St. Ben’s Community Meal has served guests throughout the pandemic. We’ve delivered food to communities in need and hosted outdoor meals. With the return of colder weather the ministry site has reopened the Meal Hall to in-person dining. There are new procedures to help keep people safe.
WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace &
St. Ben’s Community Meal

CCS welcomes back volunteers. Saint Ben’s serves in the Meal Hall Sundays through Thursdays. The House of Peace has resumed limited volunteer opportunities inside. Opportunities are posted online:

House of Peace - thecapuchins.net/HouseOfPeaceVols
St. Ben’s Community Meal - thecapuchins.net/MealVolunteer

Questions or Updates 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. We regret that we cannot accept other items at this time.

The House of Peace: Donations are accepted from 1:00 pm and 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 and 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.

Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director

“John 6: 27”

One of the joys of my childhood was the voracious consumption of the brilliant, silly and sneakily smart Warner Brothers cartoons. Remember how they depicted someone down on their luck? They’d show them walking the streets wearing a sign, “Will Work for Food.” Cartoons are escapist, yet the creators were compassionate and wise enough to put the hard realities of the Great Depression in their work.

The Bread of Life discourse, the name given to Jesus’ teaching which begins in John Chapter 6, is alive in new ways because of the struggles we’re enduring through the pandemic. It’s easy to find stories that paint a picture of our brothers and sisters cutting off Verse 27 and saying, “Do not work.” The employment crisis is real, heck, it’s right here at CCS. Say - if you have a driver’s license and can lift 50 pounds, I might just have the opportunity you’re seeking!

To the criticism that “nobody wants to work anymore” I’ll share this: assume the rational. We’re made in the image and likeness of God, our reason and our rationality come from God, so in the absence of other evidence, I take it that people usually make rational choices. The unique, vital and holy role our House of Peace and Saint Ben’s ministries play is this: all are welcome, no questions asked, and we desire to serve our brothers and sisters who are struggling regardless of whether or not they’ve made the best choices.

Wages are rising, but rent and food prices are rising even faster. Affordable housing, largely out of reach before COVID, is becoming even scarcer. We’ll neither spend nor save our way out of this crisis, rather, lasting change will come when we believe and live all that the Savior taught: “Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life.” Your support allows CCS to be a part of lasting solutions. Bless you for helping us help others.

Hygiene Bag Drives Begin

Each year CCS distributes thousands of hygiene supply bags. Could you help collect hygiene supplies? This is also a good, socially distanced service project. Learn more at: https://bit.ly/CCSHygieneDrive or email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org.
UWM Clinic At House of Peace Shifts Mission

New name, new role includes opportunity for new disciplines to serve

The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee College of Nursing has operated a clinic for years at the House of Peace. This summer the name and focus of the clinic was changed by the College of Nursing to UWM-Community Health and Wellness Center - HOP.

UWM faculty member Vanessa Baldwin, Director and Clinical Instructor, leads the program at the House of Peace site. "Our goal is to create a place where nursing students and others in health and wellness disciplines can learn and better understand life and health situations that affect community members living in the area. Most importantly how the realities of day to day living effect the health of many community members."

Vanessa added, “The new name signals a new role for our center. We are now going to add students in related majors like social work, communications and public health.” Each Monday and Wednesday during the fall and spring semesters, a group of senior nursing students meet with Vanessa at the House of Peace. “These two clinical groups,” she said, “learn about the community’s health needs.” She continued, “We help guests as they register for HOP services. The students perform blood pressure screenings, share health information, refer guests to specific health and wellness providers and learn more about their lives.”

“Our students also help the guests sign up to use MyStrengths-MyHealth, an app to identify a person’s needs and strengths.” Vanessa smiled and said, “We have a gift closet for women who are breast cancer survivors. The students and I provide prosthetics and other needed supplies, all of which are donated to us. Due to Covid-19, we follow protocols by providing gifts during a brief health and wellness discussion in a curbside manner.”

While getting experience working with guests of HOP, the students also complete a semester long academic project. According to Vanessa, the clinicals follow assignments that include:

- Windshield Survey - Touring 53205 zip code
- Epidemiological Study of the community
- Wellness Wheel - Used on site to teach holistic health
- Community Health Assessments
- Final Presentation for House of Peace staff on steps that could be taken to improve the community’s health.

Welcome Brothers!

Capuchin Br. Raymond Mwahibinga (left) has just arrived from Tanzania and Capuchin Br. Henryk Cisowski has also just arrived from Poland. Both friars will serve with CCS.

Thank You Volunteers

Volunteers Shari (left) & Barbara (right) celebrate distributing gifts & food.

Support our ministry: www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate or by mail to PO Box 5830, Milwaukee WI 53205-0830
Holiday Food Box & Toy Drives Serve Thousands

Up to 10K individuals benefit from turkeys, food boxes, warm clothing & toys

Cars line up in front of the House of Peace down Walnut Street and around the corner. Each family received food for Thanksgiving.

The Milwaukee Bucks mascot, Bango (right), plus volunteers from the Milwaukee Bucks front office and Gruber Law help put food in people’s cars.

Capuchin postulant Alvaro Martinez (center) waits for the next car to pull up. For Thanksgiving each family received at least one turkey, a holiday food box, a bag of onions, a bag of potatoes & other items plus a $20 supermarket gift card.

Volunteers from the Milwaukee Bucks, Gruber Law and the community pack boxes. These replenish the supply as people pick up boxes for their families.

Capuchin postulant Alvaro Martinez (center) waits for the next car to pull up. For Thanksgiving each family received at least one turkey, a holiday food box, a bag of onions, a bag of potatoes & other items plus a $20 supermarket gift card.

Up to 10K individuals benefit from turkeys, food boxes, warm clothing & toys.

Our Ministry Council

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

Thanksgiving

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Christmas

Staff member Andre (left) helps a mom select toys for her children.

Imelda has five children and shared how grateful she is for food to celebrate Christmas.

Diana, a guest selects blankets and other gifts in the Capuchin Clothes Closet. Each guest also receives a warm winter coat for a child in their home.

Patrick Apfeld served this year as the volunteer coordinator of the Holiday Food Box and Toy Drives. Patrick has scheduled drop off & pick up of boxes plus toys and warm winter clothing. Thank you, Patrick!

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