



Warming Center Keeps People Safe For Winter

St. Ben's Community Meal's Donors Enable City Partnership



▲ Rahollah selects a cot to make his space for the night. After a cup of chili he checks his email using St. Ben's wifi before bedtime.



▲ Sharieka (L) and her sister Shequita make their beds with help from "D". After getting a pillow they went into the Meal Hall for cocoa and chili. They could also say goodnight to Shequita's boyfriend who was sleeping on the mens' side.

Rahollah is a shy, quiet man who whispers his reply to questions. "I had been camping in the courthouse park, but now I am sleeping every night at St. Ben's Warming Center," he said softly. Kenny Howard, Site Manager at St. Ben's, explained, "We opened the Warming Center on December 12 and committed to staff it through the end of March. That's the longest time we've ever served as an overflow shelter for people living on the street."

"I've been doing warehouse work, but I'm between jobs right now," Rahollah said. He continued, "I sleep at St. Ben's, go to a day shelter for breakfast, then return to St. Ben's to do laundry and shower. Afterward, I return to the day shelter, then go back to St. Ben's for dinner."

Shequita and her sister Sharieka came into the Warming Center and began to get settled in the secure Women's Dorm. Shequita explained

that they had been renting but were evicted just that morning. "We paid all our back rent, and the landlord had the sheriff's deputies come anyway. If we'd known, we could have had some money to get a new place." Sharieka said, "We have nowhere to sleep; I don't know where we'd stay if we couldn't come to St. Ben's. All our belongings are outside in the car!"

Kenny added, "The City of Milwaukee is helping us to provide a safe and warm center for men and women to sleep in." He explained, "They provide one staff person each shift, and we provide the other. The city also provides the cots and linens plus linen service." Kenny continued, "This is why we are so grateful for our donor's support. CCS pays half the personnel and all of the utilities, food, building, and supervisory costs. Without our donors, we would never be able to help people like Rahollah, Sharieka, and Shequita stay safe and warm this winter."

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

Saint Ben's Community Meal needs volunteers to serve on the Meal floor. Volunteer openings available Sundays through Thursdays. The House of Peace needs volunteers to serve in the Clothing Closet each afternoon. These & other opportunities are posted online:

House of Peace -

[thecapuchins.net/
HouseOfPeaceVols](http://thecapuchins.net/HouseOfPeaceVols)

St. Ben's Community Meal -

[thecapuchins.net/
MealVolunteer](http://thecapuchins.net/MealVolunteer)

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

CCS is now accepting in-kind donations of clothing and hygiene items at its two locations, and packaged food for the House of Peace Emergency Food Pantry. We regret that we cannot accept other items at this time.

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



It's never too late to say "Thank you," and I hope that you had a wonderful holiday celebration. Many people tell me of how Christmas is their favorite holiday. And we at Capuchin Community Services offer you our thanks once again for all that you do to make it possible for us to serve the poor. People will thank us all the time for the services that we offer to the needy. Little do they know of the huge family of supporters, sponsors, donors, and benefactors who are the backbone of Capuchin Community Services. As they thank us, I thank you. We do not forget you and your kindness to us.

As Jesus said, "The poor are always with you." And oh, how well aware we are of that! The needs continue to multiply

as economic times worsen. But you good folks always rise to the occasion and answer the needs of God's little ones. We remember how the Chosen People waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah. The name Jesus/Emmanuel means "God with us". And your support of Capuchin Community Services is nothing less than God coming to the rescue of so many poor in our community. You are Emmanuel; you are God-with-us.



► Fr. Mike visits with Archbishop Jerome Listecky. The Archbishop welcomed Fr. Mike as the new ministry director of Capuchin Community Services.

May God bless you in this always holy

season. I read all of your special prayer requests and the least I can do is offer my prayers for you and your needs. Thank you for answering the needs of the poor through your support of Capuchin Community Services.



CCS Celebrates Volunteers!

Over 100 people gathered to celebrate volunteers and Capuchin Community Services at the end of last year. The group included friars, staff, and many volunteers.



► Br. Dave Schwab (2nd from R) and Larry Ampe (4th from R) visit with friends at the luncheon.

