We have sold paintings, ornamental rugs, silverware, jewelry, china, toys, books, brass kettles, a Chinese 4-panel screen, a vintage manual typewriter, an antique (1914) manual sewing machine and many other items. These items are brought to us literally from all over the area, from the suburbs, local neighborhood collections, or as gifts. These “bargains” can be as close as their owner’s garage or as far away as California, and one large watercolor was even shipped from Austin, Texas. We have a beautiful and almost new 9’ Brunswick pool table for sale, a pair of hand-knotted Bakrugs from Afghanistan and a number of other interesting pieces.

We hope that you would consider the Mission of Deeds when looking to dispose of your valuables, collectibles and art. Your donation is tax deductible in accordance as we are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and you can be assured that 100% of the proceeds will be used to purchase new beds for families in need.

If you have questions about the program or would care to donate items, please e-mail reed.pugh@missionsofdeeds.org.

In Their Own Words

We often receive letters of deep thanks from our clients, many of whom describe Mission of Deeds’ services as life-changing. Their experiences have an affirmed time and time again our belief in the power, necessity and good-ness of our mission. Their words tell the story best. A formerly homeless family wrote, “We can’t begin to express the gratitude we have for the gift you gave us - the gift of a new life.”

A client wrote, “I am a grandmother raising two grand-sons and our funds are very limited. Please know you make a difference in the lives of many people’s lives.”

A single mother of three, coming from a shelter for abused women explained that she “was so stressed, anxious, and embarrassed when [she] first arrived, but then someone took her under their wing and made this a very pleasant and joyous experience.”

An elderly man wrote, “I was in a nursing home for over two and a half years and was finally able to move out. I have absolutely nothing in the way of household goods. When we arrived, we received much more than furni-ture free of charge. We have received love and dignity.

A veteran wrote, “Thank you so very much for furnish-ing my new beginning. Everyone was so kind. I feel so fortunate to finally have a place to call home.”

A client told us several years after receiving our help “I have a job, my life is coming together, thank you.”

Got Picasso?

Last December we started a program to accept donations of art and other valuables with the intention to sell them and use the proceeds to fund our bed program. To our pleasant surprise, the program has helped to fund over 110 beds for families who have had to move out of their home and shop. Curious, I wanted to see what was happening. Soon she reappeared, running out the door to the loading area with one of my tables clutched in her hands. That is why I do what I do.

In several of my churches I had made furniture for our parsonage. As never to waste, I also began repairing furniture for parishioners. When I moved to my last pastorate, the church gave me some space for a shop in the church basement where I took a paid intense program as an appraiser, and made it a shop for the people of the church to work as well. So we created a ministry to our community, repairing furni-ture free of charge.

Upon retirement, the urge to continue that work never left me. Finally, I discovered Mission of Deeds, a perfect fit for my desire to see things get done and for someone here to rec-ognize that I could build furniture. Because space is limited where many of our clients live, they are often not able to bring in large donations, which has suggested that I make them into coffee tables. I’ve been doing that ever since, I have been able to refine the process so that my goal is to create at least two per week. So far, I have have completed nearly 100 tables and even that does not keep up with demand.

My day in the Mission of Deeds wood shop is Thursday. But, the staff has been gracious to me, allowing me to load my Jeep with tables to take home to my shop in my basement. I work on tables in my idle time and bring them back to Mission of Deeds on Thursday.

What keeps me going is an image I was blessed with one of  my tables clutched in her hands. That is why I do what I do. That is why I do what I do.

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A Message From Our Executive Director

“Hollywood Comes to Mission of Deeds!”

“Action” is a constant at Mission of Deeds, but the “Lights, Camera” part had been elusive. That changed in September when a professional video crew from New Media Associates spent two long days at our facility.

It really was like a movie set for those two days. Powerful lighting, special effects, a bombshell microphone and musical camera padding every aspect of the day. One of our matriarch carts even doubled as a platform for a cameraman to take a moving picture of volunteers at our long lunchroom table.

The video project grew out of discussions among our Board of Directors and Development Committee about how we can better get the public to know about Mission of Deeds. So many of you support us, for which we are deeply grateful. Yet, there are many more people who do not know us, or may know us, but not by clear exactly what we do. We believe the video will spread the word and clarify our mission.

The video will be on our website at www.missionofdeeds.com in December. It is short and we hope you will visit us on the web to view it. We also want to hear your ideas about how we can get more people to watch it, through web links, speaking engagements and more. Please contact Beth or me with your ideas.

From the outset of the project it was exceptionally important that the cost of the video be paid in keeping with our standard of good stewardship. Thus, members of our Board of Directors made special donations, and following our appeal for support, to cover the full cost of the video. Not one penny of your generosity went to fund this project. As they might say in Holly- wood, “Tony’s funds were burned in the making of this video.”

The video stresses our gratitude for the extraordinary support you give us. From financial support, to volunteer time, to donations of furniture and household goods, you make our work possible. We are grateful, at your clients. As always, you have our thanks.

Meet the Thursday Ladies

Volunteers make the Mission of Deeds hum. Their every contact with our families, for others, for families, is formed and joy as they go about their work, are wonders to behold every day. On Thursdays, all those qualities are on special display.

Working in the linens and kitchenware areas, the Thurs- day Ladies are an inspiration to everyone who meets them. Except for small children, we tend not to give ages in the Mission of Deeds environment. So, how old are these ladies? Let’s just say, long time ago, these ladies were children long time ago. (No matter how we say that, the writer knows who he will be in trouble next Thursday.)

Barbara, Carol, Ellie, Rita, Arlene, Nancy and Erin came to us through all sorts of ways — as donors, through church and community, through popular publication, and through Barbara, who recently “retired” after almost 20 years here, came to us through our church and we believe Ps. Tony, who is our founder, was especially impressed with her. Some of them have been here through Mission of Deeds start. Many organizations and have maintained a role as volunteers despite early working conditions that can only be described as primitive.

The friendships they have formed here are remarkable and they care for each other just as they would other work and volunteers. So much so, they have formed the “Thursday Lunch Ladies” in our kitchen and some have formed a lunch ladies’ Facebook page.

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