

# Capuchin Community Services

[www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org)

## Apprenticeship Secured, Guest Thanks Supporters Food, Clothing, Counseling and a Roof Over His Head

Thin and athletic, you can see that Kaiphus works in construction. "I worked as a laborer remodeling large apartment complexes," Kaiphus said. "I would go in and do the demolition on the projects. I felt I was being exploited so I wanted to get into a trade rather than just hauling debris."

Kaiphus confided, "I have a mental illness and have been homeless. Capuchin Community Services has been key to my recovery. I depend on them for food, clothing and shelter right now." Linda Barnes, Social Worker explained, "Time for a Turnaround is our program to help guests like Kaiphus stand on their own. The goal is to help guests who don't like how their life has been going to find the strategies that will help them create a better situation for themselves."

Linda paused and added, "Everyone ...has... their personal issues and concerns. All have been healed by grace, and now they are learning to walk in their gift of healing. This is a spiritually based group. We know that God first is the only way to achieve a true and everlasting turnaround. We know that there is hope in all situations."

She continued, "Kaiphus is in our men's group. These men... have come with their own issues, but it is amazing to see how they encourage and support each other. They can put aside self and focus on the person whose issue is on the table. It is obvious that each man is concerned for the growth and welfare of every brother. These men are awesome!"

Kaiphus agreed and said, "Ms. Barnes is a real good facilitator. When you had a problem, you put it on the table and have input on how to solve it. Much better than trying to solve it alone!" He explained, "I was able to identify what my goals were including getting into a drywall finish apprenticeship and any obstacles. Capuchin Community Services helped me get and submit my transcripts to the apprenticeship program. Then they helped me get a driver's license including applying online, setting up a test date and getting the fee together for that license."



▲ Kaiphus poses with Linda Barnes, Social Worker at Capuchin Community Services' House of Peace site after a meeting.

A resident of the Capuchins Apartments for almost a year, Kaiphus said, "I've lived with other people, "couch surfing" when homeless. Now I have permanent housing of my own. I don't share it with anyone else so no one else's problems are mine. That also helps me focus on my goals."

Br. Rob Roemer said, "The Time for a Turnaround program really reflects one of my province's primary values, Empowerment." He explained, "We accept our guests where they are and want to encourage them to find solutions to their challenges. We don't just want to solve problems, we want to reinforce the self-respect and potential of every guest. That will better equip them for solving issues for themselves going forward."

Kaiphus said, "I know that you will share my story with the donors. Please thank them for me, without their support I would still be living on the street." With a big smile, Linda said, "Your attitude of gratitude just made my day!"

**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

**Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**  
Saturday, November 11, 2017

**Christ King Parish**  
2604 N Swan Blvd  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## House of Peace

Front Desk Coverage: Mon-Fri

- We are looking for 1 to 2 people to help us cover the front desk, answer phones and receive donations during the lunch hour of 12-1 pm. Must be able to lift 10 lbs. or more. To sign up call: **Volunteer Coordinator at 414.933.1300, ext. 1123.**

## St. Ben's Community Meal

Meal Hall Cleaning Crew: Mon-Sat

- We are looking for a group of 5-7 people to help us on a rotating basis clean our dining hall. It would be 1-2 hours Monday-Friday anytime between 11-3pm or Saturday after 2pm. If group contains children we require at least one adult to supervise while in facility. To help call: **Volunteer Coordinator at 414.271.0135, ext. 1123.**

## Capuchin Apartments

Residents' Meal & Meeting: Monthly

- We are looking for groups to provide a meal to our residents in our Capuchin Apartments complex located at 2502 W. Tamarack. The community room holds about 25-30 people and has a small kitchen. We are looking for groups to provide meal service once a month. Choose a Monday-Thursday night from 5-6:30 pm. To help call: **Volunteer Coordinator at 414.271.0135, ext. 1123.**

## HOW TO DONATE

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

[www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org)

**Or mail your gift to:**

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

*Capuchin Community Services is a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Unless otherwise directed, donations support the local ministry and the Province.*

