



St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter
Providing a Seasonal Warming Center
411 St. John Street
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December 2010

SHELTER TO SPONSOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

While the circumstances vary, many homeless people die from illness, exposure to heat and cold, and from violence, often in unprovoked hate crimes.

In 2009, more than 152 cities and counties, including Brown County, observed National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year and conducted Memorial Day events on or around December 21 to honor the more than 2600 people who died homeless last year. So again this year, our local community will join with others across the nation. This event is open to the public; all are invited to participate in solidarity with those who believe health care, housing and physical safety are basic needs that should be available to everyone.

MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE for the HOMELESS

DEC. 21, 2010
7:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN
THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
413 ST. JOHN STREET
IN DOWNTOWN GREEN BAY



Please keep Ashley Kohls, our Case Manager in your prayers as she recovers from a serious car accident. She remains at St. Vincent hospital but is recovering from her injuries and surgery. The good part of this disturbing news is that her family is enjoying a premature, yet healthy baby boy. Ashley and her husband named him Vince, after St. Vincent de Paul, who is the patron saint of those in need. She is an amazingly strong woman that we have been so fortunate to have at St. John's. The Shelter is starting a fund and accepting donations to help pay for her medical expenses and the baby's. Please join us in prayer for her full recovery.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Greetings to all!

Another successful season has begun. As of the end of November, and thanks to all your help, we are housing individuals who have been in very difficult situations. A few statistics to demonstrate:

**21% were living on the street before coming here*

**7% were living in a vehicle*

64% are **chronically homeless*

**78% have a disability*

**9% are veterans*

Without all of the help we receive from you and the community at large, what would happen to these individuals?

How would they manage without the coats, hats, warm and nutritious

meals, sweatshirts, and the welcoming conversation, not to mention the simple mat on the floor to allow some uninterrupted sleep and safety? Imagine what it would be like to be in their shoes...even for a brief period of time. How can I possibly express appreciation to all of you for keeping our service to others alive and well? You are unbelievable blessings to each and every person that stays at St. John's.

Thank you all for helping us get beyond the often chaotic first month of the season and for supporting St. John Shelter and our mission of food, shelter and clothing for those who REALLY need

us. Whether you provide financial or supply donations; wonderful, warm hot meals; perform fix-it projects; answering the door for donations, volunteer applications or answering questions; or are that friendly face that welcomes and hands out clean sheets to guests when they arrive...bless you!

May you and yours have a wonderful Christmas and winter season.

Respectfully,

*Mary Kelly
Executive Director*



SHELTER GETS A BIT MORE “ELBOW ROOM” – by Laurie Laurent-Hyland

St. John's Homeless Shelter was happy to showcase its new resource room, meeting room and director's office at its annual Open House this fall. Parts of an original classroom and the principal's office of St. John's Elementary School were turned into the current rooms to meet the growing needs of the shelter. Father Guy Blair, the founder, and Mary Kelly, the director, recognized the need not only for a new director's office and meeting and resource rooms, but for the privacy the new space would afford. St. John the Evangelist Church generously designated the space for the shelter's use, adding it to the total space the shelter leases from the parish. St. John's uses the rest of the former school for its religious education classes.

Mary Kelly stated, "This is wonderful to have these additional rooms and we are very fortunate to have the space we have at the shelter." Kelly stressed not only the importance of privacy the new rooms offer, but the need for quiet space within the shelter. Many of the guests at the shelter crave a quiet spot to relax, think, work out crossword puzzles, read or hold private conversations. In addition, for those suffering from anxiety, the classroom can offer a quiet

place away from the noise and bustle of the shelter.

It is also anticipated that the resource room will be used in the near future for literacy and job training. Computers were donated by the Green Bay Public School District. The meeting room will be put to good use by the various agencies such as PATH, American Foundation of Counseling and Brown County Extension -- which runs MORE (Mobile Outreach Resource Extension) providing mental health services to shelter guests. Their services need to be provided in a quiet, safe, confidential and private area of the shelter. They now have this with the addition of the meeting room.

