



St. Ben's Community Meal

"It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching."

-- St. Francis of Assisi

Transforming the world through reverence

If you want peace, work for justice

www.stbensmilwaukee.org

414.271.0135

stbensmeal@thecapuchins.org

Volume XXXVII, No 4 • November 15, 2007

In This Issue

Service -

New staff member helps St. Ben's serve the people— Page 1

Fleeced or not? —

Reflections by Br. Dave Schwab, OFM, Cap.— Page 2

Volunteers Needed, Grants Received & IRA Gifts Possible -

The who, how & when of some donations — Page 3

Notes -

Help Wanted & Snow Blower needed— Page 4

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.

SERVING GUESTS & VOLUNTEERS

St. Ben's Meal Chaplain & Volunteer Coordinator Finds Joy In Service

She suffers from mental illness, was abused, raped and is now pregnant. Jane (not her real name) went home to Chicago but left when her mother insisted she have an abortion. Traveling to Milwaukee Jane has stopped at St. Ben's Community Meal and met Josh Hren, Volunteer Coordinator and Meal Chaplain.

During her visit to St. Ben's, Jane spent over 5 hours talking and just enjoying being safe while waiting in the lobby. Josh learned that Jane was homeless. Josh said "I knew that the homeless shelters have been full for months so we needed to find Jane housing." Jane shared that she felt God hated her. Josh invited Jane to pray with him. Then Josh was able to connect Jane with a pastor of another church who said he could provide food and shelter.

Josh said, "This is just one of the many guests we see each day at St. Ben's. Each day 20 to 40 people stop by. I talk to them about their life, connect them to other agencies and provide direct help." One of the programs Josh manages is prescription co-pay funding. Homeless people who have been given a prescription often can not afford to pay the co-pay for their medicine. St. Ben's helps the

poor receive their medications by paying the bill at the pharmacy.

Br. David Schwab, OFM, Capuchin explains, "We don't give the cash for the med's directly to our guests. Rather we contact their pharmacy and guarantee payment for the prescription

co-pay only." "Josh," Br. David added, "has been a valuable addition to our staff. He not only serves as chaplain to people in crisis like Jane but he also works closely with the many volunteers who serve at St. Ben's."

Josh said, "I enjoy working with all of the volunteers. I work with the volunteer coordinators, organize groups that come to help

serve, find substitutes when necessary and schedules the reflection program." Known as "Plunges," the reflection programs vary in length from 3 hours on an evening to weekend overnights.

programs vary in length from 3 hours on an evening to weekend overnights.

A favorite aspect of the work is meeting volunteers who were once guests. "I have seen people who were eating here or getting other help return to volunteer once they got back on their feet," said Josh. Josh works hard to win the guests trust. "I wear casual clothes and chat with our guests so they know it is safe to have a more serious conversation with me."



Above: Josh Hren, Meal Chaplain & Volunteer Coordinator, second from left, shares with a reflection group or "plunge." Josh is seated at the top right corner of the table.

Using the System!

One of the consistent comments that I hear is about whether people who come to the Meal or come to the door asking for help, really need it. Are they conning us, and just using the system to get a little something extra. I worry sometimes about being “taken for a ride”, but the following story inspires me when faced with these requests.

Roberto de Vincenzo, a famous Argentine golfer, won a tournament one day. After all the congratulations, he was walking to his car with the winnings when he was approached by a young woman. She congratulated him on his victory. Then she told him that her child was seriously ill and very likely to die. De Vincenzo was touched by her story, so he took out a pen and endorsed the check for his winnings over to the young woman. “Make some good days for the baby,” he said as he pressed the check into her hand.

The next week he was having lunch in a country club when a PGA official came to his table. He said, “some of the guys in the parking lot last week told me you talked to a young woman after you won the tournament. De Vincenzo nodded. “Well,” said the official. “I have news for you. She’s a phony. She’s not married. She has no sick baby. It was all a story. She fleeced you my friend.”

De Vincenzo asked, “You mean there is no baby who is dying?”

“That’s right.”

De Vincenzo sighed, “That’s the best news I’ve heard all week!”

For De Vincenzo, less suffering, less despair, vastly outweighed any trickery. The woman was not grieving

because her baby was sick. No one was in pain. He would rather be happy for the world than angry about it. Because he knew that his welfare was linked to everyone else.

Each of us has been approached by “pan-handlers”; we serve an average of 350 people each night at the Meal; St Ben’s provides 1000 bus tickets each month to folks trying to get to work or

“We are making a difference in our unequal world and a lot of needy people are being helped.”

