



St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter

Providing a Seasonal Warming Center
411 St. John Street (enter school on NW corner of building)
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 436-9344
www.StJohnHomelessShelter.org

Greetings from our Director, Mary Kelly

Blessed Seasons Greetings to Everyone!

As Executive Director of St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter, I am reminded on a daily basis of the kindness and generosity of the greater Green Bay community. During every presentation that I give, I pay tribute to all of you who so generously devote your time, energy, talents, and contributions to the guests of our shelter. Our mission would never be successful without your generosity.

If I have not had the opportunity to thank you in person for your giving spirit, let me take this opportunity to thank you now. Our guests receive hot, delicious meals; warm clothing; a safe, warm place to rest and sleep on a daily basis because of you. All of this is presented with warm, welcoming smiles and the caring hearts of our volunteers. Know that each of you is making a positive impact in the lives of those in desperate need of your help.

(see Mary Kelly's Greeting, continued on p. 2)

A Christmas Story

Hi. My name is Robert. When I was young, I never really like Christmas. My family was poor and I used to always get disappointed because I never got the things that I wanted.

So coming down to St. John Homeless Shelter and spending Christmas there, I think that was a turning point in my life. It was the first Christmas that I really enjoyed. Even though I was homeless, the kindness that the volunteers and workers there showed me was something I never knew. I was shown love and respect and understanding. All my life, I haven't been shown that. Ever since that (Christmas) night last year, my whole world has changed.

(Read more of Robert's Christmas story on p.2)



*Wishing you Joy and
Peace this Christmas and
in the New Year!*

A Message from Fr. Guy Blair, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church

My Friends,

It is especially at this time of good will that I think of you and thank you for your devotion and care for the Homeless at St. Johns! You are the Christmas message of hope and peace...you are the angels singing 'Glory to God on High!'

What did our Lord give us for Christmas? Himself! The best gift we offer to one another is the gift of ourselves...when you take the time to sit down at the table in the shelter and listen to someone you are offering the best gift possible.

As I make the time to engage one of our guests in conversation, I wonder if Mary and Joseph were able to speak with someone on their long journey to Bethlehem, and on arriving at the Inn with whom did they share their story? Your gift of being a 'listener' is the greatest gift you can offer those who no one else has the time for.

May the peace of this season be a strength and comfort to you. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Guy A. Blair, scj

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Sunday, Jan. 11

3:30 — 4:30 p.m.

Open to all volunteers and those interested in volunteering. These meetings are good opportunities for people to ask questions as well as give input.

*Greetings from Mary Kelly,
continued from page 1*

If you are contemplating a Christmas gift to the shelter's guests, please consider sponsoring a month's bus pass for a guest. (see Traveling Companion info included below). What a wonderful gift to give to someone who spends a great deal of time walking in snow, ice, and dangerously low temperatures. If you are unable to help at this time, please share your prayers.

Know that the guests at the shelter feel your loving presence every day. I see it in their faces and hear it in their stories. Thank you for expressing your love for God's children in everything that you have done for our vulnerable and remarkable guests.

May God's love keep you safe and blessed during this Christmas season and beyond.

God bless!
Mary Kelly

Mary Kelly serves as the Executive Director of the Shelter, starting in September of 2008. Welcome Mary!



Robert's Christmas Story, continued from p. 1

Everything in my life's been turned around. Now I'm not that bitter and lonely person that I used to be. I'm somebody who can hold his head up high now. All because of that Christmas and the gift that people gave me. What they gave me was from their heart.

I believe that God put the people of St. John's in my life. God used (the people at) St. John's to open up my eyes and bring me back to reality and let me realize that I wasn't a lost soul. And I really appreciate it.

Robert was a guest at St. John Homeless Shelter during the 2007-2008 winter season. He serves on the Shelter's Board of Trustees.

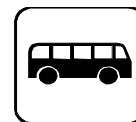
Volunteer Opportunities

The shelter is seeking help in these ways:

- Help answer our phone and the door during the day while the shelter is closed
- A Shelter shopper who could pick up needed supplies once a week.
- A "PR" person who could help with notices and publications.
- Resourceful people to join our Development Committee to help meet the shelter's financial needs.
- A person to coordinate repair projects, contacting repair people as needed

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Laura Robinson at 920-347-0828 or email her at: robinsongfamily@gmail.com
Thank you!!

This Christmas, Become a **Traveling Companion**



Sponsor a bus pass for one of our guests and give the gift of warmth and safety in this cold Wisconsin weather! St. John's is a night shelter, so our guests are out in the cold temperatures all day. A bus pass would provide a safe and warmer way for them to reach their daytime destinations. Your donation of \$26 will provide one of our guests with a pass for the month of January. A donation of any amount would be most appreciated!

To contribute to the Traveling Companion Fund, please send your donation to:

*St. John Homeless Shelter
411 St. John Street
Green Bay, WI 54301*

**If you are writing a check, please indicate "Bus Pass" in the memo line. For cash donations, please include a note indicating it is for the purchase of a bus pass.*

May all your holiday times and travels
be safe and happy ones!