



Good News

St. Ben's Community Meal

*"In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action." -
Dag Hammarskjold*

Transforming the world through reverence

If you want peace, work for justice

www.stbensmilwaukee.org

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Br. David Schwab,
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St. Ben's Community Meal is a ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph and a 501(c)(3) ministry. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

Donations of cash, food, blankets, hygiene products, new socks and underwear always appreciated and accepted Monday-Friday during business hours.

A Life Transformed

Now sober, suburban mom gives back to St. Ben's Community Meal

"St. Ben's is where I am most myself," Jeanne Gebhardt said. She continued, "I love the guests, and they tell me things because they know I was once on the other side." Jeanne is a single mom who works at a gym and volunteers for lots of groups including a Family Services hotline.

She credits St. Ben's with helping her through the hard times. Jeanne explained, "They were very non-judgmental, I felt at home. This was a safe place where I could get the help I needed."

For the last 3 years, Jeanne has volunteered at St. Ben's. She attends the Christmas party and was recently hired to manage the kitchen on nights when Larry Ampe can't make it. "I have enjoyed serving as a hospitality minister, handing out school supplies at the annual back-to-school party and helping with movie & game days," she said.

Jeanne continued, "As I started on my sobriety, I first worked with pre-school children as the hot lunch coordinator. That experience has helped me to run the kitchen here at St. Ben's Community Meal and enables me to deal well with the young children who are guests at the Meal."

Jeanne runs the kitchen 1-3 times per month and still volunteers as a hospitality minister. She recently finished a certificate as an alcohol and drug addiction counselor. Jeanne said, "I wish I could be here all the time. Whenever I help at St. Ben's, I always feel at home."

Br. David Schwab, Capuchin said, "Jeanne has



Above: Jeanne poses with two of her friends among the guests, Martin on her right and Ortiz on her left.

become our "go to" person. Whenever we are short of help in the kitchen or are in need of a kitchen manager to substitute, she is almost always available. Her commitment and enthusiasm is contagious and helps make the other volunteers eager to

be of assistance too. Her spirit of joyful service and hospitality is very evident."

Br. David continued, "Jeanne received hospitality and compassion which helped to empower her to grow into sobriety. She now partners with us and joins us in joyful service that helps us create the conditions for justice."

(Editor's Note: To learn more about the values that the Capuchin's promote, go to: <http://www.thecapuchins.org/about/mission.pdf>. If you would like a free copy suitable for framing, send a note to Br. David at St. Ben's and we'll drop one in the mail.)

Big Unit's Run For The Hungry Crowd Doubles!

Over 1,200 people registered to help St. Ben's Community Meal feed the hungry!



Above: Runners from throughout the Midwest came to run on the USATF certified course.



Above: Bill Michaels, Sports caster, WTMJ 620AM Radio hosted the "Big Units" 5K Run Walk.



Above: Parents from Messmer High School join in the fun!



Above: The Sisters of St. Francis celebrated their jubilee and annual meeting at the 5K.



Left: Over 1,000 people participated or cheered friends and family as they helped to feed the hungry. Users pledged to donate 2 lbs of sausage for each registrant. That's over one ton of meat!

Letters From Friends:

Below: Bob, sometimes guest and always a friend shared a portion of his IRS rebate check even as he lives on minimal income himself.

Hi!
6/19
well, now you know
how I spent some of
my \$500 government
rebate

Bob

Right: "The Yooper", a former guest sent in a cash donation and shared his memories of his first meal at St. Ben's.

Below: Kayleigh, age 7 years, shared her birthday gifts with St. Ben's Community Meal. Maybe Mom helped with the wording?

Br. Dave Schwab
1015 N Ninth Street
Milwaukee WI 53233

Dear Br. Dave:

I recently celebrated my 7th Birthday. I invited all the girls in my St. John Vianney first grade class, eighteen girls. I agreed with my parents that this many gifts at one time would be a bit much. I accepted donations to your worthwhile ministry in lieu of gifts. Please find \$365 enclosed to support your good works.

God bless you,

Kayleigh

The Yooper: Milwaukee resident '77-'86. ate quite a few meals there. Sometimes the only meal of the day.
Grateful then, grateful now.

God Bless all the good folks who pull it off nite after nite. I still remember my first meal there. Roast chicken w/ generous portions + all the fixins. Only meal of the day.



Thank you to our corporate sponsors and volunteers!



The Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order
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St. Ben's Distributes School Supplies to 200+



Above: Daniel gets a hug from a young guest at the School Supply Distribution Party. You can read more at: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=786880>.

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!