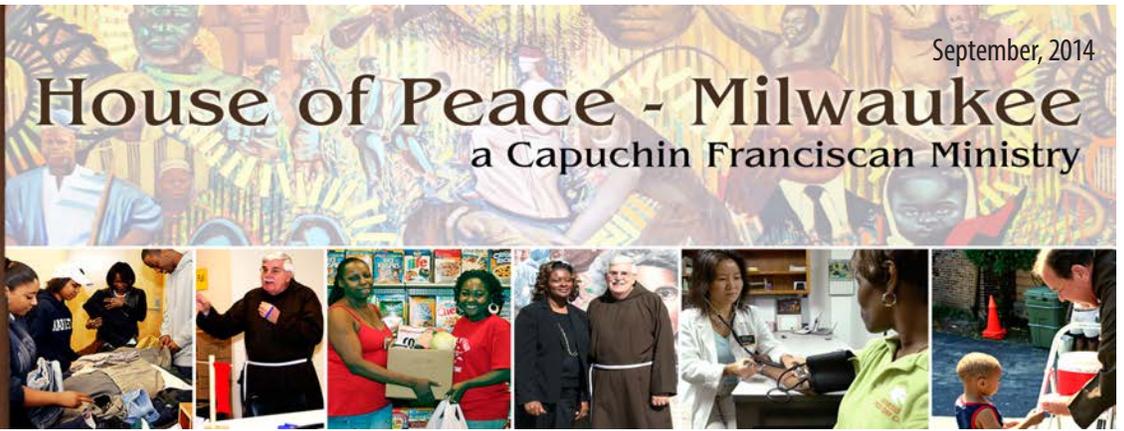


House of Peace - Milwaukee

a Capuchin Franciscan Ministry



High School Student Finds Hope at House of Peace

Initiative by Ministry Director focuses on root causes of violence

“The violence on our city’s streets often has innocent victims. I wanted to give at least one student a safe environment to develop leadership

skills,” said Gerri Sheets-Howard, Ministry Director. Alexis Davis is a 17 year old high school student now working at the House of Peace for the summer.

“I will be a senior at Riverside University High School this fall and hope to go to college,” Alexis said with a smile. “I am very shy but in this job I have to speak to lots of people. I’ve learned that it is really fun to get to know so many people.”

Alexis continued, “The guests are very nice and respectful. In the food pantry I stock shelves and do paperwork.” Gerri explained, “We require guests to fill out a simple survey with their contact information, the number of people in their household and proof of need. Alexis is helping us to be accountable to our donors and the Hunger Task Force.”

“Miss Gerri has taught me to work with others. She helped me to see that no matter what the guests are going through I can be there for them.” Alexis added, “I’d like to help

people someday as a police officer. After high school I’d like to attend a 2 year college and then serve my community in uniform.”



▲ Alexis Davis helps hang up clothing in the Capuchin Clothes Closet with Choua Vang, Supervisor. Guests are able to select up to 15 items per family member when they visit the clothing center. Donations are always needed. Clothing can be dropped off Monday to Friday, 9 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. The drop off doors are accessible from the 17th Street side of the building. A semicircular driveway makes drop off quick and easy.

Alexis has also worked in the Capuchin Clothes Closet. “I sort and fold clothing. Then I hang it up and help others to pick out the clothing they need.” Gerri added, “Employing Alexis part time 5 days per week has been a great help to us and transformative for her. She has earned money to help her family pay for school clothing and supplies this fall. If every company could take just one young person each off the street we could reduce violent crime in Milwaukee.”

Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald, Pastoral Director commented,

“Gerri’s initiative this summer reflects virtually all of our Capuchin values. She has responded with compassion in a way that builds peace by promoting a structural change - full employment - and that creates a more just order.” To learn more about the charism of the friars go to:

<http://www.thecapuchins.org/who-we-are/charism>.

Blessings of Service

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

I recently received a delightful call from a parish volunteer, requesting a tour of our facility. As we talked, she began to share how she came to be a volunteer for the House of Peace. She had fond memories of working with our Founder, Br. Booker Ashe. She was retiring, after 35 years of volunteering through her parish; it was now time to train her replacement. I begin to think about a similar situation that the House of Peace was in. We had just placed a job announcement for the position of receptionist.

Our receptionist will be retiring at the end of September, after 35 years of employment. She had recently recounted to me her first interactions with Br. Booker and the House of Peace. Shirley Patterson-Bordeaux, was a young mother, looking for a job to support her family. She was initially hired for a

temporary assignment of 2 weeks. She completed the two weeks, and again went in search of employment. Three months later, Shirley was hired as the receptionist for the House of Peace, after the position became available again.

Shirley is an extraordinary woman, who fought the odds of poverty, and raised three daughters. She has provided exceptional culinary skills for many special occasions at the House of Peace. It has been Shirley's face that has welcomed countless guests, volunteers, and donors to our center. She will be greatly missed. The partnership with St. Jude's parish, and especially with long-time volunteer Mary Jane Horlitz has helped us to fulfill our mission "to serve Christ's poor." We wish both women the best, as they begin a new season in their lives.

