



St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter  
Providing a Seasonal Warming Center  
411 St. John Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
(920) 436-9344  
[www.StJohnHomelessShelter.org](http://www.StJohnHomelessShelter.org)

April 2010

*YOU ARE INVITED...*

**St. John the Evangelist  
Homeless Shelter  
Community  
Social**

Sunday, May 2, 2010  
3:30-5:00 PM

All friends of the shelter are invited to gather for a time to connect with shelter guests, volunteers and staff who worked to make the shelter possible this season. Please stop by and say hello as the Shelter wishes to thank all those who are pieces of the whole picture that is St. John Homeless Shelter. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR, MARY KELLY

**Easter greetings to everyone!** Amazingly, the shelter has only four weeks of operation remaining for this season. Thanks to the work and generosity of all of you reading this, St. Johns has provided a warm, safe shelter during the worst weather days of the year for our guests.

With the close of our shelter season nearing, the anxiety of staff and guests rises, knowing that there are limited options for housing. There are a number of individuals moving into apart-

ments in the first week of April and many more on waiting lists. There are also many who will not be eligible to stay anywhere else and will struggle. Please pray for these individuals and for opportunities to open up for them.

I am extremely moved by the generosity that I see from the volunteers and donors that make this shelter possible. Please remember how important your help, conversation and smiles are to the indivi-

viduals who stay at St. John's. And the meals...they are amazing. Never have I heard a complaint!

Thank you on behalf of the guests that experience love and caring from all of you during difficult times. You will never know how deeply needed and appreciated your words and actions are to each and every one of them.

God bless all of you!

*Mary Kelly*



## GREETINGS FROM FR. GUY BLAIR, SHELTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN

Dear Friends, Staff & Volunteers,

In the month of April we celebrate the end of two journeys. A six week Lenten and a 6 month shelter journey. The focal point of the Lenten sojourn was Easter...joy and hope for the possibility of new life. Easter was never meant to be limited to the Resurrection of Jesus...the Risen Christ touches our lives offering us new meaning, saving us each day and sending us out with a message so many long to hear... we in turn offer the same hope we have been given.

Many people have depended on us these past 6 months...we may have been the only Good News and source of joy they experienced. Along that six month journey, we have bid people farewell with new dreams for a better life.

As the shelter closes for yet another season there will be familiar faces looking to us for a reason to live, a reason to trust in humanity and, by extension, to trust in God's providence. "We have this spiritual treasure like common clay pots, to show that the supreme power belongs to God... we are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed. At all times we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that his life may also be seen in our bodies...life is at work in you." (2 Cor. 4:7-12)

Though the Shelter opened last November, we have always been 'Easter' people living

among our guests, whose lives are stuck at Good Friday or just stepping in to Holy Saturday.

Together, we have done the best possible for people whose possibilities are very limited. Thank you so much for being the Good News, for being Easter people and refusing to be overwhelmed by all that is wrong and painful in life.

Eventually, there will be an Easter for everyone, but for now we continue the journey... blessings of Easter joy to you for the smile, the voice and the helping hand you have been to our Good Friday brothers and sisters.

Peace,

*Fr. Guy Blair, scj*



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! - MARY ELLEN MARCHANT

Hello Volunteers!

Thanks to those of you who helped in any way with this year's "Help for the Homeless" drive that benefits area homeless and crisis programs. Approximately ten of the shelter's guests joined volunteers on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Nativity Church to sort, count, divide, and pack up donations of laundry soap, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, hygiene and first aid items as well as paper goods. We appreciate being one of nine agencies that benefited from the community's generosity. We will use these items during the remainder of this sea-

son and as our "start-up stock" for next fall.

As this season's end approaches, please watch for announcements pertaining to ways that volunteers will be able to help wrap up in an organized fashion. Doesn't that sound great after last year's frantic preparation for the renovation? We also anticipate some on-going volunteer opportunities at the shelter during the off-season. Stay tuned for updates!

