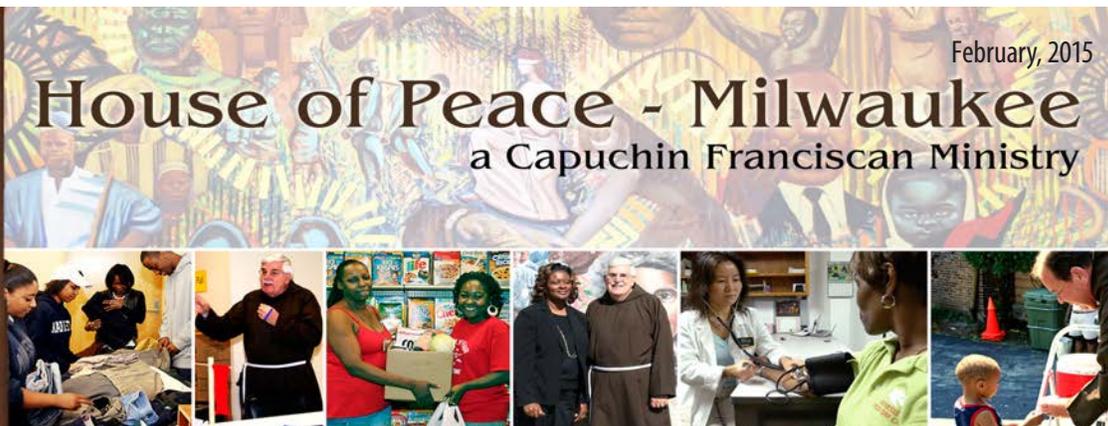


# House of Peace - Milwaukee

a Capuchin Franciscan Ministry



## Christmas Cheer for Unemployed Mom & Kids

### Toys, Food Box, Warm Winter Drives All Help

Tears welled up as Andale remembered her life in California. She said, "I met my husband when he was serving in the military. I lived near the base and we fell in love."

Divorced, Andale moved to Wisconsin so her sons could be near her ex-husband and his large extended family. "They are wonderful and really love my boys. Da'Marreyah is 14 years old and Jumarion is 5 years old."

"I miss my family and friends in Southern California but it is much better for my kids to be able to have their dad and grandparents around," Andale said. "I lost my job in March as a head teller at a bank. I am also in school working on my B.A."

The economic strain of trying to finish college while unemployed led Andale to look up Christmas Toy programs on the internet. She found the House of Peace and contacted Gerri Sheets-Howard, Ministry Director.

Because of the generosity of our donors, Gerri was able to invite Andale to participate in a Christmas toy distribution. She also received her choice of winter clothing and all the food needed for a Christmas feast in a Holiday Food Box.

As this was Andale's first visit to the House of Peace Gerri asked her if she had received all she needed. Andale said, "Thank you so much, I am very pleased

with all of these gifts!" Andale continued, "I make ends meet right now by doing odd jobs. Sometimes I do some light cleaning and dusting but I don't qualify to receive any benefits." Andale's dream is to land a job in the HR

Department of a large employer. She attends Cardinal Stritch University while her sons attend Messmer Catholic Schools.

Turning to the gift bags Andale pulled several toys out and explained why she chose them. "My little one likes to draw so I got him some markers and a Curious George book." She continued, "For his older brother I got Ninja Turtles and the game, 'Trouble'."

As she thought about Christmas morning and her children's surprise at receiving the gifts she began to cry. "I feel very lonely here so far from where I grew up. But I know my husband's family will make sure my children have a great holiday so it is worth it."

Fr. Perry McDonald, Pastoral Director said, "One of our Capuchin values is hospitality and we define it as creating an environment where people are safe,

welcomed and their gifts are valued. We can minister to those, like Andale and her family, because our donors give us the funds, food, toys and clothing to share. I thank everyone for their generosity during the holidays. You are doing so much good for people like Andale who are making large sacrifices for their children."



▲ Andale Newell poses with Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald, Pastoral Director. Fr. Perry presented Andale with a blanket received through the Warm Winter Drive. Then she received toys for her children, food for Christmas dinner and books.

# Blessings of Service

by Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.A., Executive Director

All of the wrapping paper has been thrown away, Christmas decorations placed in storage, and only the remembrance of the Holiday meals enjoyed with family and friends remain. Yet, approximately two thousand families were beneficiaries of the Capuchin Holiday Food Box, and many of their children received toys for Christmas.

The contents in the Holiday boxes allowed parents/guardians to prepare a wonderful meal to share with others.

Many parishes, schools, businesses, and other organizations donated the food boxes and toys that were distributed. Imagine the joy that the parents and children experienced on Christmas Day. Please know how much your thoughtfulness is appreciated by not

only the families, but the House of Peace as well.



▲ (Left) Gerri Sheets-Howard, Ministry Director sat with the guests as they enjoyed "Breakfast with Baby Jesus. This is an annual Christmas Breakfast and Pageant put on by St. Francis Borgia Parish, Cedarburg.

The Holiday Food/Toy Distribution is such a huge undertaking, and many volunteers assisted with coordinating box pick-ups, registering families for the distribution, facilitating the empowerment classes,

distributing the food boxes, and acting as Santa's elves.

I am grateful to all of our volunteers, donors, and to a hard-working staff for another successful Holiday Distribution. I am overwhelmed by all of the outpouring of donations, and by the appreciation that the guests shared with me. I hope that the New Year brings to you and your families peace and joy!

