

# Capuchin Community Services

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

## Formerly Homeless, Cap Apts Resident Gives Back Capuchin Community Services' sites help guest make a stable life for herself

"I like the people," said Gina. Formerly homeless, she now lives in the Capuchin Apartments and serves at the House of Peace. Her caseworker, Darnell Fitchpatrick explains, "Gina was homeless several times and when she came to us she was distraught."

Darnell continued, "Sometimes someone who's lived on the streets for a long time experiences a strong anxiety when they finally get back into housing." "We offer several classes when someone first comes into the Capuchin Apartments to help them transition."

A big burly man with a warm smile, Darnell paused then he said, "We have a women's group and classes on budgeting, apartment cleaning, cooking and more." "St. Ben's offers a common meal once per month. It is scheduled at the end of the month and it helps our residents in two ways. First, it builds community and second, their fridges are probably empty so it helps them make it until the first of the next month."

Gina is very shy and just smiles at first when introduced. She is sorting and hanging clothing in the Capuchin Clothes Closet at the House of Peace site. Earlier that day she sorted hygiene supplies and filled bags. Darnell explains, "Any of our residents who are in Milwaukee County's Shelter Plus Care Program are

required to volunteer, work, attend school or be in job training. Gina volunteers twice each week at the House of Peace."

When asked, Gina explains, "I already knew the House of Peace before I started volunteering here. I got both clothing and food for my apartment." She stops and then offers, "Everyone that works here is really nice and very easy to work with."

Darnell said, "I've seen a tremendous change in Gina since she began volunteering at the House of Peace. She is more upbeat, more focused and less depressed." He smiled and said, "Our residents access services at both Capuchin Community Services' sites. At St. Ben's they get help with medications, applying for ID and GED training. At the House of Peace, they get food or clothing help." Darnell added, "Our formerly homeless residents are wrapped in services because of the support of the Capuchins and their donors."



▲ Darnell Fitchpatrick, Case Manager, Capuchin Apartments checks in with Gina as she volunteers at the House of Peace site. Gina is sorting clothing, then folds or hangs it up for other guests to select.

Br. Rob Roemer, Ministry Director said, "Gina's story reflects on why we Capuchins minister in this manner. One of our core values is Empowerment. For us that means encouraging people to realize and respect their potential. Certainly, Gina needs to know that she is very competent and doesn't need to return to the streets."

## Mercy

We continue to do the corporal works of mercy including feeding the poor, the hungry, the homeless. Please join us at the **House of Peace** on **Saturday, March 12, 9 am** & explore ...

*How does God show mercy?*

*What does it look like? Why does God choose to do it? How would we show mercy...and why?*

## Year of Mercy Morning of Reflection.

Capuchin Friar Bill Cieslak will be our guest speaker. Br. Bill is a Capuchin priest and has taught at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, CA for 25 years.

Please RSVP. Seating is free but limited. Online at: [www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/RSVP](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/RSVP) or phone 414.374.8841, ext. 41. There is no charge for the morning.

# Save The Date!

## March 24, 2016

Holy Thursday Meal Distribution

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM\* House of Peace

Fr. Gene's Help Center & Capuchin Community Services plan to distribute Easter meals to needy families.

Volunteers needed to help.

\* Time to be confirmed

## June 17, 2016

Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Polish Fest at Lakeshore Festival Park

Register for a 5K run or 1 mile walk and help feed the hungry. You can register here:

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### House of Peace

Capuchin Clothes Closet

- Sort clothing in the morning, opportunities most weekdays. Volunteer one or more mornings per month. Group/school opportunities as well.

- Stock food pantry shelves morning or afternoon, opportunities most weekdays.

- Landscaping help needed, hours vary.

To sign up call: **Gerri Sheets-Howard, 414.933.1300, ext. 11**

## HOW TO DONATE

To make a gift to our Capuchin ministry to the hungry & needy 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

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

# A Roaming Ministry

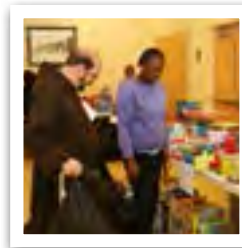
by Capuchin Br. Rob Roemer, Director

## Homelessness Down, Needs Continue

As I look forward to Spring, I sense an enthusiasm around me. People's spirits seem to be more upbeat. There are little glimmers of hope as we see the snow melt and signs of green beginning to sprout. I see that optimism and hope in our guests, as well. Just in the last week alone, two of our guests came to tell me they finally got into their own place, after living on the streets. One, for almost 9 years, the other for 2 years.

