

# Capuchin Community Services

[www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org)

## Capuchin Community Services Helps Families New services and existing programs used by families with children

### House of Peace

### St. Ben's Community Meal



► Volunteers frequently bring children to help out on the St. Ben's Meal serving line. Many children return as adults to assist with the ministry.



▲ Johnnie brought her daughter, LaVeana and her other children for Hygiene Supplies.

◀ Sheila brought her granddaughters Shanova (center) and Zyria (right) to pick out clothing as they prepare to return to school.

► Guests are sheltered from the weather while waiting for the meal. The Gathering Space includes a Children's Play Area & Library.



◀ Maria and her daughter Adriana chatted with Br. Jerry & Br. Robert after receiving food for their family of seven. Maria is a commercial cleaner working at night.



▲ Jerlene brought her daughters Shanti and Skler to enjoy a filling meal. Look at the smiles!

# WORKS OF MERCY

## Scheduling Fall Now

### House of Peace

Food & Clothing Pantries - Prep & Assist:  
September - December, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

- Volunteers needed to sort food, clothing & hygiene supplies. Shelve food & prepare pantry packs. Inspect clothing & hang on rods. Pack hygiene bags.

#### Holiday Registration Help Needed:

October 14 - October 25, Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

- Volunteers needed to register people to receive Holiday Food Boxes. Also toys for households with children. Call today.

#### Empowerment Class Teachers Needed:

October 21 - November 8, Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

- Do you have expertise to share? Can you teach a 1 hour class on financial literacy, wellness, parenting skills, job search skills, workplace habits or other topics? Contact us for consideration.

#### Holiday Sort & Carry Help Needed:

November 11 - December 20, Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

- Volunteers needed to check & sort 44 lb boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sort toys prior to distribution. Carry boxes for seniors.



## 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. Scheduling 2020 now.

#### Front Office Reception:

Mon-Fri 9am-12:30pm & 12:30pm-4:30pm

- Volunteers needed to help in the Front Office greeting visitors & guests plus minor office duties.

#### Eyeglasses Distribution:

July-October, Weds 12:30pm-4:30pm

- Volunteer needed to help with the selection and fitting of eyeglasses for our guests. Eyeglasses distributed Wednesdays only.

## Next Steps

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 414-271-0135, x1123 or ccsvol@thecapuchins.org.

## Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotycka, OFM Capuchin  
Ministry Director

### An Imitation of Christ

Remember that feeling in the pit of your stomach when it was time to go back to school? I was a good student and had gifted and committed teachers – thank you, Religious Sisters of Mercy – but while school was good, playing outside, going to the swimming pool, or seeing the first “Star Wars” for the 5th, 6th, and 7th time was better. The end of summer ritual was always the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon, which my brother and sisters and I watched every year. I never imagined that decades later I’d be tasked with raising

enough money to sustain the good work of Capuchin Community Services. Jerry had Frank and Sammy and Liza to help him, and I have you. I am at peace.

I hope my parents didn’t spend a lot of time worrying about our health and safety. Today’s reality is different. The poverty rate is 15% in Wisconsin. In Milwaukee it’s 29%, and 40% of our children live in impoverished households. We know that these conditions make it extraordinarily difficult for kids to learn, and that all children have the right to a good education and a safe neighborhood. Jesus was way ahead of his time in beholding children. Check out Matthew Chapter 18 (and Mark 9) (and Luke 17, but Matthew is so beautiful): we are meant to learn

► Br. Robert welcomes guests including Joel with a tray as they enter the Meal hall.



from them, and imitate them in their resilience, their openness to love, and their ability to forgive.

From its founding the House of Peace has had a mission to help keep families together by providing food, clothing, and hygiene items so that scarce financial resources can be used for other essentials like rent, utilities, and health care. The family mission at Saint Ben’s has evolved. A family seating section was added to the Meal Hall in response to the growing number of kids coming in, and a kid-friendly section and an enlarged bathroom with childcare equipment

– thank you, Wheaton Franciscan Sisters – was built into the new gathering space when it opened in January.

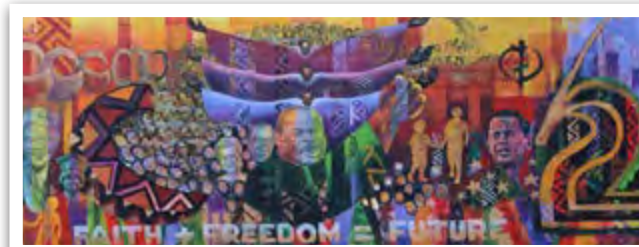
My ministry at CCS brings me to kids (visits to schools and parishes and churches) and kids to me (families in need of support and services, volunteers and volunteer groups of all ages who minister at the HOP and at Ben’s). This is an imitation of Christ (journeying from village to village preaching the Kingdom of God, even as people brought to him those who were afflicted in all ways) that I also never dreamed of, not even on those long summer days when there was nothing to do. Now there is much to do. And you (and You) are with me, and I am at peace.



▲ Just released from hospital, Reavis stopped by St. Ben's Community Meal for dinner. Br. Robert walked and chatted with him as he left the Meal.

## House Of Peace Murals Repainted Johnson Park Neighborhood Assn completes beautification project

▼ 17th Street.



► Walnut Street



► 18th Street.



# Pastoral Direction

by Fr. Muthu Savariappan, OFM Capuchin  
Pastoral Director

## “And whoever receives one child ... in my name receives me” (Matthew 8: 5)

God calls children a blessing and a gift. Their spirits are filled with innocence, joy and laughter. As we begin a new school year it is good to reflect upon children and their future. Children in the truest sense are the resources of a country. Today’s child will be tomorrow’s leader. The future of the country depends on today’s children. They are the nation’s treasure. Thus children should be cared for, nurtured and developed properly.

