



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

February 2010

THE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING...

Thank you friends of St. John Homeless Shelter for all the generous ways you made the holidays a time of caring and sharing for our guests! Our holiday appeals for the Boot Fund and the Traveling Companion were met with resounding support. People really "stepped up" and gave generously to the Shelter's Boot Fund so that 90 guests received a new pair of winter boots. These are high quality boots that will provide effective protection from the cold and snow and comfort for days filled with walking and standing.

Many of you contributed to the Traveling Companion Fund to provide bus passes for guests who have no transportation. Thanks to your generous gifts, the shelter obtained the funds to provide 142 passes this winter! The bus passes cover a full month of rides so that guests can get where they need to go, including appointments, jobs, and interviews. The passes also minimize time out in the cold and the dangers of walking on snow and ice.

Holiday funds were also given for items like bike locks and a larger TV, stand and DVD/VHS player. Thanks to the design of the new equipment, the lounge area can accommodate more chairs and guests are able to enjoy the TV more easily.

On Christmas Day, each guest received a gift bag of goodies including gift cards to restaurants and phone cards as well as an item picked out espe-



THANK YOU

cially for them by our Shelter Elves. Thank you so very much for remembering our guests during the holidays with your donations, as well as sharing your presence and holiday cheer.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR, MARY KELLY

Greetings!

As I look out my window at this moment and see the snow blowing in all directions, I am so very thankful to have a warm place to sit. Aren't we fortunate to be warm and comfortable, regardless of the weather?

Heart-felt thanks to all of you who support the shelter in so many ways: clothing donations, food preparation and serving, gloves, hand warmers, shelter supplies, hospitality and companionship, books, boots, as well as cleaning,

laundry services, food storage and movement, shower schedules, monetary donations, prayers...the list goes on. Never forget how powerful your generosity is and how appreciated you are. Because of you, many individuals are warm, safe, well-fed, and comfortable when they could be so alone and cold.

An average of 39 individuals/night have stayed at St. John's shelter this season with just under 200 individuals throughout the season. Many individuals stay for a day or two while others a number of weeks. 45 bus passes were given out in November, 53 in Decem-

ber and 44 in January...*many thanks to our "Traveling Companions"!* How wonderful to have transportation so that our guests don't have to walk everywhere they go in the cold.

This Valentine's Day, please give yourself a hug from all of us at St. John's Shelter for your kindness and generosity. We love you too!



Mary Kelly,

Executive Director

GREETINGS FROM FR. GUY BLAIR, SHELTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN

Dear Volunteers & Friends,

Valentine's day can stir a lot of memories...mostly from days gone by...as a priest I have to admit there haven't been any recent "Valentines" in my heart. There is a distant memory of my mother making a special valentine heart-shaped box and sewing a tissue paper cover for it...how she sewed with tissue paper I don't know (only now do I really appreciate even the memory of it)...it was for my 'girlfriend' in the 4th grade ...

Joanne. Inside the box I placed a gaudy card...there was no reaction from Joanne that I can recall...isn't that often just the way things are!

Now that I am more 'sophisticated' I realize our lives are the valentines we hand out and are not limited to one day in February.

Some people will be very profuse in their gratitude for our care and concern, others will take our

lives as we offer them with hardly a nod of recognition of the sacrifice. Such is the story of life and especially if one chooses to volunteer! Most of the time when we 'wear our hearts on our sleeve' we are well rewarded by a smile or a thank you and other times the heart is taken for granted because the receiver isn't aware of the greatness of our love. Still, it is worth our effort, acknowledged or not, because we are better off in the giving and the world experiences a glimpse of God's greater love.

Whatever happened to my sweetheart Joanne? I don't know, but I hope she is as happy as I am!

Happy Valentine's Day Volunteers, hope you find joy in your giving and thank you for 'wearing your heart on your sleeve.'

Peace fr guy

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! - MARY ELLEN MARCHANT

Gosh, you have been a busy bunch during these past few months and deserve a round of applause! Please know that your efforts and accomplishments are obvious to those around you at the shelter.