Why is this finally happening? Part of it is the City of Milwaukee's program to try to end chronic homelessness. They have been working to get the chronically homeless off the streets. The other reason is because of caring people who want to make this happen. A number of housing places are working with agencies collaboratively to help see that the homeless have a roof over their heads. It is uplifting to me to hear the positive stories for a change.

Even though the homeless now have a home, it doesn't mean they don't need our services any longer. Many still lack the basic necessities of food and clothing. We are here for them and will continue to be, thanks to our many donors who trust us and help us in our various services. You are the support that keeps us going so we are able to do what we do. Thanks to each of you!



## Local Labor Unions Hold Service Day to Paint Meal Hall



◀ More than 20 members from Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and Waukesha County Labor Council, AFL-CIO donated their labor and expertise to paint the walls at St. Ben's Meal hall in January.

Painters volunteered from the Labor Union 781; volunteers from the Labor Union 113 did the prep work to ready the meal hall for the painters and reset the hall after the painting was completed. Other Local Unions that participated were: Local 8 Bricklayers, Sheet Metal Local 18, UFCW, IBEW Locals 494 and 2150. The 30 gallons of paint was donated by Pittsburgh Paint and Glass.

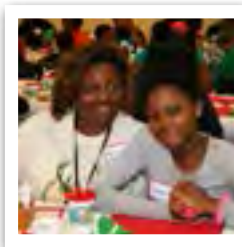
## Blessings of Service

by Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.Div., Administrative Director

### What's Underneath

As I am in the midst of my morning commute to work, I am drawn to the piles of snow along the sidewalks. The snow is now hard, dirty, and pretty much unappealing. I am certain on most days, that I do not even pay attention to it. However, on this day I thought what is beneath all that snow? It made me think of the poor and the homeless, whom I interact with on a daily basis. What is underneath that gruff and sometimes demanding exterior? What is being covered up by the unassuming woman seeking food for her family? What is being hidden by the sunglasses worn by the woman on a very cloudy day?

As I continued to look at the snow, I am hopeful that underneath the snow piles, is grass that will once again turn green and vibrant in due season. I am anticipating that tulips, daffodils, and green hostas will also make their appearance in the spring. As for the guests that are served at Capuchin Community Services, I believe underneath each man and woman are people who have endured cycles of unfortunate events. These are people who have not only lost loved ones, but have also experienced unfulfilled dreams. Within the guests we serve are hearts that beat with a determined will to survive, and to make the most of their current situations. Underneath those exteriors of ragged coats, worn shoes, and battered hats, lay hearts that yearn to love and be loved.





# Welcomes & Goodbyes

## Retirement & New Hires at Capuchin Community Services



▲ *Larry Ampe spoke to the crowd at his retirement party in January. Larry ministered for 25 years at St. Ben's Meal serving as kitchen manager for much of that time.*



▲ *Kenny Howard (left) is the new Administrative Assistant filling the position vacated by Larry Ampe. Kenny was a Franciscan friar for 3 years. He helps with bookkeeping, Front Door Ministry and the Meal. Guest Clarence Royston (right) thanks Kenny for help with a copay for medication. Kenny noticed Clarence needed gloves on a blustery day and was able to provide them as well.*



▲ *Mel Brunner helps volunteer Racine Dixon prepare family sized bags of bread. Mel joined the staff in January as Special Events Coordinator. She was formerly with the Polish Center.*

► *Mark Sauers is repairing a light switch for the House of Peace. Mark joined the staff in July as Maintenance Director. He has professionally managed maintenance departments for several retirement communities.*



## 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 Darneider
- Anthony Myers
- Chuck Cmeyla
- Felice Green
- Mike Kelley
- Sara Zirbel
- Wendy Hermann
- Pam Meyer
- Duncan Shrout
- Fr Perry McDonald
- Gerri Sheets-Howard
- Br Rob Roemer
- Jeff Parrish (Provincial Council Liaison)

### Capuchin Community Services

**Two locations serving the Poor, the Hungry and the Homeless:**

House of Peace  
1702 W Walnut St, Milwaukee, WI 53205  
414.933.1300



St. Ben's Community Meal  
1015 N 9th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
414.271.0135

# Dove Notes

by Fr. Perry McDonald, OFM, Capuchin

My sister was human services director for Marriott hotels when she took me to a Marriott hotel that had just opened. When we arrived a doorman greeted us dressed in a grey tuxedo, top hat and white gloves. As he opened the car doors for us my sister told him that we just wanted to take a quick look at the lobby. He said: "Fine, leave your car right here, but give me the keys so I can move the car if needed." After we came out, the doorman said: "have a good day!"

