



A Ministry of the Capuchin
Province of St. Joseph

House of Peace

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The House of Peace is a
501 (c) (3) ministry.
All donations are tax deductible
as allowable by law.

School Supplies Distributed To Needy



Left: Mother and daughter share some of the new school supplies they received.



Right: Mother and son prepare to receive supplies for a new school year.

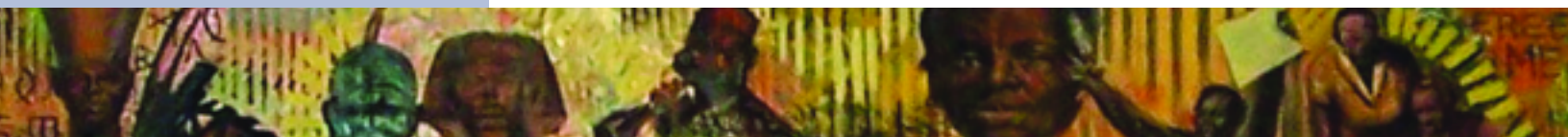
House of Peace Hosts Volunteers At Picnic



Left: Volunteers line up for a picnic dinner served by staff.



Right: Br. Mark shares his appreciation of a volunteer's service.



The Holiday Gift Box Food Drive

starts October 4th. Please consider donating one, two or all of the items needed for a box:

- 1 box of mashed potatoes
- 1 bag of stuffing
- 4 cans of green beans
- 4 cans of corn
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 1 32 oz. can of sweet potatoes or yams
- 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

Drop off your gift to the House of Peace on the corner of 17th and Walnut. Food is needed to fill 2,000 boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food donations for the Holiday Gift Box program are needed between October 15 and December 15, 2008 and beyond.

ADVENT TOY DRIVE

Can your family or parish help?

The House of Peace is distributing 2,000 food baskets to needy households this holiday season. Last year's households included over 3,000 children.

We need to collect 2-3 new toys per child to distribute at Christmas. Please consider holding an Advent Toy Drive for the poor. If your family or parish can help, please contact us to confirm the details. We would like to have toys ready to distribute by Monday, December 15th.

If your family or parish can help, contact:

Jim Van Hoven, Development Director
(414) 374-8841, ext. 26 or
jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org



Please consider including the House of Peace in your will. To discuss other giving options, call Jim Van Hoven, Development Director, (414) 374-8841, ext. 26.



House of Peace

“Serving Christ’s Poor”

A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

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September 30, 2008

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“Neighbors In Need Depend On The House of Peace” House of Peace Helps Mother With 9 Children In School

“They never turn their back on me,” said Valencia, “and I know when I started coming to the House of Peace (HOP), it was ten years ago.”

Valencia was visiting the HOP on a warm and humid August day in the final month of her pregnancy. She had come to attend an empowerment class on how to be a parent advocate with her children’s school.

With nine children currently in school and pregnant with a baby girl, Valencia knew that she needed school supplies. Due to the generosity of our donors the HOP was able to distribute back packs with markers, paper, spiral bound markers and much more.

“I appreciate the House of Peace and all their help,” Valencia said. “I have received food from the food pantry, clothing from the clothes closet, Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes and toys for the children at Christmas.” Guests receiving the Holiday Food boxes and toys or school supplies are asked to attend empowerment classes.

Valencia continued, “I like attending the classes – I always learn something new. I recently took the Wellness Classes on CPR

and Smoking. I didn’t know that smoking could dirty your lungs!”

Several of Valencia’s children were with her. Her son, Anfonee, age 10 said he would use his school supplies at 27th Street School. He wants to be famous as a player for the Green Bay Packers. He was especially excited to learn that he would receive new shoes as a result of an anonymous donation.



Above: Valencia (seated) is surrounded by some of her children. They have just received backpacks, shoes and school supplies with the help of the donors to the House of Peace.

Anfonee selected a new pair of Nikes with a big smile on his face. Linda Barnes, Social

Worker for the HOP said, “We are so grateful to our donors for their generosity and dedication to the children of the families that we serve. “

Linda continued, “The “back to school” program would not be possible if not for each of them. I especially want to thank all of the helping hands that actually packed the book bags; especially the little ones.”

To learn more about the programs that helped Valencia and her family be sure to visit our website: www.houseofpeacemilwaukee.org.

Dove Notes



House of Peace Ministry Council

Chairperson:

Judge Maxine White

Vice Chairperson:

Frederick Muth, Jr.

Members At Large:

Patrick Byrne

Fr. Matthew Gottschalk,
O.F.M., Capuchin

Jeff Monday

Thelma Sias

Br. Bob Smith,
O.F.M., Capuchin

Sr. Shawnee Sykes, SSND

Fr. Al Veik,
O.F.M., Capuchin

Executive Director:

Gerri Sheets-Howard,
M.A.

