

David Toma Speaks at St. Helen's On Power of Love Over Drugs

By SONIA V. OWCHARIW
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Chilly temperatures outside could not deter the large crowd which turned out December 7 for an appearance by former police detective David Toma, a nationally-renown motivational speaker, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

With warmth and sincerity, Mr. Toma delivered a powerful anti-drug message to his listeners during a three-hour lecture sponsored by St. Helen's Youth Ministry. More than 500 people attended the program, including teenagers, parents, church officials and the general public.

With 15,000 speaking engagements nationwide under his belt and 40 million children who have heard his words, the spry 68-year-old explained that his message was based on witnessing first hand the impact of drug addiction on a family and how, during his career, he witnessed the deaths of many due to drug addiction.

Mr. Toma, whose credo is that love can overcome the destructive force of narcotics, adamantly repeated to his onlookers, "Listen and learn! Tonight, I'm going to tell you a love story. I'm going to give you the answer and you'll be one step ahead!"

Mr. Toma grew up poor, the youngest of 12 kids in an Italian-American family living in Newark. He shared with his audience how his experi-

ences as a police officer not only taught him survival skills on the street but also shaped his belief in the power of love as a deterrent to addictions and other destructive behavior.

"I listened and I cared; when I was on the street working undercover," he commented. "When I had a gun to my head and was down in the gutter, I cried hard. I showed all range of emotions in order to survive on the streets. I had no choice; it was the only way of survival. I learned to use my head and my heart instead of a gun."

Stressing the importance of communication between parents and children and early parental intervention with children at risk, Mr. Toma painted a horrid picture of drug abuse and its damaging effects on the abuser physically, mentally and emotionally, as well as on the individual's family.

"Most drug addiction begins with smoking and drinking and then eventually leads to pot and other drugs. Displaying a cigarette to emphasize his point, he observed, "Even before you light this cigarette, it has 61 different poisons in it."

"Once it's burning, there are 421 different chemicals and poisons in it that you put into your body and, once inhaled, it amounts to 2,000 chemicals," he continued.

Mr. Toma described the myriad effects of marijuana on the human body — how it collects in the brain

and can damage the heart, lungs and the reproductive organs of both sexes.

"If you're doing drugs, I want you to go throw them down the toilet. Don't give them to anybody. Then I want you to go home and tell your parents. Ask them to help you and reach out to them. Tell them that you love them and want their love. There is a force that is the most powerful force in the world," he said. "It is called love. I love you kids."

Mr. Toma, who coped with an addiction himself at one point in his life and lost a family member to drugs, also gave detailed accounts of young people he met on the street or in jail who were suffering from mental illness, suicidal tendencies, occult worshippers and prison records.

A former United States Marine Corps drill instructor, Mr. Toma was a police officer for 21 years. For 16 of those years, he was a detective in the vice, gambling, and narcotics squad in Newark.

His arrest record was unmatched, numbering in the thousands, with an unheard of 98 percent conviction rate. Mr. Toma, who inspired the television series "Toma" and "Baretta," did this without ever firing his gun, earning him the reputation in law enforcement circles as the "greatest cop alive," according to a biographical piece on the former detective.

He has also written two books, "Toma Tells it Straight with Love (Wake up America! The Drug Epidemic is Destroying Us All)" and "Turning Your Life Around: David Toma's Guide for Teenagers."



SOMETHING'S UP DOWN IN BETHLEHEM...The Westfield Redeemer Lutheran School will perform a Christmas musical in the auditorium of Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street in Westfield, on Sunday, December 19, at 4 p.m. Written by Janet McMahan-Wilson and Ted Wilson, it's the story of young shepherds en route to Bethlehem who encounter the first signs of Jesus' coming in unexpected places. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Roger Borchin, Redeemer Lutheran Principal, at (908) 232-1592. Pictured, left to right, are: Jenifer Flinton, Ashley Freudenheim, Aliya Davis, Elizabeth Minski, music teacher Stefany Stofa, Drew St. Lawrence, Michael Mielitcki and Andre Smith.

'Ministry from Isaiah' Event Set at Grace Orthodox Church

WESTFIELD — Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church will hold an evening program entitled, "Ministry from Isaiah" on Sunday, December 19, at 6 p.m., with Richard Anderson, Messianic Jewish Missionary.

Mr. Anderson's ministry from Isaiah will explore the Biblical book of Isaiah from his perspective as a Messianic Jew and Evangelical Christian.

Mr. Anderson has a background in Conservative Judaism. He is educated in Hebrew parochial schools, received Bar Mitzvah, and has a broad personal familiarity with Messianic Judaism.

He is a 1998 graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary and has been trained in Jewish Evangelism at Westminster by the Reverend Fred Klett, then-lecturer in Practical Theology.

Mr. Anderson is a licentiate with the

New Jersey Presbytery awaiting ordination call as Home Missionary to work among the Jews with CHAIM Ministries. He served as summer intern at Stratford OPC.

He was recently hired as senior missionary with CHAIM. He has been personally commended to the work of Jewish missions by the Reverend Martin Dawson, with letters of recommendation. Mr. Anderson is due to be called for ordination as Minister of Evangelism by Stratford OPC in December.

To learn more about the CHAIM ministry, please visit their Web site at <http://www.chaim.org> or contact them via email at chaim@chaim.org.

For directions to the church, please call the church at (908) 232-4403, or visit the church Web site at <http://www.westfieldnj.com/gopc>.

Free Trolley Rides Coming To Downtown Westfield This Saturday

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor free Trolley Rides in downtown Westfield this Saturday, December 18.

Customers can park for free at the South Avenue Train Station Parking Lot and ride the trolley throughout downtown Westfield, with trolley stops at Lord & Taylor on East Broad Street and on Central Avenue.

