



St. Ben's Meal A Blessing Three Times Plus

Guest shares the many ways he is blessed by the Capuchins' ministry

"I don't want to be outside another winter," Ryan said. A tall man, he walked stooped with pain. "I have been trying to get disability for years. I am finally getting my day in court this November. If I win, I'll finally get off the streets."

Ryan is in the subset of guests at St. Ben's Community Meal who struggle with homelessness after once having a successful career. Illness is often why some people end up outside, which is true in Ryan's case. "I suffered three strokes, the first on the job and I knew that I was going to get fired because I couldn't keep up after that."

"I went from making \$32 per hour to another job at \$12 per hour and then nothing," Ryan explained. He continued, "I sleep outside in a hidden camping spot. I shower, do my laundry, and eat most evening meals at St. Ben's Community Meal. It is such a blessing!" This would be the first of several times Ryan shared how blessed he felt to have the Capuchin's support while trying to no longer live outside.

"I have arthritis in my spine and pain in my hands from my days working construction. I had my first stroke when I was driving a truck. It happened right at the loading dock. I can't feel my left arm for the last five years," Ryan said.

"Last year, I could get through the winter largely because I could sleep here at St. Ben's. I remember lying on my cot and looking out the windows in the meal hall/men's dorm. I saw the snow blown around by the wind and was glad I had a place inside. St. Ben's is a blessing!"



▲ Ryan (L) receives a clean towel, socks, underpants and a T-shirt from Br. Henryk (R) as he prepares to take a shower.

Ryan had come to St. Ben's Meal that afternoon to shower. "I got new socks and underwear from Br. Henryk. I also got a hygiene bag last Wednesday. So, I was all set to get washed. I especially appreciate being able to clean my feet. Walking around the city all day makes them so red and sore. St. Ben's is a blessing!"

Kenny Howard, Site Manager at St. Ben's Meal, stopped to say hello. He added, "The hygiene bag and new socks and underwear are always needed and often in short supply. We are having problems getting enough of each to give to our guests. Donors who want to shop and buy these items or make a financial gift to support us can do so today. I am always scrambling to find the resources our guests need."

To learn
more, scan
here: →



ofmcap.cc/CCS-UnderwearDrive

Donor Thank You Mass: Br. Henryk is a priest friar who will offer Mass to thank all of our donors. Please join us at St. Benedict the Moor Parish, 930 W State Street, on December 14, 2024, at 4 p.m.

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

Saint Ben's Community Meal needs volunteers to serve on the floor on Sundays-Thursdays. The House of Peace needs volunteers to help in the food pantry in the mornings and clothing in the afternoon. These & other opportunities are posted online:

House of Peace -

ofmcap.cc/HouseOfPeaceVolunteers



St. Ben's Community Meal -

ofmcap.cc/StBensVolunteer



Questions? Contact:

Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: 414-933-1300, x1323

Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org

IN-KIND DONATIONS

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

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 Br. Henryk Cisowski, OFM Capuchin
Interim Ministry Director



Frequently, we host families with children at our ministry sites. The children come together with their parents to have a warm dinner at St. Ben's or accompany their mother or father to seek support at House of Peace. Some are outgoing and curious about everything, while others always hang onto their parents.



▲ Br. Henryk poses with some committed volunteers who help sort the donated clothing at the House of Peace.

When I look at these little ones or these already grown-up kids, I think about their future: What kind of world will they live in? Will it be better than we know today—more opportunities or hitting up against glass ceilings? How will their story turn out? Will they have a good life?

It's a poorly posed problem, though—their lives won't start someday when they grow up. Their lives are already going on. This little person is becoming and maturing right now—gradually, day by day. We need only look at our experience to understand the profound impact of the first several years of life on our personality and approach to life. It's a crucial period that shapes who we become.

Then, we can grow wings, become ready for significant challenges, or reassert ourselves

in the conviction that nothing can be done, that we are doomed to a vicious circle of powerlessness and impotence.

How do we get our children to find that strength that will carry them through life?

When, like every year during School Supply Drive, we hand out

school supplies, school bags, and notebooks to hundreds of them, I imagine that we are giving this army of little soldiers the tools to fight to make their plans and dreams come true—dreams that they will write about in school essays and sketch with colored pencils.

School is such an important first battlefield for their better future, and I pray, I firmly believe, that they will win it - with our support, together.

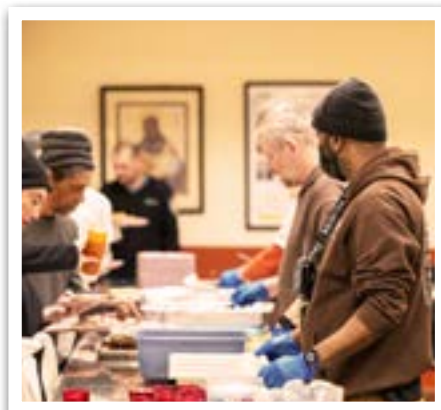
Thank you for supporting us this summer during the Back-to-School Supplies Drive. On page 4, you can read about our upcoming Holiday Food Box and Toy Drives. These benefit families at the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal. Please join us in helping our neighbors as they seek to empower and strengthen their children for life's challenges.