## Sargento's Shares



▲ Sargento's employees' Rob Tune (L) and Stuart Manning (R) present Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald with 100 pounds of cheese. This is the first of 12 donations pledged by Sargento's to the House of Peace Emergency Food Pantry. Gerri Sheets-Howard, Ministry Director said, "High quality protein like this is desperately needed in our community. We are so grateful to Sargento's for this gift and their pledge of support in 2015."

## House of Peace Ministry Council

**Chairperson:**  
Diane Knight, M.S.W.

**Members At Large:**  
Chuck Cmeyla  
Julie J. Darnieder, J.D.  
Felice Green, M.B.S.  
Anthony Myers  
Br. Rob Roemer, O.F.M., Capuchin

**Pastoral Director:**  
Fr. Perry McDonald,  
O.F.M., Capuchin

**Executive Director:**  
Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.Div.

*The House of Peace is a 501(c)(3) ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.*

## House of Peace Services

- Emergency Food Pantry
- Clothing Center
- Spiritual Care
- Nursing Clinic
- Legal Clinic
- Social Worker
- Meeting Space
- Teen Scholarship Program
- Medical Supplies Loaning Closet
- Chapel

## Social Networking



Facebook.com/  
HouseOfPeaceMKE



Twitter.com/HouseOfPeace



YouTube.com/  
HouseOfPeaceMKE

# B

Our blog is a collection of short stories on our website at: <http://bit.ly/HOPblog>

# Over 110 Groups Held Holiday Food Box or Toy Drives

More than 8,300 people living in poverty turn to the House of Peace for assistance



◀ Fr. Perry explains how his robe and rope mean he follows St. Francis of Assisi to Religious Education students at St. Alphonsus Parish, Greendale.



▶ Br. Carl Schaefer receives food and Christmas cards from children at Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay.



◀ Fr. Perry receives a quilt made by kindergarten students at St. Jude Parish, Wauwatosa Religious Ed. See Page 1 to follow the quilt as it keeps another 5 year old warm.



▶ Fr. Perry poses with members of Knights of Columbus Council #3702 Brookfield and some of the guests whom they served.



◀ The Sutton & Fowler families enjoyed Breakfast with Baby Jesus. This annual Christmas brunch & pageant is put on by St. Francis Borgia Parish, Cedarburg.



▶ The Quad Parish Youth Ministry of St. Dominic, St. John Vianney, St. Joseph, and St. Mary's Visitation donated toys collected at their annual Winter Dance.

## Milwaukee Bucks Help 150 Families Celebrate Thanksgiving



▲ Jason Kidd, Coach, Milwaukee Bucks welcomes everyone. Students from Dominican HS helped distribute boxes.



▲ Christine gets a hug from Bango, the Milwaukee Bucks mascot. She signed up at St. Ben's Meal.



▲ Anisty looks at Bango's costume while mom Dorothy smiles.

I was hungry and you gave me food... I was naked and you gave me clothing... (Matthew Chapter 25)



# Dove Notes



by Fr. Perry McDonald, OFM, Capuchin

When I worked in Cordova, Alaska for a few weeks I was told that there was a beautifully clear lake, named Crater Lake, at the top of a small mountain. But the people of the village told me it was a difficult climb; nonetheless I decided to try it. The trail was, indeed, exhausting. At times I had to follow a stream, stepping on large slippery rocks; at other times the path was so narrow that I had to lean against the hill so as not to tumble off of it. But after a hike of 90 minutes I came upon a small lake cradled in the crater of the mountain. I sat for a long time, now realizing that I was the only one there, enjoying its simple beauty as I ate my lunch. Indeed, the hike was difficult, but worth it.

Abram and his wife Sarah were invited by God to go on an extremely long hike into a land where God would eventually tell them to settle down where they would be rewarded as the founders of a new nation (See Genesis 12:1-4). Jesus told Peter, James and John to climb a mountain with him (wouldn't they be more comfortable on water than climbing up hills?) where they were

rewarded with a vision of Jesus in conversation with Moses and Elijah (See Matthew 17:1-9).

All this helps me remember that as we move more into Lent we are being invited to take up some difficult new tasks that will bring us closer to God or to one another. It is easy to shy away from difficult choices that would increase our charity to another or to the poor that would help forgive another for past hurts that would make us more open to God through prayer. It can be hard to choose a penance that would truly help us. But the rewards are worth it, as Abram and Sarah, Peter, James, John, and multitudes of Christians have experienced as well.

Can you choose a penance that would help the guests who need the House of Peace?

Fr. Perry McDonald, O.F.M., Capuchin  
Pastoral Director

## Generous Donor Support Helps Thousands In 2014

### House of Peace provides food, clothing, counseling & other services to the needy

#### Food Pantry

Men	4617
Women	5734
Children	7143
Total Individuals	17494
Infant Formula Homes	460
Senior Stock Boxes	4873
Bread	13934

#### Direct Help

Men	2876
Women	3785
Children	7640
Total Individuals	14301
Total Households	2750

#### Holiday Drives

<b>Thanksgiving:</b>	
Men	872
Women	1037
Children	872
Total Individuals	2781
Total Households	1425
<b>Christmas:</b>	
Men	744
Women	1592
Children	3190
Total Individuals	5526
Total Households	1075

#### Clothes Closet

Men	2995
Women	6235
Children	10270
Total Individuals	19500
Total Households	9230

#### Other Services

Daily Groups	316
Other Visitors	2325
HOP Volunteers	2454
Mass/Chapel	3525
Total	27871



**Note:** Statistics for UW-M Nursing Clinic & Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic will be published later in the year.