

Serving Oakland County



Sargent
Appliance & Video

click here
1-800-440-5774
Gratiot Ave. Clinton Twp. & Main St. Rochester

[Opinion](#)

Capuchins help people year-round

Friday, December 5, 2008 6:04 AM EST

GUEST OPINION – GEORGE GAERIG

It should be no surprise that it takes thousands of dollars (and people) in metro Detroit to feed and to clothe the poor who come to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen for assistance.

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen depends entirely on the generosity of others to nourish all who come to the soup kitchens' doors. That generosity comes from small and large businesses. It comes from those who have bequeathed through their wills. It comes through those who have means and from those who have few means.

The soup kitchen is supported through many little stories. And although many think of assisting the poor as the holidays approach, in fact that need is required each day of the year.

The stories range from two little girls from Macomb County who brought in their \$19 proceeds from their lemonade stand. It includes the Romanian immigrant who crochets receiving blankets so that each crib that leaves the Capuchin Services Center is accompanied by a homemade blanket for the new baby.

When a company went on strike, their union president contacted the Capuchin Services Center and asked how the center could assist their 2,400 members.

Once the strike was settled, a woman, who worked on the assembly line, came in with a check for \$2500. She said this was her thank you for treating the striking workers well when no one else would help.

Grass roots efforts make a big difference in the lives of the poor. The Capuchins depend on the generosity of the community. It is a big help for one person or one business to organize an event. It's the "little" stories that collectively make a big difference for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

We have a chiropractor in Lincoln Park that gathers toys for Christmas. We have a carpet company who gives away gas cards in exchange for clothing for the poor. We have an ice cream store in Sterling Heights who donated a full day receipts. We have a car dealer who coordinates a clothing drive.

We have a sausage company in Dearborn that donates 300 pounds of freshly made sausage to our kitchens. We have a medical distributor who consistently makes the top State Fair 4-H livestock auction

bid and donates the butchered meat to our kitchens.

Although we welcome the holiday assistance, it's important to remember that the smile you receive from a soup kitchen guest on Thanksgiving is just as genuine when you receive it in January or March. Our need is constant.

How to help the Capuchin Soup Kitchen:

New kids' coats, mittens, and hats for newborns to 10 years of age for our Christmas giveaway program; Gently used mens/kids clothing needed; new books/new puzzles/dictionaries for children's program; new warm socks for children; new men's underwear, socks and gloves for our shower program.

Also, cash donations for bus tickets for use on DOT (Department of Transportation) buses, are always in great demand for people to get to medical appointments, job interviews or work.

Founded in 1929, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen serves Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing and spiritual counsel to those in need.

Frequently preparing and serving 2,000 meals a day, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen also distributes household items and operates a shower program, food pantry, and children's tutoring and art therapy program.

Additionally, its Earthworks Urban Farm, produces over 6,000 pounds of vegetables for Detroit's hungry and educates the community in regards to sustainable relationships between human beings and the earth.

To organize a grass roots event for your business, organization, school, or parish, contact me Capuchin Services Center Manager, (313) 925-1370.

George Gaerig is the manager of the Capuchin Services Center, which is part of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, based in Detroit.

Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of theoaklanpress.com.

Submit a Comment

We encourage your feedback and dialog and ask you to follow a few simple guidelines when commenting on stories on theoaklanpress.com.

- 1) Please post responsibly.
- 2) Be polite.
- 3) Don't hate.
- 4) If you object to someone's post, use the "Report Abuse" button and we'll review it.
- 5) Users who don't play by the rules will be blocked and won't be allowed to participate.

Name:

Email: (optional)

Comments:

Image Verification: