



Disabled Guest becomes Student and Outreach Worker House of Peace Empowers Guest to Realize Own Potential

Injured in a car accident while in her teens, Yolanda Hamilton receives benefits for the disabled. “I didn’t want to just collect a check for the rest of my life so I came to the House of Peace,” Yolanda said. She continued, “I want to support my children with a real job and the staff has helped me get closer to my goal.”

The mother of 4 children, ages 9, 7, 4 and 1 Yolanda first came to get clothing for her family. “Then the staff asked me to volunteer so I sorted clothing and helped other guests find the clothing they needed.” Yolanda smiled as she remembered, “The old Capuchin Clothes Closet was in a barely heated outside garage and it was very cold in the winter.”

Knowing that everyone at the House of Peace believed in her, Yolanda applied to the Milwaukee Area Technical College to become a Health Unit Coordinator. Her goal is to work in an Emergency Room some day.

“The executive director referred me to the Medical College of Wisconsin,” Yolanda continued. “I was able to serve as a community representative for one year assisting the medical students.” Yolanda said, “We went with the

students to see where they could refer their patients for help. Our job was to explain how people in the community accessed these services.”



Above: Yolanda Hamilton volunteers in the Capuchin Clothes Closet.

Yolanda noted that the site visits included the UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing Clinic at the House of Peace. “We were asked to put a human face on how all of the non-profit and government programs actually work,” she said.

“Some doctors-to-be didn’t know these services existed. And it was important they know where to recommend a pregnant woman with few resources for pre-natal care and nutrition,” Yolanda said with feeling. Today Yolanda is a community outreach worker while attending MATC.

“The Medical College has the outreach workers teach parents the value of immunizations,” Yolanda shared. “I hand out flyers on the corner and help with the educational outreach. We show mothers a video and explain why it is important their children get vaccinated.” She continued, “We also help with a study to see why so many children living in the neighborhoods around the House of Peace are not vaccinated.”

Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director said, “Yolanda is a great example of how the House of Peace can empower someone to take steps to improve their life. As a result she will someday support her family without

public support. With our donors as our partners we can work to help people get out of poverty together.”

Bookbags Go With A Bango!

Over 600 backpacks were distributed to children from families in need last month. Many individual donors donated items as did the employees of the Milwaukee Bucks. The Bucks employees gave over 800 school supply items plus volunteered to sort and fill backpacks. Skip Robinson, Director of CR & Player Development for the Milwaukee Bucks said, "The Bucks... support The House of Peace Back to School Drive due to the overwhelming...impact the House of Peace continues to have on the Milwaukee community."

On Tuesday, August 24, 2010 the Milwaukee Bucks mascot, Bango visited the House of Peace to help hand out the supplies to the families. "In addition to school supplies we give away hygiene packs because we realize these items are difficult to purchase with limited resources," said Executive Director Gerri Sheets-Howard. She added, "I want to thank Bango and the staff of the Milwaukee Bucks and all of our individual donors for their help in equipping children in our neighborhood to be successful at school this year."



Above ▶ The Martinez Family celebrates the new school year with Bango at the House of Peace.

Right ▶ The Staten-Tillmon Family pose with Bango and their new backpacks filled with school supplies.



Seeking Our Daily Bread

Food from the Capuchin Food Pantry has helped sustain many Milwaukee area families in times of need. In addition to the food distributed from the pantry, the House of Peace also distributes bread. The bread is donated by area bakeries including Panera's, Breadsmith, Pick N Save and others.

Volunteers from a variety of groups collect the bread, some on a daily basis, and deliver it to the House of Peace. According to Food Pantry Director, Dominique McGhee, "Two years ago it wouldn't have been unusual for us to toss out at least some of the bread because it went stale."

Executive Director Gerri Sheets-Howard added, "At that time we were seeing about 30,000 visits from our guests each year. For the 2009-10 year we had over 62,000 visits...and the bread table now runs empty and nothing goes stale."



Kenetta, a regular guest at the House of Peace selects several loaves of bread to share with her family from the bread table. She said, "I thank all of the donors for sharing bread with us."

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



The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

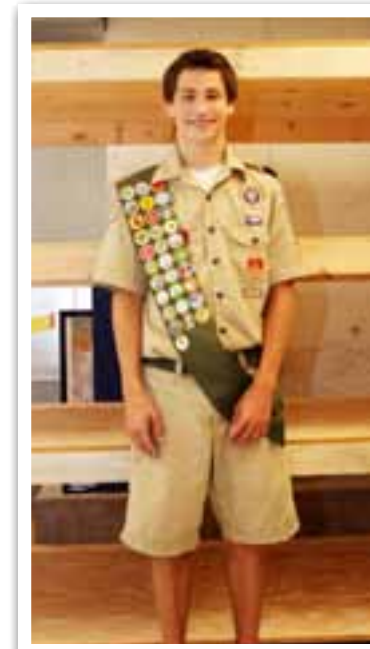
House of Peace Services

- Emergency Food Pantry
- Clothing Center
- Spiritual Care
- Nursing Clinic
- Legal Clinic
- Social Worker
- Meeting Space
- Teen Scholarship Program
- American Cancer Society Loaning Closet
- Chapel

Eagle Scout Helps Give Guests a "Warm Winter" Scout's Project Provides a Place to Store Winter Blankets for the Poor

Alex Walkowiak is a dedicated Boy Scout who has been working towards the highest award in scouting, Eagle Scout. Alex selected the House of Peace as the organization he wanted to help. Phil Gardner, Volunteer Coordinator for the House of Peace helped Alex develop a project that was truly useful to the House of Peace. The idea was to add storage for business records in one part of the basement and shelves to store blankets for distribution in another section. Alex's grandfather is a carpenter and helped Alex design and install the shelving system in several areas of the basement at the House of Peace.

Like most people's basements, the House of Peace's basement was filled with many items that hadn't been touched in years. So Alex recruited many of the members of his Scout troop, Troop 31 at St. Sebastian's Catholic Church in Milwaukee to help with the clean out. Up to 10 scouts per day helped Alex straighten up the basement prior to installing the shelving system.



Alex invites everyone to fill the shelves in the Clothing storage area with blankets as part of the Blankets for a Warm Winter Drive. New and gently used blankets can be dropped off on the 17th Street side of the building from 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

To raise the money to purchase the lumber and hardware, Alex started a fundraising campaign complete with special events. He solicited family and friends for gifts, held a can drive at St. Sebastian's and asked the owner's of Amaranth Café on North Avenue to hold a "Soup Kitchen."

Alex and his family made soups and salads that were sold at the Café with all of the proceeds going to fund his project at the House of Peace. Then Alex and his grandfather created the shelving units out of lumber and installed them in two different basement locations.

Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director said, "We appreciate Alex's hard work. He planned, fundraised and implemented this project himself. The addition of shelves for storing business records and blankets really helps us. I invite people to donate new and gently-used blankets anytime during the year to the House of Peace. With so many of our guests living in housing with inadequate heating we give away all the blankets collected to help our guests have a 'warm winter.'"

Summer Photos:



Executive Director Gerri Sheets-Howard discusses hunger in the House of Peace neighborhood with local Alderman and City Council President, Willie Hines while on a tour of the Food Pantry.



State Farm Agent Maggie Bringa presents Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald and Food Pantry Director Dominique McGhee with the Milwaukee Brewers-State Farm "Good Neighbors" Award at a recent ballgame.



Dove Notes

by Fr. Matthew Gottschalk, OFM, Capuchin



Brother Booker Ashe, founder of the House of Peace, died ten years ago. The aura of his presence still emanates from the cluster of rooms that constitute the House of Peace. From the chapel we can hear the echoes of his powerful voice proclaiming a message of hope in song, "It's Amazing What the Lord Can Do!"

From the kitchen the tantalizing aroma of jambalaya simmering in the oven is more pervasive than the most exotic perfume. It evokes a perceptive awareness of his compassion for the hungry. The fudge waiting on the counter is a reminder of his shared generosity.

The laughter that erupts so spontaneously from the gathering of adults in the all-purpose room is living evidence of the joy that so often described his personality. The tears of the lonely and the giggling of children intermingle to manifest the universal vision of his love.

Brother Booker died Christmas Eve in the year 2000. As long as hope, joy, compassion, love, and gratitude continue to flow from the House of Peace, our faith will understand the meaning of his life and the vocation to which we have been called.

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 feed 1,000+ families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food donations for the Holiday Gift Box program are needed between October 15 and December 15, 2010 and beyond.



Advent Toy Drive

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 Tuesday, December 15th.



Above ▲ Local postal workers held a drive for a variety of items needed by the poor. Paul J. McKenna, Local President and Jennifer Blawat, Local Staff Member presented the House of Peace with over 2 dozen cartons of needed goods for distribution. Paul said that, "Our union members did a great job donating supplies for people in need. Jennifer Schweitzer deserves special thanks as she is the Milwaukee Area Local 0003 representative who coordinated the drive."



Left ◀ When Northwestern Mutual's Chairman and CEO Ed Zore announced his retirement he gave all 5,000 of the company's employees four hours each of paid-time off to volunteer. Northwestern Mutual employee Flory M. Cole is one of several staff members who shared their 4 hours of paid-time off with the House of Peace. Flory sorted donated clothing and set it out for the House of Peace's guests.