

Capuchin Community Services

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Once Suicidal & Homeless, Guest Finds Support St. Ben's Community Meal, House of Peace & Capuchin Apts support healing

"It's nice to have someplace to call home and to know it's going to be there," Joe Drier said. While he was referring to the Capuchin Apartments, he could have just as easily been speaking about St. Ben's Community Meal or the House of Peace. He explained, "The Capuchins have helped me with clothing, work, housing and food. It's amazing that the whole ministry is asking what they can do for me, really for anyone!"

Joe grew up in a large family upstate. "My dad worked and my mom stayed home to raise us. Eventually I moved and began to grapple with bi-polar disorder. I became suicidal and it was during my hospitalization that I began to accept my problem." He said, "I've learned to be thankful, it's easy to feel sorry for yourself. But it is better to accept the situation and make the most of it."

"I eat at St. Ben's Community Meal at least 4 to 5 nights per week. I sit with friends but even if they aren't here it is nice to sit next to someone and listen to their day," said Joe. "To me it's not only a meal but also a chance to associate with others. If I am sitting with people I don't know I usually talk about the Packers." Joe smiled and said, "But you know there's lots of Bears fans here too."

Joe has lived elsewhere and is very enthusiastic about the experience of living at the Capuchin Apartments. "They are wonderful. The building is nice and the common areas are all clean." Joe especially likes the staff. "There are lots of places where you can have problems in the apartment

building and they won't help you. The Capuchin Apartments have staff on site to help you."

Capuchin Community Services pays for supportive services staff to help residents who have struggled with mental illness and drug/alcohol addiction issues. The counselor and addiction specialist both have offices on the first floor of the apartments.

Joe is appreciative of the extra services offered at the apartments. "They print a newsletter with information on special events, have a workout room, a computer room and laundry." Joe added, "I can't participate in many of the daytime events as I work Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at the Meal."

Br. Rob Roemer, Ministry Director said, "Joe is a very reliable worker. We hired him to clean our offices. He washes the floors and the bathroom that we offer for the homeless to get cleaned up in each afternoon."

Joe smiled and he added, "I also help Dean, the Kitchen Manager, pick up food and supplies from various places around the city." Joe has also visited the House of Peace.

"Last year my father passed away. I didn't have a suit so Br. Rob took me to the House of Peace to get some clothing."

Br. Rob said, "Joe's story reflects several of our Capuchin values but most especially Empowerment. Each time we encourage Joe to realize and respect his innate dignity we see more growth. Joe has truly become a valued member of our team at Capuchin Community Services."



▲ Wilbur Way of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish serves Joe Drier. Volunteers from OLL Church have been serving at St. Ben's for over 40 years.

▶ Joe mops the office at St. Ben's Community Meal three times each week.



Save The Date!

March 12, 2016

Lenten Morning Reflection

9:30 AM to Noon, House of Peace

Join us for a morning reflection as we continue our Lent. Capuchin friars will lead the reflection.

April 15, 2016

48th Anniversary - House of Peace

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Br. Booker Ashe Room, House of Peace

We will celebrate 48 years of ministry with a dinner.

To receive an invitation

to either event go to:

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Scroll to bottom and click on Sign Up.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace

Capuchin Clothes Closet

Sort clothing in the morning, opportunities most weekdays.

Volunteer one or more mornings per month. Group/school opportunities as well. To sign up call: **Gerri Sheets-Howard, 414.933.1300, ext. 11**

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*

Gratitude & Thanks

This is the season we take time to express our thanks and gratitude for the many blessings we receive in life, big and small. It is easy to be thankful for the big things in life. It takes a bit more practice to learn to recognize and be thankful for the smaller things, especially those that we receive each day.

If you have ever served at our meal, or been to the food pantry & clothing center, you will hear a lot of gratitude for what most of us take for granted each day. You can hear "thank you's" all the way down the serving line and on the floor where people are receiving beverages or help with their trays. The "thank you's" are loud and obvious as the guests walk away from the pantry with their bags and boxes. It is quite amazing to me to see such gratitude. I know I don't always thank people for serving me or giving me food, especially if I am paying for it. I just expect it.

In the same respect I am also aware that the work we are able to do in our pantry, clothing center, meal program and front doors, are only possible because others are so good to us. Each of you supports us in 1 way or another. If it weren't for your generosity, our works would never be possible. So I want to say a big THANK YOU to all of you that help us out. I am truly grateful. I also ask that during this season we all try to be mindful of the many blessings we receive in life, big and small.



Guests at Meal welcome Cap Corps Volunteer

◀ *Allen Pettengill, a frequent guest at St. Ben's Community Meal welcomes Brigid Anne Rush to the ministry. Brigid is a volunteer with Capuchin Volunteer Corps - Midwest and originally from Rochester, MN. She is serving at both ministry sites for Capuchin Community Services.*

Blessings of Service

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

Appreciative & Joyful

As I turned the corner, heading towards work, I could see the line of anxious guests queuing up for the Capuchin Holiday Food & Toy registration. Some had brought lawn chairs, and others were shifting from side to side from the long wait. The announcement for the registration stated that it would start at 9:30am; however the guests arrived early, desiring to be sure that they will be counted as one of the thousands to receive the holiday baskets.

At approximately 9:20 am I went out with a set of numbers to distribute, which would allow the first 70 guests inside to register. The guests were joyful and appreciative. Many looked at me with smiles of gratitude, and I in turn was humbled. I pondered, why are they so excited for something that they will not receive for well over a month from now? They left home early, some brought something to sit upon, others had small children in hand, and there were even a few seniors in the line. They came with hopeful expectations of a pleasant Holiday that they would spend with loved ones.

