



A MINISTRY OF THE CAPUCHIN PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH

Volunteer & Guest: Dad Gives & Receives Holiday Help Required Community Service Becomes Opportunity to Serve Others

Patrick Green is tall, strong, 40 years old and unemployed. “I originally came to the House of Peace to volunteer to complete court ordered community service,” Patrick said. He added with a smile, “The staff and volunteers were so kind and easy to talk to so I just stayed.”

Patrick especially connected with members of St. Francis Borgia Parish in Cedarburg. Barbara Kramer said, “We were recruited by Capuchin Father Al Veik who lives at the House of Peace and ministers at our parish.” Barbara continued, “Patrick is great to work with and he is also a good cook.” Lois Shipley, also from St. Francis Borgia Parish added, “Patrick makes a great Upside Down Apple Caramel Cake and a wonderful Banana Cream Cheese Cake.”

Barbara said, “We became a team working with Patrick and other local volunteers, especially Lena and Gigi. We discussed with Choua (Clothes Closet Manager) whether we should have some members of our team work

in other areas as we are a big group. However, Choua felt our group got along so well and was so productive that we should keep the whole team focused on helping sort non-food donations.”



Above ▲ Frieda Stengel, Lois Shipley, Patrick Green, Susie Carlson and Barbara Kramer pose in Santa's Workshop at the House of Peace. This volunteer group helps with the sorting and distribution of clothing, toys and other non-food donations. Over 2,000 needy children received Christmas presents as a result of the work of hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors.

Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director shared that the change in Patrick had touched her heart. “He could be a bit reserved at first,” she said and then added, “but he quickly became a part of our extended family of volunteers.” Because Patrick is of out work he also qualified to benefit from the Holiday Food and Toy Drives.

Gerri said, “Patrick came to see me and shared that he has two children and a stepson, all under age 9. He asked if he could apply for a food box and toy bag for his family.” Gerri smiled as she said, “We have been so overwhelmed

by the generosity of our donors. We have received more food boxes and toys than last year so I was able to say “yes” to Patrick.”

Patrick smiled again and said, “I asked my sister to drop the toys and food off to my family as we are separated. I thank everyone at the House of Peace because they helped me to get to a better place.” Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald, Spiritual Director commented, “Patrick’s story is a great example of our Capuchin values especially the value

of hospitality. It is only because Patrick felt safe and welcomed that he could share his gifts. I hope all of our donors know how much we appreciated their support over the holidays because we couldn’t feed, clothe or care for anyone without them!”



Prayer Notes

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors for their support over the last year. Our nation finds itself in the midst of a very difficult economic season. The House of Peace has been challenged by the economic season, yet we have been very encouraged by the outpouring of support from you our donors.

With your assistance, over 63,000 individuals have been served through our various programs. Through your commitment to the Holiday Food Box and Toy Distribution program, 1,628 families were able to enjoy a nice Holiday meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Over 1,100 families received food through the Emergency Food Pantry each month. Approximately 700 families received gently-used and some times new clothing, each month as a result of your generosity.

Our mission in part is to assist "... our guests in meeting their spiritual, material, and emotional needs." In 2011 our goal is to offer even more opportunities to our guests in meeting these needs. Beginning this month under the leadership of Fr. Perry and Fr. Matthew, weekly prayer and reflection services will be available for our guests. The Emergency Food Pantry will implement a new pilot program to offer guests healthy food boxes to lead them in the battle against obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes which is prevalent in the community. It is also our goal to offer a wider range of topics through the empowerment series in order to introduce our guests to employment preparedness, financial planning, and higher educational opportunities.

Later this month, The House of Peace will celebrate its 43rd anniversary of "serving Christ's poor" on the corner of 17th & Walnut. Fulfilling this great mission would not have been possible without the support and prayers of gracious partners like you!



Left ◀ CBS 58 Reporter Eric Rucker interviews Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director in the Capuchin Clothes Closet. CBS celebrated the founding of the House of Peace by Capuchin Brothers Booker Ashe and Matthew Gottschalk in their series, Ten at 10. You can see more of the interview including segments with Thelma Sias, Ministry Council member and Pastoral Director Capuchin Br. Perry McDonald on Channel 58's website at: <http://www.cbs58.com/index.php?aid=14748>.

Fraud Alert: Recently the Grafton Police Department contacted the House of Peace to alert us that someone is going door to door seeking donations in our name. In this case they are offering magazine subscriptions but there have been other reported instances where people simply ask for money. The House of Peace does not send people out to go door to door to ask for money, sell subscriptions or anything else. In addition, the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph does not share, sell, rent or otherwise distribute our mailing list of donors and friends.

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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.



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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

Teen Program Partners With Cardinal Stritch

House of Peace Provides Scholarships For Needy Students

Speaking with an enthusiasm that is truly electric, Sean Lansing, new director of Tomorrow's Present commented that his transition to leadership is a work in progress. "It is like transplanting a tree, I have had to connect the roots of Tomorrow's Present to good soil here at Cardinal Stritch University," he said.