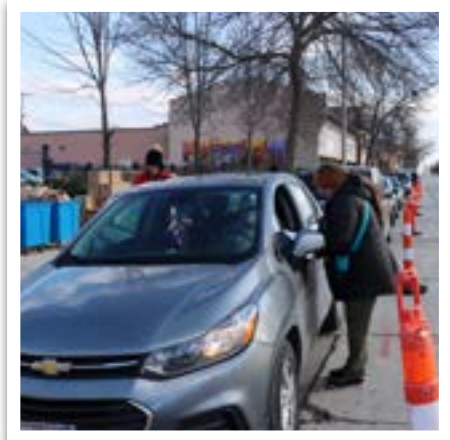
Fr. Mike and Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator, thanked the volunteers for helping the Capuchins' ministry in Milwaukee fulfill its mission to help people struggling with poverty, homelessness, and discrimination.

House of Peace Helps 2,000+ Families Celebrate

Donors, Parishes, Schools and Groups Collect Food, Toys & Coats



▲ Students at Holy Family Parish School select food to pack holiday boxes for the House of Peace. Many groups helped fill boxes. We had a total of 4,800 returned.



▲ Staff and volunteers distribute holiday food boxes to senior citizen households outside the House of Peace.



▲ Milwaukee Bucks' mascot, Bango helped push a pallet outside for the Thanksgiving holiday box distribution. Volunteers from the Milwaukee Bucks & Gruber Law Offices helped distribute boxes.



▲ Dorothy said, "I love the House of Peace. They help me a lot. I'm picking out toys for my 4 grandchildren who live with me."



▲ Fr. Mike Bertram (L) chats with a family at St. Francis Borgia Parish's holiday distribution. Held at the House of Peace, parishioners and students donate food, toys, books and clothing.



▲ Yoana (R) poses with Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator (L). Nicole was helping Yoana select gifts for her four children ages 1, 4, 8 & 9 years of age.

St. Ben's Community Meal Feeds Guests In Many Ways

Loneliness Often Cited as Motive to attend the Meal



Not all guests who eat at St. Ben's Community Meal come just for the food. People living on the street and those living in small apartments on limited means often say that they come to the Meal to eat with other people.



Last Thanksgiving, the young woman in the top photo and the senior citizens in the bottom photo all shared that they could have eaten at home. The seniors shared that each lived alone, and one person said, "We could have had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. But we'd rather enjoy our friends' company and eat turkey at St. Ben's Meal!"

The young woman, happily waving, shared that she might have eaten alone at the casino but wanted to be around others who cared. Thank you to our donors who join us in this ministry of caring!

Donors' Intentions Mass Schedule

2023 Masses Open to Supporters

Fr. Mike Bertram invites all Capuchin Community Services supporters to join us for the donors' intentions Masses.

2023 Schedule:

- Monday, February 6 at 4:30pm
- Monday, May 8 at 4:30pm
- Monday, August 14 at 4:30pm
- Monday, November 13 at 4:30pm

Location:

St. Anthony's Chapel
St. Ben's Community Meal
930 W State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233



▲ Fr. Mike (R) offers Mass for our donors' intentions. Friars Jerry Schroeder (L) and Henryk Cisowski (R) flank Kenny Howard, Site Director.

If more people attend than can be seated, we will go upstairs to St. Benedict the Moor Church. There is an elevator available.

After the liturgy, all those present will be invited to join our guests for dinner at St. Ben's Community Meal. This is a ministry of presence and not a volunteer opportunity. To volunteer, please read the sidebar on page two.



Lenten Hygiene Bag Drives Start This Month

New Bag Designed To Be Easier To Distribute



Over 7,000 hygiene bags are distributed annually to churches, schools, and businesses. When they return, the contents are sorted, and the bags refilled to provide hygiene supplies for men or women.

The bags are then distributed at the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal. Most families visiting the House of Peace have homes, so the large bottles of shampoo and other items go there.

Many guests who turn to St. Ben's Community Meal are homeless. They receive the "travel-size" containers of hygiene supplies that are easier to carry in a backpack.

Can you, your work, school, or organization host a hygiene bag drive this Lent? We need supplies all year round. Visit our website to learn more, review the list or sign up to participate: <https://ofmcap.cc/CCS-HygieneBags>.



Scan for
Hygiene Bag
information

Capuchin Walk for the Hungry Returns Live to Polish Fest!

Save the date: Friday, June 9, 2023

Updates soon at www.capuchinwalk.org

Our Ministry Council

Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green • Duncan Shrout • Claire Shanahan
Br. Tien Dinh, OFM Cap., • Br. Roymond Peter Chinnappan, OFM Cap.,
Br Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap., Ministry Director • Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries



[Twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc](https://twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc)



[Facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices](https://facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices)



YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg

Capuchin Community Services

234N03

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