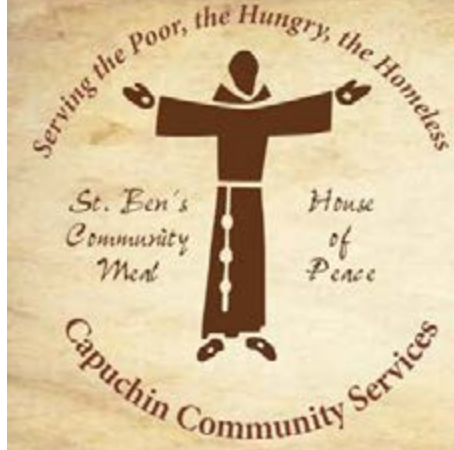


Capuchin Community Services

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

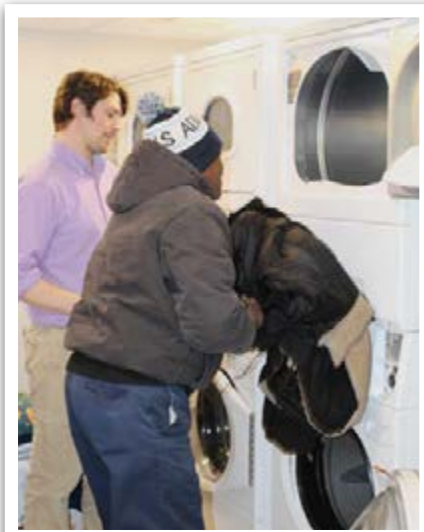
St. Ben's Meal & Front Door Ministry Moves Into St. Anthony's Donors thanked as more guests served daily and warming center opens



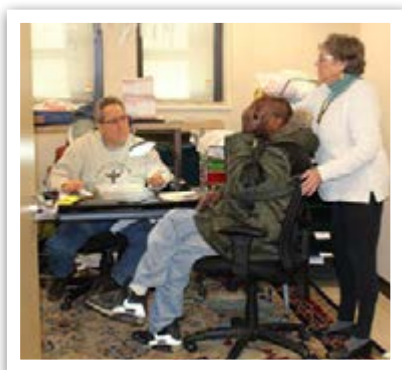
▲ Guests are welcomed by volunteers and signed up for one or more services.



▲ Guests no longer wait outside for the evening meal. They can wait quietly or watch TV in the Gathering Space.



▲ Volunteers help guests use the free washers and dryers.



▲ Guests can receive donated eye glasses. They often change lives and help guests find work.



▲ St. Ben's Meal's offices & Front Door Ministry are on the basement floor of St. Anthony's Place. Ascension St. Ben's Clinic & the Milwaukee County Day Reporting Unit are on the 1st Floor. Floors 2 through 5 are apartments for qualified low income tenants.



▲ As winter chills Milwaukee, the Gathering Space is converted to a women's warming center.



◀ Barbers volunteer to provide free haircuts in a fully furnished barbershop.

▶ Three new showers replace the one in the old offices. Guests can shower and shave as needed. Gilberto is homeless.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace

Sort & Serve: March-April, Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 3:30pm

- Hygiene bag drives are underway now. Volunteers & volunteer groups needed to come in to help us sort & organize the donated bags. This volunteer opportunity includes sorting through the incoming hygiene bag items & filling the bags for distribution based on gender.

Food & Clothing Pantries - Prep & Assist: March-April, Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 3:30pm

- Volunteers needed to sort food and clothing. Shelve food and prepare pantry packs. Inspect clothing and hang on rods by gender.



St. Ben's Community Meal

Meal Service: Sun-Fri, 4:45 - 6:45pm

- Volunteers needed serving meals, pouring beverages, providing condiments, retrieving trays and resetting tables. Scheduling 2019 now.

Hall Cleaning: Sun-Fri, 1:30 - 3:00pm or Saturday afternoons

- Volunteer groups needed to clean the Meal hall. Opportunities to clean on weekdays in the early afternoons and Saturdays.



St. Anthony Place

Front Office Help: Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 5:00pm

- Volunteers needed to help in the Front Office greeting visitors & guests plus minor office duties. Volunteers also needed to help clean our space during the day. Must be able to lift, walk and be mobile.