P.S. Are you, or do you know of, a man aged 18 - 50 who you think would make a good Capuchin Friar? If so, please contact our Capuchin Vocation Director, Fr. John Holly, at (773) 475-6206. He's waiting for your call.

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Peace to you! I hope you have been well. Usually I would have written to you before now at this time of year, but I’ve been putting it off. I’ve been putting it off because I knew what I had to tell you, but I didn’t know how I wanted to tell it! I decided Ecclesiastes provided the right words. I have been here at the House of Peace (HOP) for a little over six years. It has been a blessing beyond measure. But my season and my time here has come to an end. By the time you read this I will have resigned my position as the Executive Director at the HOP. I am grateful to all of you for how you have supported this wonderful ministry during my years here, and I am grateful to God for all of you and for these years.

Ms. Gerri Sheets-Howard, the HOP Assistant Director, is stepping up to take on the role of Executive Director, and Fr. Perry McDonald, OFM, Capuchin, is joining the HOP staff as Pastoral Director. Miss Gerri has been my right arm ever since I came here, and has often been my left arm as well! She is eminently qualified to take on this position after her 8-9 years of being the Assistant Director. Fr. Perry is one of the most warm and caring people you’ll ever meet. In my first year in the Capuchin Order Fr. Perry was my director. I have held him in the highest regard ever since. The HOP is indeed fortunate to have Miss Gerri here to step up to the plate and to have Fr. Perry join the ministry. God is good!

As for me, I hold two other positions in the Capuchin Order that have their own duties and responsibilities, so I expect to stay busy and productive. But I am ever so grateful for having been part of the HOP. Someone asked me recently what has been the best part of ministering here. I answered in a heartbeat because I didn’t even have to think about it. “The people I’ve met,” I said. From our guests in need to those who collaborate with the HOP to our volunteers, donors and staff, the greatest gift of all has been meeting all these wonderful people I never would have otherwise met; gifts that will last a lifetime. What a great “matter under heaven!”

From my first day here to the waning last I have been stunned by the compassion and generosity of the HOP donors. You have never failed us and the people we serve in our times of need. Never. And your response to our need for school supplies this year was again fantastic. With so many people helping, over 400 underprivileged children went back to school this Fall with everything they needed from erasers to book bags. They wouldn’t have without you. One donor even brought in I-don’t-know-how-many brand new shoes for kids. That brought a lot of smiles to the face of the planet earth! I’m so thankful to all of you for how you came through for the kids.



Above: Br. Perry McDonald, OFM, Capuchin will serve as the new Pastoral Director of the House of Peace.

And speaking of underprivileged children and how “For everything there is a season” we are again staring the upcoming holiday season in the face. Feels like a steamroller barreling our way with no escape in sight, doesn’t it?! It’s coming and there’s no stopping it. The HOP is again pleading, asking, cajoling, begging - take your pick - you to help us collect new toys/gifts for children aged 12 and down for Christmas. And we need specific food items for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes. Like you, we want the poor to enjoy the holidays in their own homes with their own families. And no one wants to see a child disappointed at Christmas. If you have the means to help the HOP do this for the poor, please do. It means so much to so many and will make your holidays better, too. Guaranteed. Details on the holiday program are on the last page.

“It is you who have answered the call to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, care for the ill and so much more.”

I have been a torch-bearer for the HOP in my time here. I didn’t light the torch or extinguish it. Br. Booker and Fr. Matthew lit it. I carried it as best I could. But like all that happens at the HOP, carrying that torch wasn’t done alone. The HOP

Ministry Council has provided me with great support and advice. Our volunteers work shoulder to shoulder with us unloading the trucks, answering the phones, greeting our guests, etc., making sure the work gets done. The HOP staff has had my back every step of every day and has kept me from failing and falling more times than I’d care to admit. Our collaborators (UWM College of Nursing, the Milwaukee Archdiocese, Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, CorpCare, Works of Mercy & others) have been so good to work with. Our province’s Provincial Council has been very supportive of the HOP. Foundations of all types and sizes have been immensely and sometimes anonymously helpful, and Fr. Matthew & Fr. Al have always been there for me with their wisdom and guidance. I am grateful to them all.

But other than my gratitude to God, I am most grateful to you - the HOP donors - who are the lifeblood of the Gospel work of the HOP. Without you this ministry would not exist. It is you who have answered the call to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, care for the ill and so much more. The Gospel gets enfleshed. Here. Because of you.

The HOP was here long before I came and will do just fine without me. But it *needs* you. Please continue to support it with your prayers and donations. And thank you so much for making my time and my season here such a rewarding and fulfilling experience. It has been a true privilege, and you will remain in my prayers for a long, long time.

Your Capuchin brother,



Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin



Above: Capuchin Fr. Matthew Gottschalk, co-founder of the House of Peace leads staff and volunteers in a prayer of blessing for Capuchin Br. Mark Carrico.