



St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter

Providing a Seasonal Warming Center

September 2011

Hello and a warm welcome back to all who make the shelter here at St. John The Evangelist the safe and warm respite it has become for the homeless during the cold winter months.

It's a busy time for us as we get ready for another season when we open our doors November 1st. We will again offer the homeless in the Green Bay area a warm welcome, a

warm meal and a place to sleep to escape the chills of winter. We also will offer them guidance and the opportunity to improve their situation.

Some key dates to mark on your calendar in September and October include a **shelter overnight retreat**, **volunteer trainings** and the **Open House**. Together, let's make this another successful season of letting our shelter guests know that we really do care about them!

YOU'RE INVITED!
to our 4th annual

**OPEN
HOUSE**

Oct. 26th

4:30—6:00 p.m.

Stop in and say hello!



TUESDAYS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL CONNECTION TO GUESTS

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write this pre-2011-2012 season note. The hot and humid summer is coming to a close which means of course that St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter is preparing for another season of providing a home for those in need.

Since the shelter closed on April 30th last "season", the shelter has maintained "open hours" on Tuesdays for previous shelter guests. Although this time does not allow overnight services, it allows guests a few hours to pick up mail, make phone calls, have their laundry done, enjoy a cup of coffee and snack, take a bottle of water with them, pick up a few needed supplies, and have the opportunity to talk to a counselor or

member of the Chaplaincy team. Most importantly, it provides an opportunity to stay connected and provide support as needed.

Many of the Tuesday visitors are living on the street or are cycling between a friend's couch and the street. A few lucky ones have established their own apartment; many with the help of Home Sweet Home. Once again, volunteers work alongside me during the summer to provide this service. I could not do it alone.

Thank you volunteers for your generous gift of time, talent, spirit and service. Your presence does not just help me and the shelter function but it projects an atmosphere of welcome and support that St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter provides to

homeless individuals. Due to the generosity of community members who provide clothing, shelter, supplies and financial support, St. John's will once again be able to open our doors to those in desperate need.

I anxiously await the return of volunteers and supporters that I have not seen during the shelter "off-season". Your energy, smiles and spirit of giving are an inspiration to me. Together we will once again serve individuals that are experiencing extremely difficult times by providing a safe, warm and welcoming home during the cold winter months.

Bless you all,
Mary Kelly
Executive Director

'TIS THE SEASON...ALREADY?

While being homeless at any time in a person's life is extremely difficult, Christmastime adds additional stress for our guests. That's why we make a special effort to make sure each guest receives some gifts that let them know they matter. Here's what one of our guests wrote:

"I want to thank you for the Christmas gifts I was given. It really meant a lot to me! Also the gifts I got for my four boys. I wouldn't have given them anything this year. But thanks to you, I was able to give them something. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."



For Santa's elves, it is none too soon to start planning how to fill Santa's bag for his visit to St. John's Homeless Shelter this year. Your organization, business, or church can touch someone's life this Christmas. Make plans now to hold a collection of items on our Wish List (visit our website at: StJohnHomelessShelter.org) or raise money with a holiday fundraiser. Call the Shelter for more information.

A PLACE CALLED LOVE

An Overnight Retreat Reflecting on the Gospel Call to Care for the Poor

Friday, Sept.30 5:30 p.m. to Saturday Oct. 1st 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by our shelter chaplaincy team. Bedding and meals will be provided. Please understand that retreat participants will be utilizing the shelter sleeping accommodations, which are sleeping mats on the floor. Cost: Free-will offering to benefit the Shelter. To register, visit our website at: stjohnhomelessshelter.org, click on "Events", then "Shelter Retreat" to print out a registration form.



MIRACLES DO HAPPEN — Shelter Welcomes Back Ashley Kohls

After an accident that nearly took her life, St. John's shelter case worker Ashley Kohls is eagerly awaiting her return to the Shelter in September.

Last November, she lost control of her SUV on black ice. It rolled over and Ashley, who was eight months pregnant, was thrown from the vehicle. She broke her back and neck and suffered a collapsed lung.

Since doctors weren't sure Ashley was going to live, they delivered her baby four hours after she arrived. He was fine, but Ashley had a long road to recovery ahead.

Ashley spent a month in the hospital.

She wore a body cast from her hips to her neck until March.