Next Steps

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact: Shirelle Jenkins, Volunteer Coordinator at 414-933-1300, x1123 or sjenkins@thecapuchins.org.

Roaming Ministry

by Br. Rob Roemer, OFM, Capuchin Director

Great ministry experience ending

Capuchin Community Services-St. Ben's Community Meal & House of Peace are places that grow on you. I have heard that often from volunteers and donors over the past 8 years. So it makes it hard for me to tell you that I will be leaving Capuchin Community Services as of late June. Believe me, this was not my choice. But as Capuchins we take a vow of Obedience and I was told there was a need for me to step into another ministry, asap.

These past 8 years I have had the privilege to be a part of so many people's lives: guests, donors and volunteers. I thank you for allowing me to share in your lives and those of your loved ones. What an honor!

Even before I was assigned to St. Ben's in 2011, I had a great love for the place. I used to come to help on occasion. There is an incredible spirit and generosity of so many in the community. I have come to realize that we could never do what we do, if not for so many others giving of

► Br. Rob Roemer (center) consults with volunteers serving people staying overnight in the Warming Center.



themselves, their talents and resources. Thus the name "Community Services or Community Meal." You are the ones that make all this happen. Thank You!

Over the past 8 years I've been in awe of the relationships between the volunteers, donors and guests. I realize we have more in common than we do differences. There have been numerous

times when volunteers shared with me about a common friend or acquaintance they found with a guest. Some reunions even happening where a loved one finds a missing friend or relative.



▲ Br. Rob delivers the evening prayer as volunteers prepare to serve the guests at St. Ben's Community Meal.

This has been, by far, my greatest

experience of ministry as a Capuchin in my 30 years as a friar. Thanks to ALL of you for making this experience so rewarding. I'm really going to miss being here and sharing life with you. Please help Br Robert Wotypka to continue this wonderful ministry at Capuchin Community Services. Blessings and Thanks to ALL of you!!

You have taught me a lot!



▲ Br. Robert (center) and Br. Rob (left) donate food during the January Federal Government Shut-Down to the TSA Volunteer Food Pantry.



▲ A member of the Milwaukee Police Department stopped by to help feed guests during a recent meal at St. Ben's.

Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM, Capuchin Pastoral Director

Singing from a new hymnal

As Capuchin Franciscans we have to reconcile ourselves to the fact that we will again and again meet people, work with them very closely, come to love them as brother and sister, and then leave, with a high likelihood that we'll never see them again. This is a Scriptural reality, too; it's what Jesus pointed to when he foretold, "Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." (Jn 21: 18)

Well, I'm still dressing myself – not particularly well, but that's what the habit is for. And it hasn't happened yet that I've been sent where I did not want to go – I accepted the news of my transfer with equal parts peace and trepidation. But I have to be open to what Jesus teaches. And so I am.

► Br. Robert visited the 2nd Graders at Christ King School. He shared how hosting a food box drive is a corporal work of mercy.



I joined the order in 2010 and spent my postulancy year in Milwaukee, and then was posted here again in the summer of 2013, to Saint Ben's. I am thankful to Brother Rob for tending the vineyard that is Capuchin Community Services so conscientiously, and for all the people drawn to labor here with him, as staff, volunteers, donors and partners.

Soon enough I will begin to lose sleep over the enormity of this call, but in the present, while I'm alert and rested, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Is 1: 18), and discern what are the gifts, what are the needs, and what is the holy work God is calling us to do, with and for our brothers and sisters connected and committed to this ministry. Please pray for me. Please pray for us



▲ (Top left photo) - Robert is a long-time guest and recent volunteer. He helps with unloading trucks, packing pantry packs and stocking shelves. Here he gives LaShun McGee an overview of the types of bread available from the bread table.

▲ (Top right photo) - Jerilyn Jones, Health Educator, teaches one of the first year-round Empowerment Classes. Watch for a story on this new program soon.

