

A Movement of Shear Faith is Giving Back

By Joseph Livshin

Syracuse, N.Y., Feb. 11, 2019 – Is a haircut something that we just take for granted these days?



Andrea Capodagli, the creator of A Movement of Shear Faith in Syracuse, N.Y. Photo By: Andrea Capodagli

What feelings go through our mind after getting up out of the barber's chair or a salon chair? We feel better, cleaner and happier. So now think of the feeling you would have if you were homeless. You can't afford food, clothes or a shower, let alone a haircut. That changes your prospective a little, doesn't it?

Andrea Capodagli, a junior, majoring in public relations at Syracuse University, has been spreading the happiness and fresh feeling of a new haircut once a week at the Brady Faith Center on South Ave. Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Capodagli gives those in need a little something back, a haircut and a hug.

Armed with her clippers, scissors and some love, she started herself on a path of giving and inspiration that is now staring its second year. A Movement of Shear Faith began as an applied learning experience project in 2017 through Onondaga Community College in Syracuse.

Capodagli said, "I had to create a title for my project, and it just came to me. The shear is what we call scissors in cosmetology. It had that double meaning in my title, so it was perfectly meant to be."



Table set up at Brady Faith Center Photo by Andrea Capodagli

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As a New York State licensed cosmetologist, Capodagli has the training needed to give people a clean new look. Having faith gives her the ability to help and love those who are traditionally left behind in society.

“I have struggled in my own life financially, and I knew I needed to be there,” Capodagli said. “I used to work downtown and would drive past homeless individuals begging on the corners. It really bothered and hurt me, and I knew I had to do something.”



Giving a little trim with a smile makes this man's day.

Photo by Andrea Capodagli

Capodagli sets up her table inside the Brady Faith Center and doesn't just give those coming in a new haircut. She gives them hope, love and a smile. The turnout can vary from one or two people, to sometimes 10 people eagerly waiting their turn. They can get a little food and a warm place to patiently wait inside the Brady Faith Center. The feedback from her clients “is a huge smile like I have never seen before,” Capodagli said.

This venture isn't just a small project to give a little back to her community. Capodagli hopes she can take A Movement of Shear Faith to the next level in the years to come. Her goal is to make this into an LLC or nonprofit. This would allow her to take A Movement of Shear Faith on the road in an RV style vehicle. She would be able to go to the people who have nothing, so they don't have to come to her. This would also give her the ability she does not currently have, to be able to wash hair.

Capodagli explained, “I want to go to them. They are already struggling, and I feel that is the least I could do to give them back a little confidence to keep moving forward.”

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Capodagli isn't looking for publicity or recognition. "The constant stream of 'thank you,' a hug, so much praise and love I get in return, that feeling is indescribable. What they give to me is far more than I could ever give to them," she said. "I am just blown away by the feedback and love I receive."

In a time in which having faith isn't the "in thing to do," it is what drives Capodagli. Attending school full time, taking care of her dog, Lindy, and taking time for A Movement of Shear Faith may be a lot for some, but her faith keeps her pushing forward and doing more. She also works as a crisis line worker for the Suicide Prevention Line.

"I will be here for any one at any time. It just happened that God presented me an opportunity for me to give back," Capodagli said.

A principle that Capodagli says she lives her life by is that "you have the power to create something bigger than yourself when you step outside your comfort zone. Your world can change in ways you never thought possible."

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