

October, 2023

Dear

Happy Fall to you all! This time of year moves us to reflect on giving thanks. I hope you can look back on the summer months and remember some significant events in warm weather [which is a gift in Wisconsin!] As the temperatures signal a change in season, we enjoy the fruits of the harvest that reflect the great works of farmers and gardeners over the past several months. As our family members have returned to school, we see their life and learning growth.

St. Paul writes to the Colossians, *"Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness."* Giving thanks is nothing new to us at Capuchin Community Services. We are always conscious of the goodness and generosity of so many who make the services of St. Ben's and House of Peace possible. We who serve at Capuchin Community Services are doubly blessed: we see the fruits of our labor in the faces and lives of the poor whom we serve. But we are blessed too in the abundant generosity of benefactors and friends like yourself who truly make our services possible. Often, you will hear staff and directors say, "We couldn't do what we do without you," and it's so true.

I am also thankful for your generosity. Your gifts to Capuchin Community Services help us serve tens of thousands each year. Please consider making a gift today to help us prepare to serve our guests as they struggle with the coming winter's harsh challenges. God bless you richly for all that you do for Capuchin Community Services!

Peace and all good,



Fr. Mike Bertram, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director

P.S. As the seasons change, your gift can help us to help our guests find food, clothing and other services. Please be generous.

Ministry sites

St. Ben's Community Meal
930 W State St Milwaukee WI 53233
414 271 0135

House of Peace
1702 W Walnut St Milwaukee WI 53205
414 933 1300

Thank You for supporting Capuchin Community Services!

Ministry in Milwaukee

Friars care for those in need



▲ Grandmother (R) beams happily as she finds new school supplies for grandchildren. Nicole (L) helped.



▲ Fr. Mike, (center) greets mom (L) and daughter (R) as they attended the House of Peace's All Day Give-Away.



▲ Family delivers food drive gifts



▲ Br. Carl (L) trains Br. Jose (R) in Clothing Center tasks.

Our Mission: *Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to spiritual and other basic human needs, especially those of people experiencing poverty and disenfranchisement, promoting justice for all.*



Guest Returns As College Intern

Wellness program empowers guest to give back

"The House of Peace has always been there for me," Charmaine said. She has been a guest seeking help to feed and clothe her family, a wellness program participant, learning to take better self-care, and now an MATC college intern assigned to serve at the House of Peace.

Charmaine serves in the House of Peace Food Pantry under the direction of an old friend, Faye Grice, Food Pantry Assistant. "Faye has known me throughout my life," Charmaine said. Faye greeted her warmly and explained that she and Charmaine's mom were friends who traded babysitting when they lived in the same apartment building. "I've known Charmaine since she was an infant," Faye said with a smile.

Someone came to the window to pick up a food box. "I will be right with you," Charmaine said with a smile. Other staff filled the guest's food request so Charmaine could finish her meeting.

Charmaine spotted Vanessa Baldwin, Site Coordinator for the UWM Community Health and Wellness Center at the House of Peace. "We go back a long way as well," Charmaine said. Vanessa first met Charmaine years ago at another Health and Wellness Center. "When I moved to the House of Peace, Charmaine was a

student in our Wellness class. We teach people how to take better care of themselves so they can better care of those they love," Vanessa said.



▲ L to R: Faye Grice, Food Pantry Assistant, Vanessa Baldwin, Site Coordinator, UWM Community Health & Wellness Center & Charmaine Davenport, MATC Intern.

"I took those lessons to heart. After helping myself and my family, I determined I'd like to give back to the community. I enrolled in the MATC Human Services AA Degree program. Now I am an intern here where I've received so much help," Charmaine said. Charmaine hopes to work for a social service agency and possibly open a group home someday.

Empowerment is one of the core values of the Capuchins. Charmaine has become empowered to make personal changes. She also epitomizes the core value of hospitality. The Capuchins define it as "Creating a safe

and welcoming environment where the gifts of all are cherished." From how she relates to staff, volunteers, and our guests, Charmaine radiates welcome and the cherishing of each person's gifts.

Capuchin Community Services' 2024 Calendar

Watch the mail for your copy this December. If you would like an extra copy to share with family or friends, please email: jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org.



WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

Saint Ben's Community Meal needs volunteers to serve on the floor on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The House of Peace needs volunteers to help with the holiday drives, October through December. These & other opportunities are posted online:

House of Peace -

[ofmcap.cc/
HouseOfPeaceVolunteers](http://ofmcap.cc/HouseOfPeaceVolunteers)



St. Ben's Community Meal -

ofmcap.cc/StBensVolunteer



Questions? Contact:

Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: 414-933-1300, x1123

Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org

IN-KIND DONATIONS

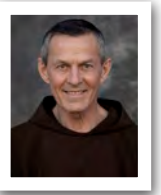
House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

The House of Peace: Donations are accepted from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the doorbell then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

Saint Ben's Meal: Donations are accepted from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the large doorbell next to the Meal Hall doors, and then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

Called & Sent Forth

by Fr. Michael Bertram, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director



As I get older, I realize that remembering is one of the greatest gifts we can give to one another.

How do you and I feel when someone, without notice, remembers our birthday or an anniversary or the day on which a loved one died? It touches us like nothing else does. Those who remember are some of the dearest, most selfless people to us in life.

We enter into some reflective days of our year, especially in November, when we celebrate All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and Thanksgiving. They are days of remembrance, and it only seems right that I remember you for your support of Capuchin Community Services. In the spirit of Thanksgiving and in

the spirit of our faith, I thank you so very much for making great things happen in the lives of many people through

the ministry of Capuchin Community Services.

As we come upon All Souls Day on November 2, let me make a request of you. If someone in your family has died and you are preparing for the funeral,

would you please notify me? I will make every effort to see that someone comes to the funeral or the visitation time to pay our respects in a show of gratitude for what you have done for Capuchin Community Services. It's the least we can do for you. Call me at 414-933-1300, ext. 1311. Thank you, and God bless you in this season of gratitude and remembrance!

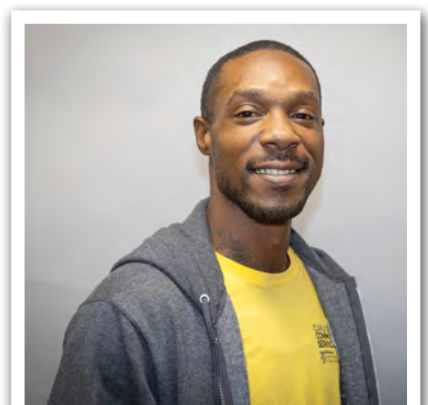


► Fr. Mike helps a mom with several children fill backpacks with Back to School supplies.

Welcome New Staff

Glennon Collier has joined the staff as the new Maintenance Manager. Glen will oversee all Capuchin-owned properties in Milwaukee. That includes St Ben's Community Meal and the House of Peace.

Glen has been a commercial roofer, owned a snowplow company, managed a condo building, and worked in landscaping. Glen said, "I love that I get to use my skills helping our guests. My goal is to help the ministry operate safely."



▲ Glennon Collier,
Maintenance Manager

A Summer of Service

House of Peace & St. Ben's Meal help residents get through a hot summer



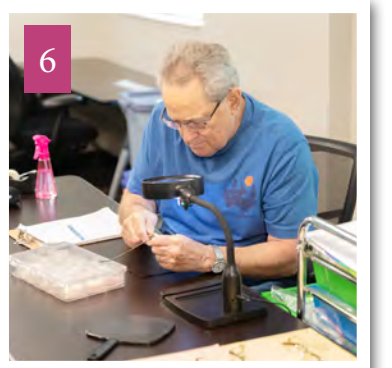
At the House of Peace:
1- L to R, Cindy & Barbara. We had hundreds of people attend the All-Day Giveaway.



2- Volunteers in Slinger, Hartford & Allenton pack food for the pantry.
3- School Supplies Drive smiles!



And at St. Ben's Meal:
4- Tom, volunteer, preps milk pitchers for floor volunteers.
5- Ray helps a young mom apply for a birth certificate.
6- Chuck inserts a lens into a new pair of glasses for a guest.



