

Christmas 2016

Father Carr's Place 2B

"Celebrating over 40
years of enriching lives"



Calendar of Events

Celebration of Lights

Help us collect food at Menominee Park
December 22-27
Call 920-231-2378 to volunteer

December 24

Children's Christmas Breakfast Program
with Jesus and Santa Claus
9 am - 11 am

December 25

Meal deliveries from 10:30 am - Noon
Meals served from Noon - 1:30 pm



Christmas is coming.

Where Angels Abide

I began volunteering at the Place 2B this summer. I was so impressed with the mission that I am now helping at the women and children's shelter weekly.

Things are busy as always at the Holy Family Villa with Sister Angela and the resident women and children. Driving by the facility, it may look like a big impersonal hotel but step inside and you will see a home filled with the joys, sorrows, struggles and triumphs of the women and children who live there. You will see Sister Angela bustling in the kitchen, cooking 3 meals a day for up to 50 people on a stove like the one I have at home with even less counter space. The Marines claim to do more by 9:00 a.m. than most people do in a day but they obviously haven't met Sister Angela. She runs the Villa pretty much single handedly with assistance from Rose. She works tirelessly and can often be heard softly singing hymns in her beautiful soprano. Making dinner, she may be interrupted by the arrival of a new resident. It may be a single woman down on her luck or a mother with small children in tow - all their possessions stuffed in a couple of plastic garbage bags. These women have nowhere else to go, nowhere else to turn. They are often overwhelmed, scared and scarred. Sister Angela welcomes them with her no nonsense approach, gets them toiletries, clothing and bedding and takes them up the elevator to a room of their own. Single women on the 2nd floor, mothers with children on the 3rd. The rooms may not be big, the paint may be fading and the furniture used, but each room is clean, has its own bathroom, and everyone gets a bed - cribs can be wheeled in for the babies. It is home for now. Coming down for a meal that the women take turns helping to prepare, serve and clean up after; new residents are introduced and welcomed, the blessing is said and everyone eats. No one goes hungry.

Volunteers and other residents will help newcomers with learning the routine as well as the steps they need to take to get back on their feet. They are guided where to seek assistance for things like child care, housing, employment or job training and transportation. Everyone that is accepted for residence has to clear a background check and can stay as long as they continue to work toward employment and housing or similar goals.

I have been privileged to hear the stories of many of these women, their struggles with homelessness, broken relationships, abuse

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(continued from front page)

and abandonment as well as their joy at a child's good grades or when they find a job or have enough saved to seek an apartment. I bring simple activities for the children who greet me with smiles and hugs. They are eager to help unpack anything I've brought from my car. One little boy dubbed me, "the activities lady." While getting to know the children and interacting with them, they tell me things like, "I have Barbies at home....but I can't go back and get them," "Who will take care of me if something happens to my mom," "I cried every day at school this week cuz I missed my old school and my friends." It tears at my heart that they have to go through this.

Yet these families are no different from our own. The phrase, "...There but for the grace of God..." comes to mind. They want the same things for themselves and their children: a job, good childcare and schooling, three meals a day, a secure and safe place to live and maybe a little extra to take the kids for pizza or a movie. I have made a commitment to the Father Carr family of my time, talent and treasure because I am so sold on the mission. I've seen first hand how Bob, Neil, Sister Angela, Hussain, Carol and all the other dedicated volunteers give of themselves to make an impact in our community. But they all wear many hats and really need extra help. So pay it forward! Whether you or your teen have a few hours a month to spare answering phones or cleaning a room, or extra household items such as an outgrown bed in the spare room, or a little extra space in your grocery cart for canned goods or cleaning supplies or a monetary donation of any size- it will go to excellent use and be greatly appreciated. I will also share a secret I have learned about volunteering. You are guaranteed to get more out of it than what you give. Where else will an investment like that pay off?

Kelly

New Book About Father Marty Carr

We are excited to share that Sister Angela recently completed a book about Father Carr. It is a mini biography with a collection of memories and stories from people that knew him. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the book. It is \$15 and we can assure that the money is contributed to a very good charity in Oshkosh that Father Carr loved, the Place 2B. The following is an excerpt from the book:

The Colemans, whose friend was Father Carr, brought our Sisters to The Place 2B with the intention to help the Sisters further their education, live in the shelter, and help the women and children. They were also to acquire knowledge for their future mission back in Africa and aid in the growth of the universal church. The authorities of the congregation welcomed the offer with open hands and sent two Sisters to begin their education in the person of Sister Mary Assumpta Ayikue and Sister Celestine Dovlo. The Superior General at that time, Sister Brigid Agbenyo came to the States to meet with Father Martin Carr and to strengthen the ties of the congregation and the Place 2B.

After Sister Brigid briefed Father Carr about our congregation and its apostolate, he saw that we have something in common, especially empowering women and elevating them from their poor state of life. Father Carr was impressed by Sister's talk and on that note, borrowed money from the bank for the Superior to enable the congregation to build a boarding facility for girls in a school which the Sisters began constructing even before her visit to the United States. People were wondering how he could pay the loan back. The only thing he told them was, "God will provide." With faith he bought about two hundred plastic containers and wrote help Father Carr build a school in Africa on them. He gave it to any person who came around to go and help fill it. To everybody's surprise, he raised two thirds of the amount he borrowed from the bank before his death and the rest was paid later. He was not afraid to put the Lord to the test for his needs. He believed that God always gives to the right course and at the right time.

