

House of Metamorphosis Commencement Celebration

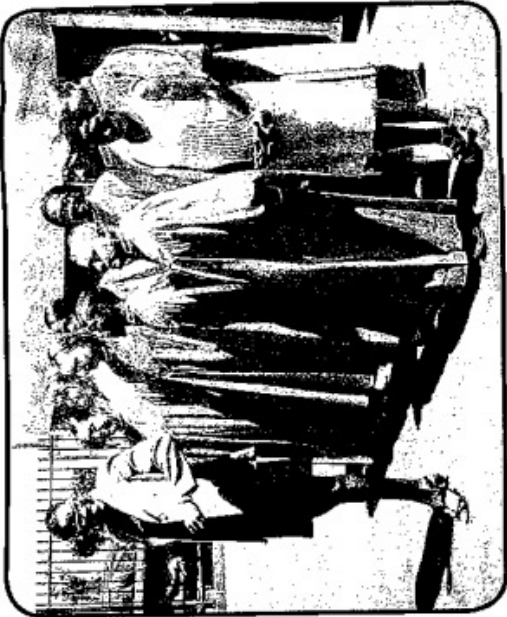
The weather might have been hot, but it didn't bother either the people sitting under the big tent on Sunday afternoon at the 42nd Commencement for the Metamorphosis Class of 2009. This was the graduation celebration of the sixteen people who proudly sat before family and friends as having completed an important step in their journey back to society, family and friends. This was also a very special occasion, because it provided the opportunity for the House of Metamorphosis to graduate its last Proposition 36 resident. Prop 36 was a state-funded program for the treatment of non-violent drug offenders through programs like HOM.

"I can't believe this is happening. It has changed my life!" exclaims one of the Prop 36 residents during a facilitated weekly meeting. Like her, thirteen other Prop 36 graduates prepared for and did graduate on Sunday July 12, 2009. It was a milestone in their lives and an enormous success in every respect. Instead of being incarcerated, these residents were given a chance to participate in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program that is now returning them to society as drug-free and productive citizens.

While the program listed Sylvester Brooks, Supervisor, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as the guest speaker, all the speakers were special. Some like "Jack" were old graduates returning with a testimony of how good God has been to him and his family and how much he appreciates the House of Metamorphosis and its staff. He told the audience of about two hundred family and friends of the graduates, "You get it all back as long as you trust in God. Remember where you come from. Start and end your day with God and keep yourself humble."

Beverly Monroe, Executive Director of HOM, encouraged the graduates, thanked family and friends and all those who support the efforts of the HOM program and assisted with the presentation of certificates. HOM was founded in 1976 and exists as a non-profit 501©3, tax exempt organization funded, in part, by the County of San Diego. Since opening its doors in 1976, HOM has served 5,372 clients.

The program has a 6- to 9-month duration divided into 4 phases. There are a total of 118 beds (62 in the main house, 24 on C Street, 24 on 30th Street in 4 houses, and 6 on G Street) all within the community being served. The program is designed to restore the health and self-esteem of the residents and provides activities and education that prepare them for reentry into society.



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