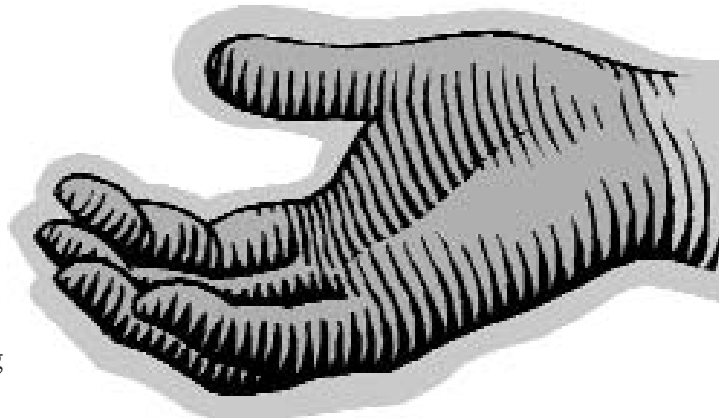
medical appointments. Are we being fleeced? Are there people who are just using the system to promote their own welfare?

The answer is PROBABLY in some cases! But like De Vincenzo, isn’t it better to be generous to those in real need, and

not worry about the small percentage who could probably get by with other means. I am very grateful for the generosity of our sponsor groups, our donors, and the many volunteers who support the mission of St Ben’s. We are making a difference in our unequal world and a lot of needy people are being helped. Let’s not spend too much time worrying about being “fleeced” and rejoice that we can reach out to help those with great needs.

Thank you,

Br Dave



Volunteers Needed To Help on Game Days!

We need fun-loving, hospitable volunteers to provide beverages, treats, smiles and their time for Game Days on one or more of the following dates: Jan.16th, April 12th, June 14th, July 12th, October 11th and November 8th. The time commitment is from 12:30 PM -3:30 PM. Interested groups or individuals can contact Bonnie at (262) 784-4095.

Right: Game Days may include time for guests to play games, watch a movie or visit with volunteers.



Grants Gratefully Received: Catholic Community Foundation Miller Brewing Employee Fund Patrick and Anna Cudahy Fund



Above: Joan Lindstrom, Sandra Renick and Ted Fancher from the Miller Brewing Company Employee Fund present Br. Dave Schwab with a check for \$7,500.

IRA Rollover Gifts Still Possible!

Donors to St. Ben's who are at least 70 & 1/2 years old can make a tax free gift of up to \$100,000.00 directly from either a traditional retirement account (IRA) or a Roth IRA. This opportunity, however, ceases on December 31, 2007.

This is a tremendous opportunity if you wish to give these assets away while you are alive, but do not want to incur the income tax. Since IRA's have traditionally been the least favorable asset to leave for family members in one's estate plan because of the huge tax on these (if your assets are subject to estate tax, the tax on your IRA could be over 70%), giving them to a charitable organization is a far better choice. Another advantage would be if this additional income would cause more of your Social Security income to be taxed.



There are other advantages as well and to learn more contact your tax advisor or the company that manages your IRA. To make a gift of funds from an IRA, please contact our Development Director, Jim Van Hoven at (414) 416-4284 or by email at: jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org.

The Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order
St. Ben's Community Meal
1015 N. Ninth Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1468

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit #3918

Address Service Requested



*A Ministry of the
Capuchin Province
of St. Joseph*

www.thecapuchins.org

www.stbensmilwaukee.org

stbensmeal@thecapuchins.org

414.271.0135

Help Wanted!

Kitchen Manager P/T

St Ben's Community Meal has an opening for a part time, kitchen manager position. This will be available beginning December 1, 2007. Essentially, this is to cover the meals on most Sundays from 1:30-7:30 pm. The person hired will ensure that a nutritious meal is served and supervised. This position is for an individual working three to four Sundays per month, from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Resume and references to: St Ben's Community Meal, 1015 N 9th St, Milwaukee WI 53233 or email to brdaveschwab@juno.com. Applicants will receive additional information about this position. Partner with the Capuchins in ministry to the poor!

Donation Needed

Snowblower Needed

The garage at St. Ben's was broken into earlier this year and the thieves took our snowblower. If you have an old snowblower you'd like to donate please call Br. Dave at 414.271.0135, ext. 15. We'll pick up at your home or business to save the staff from shoveling!



St Ben's Community Meal is a 501(c)(3) ministry. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

1015 N Ninth St
Milwaukee WI 53233 414.271.0135
www.stbensmilwaukee.org

Br. David Schwab, O.F.M., Capuchin
Executive Director