While the rooms have been renovated and will soon be wired for computers, the echoes of the past can still be seen in the features that were kept from its earlier use as an elementary school. The chalkboards in the resource room are part of the original building, as are the beautiful glass and wooden cabinets in the meeting room. The cabinets originally went the full length of the wall but had to be cut in order to accommodate the new doorway between the resource room and the director's office.



Shelter staff and guests will benefit greatly from the new spaces available for use — a resource room, a meeting room, and additional office space.

If you look at the outside of the building, you will notice a cornerstone with the date of 1890. This was the date of the original school building. The cornerstone is the only part of the original building which remains today. The current school building was built in 1932. It is gratifying to see this steadfast building which educated so many children now being used to serve people in a whole new way.

There Was No Room For Them in the Inn. A Christmas reflection - Brian Prunty, O.Praem.



“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (LK 2:7)

The Christian season of Advent encourages the faithful to move toward the vision of peace and unity, of giving comfort and of sharing hope. On the first Sunday of Advent, Jesus tells us to “stay awake.” (Mt 21:42).

“Staying awake” suggests that we must reclaim that we are called to act “counter-culturally” in this world. Resisting the commercialism, consumerism and superficiality of this season is demanding but probably the only way

to restore our own balance. This may be our best opportunity to get it right.

The admonition to “put Christ back in Christmas” encourages us to sort out the real meaning of the season. Can we find the Christ we are looking for in our brothers and sisters “who find no room in the inn”? Advent is a time to stay awake, to discover the Christ who is already among us; our sister, our spouse, our child; the people with

whom we live and work; in the prisons, orphanages; the shelters, the hurting, the homeless, the marginalized. The promise of Christianity is that Christ is already here...I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born today...a Savior. He is the messiah, the Lord. This I Believe.

Fr. Brian is a member of the Shelter Chaplaincy Team and resides at St. Norbert Priory. You will see him at the shelter most Saturday evenings.

HELLO VOLUNTEERS! - FROM MARY ELLEN 'MEL' MARCHANT

WELCOME to all of our newest volunteers who are enthusiastically jumping in to pitch in! Guests, fellow volunteers, and staff appreciate *your* part in making the shelter a home.

“Non-operational” volunteers have taken the lead during our off-season and opening weeks of this new season by building and organizing. Your efforts are noticeable! You should see how orderly the kitchen, the donation room, the supply area, and the laundry rooms are! Volunteers continue to launder shelter bedding at the Freedom House laundry facility. The guest restroom and shower areas sparkle after one volunteer gets a routine workout cleaning. Other cleaning crews tackle additional parts of the shelter with buckets, mops, and rags. Some of you assist with miscellaneous facilities and office tasks. Thanks to all of you for your “behind-the-scene” work! ...Speaking of office tasks, please contact me if you'd like to volunteer once a week for

a couple of months as a “Welcoming Volunteer”. While assisting with “busy work,” you would be answering phones and welcoming daytime visitors who stop by with donations.

With each new shelter season, “operational” volunteers adapt to new procedures and this year is no exception! You are the volunteers that are in charge during the busy evening hours and the early morning hours. The shelter could not exist without you! Thanks to all of you who have volunteered already this season and who are implementing the new procedures. Another difference for you is the new, online scheduling system called “VolunteerSpot” that offers some handy features. For those of you who do not use the Internet, please call me and I'll add your name to the schedule for you. Additional volunteer shifts are posted on the calendar for December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st. Consider sharing some of your holiday spirit with our guests!

One reminder for all past volunteers is that background checks are good for four years. So, please feel free to join back in as a volunteer, even if it's been awhile. You are always welcome!



Pictured from left to right are dedicated volunteers: Barb Fredrick, Ed Winney, and Julie Jacobson.

Thanks, once again, to ALL of you for the many ways that you make the shelter possible for our guests. St. John Homeless Shelter is lucky to have you on board!