"A lot of people say it's a miracle," Ashley said. "When I returned later to an appointment, one of my doctors started crying and said they never thought we would get to this point."

Her back still hurts and doctors told her she would always have trouble with pain and lifting and , but Ashley said the recovery has really raised her threshold for pain.

She said she's excited to return to St. John's in September to continue helping shelter guests find housing and other resources.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

Public funding sources for housing and the homeless have been dramatically cut this year. The Shelter will be affected by these budget cuts. To ensure that the shelter remains solvent, an Appeal will be sent in November to shelter supporters. Thank you for faithfully considering the value of St. John's Homeless Shelter in our community and lending your support.

By the way, they named her miracle baby Vince for several reasons. First, for St. Vincent De Paul because of his work with the needy. Second, because St. Vincent Hospital saved her life and third, because her husband is a big Vince Lombardi fan. Ashley said after all that's happened, it had to be Vince.

WELCOME REBECCA DERENNE — NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Welcome to all those who are newly interested in getting involved or re-involved at St. John's Homeless Shelter! A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who previously volunteered their precious time!

I sincerely believe in the mission of St. John's Homeless Shelter and look forward to collaborating to achieve the shared vision of a stronger community. It will be exciting to meet all the fabulous, dedi-

cated volunteers, and community members that are involved with St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter!

The season will be starting soon! Plans are underway to get the shelter ready for guests. Your assistance is crucial for the continued functioning of the shelter and service to the guests.

You can check the website for more

information about the specific needs and options at:

www.stjohnhomelessshelter.org/volunteer "volunteer information" or call 920-436-9344 x 203 with questions. During September and October my schedule will generally be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Rebecca Derenne

“Thank you for the services the shelter provides. You make our lives less stressful and a lot more bearable. The volunteers here are extremely friendly and courteous and helpful. I hope to volunteer one day myself when I get my things in order. Thanks for everything.” — a former guest



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Upcoming Volunteer Training and Orientation Sessions

Wednesday, October 5th from 6:15-7:00 PM

OR

Monday, October 10th from 5:45-6:30 PM.

All current volunteers and those interested in learning about volunteer opportunities at the shelter are invited to attend a volunteer orientation. Would you prefer to volunteer with someone you know? Please consider inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers or family to get involved! Everyone has talents that can contribute to the success of the shelter! Pre-registration is not required. Please call the shelter at 436-9344 x 203 with any questions.

We currently have the following volunteer needs:

*Inventory volunteers: the Monday and Thursday 9-11am times will begin again the week of September 12th and continue each week throughout the season.

*Office/receptionist/welcoming volunteers- additional September and October dates have been added to the calendar. Anyone interested in helping out in this manner please contact me.

*Certified Locksmith for one project

*Certified, insured Electrician (Sept)

*Repair/re-seaming for 5 guest mattress covers (Sept)

LIFE-LONG GREEN BAY RESIDENT UNEXPECTEDLY HOMELESS



Heart problems caused Michael to become homeless, but it also showed him the Green Bay community has

some very big hearts, specifically the people at the homeless shelter at St. John the Evangelist.

Michael, a lifelong Green Bay resident, underwent major heart surgery last August. After leaving the hospital, he was unable to pass a physical to return to his job at American Foods, where he worked the last 12-years. He spent another 20-years working as a baker.

No job meant no money and he soon found himself without a home for the first time. He turned to St. John's Shelter, a place he had heard about on the news.

"I found out from talking to other people that St. John's is someplace where you can get back on your feet faster cause

the people are more helpful and dedicated and they really understand where the resources are," Michael said. "They give you a lot of respect and a lot of understanding and the thing is, as long as you're helping yourself, the more help they'll give."

With St. John's help, Michael now is planning to take a course at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College to become a C.N.A.

He also plans to volunteer at St. John's Shelter to try to inspire people. He plans to tell them that a year ago he was in their situation, but that if you work hard and don't get frustrated, you can get to where you want to go with the help of the compassionate people at the Shelter.

HELP US REACH OUT TO THE HOMELESS

To Mail a Donation:

Checks may be issued to:
"St. John Homeless Shelter"
and sent to:

St. John Homeless Shelter
P.O. Box 1743
Green Bay, WI 54305

To Make a Donation Online:

Please visit our website:
StJohnHomelessShelter.org
and click on "Donate"

*"St. John's is someplace where you can get
back on your feet."*



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