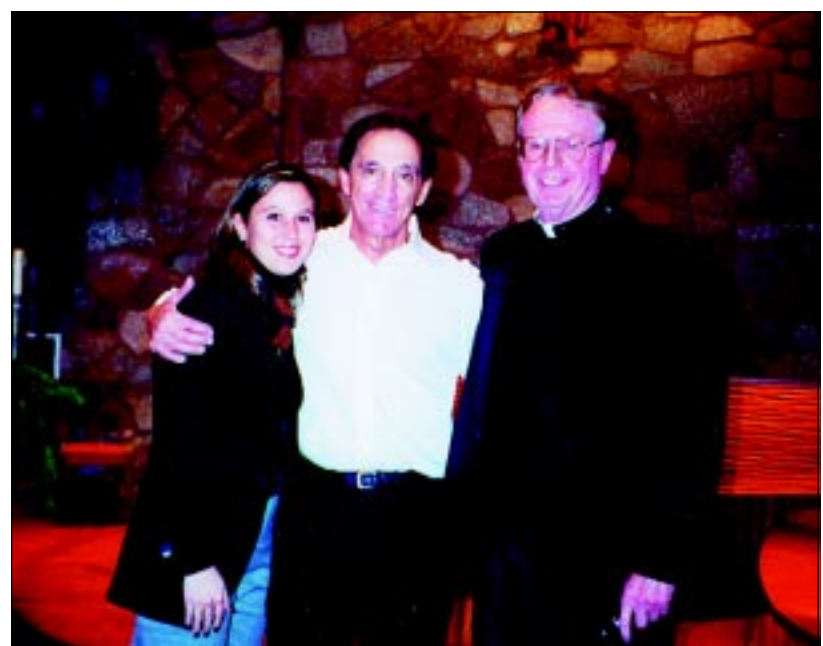
The trolley will run continuously from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so riders should look for the "Trolley Stop" signs posted in downtown.

"The trolley rides will offer customers and employees a convenient place to park, at the South Avenue lot, and allow them to easily go from South Avenue to the north side of downtown and back," said David Sutter, Downtown Westfield Promotions Chairman.

Entertainment is also on the schedule for downtown Westfield on Saturdays in December. The Watson Highlanders Pipe Band will be playing traditional festive music on their bagpipes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the town.

The Yuletide Carolers, dressed in "Dickens" attire, will stroll through downtown Westfield, entertaining shoppers, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with their "old-fashioned" flair. "Escape," a Women's Barbershop Quartet, will sing barbershop harmony from 1 to 3 p.m. for the shoppers' enjoyment.

For further information, call the DWC office, (908) 789-9444, or the Chamber, (908) 233-3021.



COMMON SENSE TALK...Former police detective David Toma, center, brought his message of love as an antidote to drugs to a packed audience at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield on December 7. Flanking him are Patty Gardner, St. Helen's Youth Minister, and the Reverend Monsignor James A. Burke, Pastor of St. Helen's Church.

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD
Date Adopted: December 9, 1999
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as a professional service or extraordinary, unспециifiable service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

RESOLUTION NO.: 1620-99
AWARDED TO: Nancy A. Hernandez, 10 Silas Place, Piscataway, New Jersey.
SERVICES: To provide physical therapy services to the residents/patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital.
PERIOD: From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.
COST: In an amount of \$78,000.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$21.93

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1614-99
AWARDED TO: Barbara Myers, R.D. One Newport Road, Wayne, Pennsylvania.
SERVICES: To provide consultation to the clinical dietitians and dietary services at Runnells Specialized Hospital.
PERIOD: From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.
COST: In an amount of \$15,200.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$21.93

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1618-99
AWARDED TO: Choice Rehab, Inc., 1930 East Marlton Place, Cherry Hill, New Jersey.
SERVICES: To provide occupational therapy services to the residents/patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital.
PERIOD: From December 1, 1999 through November 30, 2000.
COST: In an amount of \$263,110.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1619-99
AWARDED TO: InterStaff, Inc., 5200 San Felipe, Houston, Texas.
SERVICES: To provide physical therapy services to the residents/patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital.
PERIOD: From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.
COST: In an amount of \$263,250.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$21.93

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1608-99
AWARDED TO: Catherine Zambito, COTA, 125 Hillcrest Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.
SERVICES: To provide occupational therapy services to the residents/patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital.
PERIOD: From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.
COST: In an amount of \$58,500.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1662-99
AWARDED TO: Michael Cifelli, Esq., of Hardin Kundia McKeon Poletto and Polifroni, 673 Morris Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey.
SERVICES: To represent the County of Union by acting as a Hearing Officer in connection with hearings regarding responsibility of bidders.
COST: In an amount not to exceed \$5,000.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

DONALD D. VANARELLI
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By the National Elder Law Foundation, Accredited by the American Bar Association

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1639-99
(Amending Resolution No. 957A-99)
AWARDED TO: DeMaria Ellis & Bauch, Esqs., 744 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey.
SERVICES: For the purpose of providing additional Special Counsel Services for Labor Negotiations and Personnel Litigation to the County of Union.
COST: In an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for a new contract amount not to exceed \$450,000.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$24.48

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RESOLUTION NO.: 1613-99
AWARDED TO: NeighborCare, 121 Algonquin Parkway, Whippany, New Jersey.
SERVICES: To provide pharmaceutical services to the patients/residents at Runnells Specialized Hospital.
PERIOD: From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.
COST: In an amount of \$563,000.
M. Elizabeth Genievich
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 12/16/99, The Leader Fee: \$22.95