For this we need to formulate a plan for the intellectual, physical, mental and emotional development of children. Special care must be taken to immunize, educate and nurture poor children to give them strength and support in the development of strong and holistic personalities. This is what Capuchin Community Services is trying to do for the poor and needy children through our School Supply Drive.

► Fr. Muthu says grace at the beginning of St. Ben’s Community Meal.



Over the last few weeks I’ve seen the packages coming into the House of Peace from Amazon and Target. Backpacks, pencils, paper, glue and much more have come in to help us prepare children in our neighborhood for school. We sincerely thank and appreciate the generosity of the many good hearts who participated in this drive.



▲ Fr. Muthu pours water for two children attending the Meal with their mother and siblings.

Let’s reflect on the words of author Suzanne Chazin, “A child is a seed, you water it. You care for it the best you can. And then it grows all by itself into a beautiful flower.” And so we learn to love and care for every child. This edition of our newsletter will mail just before

we actually distribute school supplies to the community. We will share photos of the event online and on our website. Sign up to follow us on Facebook and Twitter if you’d like to see the many happy and grateful faces of our children. May God bless you all. Be assured that all of our donors, volunteers and supporters are in our prayers daily.

## Who We Are

Capuchin Community Services is a ministry of **The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph**, a religious community of friars inspired by St Francis of Assisi. Our friars live and work with those who are in need of help... the poor, the disenfranchised, and the needy.



## Our Ministry Council

Capuchin Community Services is advised by a volunteer Ministry Council consisting of leaders in our community. Current Ministry Council members include:

- Diane Knight
- Julie Darnieder
- Anthony Myers
- Chuck Cmeyla
- Felice Green
- Sara Zirbel
- Wendy Hermann
- Pam Meyer
- Duncan Shrout
- Br Robert Wotypka, Ministry Director
- Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries



## HOW TO DONATE

To make an online gift to our Capuchin ministry go to:

[www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org)





**Or mail your gift to:**  
Capuchin Community Services  
P.O. Box 5830  
Milwaukee, WI 53205-5830

**Capuchin Community Services** is a ministry of the **Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order, Inc.** Unless otherwise directed, donations support the local ministry and the Province.

The **Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts made to our ministries, Capuchin Community Services, St. Ben’s Community Meal and/or the House of Peace, are tax deductible as allowable by law.

# Capuchin Walk for the Hungry Highlights

1,556 participants attend to celebrate the Capuchins' mission

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1. Walkers enjoyed a stroll along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Total registration was 1,446 people.
2. Br. Robert thanked some of the 110 people who volunteered.
3. Volunteers & staff provided facepaint & balloons for the children.
4. People in attendance gave the Capuchin friars a standing ovation for their ministry caring for people in need.

# Holiday Food Box & Toy Drives To Start

## Over 4,000 boxes to be filled and 4,000 new toys to be collected

The Holiday Food Box and Toy Drives were started by Capuchin Br. Booker Ashe. For over 5 decades, the House of Peace has continued this ministry. Br. Mark Carrico, now deceased, used to say that there was an extra sting to poverty during the holidays for families with children. "Everyone has a TV so our guests know that others are able to get nice gifts, share special meals and celebrate together," Br. Mark would say.

With summer just ending it might seem a little early to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas. Br. Robert Wotypka disagrees. "I spent last year as the pastoral



director at the House of Peace and was so amazed at all of the logistical planning that has to happen in advance. Then I saw the results, over 1,500 households fed and that means we reached over 7,500 individuals with a holiday meal!"

Fr. Robert continued, "We had 68 organizations help us last year. Everyone from schools, businesses, house of worships and neighborhood groups. They donated 163,284 lbs. of food and held 19 toy drives. If we had had to pay for the food and gifts it would have cost over \$150,000!"



### To help this year you can take any one of these steps:

1. Use our shopping list to fill a food box. Boxes will be available for pick up after October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis.
2. Purchase toys, books or winter clothing for children birth to 8 yrs. You can do your shopping in person or use one of our gift registries:

**Amazon Registry:** [CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Amazon](http://CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Amazon)  
**Target Registry:** [CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Target](http://CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Target)  
**Shopping List:** [CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Toy](http://CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Toy)

### Volunteer Help Needed:

Our drives have been facilitated by a volunteer in the past. We are seeking someone who can commit 3 hours per day, 3 days per week to start and then 3 hours per day, 5 days per week from mid-November to Christmas. Interested? Call Fr. Robert at 414.933.1300, ext. 1111.

## Upcoming Events:

**CapWalk Thank You:** Saturday, October 19 at 9:30am  
**Sponsor Listening Session:** Saturday, November 2 at 9:30am  
**Volunteer Luncheon:** Saturday, November 9 at 11:30am

The Capuchins' Walk for the Hungry Thank You meeting and the St. Ben's Community Meal Sponsor Listening Session are both at St. Ben's Community Meal. The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held at Cardinal Strich University in the Student Union. Details and invitations to follow. Sign up online to receive event updates.



## Holiday Gift Boxes

Please donate one or more canned or boxed goods to help complete a Holiday Meal Box for a needy family. Capuchin Community Services will distribute food boxes to guests served at two sites: House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal.

Please bring the items to: House of Peace, 1702 W Walnut St, Milwaukee, WI 53205. We are open from 8-4, Monday to Friday.

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



Thank you for supporting our outreach to feed families in need. We will fill the boxes at an upcoming program.



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

### Capuchin Community Services

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

Support our ministry: [www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate) or by mail to **PO Box 5830, Milwaukee WI 53205-0830**