Mary Ellen (Mel) Marchant
Volunteer Coordinator

SHELTER ESTABLISHES THE FR. GUY BLAIR BOOT AND BUS PASS FUND



Schreiber partners hold up pairs of new boots as they present Mary Kelly and the Shelter with a check for the Fr. Guy Blair Boot and Bus Pass Fund.

Try walking around all winter in shoes or old boots that don't fit well, aren't insulated or waterproof and soon you will be dealing with frostbitten toes and major health problems.

Over the last few winters, it became a special project for Fr. Guy Blair to make sure guests received a new pair of boots. To continue that tradition, the shelter recently established the Fr. Guy Blair Boot and Bus Fund to ensure that shelter guests would have new quality boots and transportation for a warmer, safer winter.

Generous contributors to the fund this winter have included a gift in memory of Doris Blair, a Community Partners grant from Schreiber Foods, and money

raised through the efforts of Schreiber employees, who held a fundraiser breakfast with Schreiber matching the total from the event.

Thank you all for your generosity!

Fr. Guy saw that each guest had a good pair of boots for the winter.



NEW WEBSITE AND BROCHURE DESIGN FOCUS ON PEOPLE

After a year of behind-the-scenes work, the Shelter website and promotional brochure have a new look. Members of the shelter's Public Relations Committee, including Website Designer Katina Daanen of Indigo Design and Scott Crevier of St. Norbert College donated many hours to give the website and brochure a facelift.

Almost three years ago, the shelter launched its first site thanks to the expertise and efforts of shelter friend, Mike O'Malley. Having a website was a tremendous help to informing people about the shelter, recruiting volunteers and receiving donations.

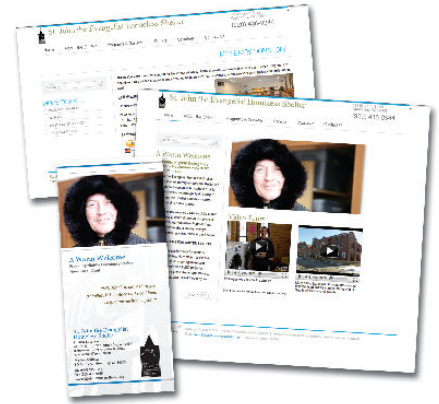
"The shelf life of a typical website is about three years because technology changes," Daanen said. "This was an opportunity, while the Shelter is developing other branding materials, including the new brochure, to optimize technology that wasn't available

when the website was unveiled years ago." Daanen said the main thing is to make the website as user friendly as possible. The changes also make it easier for shelter staff to maintain and update the website themselves.

The website now carries more pictures of the facility, the volunteers and the guests who use it, helping the public to connect a face to the problem of homelessness in our community.

You can check out the new site at: StJohnHomelessShelter.org

Many thanks to the members of the PR committee for all the work that went into these projects. Anyone who is interested in helping to promote the Shelter would be most welcome!



The Shelter brochure and website share a similar design, emphasizing the people of our Shelter community.



SHELTER SEASON OPENS WITH BLESSING

On November 1st, just before the doors of the shelter opened for the first time this winter, staff and volunteers gathered to share in a blessing of the shelter space and to bless each other. Pictured here are Shelter Board and Chaplaincy Team members: (L to R) Dcn. Paul Umentum, Mike Westenberg, Tony Pichler, Susan Perrault, Fr. Brian Prunty and Novice Matt Dougherty.



~~ SHELTER WISH LIST ~~

Items for Guests

- Adult hooded sweatshirts (larger sizes) and sweatpants
- Slippers
- Men's Jeans
- Deodorant and Foot Powder
- Shaving Cream

Shelter Supplies

- HE Laundry Soap—front load
- Paper bowls and hot and cold cups
- 49 or 30 gallon garbage bags
- Decaf coffee, Fruit Juice, and Boxed Cereal

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR SHELTER GUESTS!

For a complete listing of needed items and drop off times, please visit our website.

StJohnHomelessShelter.org