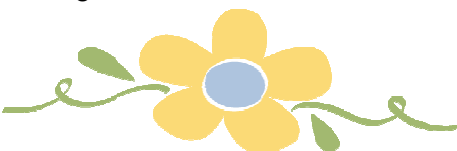
Thanks, once again, to ALL of you for the many ways that you make the shelter a home for the guests. YOU make it a success!

Mary Ellen (Mel) Marchant

Volunteer Coordinator

**DO YOU RECEIVE  
OUR NEWSLETTER  
BY STANDARD  
MAIL?**

**IF YOU HAVE AN  
E-MAIL ADDRESS,  
YOU CAN HELP US CUT  
COSTS! CONTACT US  
AND TELL US YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO SIGN  
UP FOR OUR E-MAIL  
LIST. THANK YOU!**



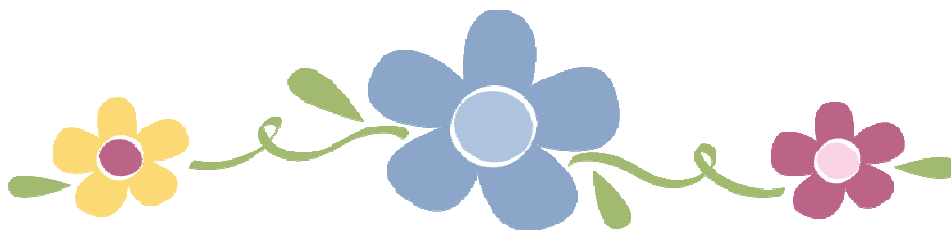
## A NOTE FROM A SHELTER GUEST

*I am very grateful to the staff and the MANY volunteers who give their time and more to provide myself and others a safe and clean alternative during our desperate times of need. I am amazed at the dedication of all involved and thankful for the abundance of kindness I see every day. If it were not for the shelter, I would still be living in my car, stuck in a rut instead of moving forward and becoming a productive member of the community again. We (the residents of the shelter) can never express enough of our gratitude to everyone for all their help and support. The shelter has truly been a blessing! Thank you all!!*

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST HOMELESS SHELTER WILL CLOSE FOR THE 2009-2010 SEASON ON FRI., APRIL 30, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THIS SHELTER SEASON .**

## SHELTER SEEKS PERMIT RENEWAL

On Wednesday, April 7th, the Green Bay City Council will be considering renewal of St. John Homeless Shelter's Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The City's Plan Commission has recommended that the City Council grant the shelter a three-year permit. You can support the shelter in this process. If you live in the City of Green Bay, you could contact your Alderpersons and encourage them to vote in favor of a three year permit. You could also consider attending the Council meeting on that Wednesday evening. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall , 100 N. Jefferson St. in the Council Chamber. Thanks for any help you can lend the shelter as we look ahead to again providing a warm, safe place for the homeless in our community during the coldest months of the year.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

With the help of some generous friends, the shelter celebrated birthdays with our guests this winter. On the first Monday of the month, the staff prepared cards for all guests having an upcoming birthday. Everyone joined in the celebration with cake after the evening meal. Thanks to the Renard family with the help of Diana Phillip for providing our birthday treat each month!





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## SHELTER WISH LIST — THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS !

- Rain Ponchos (hooded if possible)
- Water bottles, juice bottles, snack bars
- Small flashlights
- Bike locks
- Small pocket calendars
- Movie passes
- Gift cards (McD's, A&W, all kinds)
- Flat screen computer monitors

(For a complete listing of needed items, please visit our website. Drop off times for donations are: 9:00 a.m. to noon Monday—Friday and 4:00—6:00 p.m. on all days. If these times are not convenient, donations can be left on the St. John parish office porch up until 9:00 p.m.)



### Contact Us:



Mary Kelly, Executive Director  
Mary Ellen Marchant, Volunteer Coordinator  
Jan Katers, On-Site Coordinator & Donations  
Rev. Guy Blair, Pastor, St. John the Evangelist  
Church and Shelter Community Chaplain

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