



House of Peace

A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

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Annual Report for the fiscal year 2009

Meet One of our Guests



Peggy and her son Deon live about 6 blocks away from the House of Peace. But because she did not live in one of the two zip codes the food pantry served then, she could not get food there each month as she needed it.

Peggy suffers from arthritis throughout her body and has applied for disability. "I have gotten clothes, shoes and blankets in the Capuchin Clothes Closet, and this year I signed Deon up for school supplies," Peggy said. Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director explained, "The food pantry is the only program with a requirement that people live in certain zip codes so Peggy could access our other services."

Gerri continued, "The HOP has now added zip code 53206 at the request of the Hunger Task Force. The other zip codes served are 53205 and 53233. In the past, guests like Peggy who came to the Food Pantry from outside the two zip codes received food that was privately donated."

Dominique McGhee, Food Pantry Manager said, "I have seen more first time guests coming to the pantry. Our typical guest has seen a reduction in benefits or lost a job. Food costs are going up and what money they have is not stretching 30 days to feed their household."

Peggy said, "The staff at the HOP always treated me well and I am very happy that my zip code has been added to the Food Pantry."

Our Ministry's Purpose is...

The purpose of the House of Peace Community Center is "to serve Christ's poor." For almost 42 years, the House of Peace has served the poor in our community through our Emergency Food Pantry, Capuchin Clothing Closet, and through collaborating with other entities. We have partnered with The University of Wisconsin-College of Nursing to provide medical assistance through the community nursing clinic. Marquette University Law School's volunteer legal clinic provides free legal advice on civil issues at no cost to the guests. The House of Peace also has on staff a full-time social worker who helps families to resolve a plethora of issues. Spiritual direction and pastoral guidance are provided through two Capuchin friars on staff.

Christ's poor- whom we are privileged- to serve are treated as our "guests" at the House of Peace. The Emergency food pantry provides non-perishable food items to our guests who have a need. Many guests find free gently used clothing items, small household appliances, and linens in the Capuchin Clothing Closet. The annual "Back to School Supplies Drive" provides age appropriate book bags and school materials to children ages 3-17. Each October, 1000 families are registered for the Holiday food/toy distribution. Food boxes filled with items necessary for preparing a basic holiday meal are distributed at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Families with children ages 12 and under receive new Christmas toys.

Mission Statement

Based on Gospel values, the House of Peace serves the community by assisting families and individuals in meeting their spiritual, material, and emotional needs, thereby helping families remain together and promoting self-sufficiency.

A Message from Our Ministry Director



*Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.A.
Executive Director*

“Just be yourself,” is what a wise person told me as I began my tenure as the Executive Director of the House of Peace. Being myself, that is the easy part. Guiding the staff and volunteers to live out the purpose to “serve Christ’s poor,” comes with a huge dose of humility and total dependence on the Holy Spirit.

The mission of the House of Peace is what we all seek to fulfill in our various roles. The hungry in our community receive food through our Emergency Food Pantry; which on average provides food for approximately 600 families each month. Many who are unable to purchase adequate clothing items visit our Capuchin Clothing Closet, where free and clean gently used items are made available.

Those seeking medical attention, which are uninsured or underinsured, may visit the UWM- Community Nursing Clinic. Marquette University Law School’s Volunteer Legal Clinic has provided free legal advice to those unable to secure legal representation. Young people are given the opportunity to learn how to become leaders within their communities. Select students attending Catholic high schools receive tuition assistance through our Teen Scholarship Program.

I am compelled to share my story of being raised in the House of Peace Community and the support my family received from a variety of sources, which gave me hope to rise above all obstacles in my environment. This same hope I seek to share with staff, volunteers, guests and donors alike, and to inspire the possibilities which can arise as we all come together as a community to combat poverty within our midst. Together we must adhere to the closing line of our mission statement, “helping families to remain together and promote self-sufficiency.” As the Executive Director, I will seek to embody and encourage through the services we provide.

Gerri Sheets-Howard

Our Ministry’s Program Statistics

Nursing Clinic: Approximately 1,400 guests. At least 20% of the nursing clinic’s guests are men who do not have health insurance and of these, at least 50% are employed sporadically or in jobs with no health care benefits. The women who access the nursing clinic for care do not qualify for most available government funding options for health care service needs.

Emergency Food Pantry: The Pantry served 9,426 individuals. In 2008 there has been a 73.4% increase in people served at the Emergency Food Pantry over 2007 due to the additional zip code served.

Holiday Food & Toy Drives: 1,000 needy households are registered to receive food during Thanksgiving and again at Christmas plus toys for Christmas. In 2008 the House of Peace Holiday Food & Toy Drives served:

Thanksgiving	1163 Household 3897 Individuals
Christmas	1139 Households 3726 Individuals
Toys	1,984 children 14 years old and under

Marquette Volunteer Law Clinic: 846 clients were served in 2008.

Summary: The house of Peace served guests 36,215 times through all the services provided in 2008. This is a 59.2% increase in guests served from 2007.

