

House of Peace

"Serving Christ's Poor"

A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

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CorpCare Helps House Of Peace Clothe Needy

New Clothes Closet Manager Helps Guest Look For Work

For years the House of Peace (HOP) has depended on donations of used clothes for its Capuchin Clothes Closet. A new collaborative effort between the HOP and "Threads of Hope", a program of CorpCare Distributions is providing the Closet with brand new clothing to share with the needy.

Dennis Brand, President of CorpCare said, "Threads of Hope provides brand new clothing from retailers including Land's End, Sears and Kohl's." Dennis continued, "We are delighted that the Capuchin Clothes Closet at the House of Peace is part of our network. We share a common philosophy with the House of Peace in that every person needs to be treated with dignity and respect."

Choua Vang knows what it is like to grow up in a large family struggling to clothe each member with dignity and respect. Choua is a Hmong refugee who immigrated to Milwaukee from Thailand when he was two years old. Choua now works as the Clothes Closet Manager.

"Recently a woman came in who was staying at a local shelter," Choua shared. "She told me she was a recovering alcoholic. She was out on the streets and living in various homeless shelters."

The lady explained she needed clothes for

a job search. Thanks to the ongoing partnership with Threads of Hope Choua was able to get her the clothing she needed to start her job search with confidence.



Above: Choua Vang sorts new clothing donated by CorpCare.

Dennis added, "So many of the guests at the House of Peace are just trying to get back on their feet while dealing with problems that most of us could hardly imagine. Giving someone in those circumstances something brand new provides so much more than just an outfit. It comes with a healthy dose of dignity and hope along with a message that someone cares enough about them to give them something brand new. That's why we have made a commitment to the House of Peace to provide as much new clothing as we can to the

Capuchin Clothes Closet."

Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin and Executive Director of the HOP said, "Each summer Threads of Hope gathers dark pants, white shirts, skirts and other items so we can distribute new clothing to students starting school in September. Many of our guests tell us how much they appreciate being able to send their children to the first day of school in brand new clothes. Br. Bob Smith introduced us to Dennis and everyone at CorpCare. We're really grateful for that and to CorpCare for collaborating with the HOP. The collaboration helps kids approach school with dignity and good self-esteem, and does the same for adults looking for work."

Dove Notes



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Executive Director:

Br. Mark Carrico,
O.F.M., Capuchin

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 (920) 915-4400. He's waiting for your call.

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

From the House of Peace (HOP) we wish you Peace! I hope everyone at your house is happy and healthy. We're doing pretty good here except I had the strangest thing happen to me. I went to bed on Christmas night and when I woke up it was Lent. Am I the only one this happened to? They say that time flies when you're having fun and that it goes by quicker the older you get. But I haven't been having *that* much fun and people tell me I'm not all *that* old so I don't know what happened! But it is Lent.

And even though it is, I still have to thank you for helping us during the holidays of 2007. Your heart-warming generosity enabled the HOP to distribute well over 2,000 boxes of holiday food, and Christmas gifts for practically 2,000 children. Being Santa's helper is a lot of work but together we got it done. I think of a diverse band of angels coming together when I consider how many of you chip in to help by donating toys, labor, food and dollars. Speaking of donated labor, among our holiday volunteers were twenty-some Capuchin novices who came to help us with our distribution. They brought such positive energy with them and just lit the place up with their spirit and presence. Everyone really enjoyed having them with us.

There is one thing you need to know about the toys that were distributed; it happened that they didn't all go to children. But I don't think you'll mind when you know why. An older lady stepped up to where we were distributing the toys. "I need a teddy bear," she said to Vicki, a volunteer. Asked for the paperwork indicating the number of children in her household she said, "No,

I need the teddy bear for me!" A raised eyebrow from Vicki prompted her to say, "My husband died last month and I just need something to hold on to." Vicki called downstairs and Fr. Al brought up a good sized teddy bear. Closing her eyes as she wrapped her arms

around the bear in a hug she said, "Gerald, I love you." So not all the toys went to children. There is that one teddy bear that went elsewhere. You just never know who is going to need what here at the HOP.

