

Capuchin Community Services

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Merger Brings Benefits Guests, Volunteers & Staff Find Opportunities for Growth



▲ (L to R) Fr. Perry McDonald, Pastoral Director, Gerri Sheets-Howard, Administrative Director, Archbishop Jerome Listecki, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Jim Wozniak, Board Member, Fr. Gene's Help Center and Br. Rob Roemer, Ministry Director. Guests received Easter "Baskets" of food and hygiene supplies. Donors included Badger Hams, Fr. Gene's Help Center, Letterhead Press and parishes & schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Mergers often mean layoffs and closures. After 10 months, the merger of the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal is producing benefits for the guests and volunteers. There have been no layoffs or closures of any type. "Actually a number of staff have been given new duties," said Gerri Sheets-Howard, Administrator. "I especially like it that when we need extra staff help at the House of Peace I can call on some of the men who serve as Blue Shirts at the Meal. And they like the chance to work some more hours."

Br. Rob Roemer, Ministry Director said, "Our guests benefit because we now send them over to the Capuchin Clothes Closet at the House of Peace. They have a much better selection of clothing to choose from. I have more regular access to the vehicles at the House of Peace. We use those to pick up the many generous donations people offer us."

Volunteers are also benefiting from the merger. "We often had people call who wanted to volunteer but we didn't have a slot for them," Br. Rob said. "Brigid, a Cap Corps volunteer is handling volunteer placements at both service sites so we can accommodate many more people." Gerri added, "We can offer volunteers who want to serve anytime between Monday through

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Laid Off Mother Finds Help Both Capuchin Community Services sites support Mom as she raises family

Angelia Winbush is a tall woman with a positive outlook who worked for years in manufacturing until losing her job during the Great Recession. "First they cut our hours and then we lost our jobs," Angelia said, "And me with 3 boys and 2 girls to support!"

Angelia has obviously done a good job of raising her children as the oldest has an MBA and the next oldest is in college right now. "I still have three to go and the House of Peace helps me to feed and clothe my family." Angelia continued, "When we are still short of food we go to St. Ben's Community Meal for dinner. I remember when they had their book giveaways and I always made sure the children picked out several books to take home." (School supply distributions moved to the House of Peace several years ago so parents could also pick up clothing for the first day of school.)

Angelia's commitment to education doesn't stop with her children. She recently contacted Carla DuPont, GED Coordinator at St. Ben's to learn what she needs to complete her GED. "I am going to receive a voucher so I can take the assessment test at the Milwaukee Area Technical College. Then I can begin taking classes on a scholarship from St. Ben's Community Meal."



▲ Angelia receives a monthly hygiene bag from Linda Barnes, Social Worker in the basement of Capuchin Community Services' House of Peace site. Note the laundry soap on the shelves above Angelia and dishwashing soap on the shelves behind Linda.

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Save The Date!

June 17, 2016

Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Polish Fest at
Lakeshore Festival Park

Register for the run or walk & help
feed the hungry. Use form on page 4 or
register online:

www.capuchinsrunwalkforthehungry.org

August 13, 2016

Hitting 4 the Cycle

Time to be announced, Miller Park

The Milwaukee Brewers have selected
Capuchin Community Services as one
of only 3 groups to benefit from this
event. More details on flap.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace

Capuchin Clothes Closet

- Sort clothing in the morning, opportunities most weekdays. Group & school opportunities as well.
- Stock food pantry shelves, opportunities most weekdays.
- Landscaping help needed.

To sign up call: **Gerri Sheets-Howard, 414.933.1300, ext. 11**

Capuchin Apartments

Monthly Resident Dinner

- Groups needed to cook the end-of-month resident dinner at the Capuchin Apartments. To learn more, call Br. Rob Roemer, 414.271.0135

HOW TO DONATE

To make a gift to our Capuchin ministry to the hungry & needy go to:

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Or mail your gift to:

Capuchin Community Services
P.O. Box 5830
Milwaukee, WI 53205-5830

The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gift made to our programs, Capuchin Community Services, St. Ben's Community Meal and/or the House of Peace, are tax deductible as allowable by law.

A Roaming Ministry

by Capuchin Br. Rob Roemer, Director

Not Invisible - Never Awful

A number of guests have told me they think they are invisible to others walking down the sidewalks. When they walk by someone, that person looks away or will not acknowledge them if they say "hi". They might even cross the street to avoid that guest. The guests say they must be invisible or awful, that the other person doesn't want to acknowledge their existence. Some have told me this is hurtful to them and makes them feel as though they don't matter in the world.

We recently had a memorial service for the nearly homeless individuals who passed away in Milwaukee in the past year. This was a simple service of lighting a candle and calling out the name of each person. For each name read, there is another individual who goes to light a candle for that person. It helps remind us that each of these people who might have died alone and forgotten, are in fact not completely forgotten.

Last month we had a 40-year-old man die in our meal hall. Sadly, no-one on staff got to know this person, nor his name. He was relatively new to the meal. It was sad to think he had no one around to love him and care for him and be with him in his last minutes of life. A reminder to me to take a few extra moments in the busyness to learn a person's name and let them know they do matter in this life.



Drives Support Ministry

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► Dozens of churches, schools and companies held hygiene and warm winter drives this year. Here's just three samples of our community's generosity:

1. St. Mary's Visitation Parish School, Elm Grove
2. North Shore Bank Employee Drive, Brookfield
3. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, North Lake



3

1



Blessings of Service

by Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.Div., Administrative Director

Bright Star Visits Capuchin Community Services

We at, Capuchin Community Services, are quite privileged to have a bright star in our midst. I call her Miss E, out of respect for her age, experience, and her tenacity. When she comes to the House of Peace site, she usually asks for TV dinners, with the gentlest of smiles. However, it is her eyes that usually draw me. They are a dark mocha brown, yet they seem to glitter with wisdom and a spirit of humility.

She often initiates conversations with the other guests, regaling them with small snippets of her life's issues. Sometimes she just comes in to sit and rest from her wanderings in the city, for a short nap. I often wonder what those dark eyes have seen and experienced for the last six decades. Miss E also eats periodically at St. Ben's meal site, and she is a bright star to many who will call out to her, "Hey Miss E!" Yes, we are more compassionate, humbler, and more thankful for the bright star that graces us with her presence. For Miss E, truly brightens up the House of Peace!



Merger Brings Growth

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Friday, 8 AM to 7 PM or Sunday, 4 PM to 7 PM more opportunities. Our most popular times still book up but there are more times to choose from between the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal."

Another area of collaboration has been with the Urban Plunges that Br. David Hirt leads. Designed to introduce youth groups to the Capuchins' ministry, Br. David includes a service project. "We are able to open our basement work space to the young people on the plunge," Gerri said. "They complete projects as different as assembling yard signs for our Run Walk and sorting hygiene items into bags for distribution."

Br. Rob continued, "I had a donor call and tell me her two favorite charities were the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal. She went on to say that now she can write just one check and that made her very happy." He concluded, "I am so glad that so many benefits have surfaced over the last 10 months. We Capuchins will continue to serve the poor, the hungry and the homeless for a long time to come, with the support of our volunteers and donors."

► **Goodbye:** Mike Kelley is stepping down from the Ministry Council. He will continue to volunteer at the Meal.



◀ **Welcome:** Br. Carl Schaefer has returned to the ministry after a time away.

Laid Off Mom Finds Help

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Besides food, clothing and education support, Angelia's family also relies on Capuchin Community Services for another important item: hygiene supplies. "My children still at home are 9 and 10 years old plus one in high school. They are very aware of how important good hygiene is and I thank the donors." When Angelia learned that in most cases the hygiene supplies were coming from other families through their churches or schools she added, "Families helping families, I didn't know the Capuchins did that. That's an excellent thing to do!"

Angelia looks for a job each day using the resources at area job search centers. "I really appreciate the Capuchins help in getting back on my feet. Thank you to all those who support them in helping me get where I need to go."

Dove Notes

by Fr. Perry McDonald, OFM, Capuchin

You probably have heard people complain about government programs that aid the poor paid for by their taxes. It seems like so many are getting a free ride with food stamps, school lunches for children, unemployment insurance, Medicare and Medicaid programs. It's not uncommon to hear people say that these programs should be scrapped because they are making it too easy for people who don't want to take care of themselves.

But it is not as easy to live on these programs as we think. Take, for example, the FoodShare program in Wisconsin that is designed to help people with low incomes. They receive a designated amount automatically added to their Quest card, to be used only for the purchase of food. James E. Causey, an editorial writer and columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, accepted a challenge of spending only \$31.54 for food per week, a typical amount for a single person with a Quest card.

Mr. Causey found that he had to change his buying habits – purchasing generic products, using coupons on a store's double-coupon days, looking for sales, dropping some of his favorite items like hummus, soy milk, fish, fruits, vegetables and desserts.

He writes: "I found the challenge difficult: the things I typically buy didn't fit into my budget. My stomach often growled, and most nights I went to bed hungry. By the third day, I was dragging from a carbohydrate-laden diet, and by the fifth day, I was ready to quit. On the last day of the challenge, I was happy it was over.

Do you think you could live on \$31.54 a week for food?

Fr. Perry McDonald OFM
Pastoral Director



Our Ministry Council

Capuchin Community Services is advised by a volunteer Ministry Council consisting of leaders in our community. Current Ministry Council members include:

- Diane Knight
- Julie Darneider
- Anthony Myers
- Chuck Cmeyla
- Felice Green
- Sara Zirbel
- Mike Kelley
- Wendy Hermann
- Pam Meyer
- Duncan Shrout
- Fr Perry McDonald
- Gerri Sheets-Howard
- Br Rob Roemer
- Jeff Parrish (Provincial Council Liaison)

Capuchin Community Services

Two locations serving the Poor, the Hungry and the Homeless:

House of Peace
1702 W Walnut St, Milwaukee, WI 53205
414.933.1300



St. Ben's Community Meal
1015 N 9th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233
414.271.0135

The Capuchins'



Emcee
Bill Michaels
"The Big Unit"

FOR THE RUN-WALK HUNGRY

POLISH FEST

JUNE 17, 2016 • 7PM



5:00 pm Check-In at Main Gate of Polish Fest

Sponsors:



www.PolishFest.org
Friday, June 17 - Sunday, June 19



For each participant, Usinger's will generously donate up to 1 pound of product.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

5K RUN:

A certified and chip timed/scored race.
\$25 Adult, \$15 Child [\$30 and \$20 after June 5]
Child must be 12 or younger on race day.

AWARDS:

Immediately following the Run/Walk, awards for 13 age divisions and 3 overall finishing times for Men and Women.

RAFFLES: All Capuchins' Run/Walk participants are eligible for wonderful prizes. Must be present to win.

1 MILE WALK:

Non-competitive walk.
Not eligible for scoring or awards.
\$20 Adult, \$10 Child [\$25 and \$15 after June 5]
Child must be 12 or younger on race day.

TEAM INFO:

Teams of 10 or more runners/walkers/or both are eligible to have your team name printed on your shirts AND you will receive the Early Bird Discount. Registration deadline is June 5.

Please register online at:

www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org

PARTICIPANT REWARDS: Commemorative T-Shirt • FREE Polish Fest Admission all Weekend

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: Payment must be postmarked or completed online by **June 5, 2016**.
After June 5, shirt sizes cannot be guaranteed.

Individual registration is available below or through www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org

Have a team of 10 or more? Please register your team at www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org

Photocopies are accepted. Detach along dashed line

REGISTRATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT

Name	Run/Walk	Male/Female	Age Runners Only	T-Shirt Mark Adult or Youth	Amount
1				<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	
2				<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	
3				<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	
4				<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	
5				<input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	

Individual who is completing form:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My extra gift to the Capuchins to feed the homeless and hungry: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Check (Payable to: Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry) Credit Card: VISA MasterCard Discover Am Ex

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____

I hereby waive all claims against The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, Polish Fest, Inc., Polish Heritage Alliance, Inc., Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., City of Milwaukee and the Board of Harbor Commissioners, race personnel and all sponsors for any injuries from which I may suffer while taking part in this event or as a result thereof. I grant permission to all of the aforementioned to use any photographs, motion pictures, videotapes or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose. Participant Signature (or guardian if under 18).

SIGNATURE: _____

Return Form & Payment to: Capuchins' Run/Walk for the Hungry
P.O. Box 5830, Milwaukee, WI 53205 • Phone: 414-374-8841, ext. 41

***Please write in each participants' t-shirt size. 2016 t-shirts are available in sizes:**

- Youth Small
- Youth Medium
- Small
- Large
- XL
- 2XL
- 3XL