br. hcy

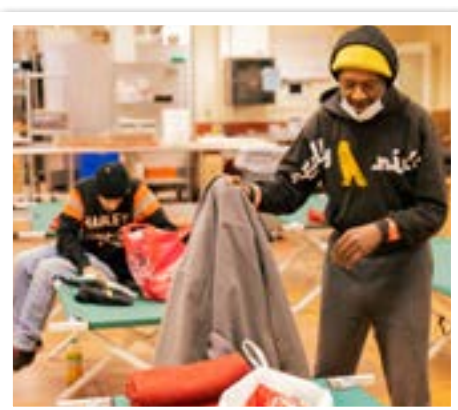


Warming Center at St. Ben's Meal Reopens Soon

St. Ben's Overflow Shelter will open for 4 months of protection from winter



▲ Br. Henryk, second from right, helps serve guests a bedtime snack before the men's dorm lights go off.



▲ Guests check and stow their gear before preparing for bed.



▲ St. Ben's Meal Hall becomes the men's dorm. Bathrooms are through the double doors. The women's dorm is in the gathering space, with locked doors and bathrooms.

The Warming Center at St. Ben's Community Meal continues to expand. Initially, the program was open whenever nighttime temperatures were below a certain number. Then the number changed, we had the pandemic, and we began to add more evenings of service.

Kenny Howard is the Site Manager at St. Ben's Community Meal. He explained how the Warming Center will operate during winter 2024-25. "We no longer use the outside temperature as a factor. We want to be available as needed to add capacity to the city for the winter," Kenny explained. He continued, "We will open on December 1 and remain open all winter until March 31. We would also like to thank the Wheaton Franciscans for the beautiful grant that helped us offer four months of evening shelter to homeless people in our community."

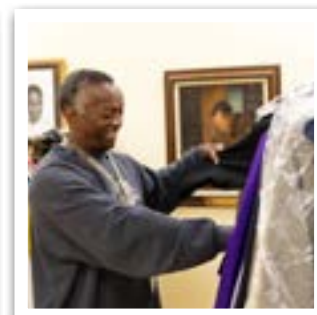
Warm Winter Drives Start In Fall

Blankets & winter wear are collected to help people throughout the winter



◀ A mom looks over the new children's coats and picks one out for her child.

▶ Cindy, center, distributes blankets and winter clothing with the help of a team of volunteers.



▲ A guest smiles, looking over the selection of clothing to choose from. All items are given away free of charge.

Dozens of churches, schools, workplaces, and neighborhood groups are preparing to hold Warm Winter Drives for Capuchin Community Services. The focus is on winter clothing and heavy blankets. While some of our drives benefit the House of Peace and some St. Ben's Community Meal, this helps both ministry sites.

Each year, we witness a pressing need for children's new and gently used winter coats. Additionally, there are individuals, especially the homeless, who endure the harsh winter conditions and urgently require insulated winter boots. Both new and gently-used boots are appreciated. You can scan the QR code to learn more and understand the urgency of this need.



ofmcap.cc/CCS-Warmth

2024 Holiday Food Box & Toy Drives

Schools, Churches & Businesses Start Drives - You Can Help!



2023:

◀ Last year 2,700 households lined up around the block to get food and toys.

▶ Over 2,500 children received new toys, books, winter clothing and more as a result of our donors' generosity.



Holiday Food Box Drives:



ofmcap.cc/HolidayBoxDrives

How to promote a drive
If you will hold a drive, we offer several ways to promote it. We can help with a flyer, postcards and posters. To inquire about any of these items, please email: capholidaydrives@thecapuchins.org.



Christmas Toy Drives:



ofmcap.cc/ChristmasJoy

Holiday Food Boxes

Capuchin Community Services will distribute food boxes to guests for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Please contact us if you can help complete a Holiday Meal Box for a guest and their family.

- 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)

Holiday Toy Drives

The Capuchin friars will distribute toys at Christmas to families in need. Here are some toys our families would like to be able to share with their children. If you can collect and donate new toys, let us know.

- Playdoh Sets
- Scooter
- Hot Wheels Cars & Track
- RC Car or Truck
- Music Head/Earphones
- Coloring Set & Easel
- Action Figures
- Jumbo Character
- Stuffed Plush Animal
- Etch-A-Sketch
- Basketball, Football, Baseball or Soccerball
- Children's Books
- Other toys for children birth to 14 years of age.

How To Make Stock Gifts

To make a stock gift, inform your broker that you will donate to **The Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order** (our legal name). Please ask your broker to send the stock gift to our broker **“for the benefit of Capuchin Community Services”**. Please call our Development Office at (414) 509-8465 so we can send you a letter for tax purposes.

Please send stock gifts to:

JP Morgan
Attention: Mark Maddock
465 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111
Account Name: The Province of St. Joseph
Account Number: 741-35014 <> DTC: 0352
mark.o.maddock@jpmorgan.com or (734) 697-1660

254N02

Capuchin Community Services Social Media & Ministry Sites

- [Twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc](https://twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc)
- [Facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices](https://facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices)
- [YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg](https://youtube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg)
- instagram.com/capuchincommunityservices/

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