Villa St. Francis Grows Food for House of Peace Pantry

Caring for others is an actively lived value at Villa St. Francis on Milwaukee's south side. Founded by the Felician Sisters, a Franciscan religious order, the Villa provides assisted living care to its residents. Kurt Keidl, OFS, is the Director of Mission Integration.

Kurt is a member of the Secular Franciscan Order and a long-time friend of the Capuchins. He has led a team of fellow Secular Franciscans from the St. Josaphat Fraternity at the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry for over 15 years. Kurt explained that his role at Villa St. Francis is to ensure the residents, employees, and family members experience Felician Franciscan values daily.

That includes respect for creation and sharing with others. "We have a very successful gardening program here," Kurt said. "We have gardens for our residents and one for the House

of Peace." Patrice is a resident who helps start and maintain the gardens. "We had over two dozen residents plant seeds with us this year,"

Patrice said. "Another half dozen or so help me with weeding and harvesting." Kurt added, "We call the garden for giving the Deo Gratias Garden. I deliver ripe fruits and vegetables each week to the House of Peace Food Pantry."



▲ L to R: Kurt, Dawn, Christina & Patrice show some of the 50 pounds of produce the residents have donated to the House of Peace Food Pantry.

Dawn, the Director of Nursing, and Christina, a Personal Care Aide, joined Kurt and Patrice in the gardens. Both participated for the first time at the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry this year.

Kurt said, "What counts is that both our residents through the Deo Gratias Garden and staff through the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry have been able to help our neighbors in need."



Holiday Food Box & Toy Drives Begin

Dozens of Schools, Churches and Businesses Pledge to Hold Drives



2022:

◀ Last year thousands of households lined up around the block to get food and toys.

▶ Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator helped a mom select toys, books and clothing for her children.



Holiday Food Box Drives:



Christmas Toy Drives:



New This Year

If you can hold a drive, we have free holiday food box & toy drive posters available!

They include space to write in details about your drive. To order posters, email: capholidaydrives@thecapuchins.org.



Holiday Food Boxes

Capuchin Community Services will distribute food boxes to guests for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Please contact us if you can help complete a Holiday Meal Box for a guest and their family.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • 1 box of mashed potatoes | • 2 boxes of cornbread mix |
| • 1 bag of stuffing | • 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese |
| • 2 cans of cranberry sauce | • 1 32 oz. can of sweet potatoes or yams |
| • 4 cans of corn | • 4 cans of green beans |
| • 1 box of cake mix | • 1 can of gravy (No glass jars, please) |
| • 1 can of frosting | |
| • 2 boxes of pudding or Jell-O | |

Holiday Toy Drives

The Capuchin friars will distribute toys at Christmas to families in need. Here are some toys our families would like to be able to share with their children. If you can collect and donate new toys, let us know.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • Playdoh Sets | • Stuffed Plush Animal |
| • Scooter | • Etch-A-Sketch |
| • Hot Wheels Cars & Track | • Basketball, Football, Baseball or Soccerball |
| • RC Car or Truck | • Children's Books |
| • Music Head/Earphones | • Other toys for children birth to 14 years of age. |
| • Coloring Set & Easel | |
| • Action Figures | |
| • Jumbo Character | |

How To Make Stock Gifts

To make a stock gift, inform your broker that you will donate to **The Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order** (our legal name). Please ask your broker to send the stock gift to our broker **"for the benefit of Capuchin Community Services"**. Please call our Development Office at (414) 509-8465 so we can send you a letter for tax purposes.

Please send stock gifts to:

JP Morgan
Attention: Mark Maddock
465 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111
Account Name: The Province of St. Joseph
Account Number: 741-35014 <> DTC: 0352
mark.o.maddock@jpmorgan.com or (734) 697-1660

Capuchin Community Services Ministry Council, Social Media & Ministry Sites

Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green

Br. Tien Dinh, OFM Cap., • Br. Roymond Peter Chinnappan, OFM Cap.,

Fr. Michael Bertram, OFM Capuchin, Ministry Director • Fr. John Celichowski, OFM Cap., Director of Provincial Ministries



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[YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg](https://www.youtube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg)

St. Ben's Community Meal
930 W State St
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House of Peace
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Support our ministry: www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate or by mail to PO Box 5830, Milwaukee WI 53205-0830