



LOVING HANDS

THE MANOS DE CRISTO NEWSLETTER

Why Dr. Tom Richardson Serves the Working Poor of Austin (and why he plays the lottery too)



Dr. Richardson counsels a patient

We sat down with our Clinic Director, Dr. Richardson, to talk to him about his work at Manos' Dental Clinic and why it is important to him.

How did you come to Manos?

I'm retired military, and I looked for a place that I would call a "feel good place." [When] you've seen the people that come in to [the Dental Clinic], it's very clear that they're needy, and I would call those people the "working poor"—the America that is trying to pull themselves up by the bootstraps whether they're poor, disabled, or immigrant, and they are trying to pull themselves up, and I want to help them.

Lately we're seeing a broader catch, it seems, including students, or students who just finished, or people who can't find a job. The first thing they want to tell me is "I had a job, I had dental insurance but now I've got to come here..."

How is Manos making a difference in the community?

When I drive up at 7 a.m. each morning, there are anywhere from five to fifteen people waiting in line to be treated, many who have been up all night with serious pain.

There are probably twenty people a day who are making the difficult decision "do I keep this tooth, or do I not keep this tooth."

If it wasn't for Manos, I would imagine many of these people would end up in the emergency room. [They cannot] perform the therapy that's needed, they simply give medication for pain or infection, which helps, but it essentially just puts off the problem. If [the Clinic] was not there and there wasn't an alternative, [patients would be] going from one episode to another with infections, great pain, and disability. Some of the infections are serious, some of them are life threatening.

"Each morning, there are anywhere from five to fifteen people waiting in a line to be treated, many who have been up all night with serious pain."

Since you've been with Manos, what is the greatest challenge you've had, and what is the greatest support?

The staff is definitely very dedicated and works very hard, and they do a great job. Thanks to the donors we continue to have everything that we need, supplies and equipment, to have the freedom to get the job done.

A limitation that we face is that we only have four chairs. My dream is that I win the lottery, and I have millions of dollars to expand the clinic. We could run it pretty much like we run it right now, but with more people and more opportunity so that more people are taken care of.

That's how I got to Manos—I can give back to a place that is worthy, and that's what Manos is for me.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL: 450 Volunteers, 2,221 Children, and over 35,000 School Supplies!

Manos de Cristo held its annual Back-to-School program to prepare thousands of elementary-aged children for school. This program is more than a chance to get a new outfit; it is a rare opportunity for the community, donors, volunteers, and families in need to come together and create a positive start to the school year for children who thrive and succeed on the support that Manos gives them.

We make sure that they're not only physically prepared for another year, but mentally confident to go back to school and interact with their teachers and classmates. Each child received individual

attention and assistance, giving them a shopping experience that many rarely have. Our volunteers created a positive and welcoming environment, entertaining children with music and games while they waited for their turn to shop.

Our goal was to help 2,000 children, but as the program went on, we saw that there were many more in line for services this year. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to go beyond our goal and meet this need, helping a total of **2,221** children prepare for a successful school year.



LOVIN' AUSTIN CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER

14 Volunteers will be Honored

The Lovin' Austin Celebration is an afternoon of music, food, fun, and drinks at the Zilker Clubhouse on **October 25**, and all proceeds from the event will go to Manos.

We are celebrating and honoring the volunteers who have shown an extraordinary commitment to serving others at our Lovin' Austin Celebration.

Jack Kern, *Volunteer of the Year*

Emily Moers, *Dental Clinic*

Dorothy Swart, *Clothes Closet*

Meredith Nunis, *Food Pantry*

Roy Cotton, *Education Programs*

Blake Ann Seeker, *Back-to-School*

Kate Norman & Liz Wright, *Board Service*

K'Andrea Bickerstaff & Roland Canales, *Marketing & Fundraising Committee, Group Service*

David Chambless, Grant Jones, Zach Mata,

Helen Nourzad, April Raya & Jeffery Rojas

Special Back-to-School Youth Recognition

If you would like to join us in recognizing any of these amazing individuals, you may do so by making a donation in his or her name through the end of October. These volunteers have truly shown "Love in Action."



Hundreds of parents like Elena lined up each morning for Back-to-School.

What Manos is Doing to Empower Our Patients and Clients

Elena Morales is one of the many parents who brought their children to Manos' Back-to-School program to prepare them for school. Currently employed at a restaurant, her goal is to use her Certificated Nursing Assistant (CNA) qualifications to work in a nursing home in order to better support her family, and she is using the services that Manos provides to help her reach that goal.

Elena first discovered Manos through its Dental Clinic. As a mother of five, and without dental insurance from her current employer, Elena needs the low-cost oral healthcare that Manos provides. One visit, she picked up a pamphlet and discovered the world of classes that Manos offers.

She began taking computer classes and has found those skills essential at work and at home. "What programs is my child looking at?" Elena asks, as many concerned parents do. After studying with Manos in computer classes, she's learning at the same rate as her

children. Elena laughs as she shares stories about surprising her children with her ever-growing knowledge.

Elena is now taking English classes at Manos. Trained as CNA, she wants to be able to communicate above the basic level of English with the people she would care for. "I want to learn English. I know the basics, but I want to learn more."

Without Manos, Elena admits that she doesn't know where she would go, that she would have to find a substitute provider for healthcare, education, and school supplies for her children. So many mothers and fathers that come to Manos tell this same story. They push themselves to provide for

their family, but they still fall short without outside help. When asked about her experience at Manos, Elena said, "I want to involve myself more here, I always want to come."

(clients' names are changed to protect their privacy)

Without Manos, Elena admits she doesn't know where she'd go.

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Buy or Sell a Home and Save a Smile with Give Realty

If you are buying or selling a home, you can fundraise for Manos! Give Realty will donate 25% of their commission to Manos when you choose us as the recipient, and there is no increased cost to you. And, if you are selling your home, you can take the tax deduction!

We have already seen their donations in action — The Robertsons chose Give Realty to sell a home, secured a \$1,500 donation for Manos, and said they had a wonderful experience using Give Realty.

5 REASONS TO KEEP AUSTIN SMILING

Manos is excited to again be a part of 26 Miles for 26 Charities, and we are recruiting walkers, runners, and future runners to join us!

Does one of these describe you?

- You can walk—believe it or not, the Austin Marathon & Half Marathon encourages walkers!
- You have never experienced "runner's high" but you'd like to try it
- You have never run more than one mile - we can help you finish your first half-marathon
- You want to be able to eat like Michael Phelps
- You want to do something extraordinary

Join our **Keep Austin Smiling** team to train for the **Austin Marathon and Half Marathon** on **February 14th, 2010**. When you join our team, you not only benefit from training programs and discounts and the support of your fellow runners, but you also know that your efforts are contributing to a vital organization that impacts the lives of thousands in our community each year. Call us or visit the "How to Help" section of our website to sign-up or to learn more.

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THANK YOU to everyone who made Back-to-School possible!

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LOVING HANDS

THE MANOS DE CRISTO NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

See how Manos is using
our donors' dollars:

- Learn how Manos is helping a working mother to achieve her goals
- Hear from our Clinic Director
- Read about Back-to-School's impact
- Find out who Manos is honoring this October



Manos de Cristo is dedicated to empowering low-income individuals with a loving hand of assistance and without regard to age, gender, race, or religious preference. Manos promotes dignity and self-reliance by providing essential oral care, furthering educational development, and meeting basic needs with food and clothing.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER
National Dental Hygiene Month

OCTOBER 3
Half-Marathon Training Begins

OCTOBER 23
Presbytery Dinner

OCTOBER 25
Lovin' Austin Celebration
@ Zilker Clubhouse

NOVEMBER 2
Computer Classes 2nd Session Starts

NOVEMBER 11
Class Visit to Texas History Museum

NOVEMBER 16
Tamale Sale Ordering Begins