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

## Roaming Ministry

by Br. Rob Roemer, OFM, Capuchin Director

### Thank God Ahead of Time

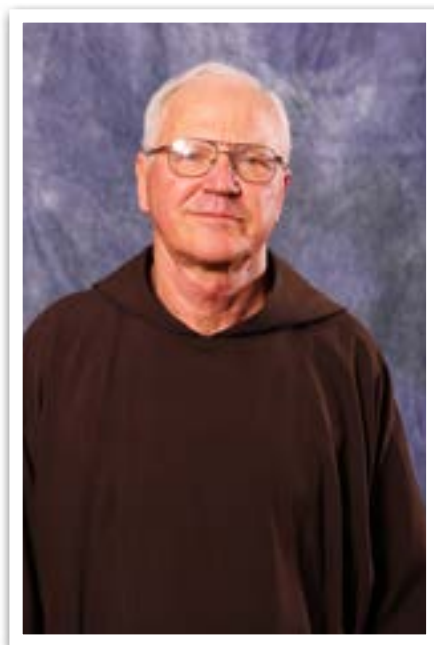
Wow! The summer sure flew by fast. Hard to believe we are into Fall already. In this season of noticeable changes, I cannot help but reflect on the changes here at Capuchin Community Services. We had a good Run/Walk for the Hungry at Polish Fest, even though our numbers were down considerably.

We saw Dean Lex, Kitchen Manager, retire, and Don Rytman come on Board. Welcome Don! Shirelle Jenkins moved from receptionist at House of Peace site, into Volunteer coordinator for both sites. Keisha Harrell-Davis is the new receptionist. You probably noticed a few other new faces around with other part time staff. We welcome them as well.

We are very close to breaking ground on our St. Anthony building renovation. We have secured \$2 million (which we needed to break ground) of the \$2.5 million goal. Thanks to so many for your generosity! Did you know that the former St. Anthony Hospital, where we will remodel and move our services, is designated as an historical building? We still have a few issues to address with the State and Federal Historic Preservation Society, but the end result will be even more impressive because of the attention to all the historic details!

Our numbers at the Community Meal have been smaller this summer than summers past, but we still saw 60-80 kids/night. The Pantry at House of Peace also saw larger crowds. The parents tell us they run out of food much faster when the kids are home from school. Thanks to each of you who help keep us going. I wish you a safe and beautiful Fall season. Please remember our guests living outdoors as the nights turn cooler.

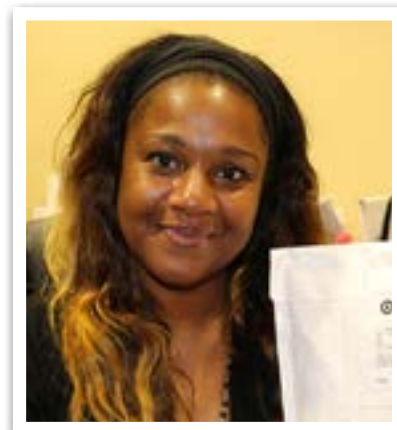
### Staff Arrivals & Departures



▲ Capuchin Br. Jerry Smith has joined the ministry. He will serve in both social work and pastoral roles. Br. Jerry is originally from Milwaukee and has a degree in Social Work.



▲ Br. Rob Roemer (R) joins the guests in saying "Grace" led by Dave Majerus at Capuchin Community Services' St. Ben's Community Meal site.



► Keisha Harrell-Davis is the new receptionist at the House of Peace. Among her new duties, Keisha receives donations made through the Target Gift Registry.



▲ Shirelle Jenkins started as the receptionist at the House of Peace. She's moved into the Volunteer Coordinator position for Capuchin Community Services. Call her today to volunteer!



# Blessings of Service

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

## Saying Goodbye

At CCS we interact with so many guests who view us as their extended family. In many cases we feel the same way. One of our faithful guests for many years, Bertha Brown tragically passed away recently. Bert, as we affectionately called her, always made an entrance. As most who struggle with securing the most basic of needs, she could be challenging on some days, and the biggest helper on most days.

Bert was usually willing to assist others with carrying heavy boxes to their cars. A picture of her as a participant in the poetry class offered at the HOP site, recently appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. She was quite excited about this positive portrayal of her, which was not always the norm. Bert had an edge about her, which may be a result of her poverty stricken environment. Yet she was so willing to be vulnerable in her poetry writing, in her willingness to help others, and transparency about her personal struggles.



▲ Bertha serving with others. She died as a result of a violent crime in August.

► Gerri coordinated the Walk marshalls at the Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry this summer.



