



## CCS Continues & Grows Community Partnerships

### Health crisis spurs new collaboration strategies



◀ Dennise is a retired Army nurse who was registering for the Holiday Food Box and Toy drives for her children. Travis (far right) is a nursing student who helped Dennise complete her application. Travis said, "I'm in the Army myself so it's an honor to help a vet access these services."



◀ Members of St. Francis Borgia Parish, Cedarburg present Linda Barnes (left) and Brittney Jackson (right) with toys, clothing and food for the holidays. The parish has traditionally hosted "Breakfast with Baby Jesus" and a Christmas Pageant for guest families. May they return.



▲ The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at the House of Peace now operates virtually. One attorney and two law school students consult with each guest needing legal services. Everything is done remotely by Zoom. Here students and Clinic staff meet to share updates ahead of their next client meetings.

► Will (far right) accompanied his neighbor, Lovenia (center left) and her granddaughter to sign up. He qualified for a senior Thanksgiving food box and Lovenia for Christmas toys and food boxes. Nursing student Xavier (far left) said, "Signing people up really helps us to learn about the guests' living situations. It helps us think how their situation will impact treatment."



▲ William P. Mullooly, MSSW is the social worker at Ascension St. Ben's Clinic. The Clinic is located in St. Anthony's Apartments and serves homeless and those who lack traditional access to health care. Bill consults with a patient by phone from the adjacent waiting room. Patients must have appointments and everyone is scheduled so there is less chance of people interacting in the lobby. Nurse Practitioners and other medical professionals have office visits in the Clinic while they socially distance.

► RaChandra Peoples, Supportive Services St Anthony's- Team Lead for Sirona Recovery (left) and Gerard Campbell, Area Manager for Heartland Alliance (right) meet to discuss providing wellness checks for guests living in the St. Anthony's Apartments. The impact of the pandemic is broad - physical, emotional, and social - for everyone. CCS partners with Heartland and funds the supportive services that make Saint Anthony and Capuchin Apartments places for transformation.





# WORKS OF MERCY

## VOLUNTEERING PAUSED

### House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

To protect the health of our volunteers, CCS has paused all volunteer assignments until the COVID-19 health crisis has passed. For updates please connect with our Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Fair. She can be reached at her office number: **414-933-1300, x1123** or email: [ccsvol@thecapuchins.org](mailto:ccsvol@thecapuchins.org).

## IN-KIND DONATIONS - ACCEPTED BY APPOINTMENT

### House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

*CCS is now accepting in-kind donations of clothing and hygiene items at its two locations. We regret that we cannot accept other items at this time.*

**The House of Peace:** Donations accepted by appointment from 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the doorbell then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

For appointments and all other services at the House of Peace, please call (414) 933-1300 weekdays from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

**Saint Ben's Meal:** Donations accepted by appointment between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 am Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the large doorbell next to the Meal Hall doors, and then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

For appointments and all other services at Saint Ben's, please call (414) 271-0135 weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

# Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM Capuchin  
Ministry Director

## "How can I keep from singing?"

This hymn was the closing song at a funeral Mass I presided at recently, celebrating the life and good works of a faithful volunteer's husband. An inspiring choice, yes? "My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentations." All this time I had somehow missed the resurrection imagery of this beloved song.

As hard as it is to endure,

scientists tell us this is not a good time to sing together.

In any case masking makes it difficult. So, we leave it to the professionals:

the cantors, the music directors, our favorite artists doing a Zoom-linked performance, or producing a "quarantine album" that will help us remember this unprecedented time of COVID-19. My friend Amy performed an original song during our "Virtual Volunteer Thank You Brunch" in November. What an inspiring response to the challenges of this pandemic.

The few times in the past long months I've had a chance to sing, I've found I've lost a lot of my voice. The high notes are gone, my breathing isn't right, I make more mistakes. It's happened before, during my second year as a

Capuchin, in novitiate. I was in the choir, I was a cantor, I was singing so much (O my poor classmates) that I lost my voice. When it came back I was moved from first to second tenor. Okay. Isn't better to lose something by using it too much than too little?

That's the essence and the grace of charity, which is the beginning of our CCS ministries.

Give not till it hurts, but till it helps. Trust that there is and will be enough. Share from our strengths, but with humility. When we can gather safely again, let's learn from each other – heck,

let's see if the choir is accepting new members. When we are together again, let's go deeper with the people we meet at the House of Peace and Saint Ben's. Let's listen to understand rather than to respond.