Sean follows Dr. Lisa Calderone-Stewart, the founder of Tomorrow's Present who had to step down due to a serious illness. "Lisa's research into youth leadership skills is truly cutting edge. Our goal at Cardinal Stritch is to preserve and build on her research. The program is now a part of the campus' Leadership Center led by Dr. Peter Holbrook," he added.

The five core programs that Lisa created are Pebbles of Peace, Hope is Something You Do, Interfaith Youth Café, House of Peace Teen Leaders and Middle School Youth Forums.

Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director at the House of Peace said, "Tomorrow's Present still holds meetings with the teens here at the House of Peace. And we provide 10 of the teen leaders with a partial scholarship to area Catholic high schools. Each scholarship is \$3,500 so the House of Peace commits \$35,000 to support the education of our youth." Gerri smiled and added, "Sean is a great leader and has the respect of the teens. Our partnership with Cardinal Stritch is off to a great start."



Above ▲ Posing at a recent Pebbles for Peace event are Arthur Cameron, Student, Sean Lansing, Tomorrow's Present Director, Kent Bergemann, Interim CSU President, Dr. Peter Holbrook, Leadership Center Director and Marquis Boston, Student.

Two recent Catholic high school grads who received scholarship support and now attend as freshmen are Arthur Cameron and Marquis Boston. Sean reported, "Both young men are doing very well at CSU academically. And they continue to volunteer with the program." He laughed as he said, "I called them my "Phil Donahue's" because they helped to encourage students attending our most recent Pebbles for Peace event to speak up. They ran around the room with mic's and assured the high school students they had something of value to say."

Looking to the future of Tomorrow's Present Sean said, "I see several ways we can expand the program's impact on our community. We have already started a partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin's Violence Prevention Initiative where we are training their staff and youth leaders." He added, "I want to also add a leadership portfolio to the curriculum so when students apply for college they have concrete evidence of what they have achieved. Another value of the portfolio is that as the students add to it year after year both of us can measure their personal growth."

Sean said, "I am excited that the relationship with the House of Peace and especially Gerri is so strong. The House of Peace is important to Tomorrow's Present because it provides a direct link to the community. Gerri is a wonderful leader to work with and very committed to the relationship."

1 ▶ Linzy thanks volunteers for a Thanksgiving Feast.

1:



2 ▶ Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald speaks to students at St. Matthew's, Neosho.

2:



3 ▶ Michael Redd, Milwaukee Buck's Guard donated food for the poor.

3:



I was hungry and you gave me food... I was naked and you gave me clothing... (Matthew Chapter 25)



Dove Notes



by Fr. Matthew Gottschalk, OFM, Capuchin

Human values must be made concrete in human persons. Sacred dreams become real in sacred places. The murals at the House of Peace, like the scriptures of old, symbolize the law and prophets in our day. The south mural (Walnut St.) portrays the law with its public officials who bring creativity and stability to the chaos of society. The Spirit still hovers over the waters of the primeval waste and void.

The east panel (17th St.) represents modern prophets who challenge us to see beyond the horizons of our private lives to the distant mountain where justice is realized and peace prevails – the mountain of eternity.

The murals have been blessed and dedicated with holy water to recall the passage over the Red Sea from slavery to freedom, and the crossing of the River Jordan from an aimless wandering in the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey.

The law and the prophets must continue to emerge in every generation to fulfill the mission of the House of Peace.

Thousands In Need Receive Food Boxes, Toys & More Individual Donors, Churches, Schools, Companies And Groups Hold Drives Including:

Anonymous
Advanced Pain Management
Aquinas Academy
Auer Steel
Baker Tilly
Blessed Sacrament Parish
Blessed Sacrament School
Cardinal Stritch University
Catholic Central High School
Christ King Parish
Christ King Parish School
CitiFinancial
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Divine Savior Holy Angels High School
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Gesu Parish
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Grzeca Law Group
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Holy Family Parish
Holy Family Parish School
Holyland Cluster Parishes:
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Kahler Slater
Lancaster Elementary School
Lumen Christi
Mark Travel
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish
Maybar Manufacturing

Messmer Schools
Metavante
Monumental Baptist Church
Mother of Good Counsel
Nativity Jesuit Middle School
North Lake School District
Our Lady of Lourdes
Our Lady of the Lake
Pain Management & Treatment Center
Pius XI High School
St. Alphonsus
St. Anthony's
St. Augustine
St. Bernard & St. Pius X
Middle School Religious Ed.
St. Bernard Parish
St. Boniface
St. Charles Borromeo Parish School
St. Dominic
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Eugene School
St. Francis Borgia
St. Gabriel
St. Gregory the Great Parish
St. James
St. Jerome Parish
St. Joan of Arc
St. John Parish
St. John Vianney Parish
St. Joseph Parish
St. Joseph's School
St. Margaret Mary
St. Martin de Porres Youth Ministry
St. Mary's Religious Ed, Mayville
St. Mary, Woodland & St. Matthew, Neosho

St. Mary's Visitation Parish
St. Monica Parish - RE
St. Monica School
St. Robert
St. Roman Parish
St. Rose & St. Michael
Stein Optical
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish
The Art Bar
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Triad Construction
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Whitefish Bay H.S.
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Wonder Bar
Woodland School

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