelersaid.org)

202-546-1127 ext. 102

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