Everyone who visits the House of Peace and Saint Ben's Meal will see our “two-sheet” – a color flyer describing the main ministries of our two sites. It features our new logo and icons to help better explain our services – nearly all of which are provided by the volunteers who bring their talents and share their time. We hope it’s useful to everyone: guests, volunteers, staff, other service ministries and agencies, even first responders and public servants.

It is, however, only part of what happens at CCS. What if someone’s needs don’t appear on the flyer? What if there are new crises in the community that require a merciful response? While that side of CCS might be not be as visible, it is there. As Brother Carl Schaefer, the porter at Saint Ben’s says, “If you don’t ask, we can’t say ‘yes.’” This happens largely through the ministry of our social workers. Brother Jerry Smith received his Masters of Social Work at the University of Illinois-Chicago and ministered in Milwaukee jails for a decade before returning to Milwaukee in 2017 to begin ministry at CCS. Brother Jerry knows the “two-sheet,” but his ministry is not limited to it. Just ask our guest Rick West.

Rick’s story: “I first met Brother Jerry in 1992 in the old Milwaukee County Jail. He would come to the jail, talking with me, reading the Bible with me, and when I was in prison he kept writing letters to me, and when I got out, he’s been my support. He’s there for me when I got problems, I can talk to him, and he’s a problem solver! Brother Jerry makes sure I always have my prescriptions, he makes sure I never run out of food. He’s my mentor – I never had a mentor before. He’s taught me how to control my anger, how not to be racist or prejudiced, not to judge people. He’s a good person all in all. He’s more than a friend – he is a brother. He is like a real brother.”

Miss Linda Barnes, site manager and long-term minister at the House of Peace, not only helped create the “two-sheet” – she wrote the book, in the sense that she has shaped and changed the work of the House of Peace as people’s situations change. These days she guides our “direct help” ministry, which is how CCS tries to keep families together and people in their homes by providing assistance in emergency financial situations. These interventions are private, patient, and, it is hoped, effective. Almost nothing can be accomplished if a person doesn’t have a secure place to live. CCS desires that all be housed, and we work for that day.

SAVE THE DATE!
THE CAPUCHIN WALK FOR THE HUNGRY
FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2020
What do you think of when you think of acronyms? In the pre-texting era, I mean—I can’t keep up with what’s being created for phones. Think of two institutions, vast and influential in different ways. The Church and the Pentagon. Both wield acronyms frequently: RCIA. CENTCOM. DRE. MAD. USCCB. SAC. I’m still trying to find a way to quickly and neatly add my suffix acronym to my signature: OFM Cap. Sorry if it’s not legible on the letters.

But I consider this acronym to be above all: MSW. I first encountered social workers during college when I worked nights at a clinic. In my experience social workers are astute yet empathetic listeners. They observe carefully but don’t judge. They might have a plan, but will give you the space and the respect you need to find your own way, too. If Jesus of Nazareth hadn’t been a carpenter, he’d have made a noble social worker.

Capuchin Community Services (“CCS” if you will) is blessed with two social workers – three if you count our partners at the Ascension/Saint Ben’s Free Clinic. Ms. Linda Barnes has a dual role at the House of Peace: site manager and social worker. And Brother Jerry Smith divides his time between the HOP and Saint Ben’s. When we have a guest with a situation or a challenge that requires precise and careful attention, They are there to respond. Jesus said, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath” (Mark 2: 27) – this wisdom is at work when Ms. Linda and Brother Jerry carry out their highly personal ministries. They create unique and effective solutions and interventions case by case and person by person.

Should we all be social workers? I’m not sure. There’s lots of paperwork! Should we be like them in our hearts? Let’s say yes. Because when we take a social worker’s approach we are imitating our brother Jesus most closely, and serving our sisters and brothers most compassionately. All are welcome to find their unique way to serve in our CCS ministries, as Ms. Linda and Brother Jerry do.

In the moment before he performed a miracle Jesus asked those stricken with an affliction, “Do you believe that I can do this?” (Mt 9: 28) They believed, and they were healed. Faith matters. Thank you for your faithful support of CCS.