The Franciscan movement holds "giving voice to the voiceless" as a value, and it's a tough one to live out. Done well, it empowers people. Done badly, it becomes patronizing. Let's pray for the wisdom and the strength to make transformative changes through our commitment to CCS. Let's trust in God to guide us and shape our voices. Can I hear an "Amen"?

► Br. Robert (far right) & Br. Jerry (center) join staff for Holiday Food & Toy distribution training.



▲ The Milwaukee Labor Council held a toy drive and presented the gifts to Br. Robert.

## SAVE THE DATE!

THE CAPUCHIN *VIRTUAL/ACTUAL* WALK FOR THE HUNGRY  
JUNE 12-13, 2021

Online Registration Opens March 9, 2021

<https://www.capuchinwalk.org/>

# Remembering Dominique

*In early November 2020 Dominique McGhee, Food Pantry Coordinator at the House of Peace, died suddenly and tragically. Losing her has left the CCS staff shocked and grieving. Linda Barnes, CCS Assistant Director and Site Manager at the HOP, shared memories of Dominique at the Virtual Volunteer Thank You event. Linda said:*

"Dominique McGhee joined the staff of the House of Peace 12 years ago. She was our food pantry coordinator.

She served the community with joy and with a welcoming heart, she loved the guests and the volunteers. She knew many guests by name and she knew their children. People would often share their problems with her, which would lead her to make referrals to the social workers. Dominique had an infectious smile. Instead of waiting for something to be happy about, she purposefully seized opportunities to be happy, and made sure others were involved in laughing as well.

Dominique was a big kid at heart and she did reach out with her heart. She celebrated every single calendar holiday. She loved to be in costume topped off with a big smile. She has made her debut as Santa's elf, as the cat in the hat, Rudolph the red-nosed

reindeer, a wise man, a sheep, a doctor, Mary in the Christmas pageant, the North star, Bambi and Saint Patrick, to name a few.

Dominique has been immortalized through the many pictures and videos that she is a part of. She loved the camera and the camera loved her. She always made herself available whenever she saw our Development staff taking photos. She loved kids. She loved life. She loved her cat named Batman. She loved the staff, the guests and the volunteers. She loved this ministry. She could laugh and talk with anyone, she

was down to earth and very approachable.

We, the staff at Capuchin Community Services, are shocked and devastated by the tragic loss of Dominique. We will never be the same. We will always remember Dominique, and we thank God for sharing her with us.

We remember her smile, her loud laughter, her sense of humor, her long eyelashes, her bubbly disposition,

her need to always be in somebody's business. We remember her laughing and crying simultaneously because her goal in life was 'always be happy', even when she wasn't. We remember how she'd always take coworkers' office supplies to use at her desk, even when their names were on it. We remember and laugh, we remember and cry, but yes, we will remember. Amen."



***"Today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43***



# IMPACTED BY COVID, STAFF SERVE

## STAFF FILL IN FOR VOLUNTEERS DURING BUSIEST TIME OF YEAR



*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."*

- Matthew 11: 28-29

Volunteers have always been a big part of the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions at the House of Peace. All meals served at St. Ben's Community Meal have been cooked and served by volunteers.

Staff have been filling the roles once performed by volunteers. Regardless of which site they were originally hired to support, everyone has been flexible about their assignments and sites.

► Photo #1: Br. Brenton (Center) and staff member Faye (Right) help Regina with a food box. Photo #2: Staff member Tom (Left) helps guest Rivera find toys for her children.

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### Hygiene Bag Drives

Capuchin Community Services collects hygiene supplies to distribute to people who need them. We provide individuals and groups with bags preprinted with a shopping list of suggested items. The drive can be held safely and socially distanced. Here are the items we are collecting:

- Soap, Body Wash, Dish Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Floss & Deodorant
- Lip Balm
- Shaving Razor
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Sanitary Products
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper Roll
- Washcloth/Baby Wipes
- Hand/Body Lotion

To get bags for a drive, please contact Fr. Muthu at [frmuthu@thecapuchins.org](mailto:frmuthu@thecapuchins.org) or call 414.509.8457.

### Prayers for Donors' Intentions

#### Mass offered for donors at both sites



▲ Fr. Muthu presides at Mass in the House of Peace Chapel.



▲ Br. Robert presides at Mass in the St. Ben's Chapel.

Donors' prayer intentions have greatly increased. Br. Robert said, "We welcome them all, and they are prayed for weekly at Mass, alternating between our sites. These Masses will be open to the public when safe."

### Our Ministry Council

Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green • Sara Zirbel • Duncan Shrout  
Br Robert Wotypka, Ministry Director • Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries



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Capuchin Community Services

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Support our ministry: [www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate) or by mail to PO Box 5830, Milwaukee WI 53205-0830