They know that they can count on Capuchin Community Services to assist, when a need arises in their lives. They know that even though they have been laid off from work, their small children will still be able to have a few toys under the Christmas tree. They know that when they finally get through the front doors, that they will be treated with dignity and hospitality at a place called, "The House of Peace."



Thousands Register for Holiday Boxes & Toys

Guests Line Up at St. Ben's Meal & House of Peace for Assistance



▲ Jamecia Evans brought her three sons along to register for a holiday food box and Christmas toys.



▲ Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.Div., (standing) and Capuchin Brother David Hirt (sitting) help register the guests. Those with children receive a food box and toys for Christmas. Households without children receive a food box at Thanksgiving.



▲ Jeffrey Anderson came with a family member to register for a box.



▲ (L to R) Margaret Blair, Betty Rimmelz and Gerald Chunou registered for food boxes. The House of Peace's Emergency Food Pantry also distributed donated food including soup and produce.

Our Ministry Council

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

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

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

Dove Notes

by Fr. Perry McDonald, OFM, Capuchin

I usually think of time as just a succession of ordinary moments in a day. Nothing much special about this moment of time as I write this, I say. If I were living in the Greek culture, they would say I am experience "kronos" – just ordinary time.

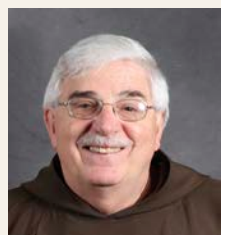
But if I experienced a heart-stopping moment of time, a moment when my head swirled around to see where a loud noise came from, a moment when my heart was about to burst because of love for another, a life-changing moment, the Greeks would say that I just experienced "kairos", a special time.

A "kairos" moment is what St. Mark announces in the first chapter of his gospel: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand." God, in the flesh of Jesus, had just burst upon the human scene. Now everything is different. Even time has changed. God has captured time to use it for His purposes, that is, to build the Kingdom of God.

Most of us spend a lot of time acting as if we are no one special, with no special calling or responsibilities, like living in ordinary time. Perhaps if we would see with different eyes that every moment is a kairos moment we would become much more excited about life. I wonder how different we would be if we saw ourselves as partners with God, given special time to help build God's Kingdom by helping everyone to have what they need. When we realize that we are partnering with God to help the poor, we are living in "kairos" time.

Fr. Perry McDonald OFM Cap

Pastoral Director



Long Time Staff Member to Retire

Larry Ampe retires from St. Ben's Community Meal after 25 years of service

"I am very thankful for the opportunity that I've had to minister at St. Ben's both as a Capuchin friar and an employee," Larry said. It was June of 1990 when Larry Ampe, then Br. Larry came to St. Ben's Community Meal. Even after leaving the order he stayed on at St. Ben's to minister to the homeless and poor of Milwaukee.

"I first served as Kitchen Manager and worked with all the groups that help serve the meal." He added, "I also handled the finances and was the administrative assistant." Larry smiled as he remembered his 25 years of service. "Over the years I've met many wonderful people both as guests and volunteers."

Larry continued, "It was a real honor to work in the kitchen with so many caring people. What really stands out to me is how devoted they all have been to St. Ben's. I'll miss my contact with the many people I've come to see as friends."

When asked about his plans for retirement after December Larry said, "I don't have any plans yet. I am looking forward to the opportunity to travel and more biking time." Br. Rob Roemer said, "No matter where Larry goes or what he does he will be missed by all at St. Ben's Community Meal. His commitment to our ministry has continued through all the seasons of his life. Ad multos annos, Larry!"



▲ **Bradley Center Snackbar:** Larry coordinated St. Ben's Meal's volunteers at the Bradley Center for years. The program generated tens of thousands of dollars to feed the hungry.



▲ **Kitchen Manager:** The job Larry handled for the majority of his time at St. Ben's Meal led him to have many positive contacts with guests and volunteers.



▲ **Training Volunteers:** Larry trained Archbishop Jerome Listeck and many thousands of volunteers how to serve the meal to the homeless, mentally ill & hungry.

Capuchins' Warm Winter Drive Donations of Blankets and Winter Clothing needed to clothe the needy

Capuchin Community Services needs your help to keep Milwaukee's homeless and working poor warm this winter. We are accepting donations now until the end of winter. We are looking for the following items:

• Blankets	• Adult Boots
• Scarves	• Children's Winter Coats
• Adult Winter Coats	• Children's Gloves
• Adult Sweat Shirts	• Children's Hats
• Adult Hats & Gloves	• Children's Boots

Can your school, church, workplace or group help? Consider holding a Warm Winter Drive this fall for the homeless and needy. You can drop them off at either the House of Peace or St. Ben's Community Meal.

For additional information go to:

www.capuchincommunityservices.org/ways-to-help/special-drives/capuchins-warm-winter-drive

Gifts of Stock Can Care for those in Need

How to Make a Gift of Stock to Capuchin Community Services

1. Inform your broker you want to make a gift to **The Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order** (our legal name).
2. Your broker will send the gift of stock to:
Chase Investments
465 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-1660
3. Notify our development office & stock broker of your gift so we may provide you with a thank you letter with information for tax purposes. Be sure to inform us the gift is "**for the benefit of Capuchin Community Services.**" If you have any questions, please contact:

Stock Broker:

Mark Maddock
734-697-1660
mark.o.maddock@jpmorgan.com

Development Administrator:

Jim Van Hoven
414-416-4284
jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org



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