One mother who got toys for her little boy was presented with an age-old problem she had not anticipated. "I can't believe this!" she exclaimed when she saw the new bike that was reserved for her son. It seems he had asked Santa for a bike, but she knew she couldn't afford one. So she had convinced him that she had read where Santa had said all the bikes were spoken for. Now she was so



Above: Visiting novice Br. Joe hands a ticket to a guest picking up a Holiday Gift Box and Christmas Toys.

excited to be getting the bike. Then all of a sudden her face changed as she realized her dilemma. “Where am I going to hide this until Christmas!?” she said. It was a happy problem to have. I’ll tell you what: A whole lot of people who wouldn’t have, had a very blessed and merry Christmas thanks to all of you. God bless you!

And as I say, then I went to bed and then I woke up and then I found out that it was Lent. I don’t really mind because I no longer find it all that difficult to give up Superman comic books and nickel Hershey bars. Of course I no longer read Superman comic books and I’m thinking nickel Hershey bars cost more than a nickel these days, but let’s not get bogged down in the particulars!!

When I was younger and working 3rd shift at the print shop back home a bunch of us were on lunch break and talking about an upcoming paid ‘holiday’ - Good Friday. One of the guys made an observation that surprised a number of us when he said, “Did you ever notice how Easter always follows Good Friday? They’re always on the same weekend.” I wasn’t the only one at the table surprised to find out he sincerely believed he had unearthed a true anomaly.

I remember that because I felt kind of sad for him for having grown up with no church home or faith tradition in which he would have learned about such things. He was a good guy, just clueless. And actually it intrigued him not a little to learn from us the connection between Good Friday and Easter. Too, it was a moment when we at the table of various religious denominations spoke of a common dogma and in so doing shared our faith.

That same sort of thing happens here at the HOP day in and day out with your donations. You who

support the HOP are of a variety of faith traditions. Yet you keep alive this Catholic-owned ministry because of a core interfaith dogma that calls us to love one another and help those in need. It’s that simple. And your support does let people know they are loved, it does help people in need; it is faith in action. Per St. Francis of Assisi, faith in action is faith shared.

“...your support does let people know they are loved, it does help people in need; it is faith in action.”

If you have ever stopped in to bring donations to our food pantry you have probably met Barbara Blackwell who manages the pantry. Barbara is retiring at the end of February. She said that she is retiring so she can

walk her granddaughter to the school bus more often. “Isn’t that a silly reason to retire?” she asked one day. No one around here thought it was. We will miss Barbara and we send her off into ‘Grandma-land’ with our best wishes, prayers and love.



Above: Retiring Food Pantry Manager, Barbara Blackwell, stacks donated food in the new Food Pantry.

I hope this Lent is good for you and that come Easter you’ll be the one to get to eat the ears off the chocolate bunnies in your house. More than that, I hope both seasons are spiritually rewarding for you. The HOP continues to need your prayers and support. I know you’ll be generous; you know I lack the words to tell you fully just how much that is appreciated.

You are in my prayers,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Br. Mark Carrico". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin
Executive Director

P.S. Stop in when you can and see the ‘new’ HOP - the construction is done!



A Ministry of the Capuchin
Province of St. Joseph

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



Above: Capuchin Novices visited the House of Peace and filled food boxes. They posed for a picture with staff and volunteers.

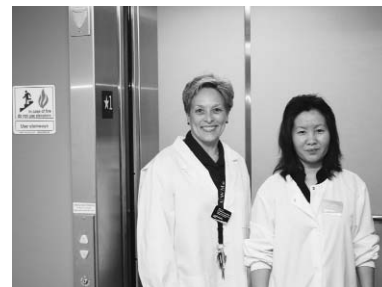


House of Peace Remodels & Expands To Better Serve Guests

Donors Make It Possible To Offer Capuchin Hospitality In A Totally Accessible Facility



Above: Guests & volunteers are welcomed to the House of Peace in the new reception area. Guests can access the Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, the Social Worker, the Chapel, rest rooms, a conference room and a multi-purpose room from the reception area.



Above: Beth Peterman, APNP-DC, Director, & Pang Vang, MEd, RN, Nurse Clinician, HOP/UW-M Nursing Clinic use the new elevator. It was added during construction to make the lower level accessible to seniors & persons with disabilities. The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic is also on the lower level and now accessible to all.

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.