◀ Volunteer Anita Schantz (left) serves at the House of Peace in many ways. She learned of the closing of the Marriott Hotel nearby and asked for donations. Anita has facilitated the donation of over 1,000 sanitized down pillows to the Capuchin Clothes Closet. Choua Vang, Manager (right) accepts the gift.

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, Pastoral Director
- Br Rob Roemer, 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

Or mail your gift to:

Capuchin Community Services
P.O. Box 5830
Milwaukee, WI 53205-5830

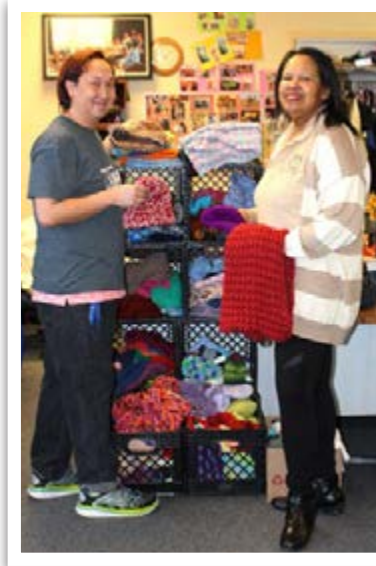
Capuchin Community Services is a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Unless otherwise directed, donations support the local ministry and the Province.

The **Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph** 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.

House of Peace's Capuchin Clothes Closet Helps People Stay Warm

The House that Love built is warmed by the sharing of clothes, blankets and more

“The beautiful hand knitting was the first thing I noticed,” Choua Vang, Clothes Closet Manager said. “I began to thank the donor and noticed she was missing a hand so I asked, who helped you with this?” He continued, “She said I did! My mother didn’t treat me like I was handicapped growing up and insisted I learn knitting when it was offered in high school.”



The donor who wishes to remain anonymous brought in scarves, hats and mittens. “I wanted to thank her for her generous gift,” Choua said. “But she didn’t want any recognition. I gave her a tour of the Capuchin Clothes Closet and she told me that she was making the donation because she wanted people to stay warm.”

Linda Barnes, Social Worker said, “It’s our 51st birthday at the House of Peace. People call us the house

that love built. I think that this woman’s gift is exactly that!” Linda added, “I am amazed at how our donors always rise to the need. This has been a long and brutal winter for everyone. In prior years we’d have run out of hats, coats and blankets by March. Instead our donors continue to drop off Warm Winter donations for our guests.”



Kandiz was one of those guests arriving on a March day that started with negative temperatures. “I am looking for clothing for my daughter, father, two of my nephews and a family whose apartment was flooded out,” she said. Opening her bags she shared, “I’ve already found slacks for the men, sweaters for everyone plus several of these knit hats. I really appreciate the House of Peace’s clothing closet because everything is free. It makes it

easier for me to help so many people along with my own family.”

St. Anthony Campaign

by Dan McKinley, Consultant for Community Engagement

A Personal Perspective

On March 15th the Capuchin community and our Heartland Housing partners were joined by Milwaukee’s civic leaders to formally celebrate the GRAND OPENING of St. Anthony’s Apartments.

To make this inspiring vision for the old historic hospital a reality, the Capuchins attracted over 1,500 donors and raised over \$2.5 Million, and Heartland Housing secured over \$10.5 Million in tax credits. We truly had much to celebrate! We’ll share pictures with you in our next letter.

St. Anthony’s 60 apartments include supportive services for people who were chronically homeless.

► (L to R) Rose Morrison, Jessie Grochowski and Dan McKinley set up the children's play area in the new Gathering Space.



In addition, a new indoor gathering space has enabled hundreds of guests who come to the St. Bens Community Meal to clean up, warm up and socialize before the meal. The Ascension St. Bens Clinic for homeless people has new facilities on the 1st Floor. And Capuchin Community Services new facilities on the ground floor include showers, bathrooms, laundry, and other services for our homeless brothers and sisters.

If you would like to visit St. Anthony and fully appreciate how this wonderful development is such a blessing to the people we serve, please call (414) 374-8841, ext. 41. Thank you!



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Capuchin Community Services

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House of Peace
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Milwaukee, WI 53205
414.933.1300

Support our ministry: www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate or by mail to P.O. Box 5830, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0830