"Sister Angela and our volunteers try to make a comfortable home for all of our children and families."



Hussain and Kevin setting up tables for Thanksgiving.



Taking a break from the food pantry.



Justice and Julie Paine donate over 40 pairs of shoes for our children.



Teens from Fox Valley Christian working hard and having fun with the leaves.



Christmas Makes All Things New

We approach each and every Christmas with an inner sense of excitement. Something stirs within us and moves us toward a new hope with joyful anticipation. If we deeply reflect on these inner stirrings, we find that they are only partially created by presents, decorations and family gatherings. They reflect only the visible manifestations of something that radiates deeper within us.

The Christmas season can become a journey of sorts. An inner journey to rediscover the joy that calls us. Even when the world around us seems in disarray and our prosperity and peace are elusive or nonexistent, we look for something "new." We look for a bright light to shine upon our hearts and minds. We look for the encouraging voice that adds joyful hope to our saddened spirits. We look beyond ourselves to find the warmth and comfort of someone to calm our restless hearts. We look for love and God gives us Our Savior and a promise.

The one who sat on the throne* said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." Rev 21:5

Life is all about "new beginnings." Christmas affords us the opportunity to reflect on God's gift of His Son as a new beginning when we let go of our "old selves." It is time to lay down what has passed and embrace the mystery of new life that God has prepared for us. It's a gift He lovingly gives if we are but humble enough to receive. The hope we desire begins with acts of love to God and those around us. It is helping and loving those less fortunate and in need that God reveals to us a love beyond all telling. It is in the giving of ourselves in service to God and others, that we truly receive.

May Christ take what is old in your life and make it "new."

Merry Christmas!

Father Dave

Letter from the President

I pray that the Christmas season brings joy and happiness to you and your family. Unfortunately, many children are struggling during this season and throughout the year because of homelessness. We often assume the homeless are adults, but children become homeless when their parent(s) are too. Recent statistics indicate that almost one quarter of all people who are homeless are children. We see this every day at Father Carr's because we have hundreds of children living with us throughout the year. My simple request for you is to remember the children living at Father Carr's Place 2B throughout the entire calendar year. We ask for your prayers and financial support to continue providing a safe and comfortable home for each and every one of them.

Several of our volunteers recently created a teen corner so that teens can have a safe and quiet space to do their homework. Another volunteer is trying to obtain new toys for the playroom for the younger children. We have a goal to keep the building clean, safe and updated. We hope to soon be replacing carpeting, repairing walls, painting and many other maintenance items. The ultimate goal is to continue to have a physically and emotionally safe place for all of our children and their families. I ask for your generosity if you can provide financial support to make sure we can carry through on these plans.

Thank you for helping us help our children. We can all feel good that despite life's challenges for many children, Father Carr's Place 2B is making a real home for all who stay with us. God bless you and may you and your family have a very merry Christmas.

Nic Rm



Thanks to everyone who helped serve on Thanksgiving Day.



The Oshkosh Police Department provides great support to Father Carr's. Sister Angela expresses her thanks by cooking lunch and delivering it with Bob.



Special needs students from Winneconne provide and serve monthly home cooked meals to the men's shelter.



Celebrating a beautiful day!



Students collect over 2700 pounds of food at Lourdes Academy - Seton School Campus.



UWO Students provide service during the Hands on Oshkosh Day.



Bob and Bishop Ricken enjoy conversation during a reception after Mass at Father Carr's. The Bishop celebrated the close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Bishop Ricken celebrates Mass at Father Carr's.

Bishop David Ricken celebrated Mass at Father Carr's on Sunday, November 20. He celebrated the close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis celebrated the same Mass at the Vatican on the same day. Bishop Ricken thanked the volunteers and benefactors of Father Carr's and recognized their hard work. He pointed out that we are helping Jesus by helping each person that walks through our door. He was grateful for the missionary work that continues to be carried out by Father Carr's Place 2B.

Needed Items

Food Items

Ham
Mashed Potatoes
Brown Sugar
Breakfast Sausage
Syrup
Pancake Mix

Gift Ideas For Adult And Kids

Headphones
Lego Sets
Alarm Clocks
Shave/Grooming Kits (popular
around Christmas)
Make-Up Kits
Purses
Packer Hats/Clothing
Flat Irons

Hair Dryers
Craft Kits
Art Sets

Walmart Gift Cards
Target Gift Cards
Toys
Board Games
Stickers

Pick An Ornament From
Our Giving Tree

Miscellaneous

Bath Towels
New Children's Books
New Stuffed Animals
New Fleece Blankets
Card Stock and Envelopes
Printer and Copier Ink
Cold And Flu Medicine
Twin Beds

Exciting Fundraiser Begins

Over 10 years ago Father Carr helped build a school in Ghana. Much of the money was given through a simple fundraiser that involved filling plastic containers. *We have decided to follow Father Carr's example and do it again!* If you are interested, we have plastic containers both large and small at the Place 2B for you to pick up. We ask that you fill it up with cash and coins from your spare change; co-workers, family, friends and neighbors. Simply return it to the Place 2B when it is full. All cash and coins will help contribute to our newly planned Family Unit and/or a new kitchen at the Mother Teresa Center. It is hard to believe that we serve up to a 1000 meals at holidays without a real kitchen. Thanks for helping to make these dreams eventually become a reality.