

July 2009

## A déjà vu experience for Don and me... and Making a Difference for the homeless.

Dear friends and clients,

In our newsletter last month I wrote about different ways folks are "making a difference" in our community and this story shows how unexpected opportunities to make a difference often show up in life.



The old Center City Motel in downtown Ventura had been for sale and vacant a long time. About a year or so ago Don was working with buyers who were considering purchasing this property but nothing came of that transaction and the property remained unsold. Don knew the property well!!

Now fast forward - how did Don and I end up painting rooms and cleaning bathrooms there? Here's the story...



Because the motel wasn't selling, the owners leased it for 3 years to a coalition of area churches (with an option to buy). It will be transformed into a transitional living center for homeless families and individuals. But it needs a lot of work!



So imagine our surprise when our church announced a couple of weeks ago that it was our church's "turn" to work on the motel last Saturday. About 30 volunteers showed up to paint, clean and do repairs. Room #25 was our project and we completely painted it and cleaned the bathroom. It seems like the work we did was small, but added with the rooms the others also completed, we accomplished a lot! Besides it was great fun working with others we know!

### An update on the letter writing campaign ...

I received a nice letter from the young Marine Corps recruit in boot camp in San Diego. His name is Ondrej, he's 19 years old and from the Czech Republic. He stated that he's "following my dream...and there's nothing else I would rather do in life." He thought my letter was really cool since letters from family in Europe take forever to reach him. Let's hear it for the Marines - "Oorah!"

Have a wonderful rest of the summer!

If you know of friends or coworkers thinking of buying or selling, we love referrals!



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