My sister observed: "That man is worth thousands of dollars to Marriott. He's the first and last person people see. He shows off the mission of hospitality of Marriott." Jesus (confer Matthew 5: 13) would say it differently: that man was "the salt of the earth" to Marriott and us.

Salt has gotten a bad rap in recent years. Doctors tell us that we eat too much salt. But in Jesus's day, salt was not a problem; actually it was seen as a rare luxury item, one used for both

adding taste and preserving foods. It was not readily available and could be used as an exceptional gift to offer a host when visiting. So, when Jesus said "You are the salt of the earth" he was telling them how special they were in his eyes, and he was informing them that they could make a big difference in the world.

A little salt can affect a lot of food just as their goodness (small as it might be) could affect a positive change in the world. A little act of kindness can improve a person's whole day. Donors and volunteers at the House of Peace change the lives of those who are struggling at least for that day. Capuchin Community Services can use some of your salt today.

*Fr. Perry McDonald, OFM, Cap*

Pastoral Director



# Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry On the Move

## Polish Fest is new partner for 2016

**Save the Date: June 17, 2016**

Br. Rob and the Capuchin's Run Walk for the Hungry Steering Committee have chosen Polish Fest to partner with this year. "This move will make it possible for our runners and walkers to enjoy cooler temperatures on our new routes," said Br. Rob.

Jerome ListECKI as our mass celebrant for the Fathers Day Sunday Mass."

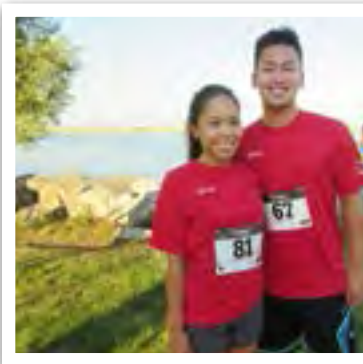


Br. Rob said, "The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be starting a major construction project that will make it difficult to access city streets near Lakeshore Festival Park. The Lakeshore Festival of the Arts will be held on the city and county lands north of the park so access to our usual 5K route is closed."

Jeff Kuderski, Director, Polish Fest & Polish Center shared, "We welcome everyone associated with the Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry to Polish Fest. This year everyone gets access to Polish Fest on all three days with the wristband they wear for the run or walk."

Marty Malin, certified running coach is working on the design of a new 5K route that will start on the soccer field outside the North Gate of the Summer Fest grounds. Marty certifies courses for the USATE. The walk will take place within the grounds and be approximately 1 mile in length.

Jeff listed the many opportunities participants will have for fun, "Throughout the weekend all those wearing the wristbands can enjoy 5 stages of entertainment, the cultural village, folk art and cooking demonstrations, Polish Artists, Polish Folk dancers, the Sukiennice Marketplace, Children's Area, Little, Junior and Teen Miss Polish Fest



Pageant, the 18th Annual Chopin Youth Piano Competition, our Kawiarnia Polish Bakery, Polish and American food, Chopin Vodka lounge, our 2 Tyskie beer gardens and of course our Big Boonski fireworks display presented by Planners Financial."

hope all of our teams and individual participants will participate again this year. We need everyone's help to feed the poor, the hungry and the homeless."

Br. Rob said, "The one thing that never changes is that the hungry need food. I

He concluded saying, "I am especially happy to announce that we are able to have the Reverend Archbishop

Online registration opens on March 15, 2016. To register then go to:

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

## 2015 Statistics Reveal Capuchins' Impact

Last year Capuchin Community Services' two sites served over 200,000 people. Some individuals received services more than once. Here is a snapshot of our ministry:

### ● Feeding the Hungry St. Ben's Meal:



Nights Served	Avg Served	Total Meals
303	347	105,226

### ● Other Services St. Ben's Meal:



Bus Tickets	Hygiene Bags	RX Co-pays
2,728	2,230	1,457

## Capuchin Community Services



### ● Feeding the Hungry House of Peace:



Households	Individuals	Total Meals
18,513	34,351	137,404

### ● Other Services House of Peace:



Bread/Veggies	Clothing	Direct Help
15,799	15,171	14,585



Twitter.com/  
CapuchinComSvc



Facebook.com/  
CapuchinCommunityServices



YouTube.com/  
CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg

Statistics for our other programs can be found here:

[www.capuchincommunityservices.org/about-us/statistics](http://www.capuchincommunityservices.org/about-us/statistics)