I was recently asked by The American Cancer Society, The American Lung Society, and Feeding America cohort, to recommend community leaders to participate in a study of nutritional needs in the 53205 zip code area. I told Bert that I believed that she would have so much to offer to this study, and invited her to participate. She was very excited and fully participated by offering her insights revolving around the needs in her community.

It is so hard to say goodbye to those guests that you work with on a daily basis for years. It is even more difficult to image how different the center and community is going to be without them. Our hearts ache due to the lost opportunities and the void that will be experienced. So we won't say goodbye to Bert, we will just say, "See you later."

## Who We Are

Capuchin Community Services is a ministry of **The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph**, a religious community of friars inspired by St Francis of Assisi. Our friars live and work with those who are in need of help... the poor, the disenfranchised, and the needy.



## 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
- Wendy Hermann
- Pam Meyer
- Duncan Shrout
- Gerri Sheets-Howard (Administrative Director)
- Br Rob Roemer (Ministry Director)
- Jeff Parrish (Director of Provincial Ministries)

## Summer of Service

### Guests & volunteers share a meal in the heat



**1** Standing at attention, Vet Willie Robinson said he'd been coming to St. Ben's Community Meal for the last year. Living in an apartment nearby, Willie said, "It's wonderful, they give you enough food, no hassles and I can bring some home to eat later."

**2** Alicia & Tony Jones approached St. Ben's on a hot July day. Guests told them, "No need to wait in line, they'll seat you now." The security guards said, "Don't be afraid, come right in and we'll bring the food to you." Overwhelmed by kindness, dad Tony said, "They don't discriminate at all!"

**3** Monica came in to volunteer from the suburbs. "I have been sober for 7 years," she said. "I like to see people smile when they get their food."

# St. Anthony Project

by Dan McKinley, Capital Campaign Consultant

## Update



Readers of this newsletter over the years have learned about the guests who are served by the Capuchins' St. Bens Community Meal and the House of Peace, their strength of character through harsh struggles while homeless, and our common humanity. So I know you will share our excitement about the progress of the St. Anthony campaign, which will transform the abandoned hospital building connected to St. Ben's into a flourishing center of care for the homeless community.

This historic transformation has multiple purposes, including a new indoor gathering space that will enable our guests to clean up, warm up and socialize before the meal, and enter the meal hall directly, rather than standing in a line outside. A space for showers, laundry, and other services currently being provided in the Capuchin's living quarters. And to top it all off, a space that will include 60 permanent apartments for people who are now homeless.

## Local Gallery Offers Art Class Guests at House of Peace & St. Ben's Meal Included

Staff at the Portrait Society Gallery in the Third Ward have been working on an art project to give homeless and poor residents a voice. Kathleen Tousignant, Curatorial Assistant at the gallery located said, "Our art project and class, "On the Wing" was inspired by the homeless people we meet. We've taught classes at both the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal."

Kathleen explained, "Many of these people are never heard by anyone. We give each participant a sketchbook and offer a payment of \$50 when they return the book to us. They have an opportunity to develop their artistic voice and we display the books at a special event where we auction them off to pay for more sketch books and art classes."



▲ Dan McKinley, Capital Campaign Consultant (2nd from L) leads a tour of the former St. Anthony's Hospital for community leaders with the contractors. Br. Rob Roemer, (2nd from R) leans in to answer a question.

The vision for St. Anthony has gained the support of many compassionate people, neighboring businesses and philanthropic leaders—over 1,200 donors have contributed more than \$2,070,000! Thanks to this strong and timely support, Capuchin Community Services will be able to meet the financing deadline and construction is scheduled to begin this autumn.

Although we still must raise roughly \$400,000 for furniture, fixtures and related expenses for the new facilities, we are thanking God ahead of time, in the spirit of Fr. Solanus Casey. We are thankful above all that our new facilities at St. Anthony will have the capacity to offer the best care possible to the most vulnerable people in Milwaukee—the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.



▲ Kjara Howard brought her brothers and son to the House of Peace recently and participated in art class. Jack Mulhern, artist and volunteer encourages the children. Kathleen Tousignant, Curatorial Assistant at the Portrait Society Gallery reviews a participant's sketch book.



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### Capuchin Community Services

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



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

Support our ministry: [www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate) or by mail to P.O. Box 5830, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0830