After a Combined 70 Years of Service, Well-Deserved Retirement for Staff & Volunteer

In 1980 Mount St. Helens erupted and Rubik's Cube became a national obsession. Two women came to the House of Peace that year to start a remarkable 35 yearlong commitment to serving the poor. Shirley Patterson-Boudreaux was a young mother needing help feeding her family. Br. Booker Ashe saw Shirley's potential and hired her as receptionist, friendly ear and keeper of the peace.

Mary Jane Horlitz came from St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Wauwatosa to

volunteer. "I remember Br. Booker speaking at our church. We wanted to make an ongoing financial gift to help feed those in need." The parish has continued its commitment to the House of Peace ever since.

For 35 years Mary Jane volunteered while Shirley served as staff to the growing ministry. Both Shirley and Mary Jane will retire this month. Br. Booker has gone home to

the Lord but the ladies posed for their picture in the large meeting room named for their mentor.



▲ Shirley Bordeaux, Receptionist and Mary Jane Horlitz, Volunteer celebrate their retirement plans after 35 years of service to the needy at the House of Peace.

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
Thelma Sias
Sr. Shawnee Sykes, SSND
Pang Vang, RN, MED, CHES
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
- American Cancer Society Loaning Closet
- Chapel

Social Networking



Facebook.com/
HouseOfPeaceMKE



Twitter.com/HouseOfPeace



YouTube.com/
HouseOfPeaceMKE

Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry 2014

Over 2,950 people register to Run or Walk & help feed their neighbors!



▲ House of Peace Ministry Council member Chuck Cmeyla helps a team captain picking up team shirts, runners' bibs, gift cards and other supplies.



▲ Ministry Director Gerri Sheets-Howard (center) poses with two of her sisters, Brenda Sheets (left) and Phyllis Sheets-Neely (right).



▲ Fr. Perry McDonald, Pastoral Director starting the 2 mile walk. Over half the crowd walked the course.

► Fr. Perry (at microphone) welcomes almost 3,000 people who came to run or walk for the hungry. Also on stage are friars from St. Ben's Community Meal, emcee Bill Michaels, friar Tom Nguyen and other characters.



▲ Food Pantry Manager, Dominique McGhee (holding balloons) poses with the Angels of Peace team. Many members work or volunteer at the House of Peace.



▲ Walkers enjoy the new 2 mile route out the South Gate of Lakefront Festival Park then onto the island. Views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline were visible at every turn.

Almost 3,000 people participated in this year's Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry at German Fest. As German Fest changed the opening day from Thursday to Friday, the 5K Run and 2M Walk had to move as well. Many people liked the new location with entry at the South Gate of the Summer Fest grounds and immediate access to the Briggs & Stratton Stage. Bill Michaels again emceed the event. Br. Dave Schwab was the race director with the help of a volunteer steering committee.

► St. Francis of Assisi Parish put together a team to walk. The House of Peace was founded with the assistance of the parish over 45 years ago.



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



The House of Peace offers many services that can help those who have financial struggles. We have found that many people on very limited incomes, whether from working or participating in government programs because of their needs, still struggle to pay their bills, put food on the table for their families, or pay for unexpected emergencies. We are so grateful to you who support our ministry because you ease the burdens of many others.

You will notice in this newsletter that we have targeted the needs of those who struggle with having a holiday meal at Thanksgiving and Christmas by offering you a chance to fill one or more of the holiday food boxes which we will distribute to 2,000 families. We also try to help reduce people's heating bills by offering them new blankets for the winter. You can really help families in distress by purchasing blankets for them. Please consider holding one of the drives described in the enclosed inserts.

There are many other ways you can join us in helping our struggling brothers and sisters. Part of my job is to speak to church-goers, children in schools, workers in and owners of businesses, and other interested groups about what they can do. I also enjoy visiting people in their homes to tell them more about what the House of Peace does, or giving tours to individuals or groups.

If you want to see how you can help, you can contact me at the House of Peace at 414-933-1300 ext. 13. We count on Jesus to bless you for helping the "least brothers and sisters of mine" (Matthew 25: 40).

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

Collaborative Holiday Food & Toy Drives Begin Next Month

Over 2,500 households received holiday food boxes and/or toys last year.



◀ Linda Barnes, Social Worker (seated, left) and Gerri Sheets-Howard, Ministry Director (seated, right) register guests at St. Ben's Community Meal. Judy, standing in denim jacket registers for herself and her two granddaughters.



▲ The Milwaukee Bucks' held their annual Thanksgiving Food Box distribution at the House of Peace last year. 150 families received a complete holiday meal with the support of players and staff. Students from local Catholic high schools and the Alverno College Women's Basketball team helped at the event.

See insert for how you can help us feed, clothe and care for those in need.

Last year the House of Peace and its sister ministry, St. Ben's Community Meal collaborated on the Holiday Food Box and Toy Drives. Not every guest at St. Ben's is homeless, many guests are struggling with poverty, mental illness or loneliness. Some have access to a kitchen but lack food to cook.

Those guests who qualified for the program received food boxes and, if they have children at home, toys. The residents of the Capuchin Apartments also received food boxes.

► By mid-December the shelves were full in our "Santa's Workshop". They are empty now, can you help fill them?