St. Ben’s Community Meal

Meal Service: Sun-Fri 4:45-6:45pm

- Volunteers needed for serving meals, pouring beverages, providing condiments, retrieving trays and resetting tables.

Front Office Reception:
Mon-Fri 9am-12:30pm & 12:30pm-4:30pm

- Be the first person to welcome guests! Serve in the Front Office directing visitors & guests plus minor office duties.

Warming Center Support:
Whenever the Polar Vortex returns

- Help open the St. Ben’s Warming Center whenever temperatures are forecast to be bitterly cold. Involves late night/early morning hours. Call for more details.

Next Steps

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Fair at 414-933-1300, x1123 or: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org.
Capuchin Community Services’ Ministry In Action
Snapshots from our Winter Photo Album

Foundations Support CCS in 2019:

The budget to operate Capuchin Community Services’ two sites is a little over $2.5 million each year. Much of our support comes from individuals, groups and organizations. Jessica Grochowski, MPA is the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph’s Grantwriter. Jessie writes to foundations, trusts and donor advised funds for help with the budget at St. Ben’s Community Meal and the House of Peace. In 2019 the following groups made grants to CCS:

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<th>Foundation/Trust</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANON Charitable Trust</td>
<td>St. Anthony-Capital Campaign</td>
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<td>Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation</td>
<td>CCS-Supportive Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration</td>
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<td>Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation</td>
<td>CCS-Supportive Services &amp; Holiday Food Boxes</td>
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<td>The Kroger Co Foundation</td>
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<td>Patrick and Anna Cudahy Fund</td>
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<td>Ray &amp; Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust</td>
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<td>Sargento Foods, Inc.</td>
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<td>The Frank and Lucille Puncer Foundation</td>
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<td>TJX Foundation</td>
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<td>WE Energies Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Ministry Fund</td>
<td>St. Ben’s Meal Hall Bathroom Renovation</td>
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If you have a donor advised fund or know of an organization that accepts grant applications, please let Jessie know. You can reach her at:

Jessica Grochowski, MPA
Grant Writer
Office Phone: (414) 374-8841, ext. 28
jgroch@thecapuchins.org

Development Office - Grantwriting
Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order
PO Box 5830
Milwaukee, WI 53205-0830
Pastoral Direction
by Fr. Muthu Savarippan, OFM Capuchin
Pastoral Director

To Do Good

We are never exempt from loving and helping our neighbors. Sometimes it’s easy to come up with too many reasons why we can’t help out and sometimes it may be hard to love someone who has done wrong to us.

But Jesus didn’t tell us, “help others unless you are too busy or only help the people who have been kind to you.” We are called to always make a positive difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Today we are called to give help and love without making excuses or thinking about the consequences. Let’s live like Jesus – let’s love and heal our brothers and sisters every single day. Wouldn’t the world be beautiful if we could all imitate Jesus for a day? Let us try today to love the unlovable, to help those in need and to remember Jesus’s unending love.

This year I’m coordinating the hygiene bag drives by reaching out to the different schools and parishes in and around Milwaukee. I have experienced exactly what I’m sharing in my reflection. Even though some of the schools have only a small number of students, their hearts are so big that they want to do the hygiene bag drive for our guests. It shows how much they love our brothers and sisters who are in need.

I’m grateful to all those who took initiative in this project especially involving and teaching the younger students to do the works of mercy. Yes, no one has seen God but we see God in loving the unloved, helping those in need. May God bless us all.

“Hone one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us and His love is brought to perfection in us.” 1 John 4:12

Would you like a half sheet?
To receive a copy of the half sheet referenced on Page one, please drop us a line. You can email us at ccsvol@thecapuchins.org or by phone at 414-933-1300, x1123.

Twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc
Facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices
YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg

Our Ministry Council
Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green • Sara Zirbel • Duncan Shrout
Br Robert Wotypka, Ministry Director • Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries