

Hearing from the 3 staffers now living 24/7 at Open Door Homeless Shelter

By Cathy DeDe

Chronicle Managing Editor

Combating COVID-19, the Open Door Mission's homeless shelter on Warren Street imposed a "shelter in place" rule on April 2. The current 13 guests must stay there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or lose their beds.

Three staff members likewise live there 24-7. They're "the SIP team," for shelter in place, says Open Door director Kim Cook.

"We had a few more residents, but when we went to shelter in place, that was a hard thing for some guests to understand. We couldn't have people going out and coming back in, and still maintain safety. So a few left."

"We have no clients or staff in the mission with the virus," she said. "We're not taking anyone new right now. It's so important to keep everybody healthy."

The Chronicle posed a series of questions via e-mail to the three 24/7 Open Door staffers. Here's



Living on the job at Open Door homeless shelter — From left, **Joseph Mongeon, Andrew Cook** and **Ashley Rowell** care 24-7 for the 13 guests there. *Photo provided*

some of what they said.

Andrew Cook

"Since I am single, young and healthy, I knew that made me a very eligible candidate, so I volunteered," says Andrew Cook,

the shelter's manager.

"Sheltering in place reminds me a little bit of being a camp counselor at Deerfoot Lodge. In a sense, we are always 'on'... There are a lot of demands and

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Peter Siano and his wife Patti were interviewed by **Mark Mulholland** Tuesday on WNYT. *Screen shot*

Tough fight, beat COVID

Editor's note: Don Lehman, Director of Public Affairs for Warren County, posted this story on the Warren County Covid Hub website (warrencountyny.gov/covidhub). We asked for and received permission to reprint it here. Mr. Lehman said the man is a "long-time friend" who recently overcame COVID-19, and agreed to publicly share his story to detail the medical care he received here in Warren County." Interviewed Tuesday on WNYT, the couple's names were revealed **Peter and Patti Siano**.

My victory over COVID-19

On March 24th, I showed up at work with a cough. I thought it was allergies. But, given the re-

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Calls editor a cynic who would 'stoop' to criticize Cuomo

To the Editor:

It comes as no surprise that you led off your article about COVID-19 in the April 16-22 edition of the Chronicle by saying, "Andrew Cuomo is in his glory" and then went on to add that he and his brother are combining to appear in what you think should be called the "Cuomo Covid Family Hour."

Governor Cuomo has had to announce a horrific number of

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Salvation Army Drive-Thru Food Pantry

"We distributed 78,000 pounds of food to over 2,000 people today. It was a good day," Monday, in the parking lot at Aviation Mall, Salvation Army Captain Leo Lloyd, Jr. told The Chronicle's Jason Irwin. An army of volunteers helped. *Chronicle photo/Jason Irwin*

Qby. man's ordeal, victory

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