

House of Peace

"Serving Christ's Poor"

A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

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Food Pantry Asked To Serve More People

Hunger Task Force adds another Zip Code of need

Peggy and her son Deon live about 6 blocks away from the House of Peace (HOP). But because she did not live in one of the two Zip Codes the food pantry served then, she had to travel to a pantry further away when she needed it.

Peggy suffers from arthritis throughout her body and has applied for disability. To help her stay as well as she can, she visits the UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing Nursing Clinic at the HOP and attends their Wellness Program. "I have learned about diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis and more. When I have a concern I talk to the nurses – they are wonderful."

"I also have gotten clothes, shoes and blankets in the Capuchin Clothes Closet, and this year I signed Deon up for school supplies," Peggy added. Gerri Sheets-Howard, Assistant Executive Director explained, "The food pantry is the only program with a requirement that people live in certain Zip Codes so Peggy could access our other services."

Gerri continued, "The HOP has now added Zip Code 53206 at the request of the Hunger Task Force. The other Zip Codes served are 53205 and 53233. Guests like Peggy who came to the Food Pantry from outside the two Zip Codes

we did serve received food that was privately donated. All three of these Zip Codes have large concentrations of needy households. We are now serving many more guests per month."



Above: Peggy (left) receives a box of food from Dominique (right) to help her feed her household for the rest of the month.

Dominique McGhee, Food Pantry Manager said, "I have seen more first time guests coming to the pantry. Our typical guest has seen a reduction in benefits or lost a job. Food costs are going up and what money they have is not stretching 30 days to feed their household."

"And new guests quickly learn they can access our other services that they did not know we offered,"

Gerri added. "Like Peggy they are seeking help at the Nursing Clinic or Marquette University Legal Clinic, receiving clothes at the Capuchin Clothes Closet and I have seen a real increase in the numbers of people applying for school supplies this year."

Peggy said, "The staff at the HOP always treated me well and I am very happy that my Zip Code has been added to the Food Pantry. Many of my neighbors know about it and they are also very happy that they can come to the HOP when they need food."

Dove Notes



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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 (773) 475-6206. He's waiting for your call.

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

Peace! I hope this finds you and yours in good health and spirits. We are all doing OK here. As I suspect you are, we are reluctantly letting go of the last glorious bits of summer weather and anticipating the onset of fall. Short as it was, I hope you had a good summer.

Did you ever walk around town in your underwear and knock on people's doors to see if they would give you something for it? I have. And people did! But I was about 7, it was long underwear dyed blue with a big "S" made of yellow tape on the chest and a dyed red pillowcase safety-pinned to my back for a cape. It was Halloween and I was Superman and I seemed to be the hit of the evening. Of course I thought it was because I was such a great Superman. Now I know it was because I was walking around town in my underwear and the adults answering their doors enjoyed the novelty! I imagine that in some parts of Indiana I may well be an urban legend.

Early this summer I met a kid I won't forget. I was walking through the House of Peace (HOP) lobby and two little kids spotted the cell phone on my belt. I'm



Above: Br. Mark Carrico provides a tour for guests from a corporate sponsor. If you would like a tour of the newly remodeled and expanded House of Peace, please call or email Br. Mark. We would love to show you the House!

guessing the little boy was about 5 and his sister about 4. "Take our picture!" the little guy yelled. I looked over and his sister had all ten of her fingers in her mouth but was smiling broadly nonetheless. She looked as excited as her brother. They skipped over to me and pointing to my phone he said again, "Take our picture!"

When I got this cell phone years ago I couldn't get one without a camera. I explained to the salesman that I would never use that feature. But you know how that goes, so my cell phone has a camera. And apparently if you have a camera on your phone little kids expect you to know how to use it!! I figured it out after a couple tries and the little boy & girl were delighted as could be to see themselves in the match-book sized photo. Had to show it to them again and again the whole while they were here. Thrilled them!

Maybe a month later I was again walking through the lobby and I heard, "Show me our picture!" It was the little boy again, back with his sister and mom. I'm not that good with all the modern day technology and I say thank God for small favors

"Everybody likes to be remembered," the mom told the little boy.

because since I didn't have a clue how to delete the picture, I still had it. And I figured out how to bring it up and again the kids were enthralled to see themselves. Such inexpensive merriment! Their mom asked the little boy if he remembered my name (he didn't). She told him that he should try to remember my name since I remembered him. "Everybody likes to be remembered," she said. How true. To be remembered is to be important to somebody, to be honored by somebody, at least it is if you're remembered in a good way. To paraphrase Dean Martin, "Everybody wants to be somebody sometime."

It was with great generosity that you remembered the children of the poor in your response to our request for Back to School Supplies! I believe we were able to provide all the necessary supplies to more children than in any previous year with your donations. One donor who brought a van load of supplies even brought box upon box of brand new tennis shoes for the kids! And the donations came in from all over. It is obvious to us at the HOP how widespread the concern for the poor is, and like the little boy seeing his picture in my phone, it was thrilling for us to see. It was wonderful fun for us to see the kids here with their parents getting their school supplies. "Brand new stuff!" one little boy proclaimed as he and his siblings received theirs. On behalf of all those kids (and their parents) who received this much needed assistance - Thank You & God Bless You!

We remembered, thanked and honored our HOP volunteers in August with an outdoor barbeque. Every time we've done this it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the great value of their service & friendship. We would be up the proverbial creek without the proverbial paddle without them. They not only provide labor, though, they provide love as well to the folks we serve and to us. The HOP couldn't survive without them and we are forever in their debt.



Above: Volunteers and staff enjoy a delicious summer barbecue.

As I remember that hot August barbeque I start thinking of Christmas Day. Don't try to figure that one out, it's just how my mind works. But this is the last time I'll be writing you this year, and as fast as summer has gone we all know it will be but a brief moment before Advent is here and then Christmas. Don't shoot me, I'm just the messenger! It will be here quickly and so this is my opportunity to ask you to again help us provide toys for the kids at Christmas. We're expecting to again have around 2,000 children for whom we'll help parents and guardians provide. If you want to provide a toy for a child (ages 14 & down), please consider doing that through the HOP. The holidays are an enchanting time of year especially for the young ones, and in the past you have made it so for the underprivileged children we serve here. I hope playing Santa for our kids in need has been rewarding for you in the past and that you're able and willing to do it again. I don't know of anybody who would want a child to be forgotten at Christmas.

"Everybody likes to be remembered," the mom told the little boy. How true. You may not be remembered for walking around town in your underwear. You might not even be in anyone's cell phone. But I remember you and your prayer petitions daily in my evening prayers. I remember how good you are to us and the folks we serve. I remember your kindness and your faith that inspires us. And I hope you enjoy a spectacular and grace-filled fall.

Your Capuchin brother,

Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin
Executive Director



A Ministry of the Capuchin
Province of St. Joseph

House of Peace

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All donations are tax deductible
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School Supplies Distributed To Needy



Above: A crowd of parents and children wait patiently for school supplies.



Above: Linda Barnes, HOP Social Worker (right) gives a couple school supplies for their children



Left: Br. Mark Carrico reaches for another bag of school supplies to distribute to needy children.

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 fill 2,000 boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food donations for the Holiday Gift Box program are needed between October 15 and December 15, 2008 and beyond.

ADVENT TOY DRIVE

Can your family or parish help?



The House of Peace is distributing 2,000 food baskets to needy households this holiday season. Last year's households included over 2,000 children.

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 Monday, December 15th.

If your family or parish can help, contact:
Jim Van Hoven, Development Director
(414) 374-8841, ext. 26 or
jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org

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.