You are skillful at adapting to the changes that the much-needed renovation brought our way. Your brainstorming has worked! You've organized (and reorganized!) the storage, laundry and kitchen areas to make them efficient for the MANY volunteers who come together to serve the guests at the shelter. You've re-

sponded to procedural changes whether it be in the kitchen to avoid tripping circuit breakers, in the donation room while filling guest request forms, or in the areas near the restrooms to monitor the shower schedule.

Your input is important to the shelter staff members. We encourage you to write your comments and suggestions in the designated spiral notebook that is located in the kitchen near the nametags. This helps us all come together as one BIG team with the goal of making the shelter a comfortable home for our guests.

Thank you again to EACH one of you. You are terrific!

Mary Ellen Marchant

Volunteer Coordinator

A Valentine for Our Volunteers

Once upon this time,
At a church in Green Bay,
There come some people,
To help each day.
They come to prepare food,
And serve a real good meal.
But they do more than that,
They affect how I feel.
Arriving on time,
To this special place.
They come with warm love,
With a smile on each face.
Bringing joy to my heart,
Personifying caring.
An unselfish act
Of giving and of sharing.
They come from lots of
churches,
Many a different parish.
Together sharing love,
Something that I cherish.
I write these words above,
With the proper attitude.
Appreciating their love,
With my heartfelt gratitude.
Ending this poem is hard,
I have to fight the tears.
So God Bless You All!
You St. John's Volunteers!

P.S.

To remember all your names
This poem would go too far.
I shouldn't really have to,
You all know who you are.

-Randall, a shelter guest



HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEER MEETING

**SAT. FEB. 27
9:30 A.M.**

TOUCHING HEARTS - JUDY GOSZ AND SKIP JONES

If you want to meet people with big hearts, you'll find them at St. John's Homeless Shelter. Two of those big-hearted people are Judy Gosz and Skip Jones. This folk musician/visual artist husband and wife team share their love for life and the people around them at the Shelter throughout the winter.

When Skip and Judy stop by for an evening visit, special things happen because they focus on the interests of the guests. Skip sits down with his guitar like he's having friends



over in his livingroom and begins singing songs of hope and the human spirit, inviting anyone to sing or hum along. As Skip explains, it's

folk music so he's "gotta be with the folks."



Judy truly enjoys getting people excited about art. Sometimes she will bring a project idea for guests to try out. Other times, she

sets out the supplies and encourages guests to tap into their creativity as she builds the self-esteem that comes from artistic expression.

The day of the shelter's Open House in October was also the day we hung the first of many pieces of art that Judy has generously donated to St. John's to make the Shelter a more comfortable, reflective environment. Her watercolors bring vibrance, imagination and inspiration to our Shelter space.

Judy and Skip share their passion for justice, peace and respect for all



"A Place to Rest" by Judy Gosz is just one of the beautiful works that makes St. John Homeless Shelter more inviting for all who stay here.

people in schools, nursing homes and at festivals and community events across the Midwest. To find out more about Skip and Judy, you can visit their websites: www.Skipjones.net and www.JudyGosz.com

St. John's Homeless Shelter is blessed to have two such giving hearts as part of the Shelter community. *Thanks to Tammy Resulta for these photos.*

ST. JOHN'S BUILDING RENOVATION RECEIVES AWARD

"Every year the Historic Preservation Committee of the Brown County Historical Society presents awards to recognize recent activities and projects that exemplify and promote the spirit of Historic Preservation in Brown County. At a recent meeting, our committee reviewed a nomination recognizing the preservation and

adaptive reuse of the St. John's School Building in Green Bay. It was agreed that the project is most deserving of one of our Historic Preservation Awards for the year 2009."

Thus begins the award letter from the Brown County Historical Society to Fr. Guy Blair. Thanks to Karina O'Malley and

Dave Dolan-Wallace for putting the application together and making it possible for the shelter's renovation to be recognized by the wider community!



BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



ESTABLISHED 1889
GREEN BAY WISCONSIN



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



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

HE Laundry detergent (for front loaders) - high need!

Non-Latex Gloves, medium and large sizes

Decaf Coffee

Fruit Juice

Men's slippers

Rain Ponchos (hooded if possible), Spring is coming!

(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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