

REGION

Bocce ball event aids local charity

By VAL-WELLING
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A bocce ball benefit was held for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Friday, Jan. 25, at Villa Penna in Sterling Heights.

It was "a huge success for a first-time event," said Kim Lovett. "Over 250 people enjoyed a fun evening helping a local charity."

Kathy Donnelly wanted her kids to know how important it is to give back.

"There is so much they do for those who need our assistance," she said.

"The Capuchin Ministries are very grateful to Mike Schodowski," Larry Lacross, Capuchin development director, said. "He is the organizer of the bocce ball event, and it has introduced us to new supporters. As I looked around, everyone was having a great time. I know the friars are enjoying the evening!"

"Most people do not realize that the Capuchin ministries don't receive any sort of government funding," said Mike Schodowski, organizer of the popular Benefit on the Bay event that assists the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

"Everything they do to make Detroit a better city for all of us comes from donations. The Benefit on the Bay event has raised \$1 million dollars for the soup kitchen. I thought this event could help. Plus, bocce ball is a fun, social activity," he added. "I was looking for an event where people could meet the Capuchin Friars. They do so much for our community. We are thrilled to have created a fun event that would give everyone the chance to give back to the Brothers."

Proceeds from the event benefited Capuchin Ministries, which include

the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The event included bocce ball, a dinner buffet and a cash bar.

Schodowski, partner of Oakland County's Shelving, Inc. and The Shelving Store, is a tireless supporter of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Capuchin Ministries.

"I knew that if the Capuchin Friars are involved in a program, it's going to help those in need," he said. "The Capuchins have been in Detroit for 130 years. When you look at the many Capuchin Ministries, there's a common thread: Father Solanus. He's central to the Detroit Capuchin Ministries. He co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The Father Solanus Guild works on the Cause for Sainthood of Father Solanus. The Solanus Center inspires tens of thousands of visitors who visit each year, learning about the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus.

The Capuchin Missions was very dear to Father Solanus and continues to serve in Central America.

"This is the organization I enjoy donating my time and energy to," he added. "The Capuchins are special."

The Capuchin Friars live as a community of brothers, modeling themselves after St. Francis of Assisi, assisting the poor and marginalized. The Friars serve in a variety of ministries, including social service, schools, chaplaincy, retreat houses and parishes in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Arizona, California, Nicaragua, and Panama. There are currently 177 friars serving in the province.

The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph is headquartered in Detroit and serves Capuchin ministries worldwide. For more information, visit www.thecapuchins.org.



A bocce ball benefit was held for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Friday, Jan. 25, at Villa Penna in Sterling Heights. Pictured here is (from left) Sandy Ison, Mick Ison, Christine Hodge, Mike Schowdowski, Brother Joe Monachino, Jen Charrette and Ronna Anspach.



Pictured here (from left) are Brother Jerry Smith, Brother Larry Lacross, Mike Schodowski, Santino Polidori and Father Larry Webber.