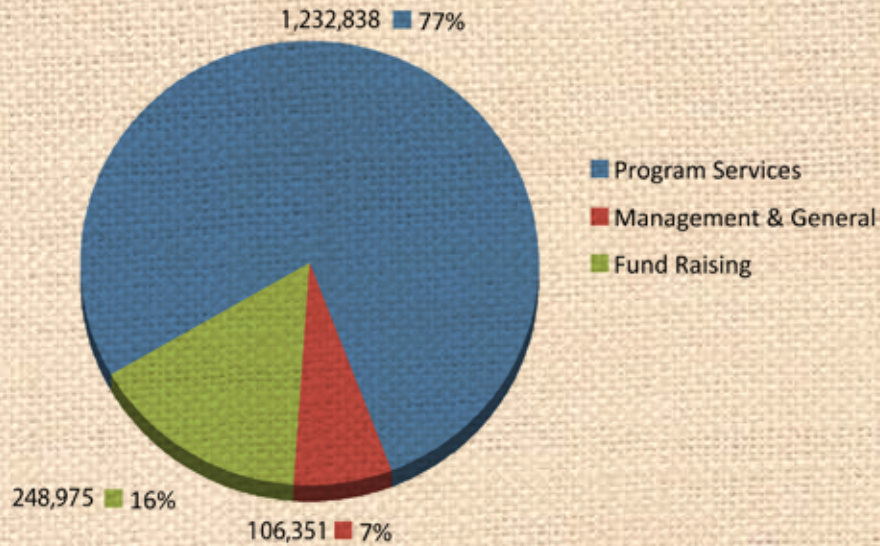
Guests’ Demographics:

The House of Peace primarily serves the poor of Milwaukee’s inner city; mostly African-Americans of all ages and both genders who present as, unemployed and/or underemployed.

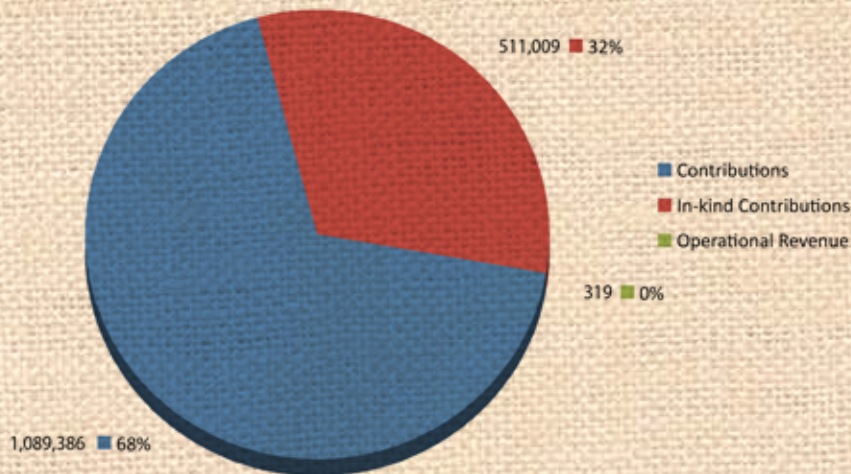


Your donation dollars at work at the House of Peace

House of Peace Expenses



House of Peace Revenue



The financial information contained herein has been formally reviewed by a third party public accounting firm. A complete copy of the financial statement is available through the ministry's office.

100% of your gifts are utilized by House of Peace, a Capuchin ministry

House of Peace is one of several ministries in the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph.

We are a Roman Catholic religious community of friars inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.

We live and work with people in need, especially those who are poor and disenfranchised.

We serve God in a variety of ministries, including social services, parishes, schools, retreat and spirituality centers, and chaplaincies.

Our friars serve in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Arizona, Nicaragua, Panama and Canada.

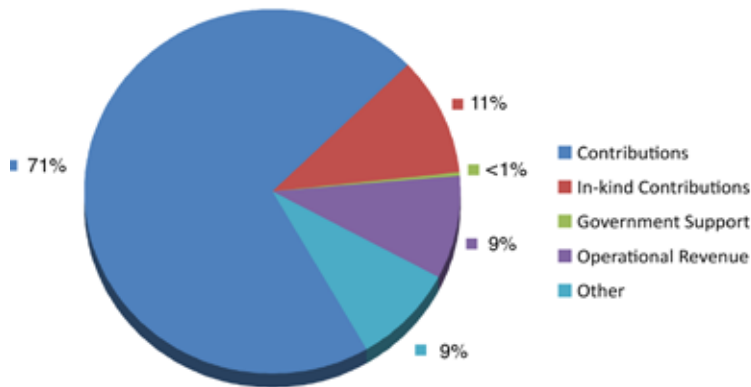
We serve God and our brothers and sisters humbly and simply.

We touch thousands of lives every day:

- * *Clothing and feeding people in our soup kitchens and community centers in Detroit and Milwaukee;*
- * *Feeding souls at our spirituality centers in Michigan and Wisconsin;*
- * *Preparing young people for service in the Church;*
- * *...and in many other ways!*

We rely on the dedication of many friars, co-workers, and volunteers, the generous support of our benefactors, and above all the grace of God.

The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph Revenue



The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph Expenses

