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Easter 2018

Father Carr's Place 2B

People Who Make it Happen in Our Men's Residence



Dennis and James

Father Carr's is fortunate to have many volunteers who provide great leadership including some who live on campus. Two notable individuals in the men's shelter are Dennis Kuehner and James Stevens. Both are dependable assets who have been asked to help us work with our men and help operate daily activities.

Anyone who has joined us at the lunch or dinner table at the Bethlehem Inn has found that we eat prepared meals with generous servings created by our "Chef," James. Some offerings include homemade sushi, grilled ham and cheese, chicken with homemade dumplings, homemade pineapple upside down cake, apple crisp with cherries, fresh reuben sandwiches, and homemade bean or pea soup and chili. Occasionally James makes larger portions and shares a large pot with our local fire departments. James also enjoys mentoring several of the residents, taking on a fatherly figure to walk them thru difficult times and teaching them to make better decisions. When not preparing and serving meals, James can sometimes be found repairing broken carts, appliances, welding, and sometimes just napping to keep up his stamina.

Dennis' duties include preparing meals, handling house laundry when residents check out, directing the men during chore time, and making general decisions to keep peace and tranquility in the shelter. Dennis will also be found each morning at the front desk of the Mother Teresa Center answering phones (with his "radio announcer voice") and general questions for those seeking shelter. Dennis maintains cleanliness as well as working behind the scenes for the executive director recording information on residents for both shelters, keeping tabs on any incidents, both good and bad for men and women who are residing with us. He first stopped in at Father Carr's in 2007 to benefit from the pantry at which time he was impressed with the volunteers who worked so hard and joyfully to help others. In 2011 Dennis returned in need of assistance as a resident and immediately took on responsibilities helping the House Father to lead others, as well as helping out in our food pantry. Dennis has learned how others cope with personal issues, substance abuse and homelessness, and how we help them get back on their feet. He feels it is a privilege to work along with the many volunteers who give their time and talents, and that he still learns more about people every day. Thank you James and Dennis for sharing of your time and talents with our people!



Thank you to Chuck and all of our snowplow drivers for keeping our parking lots clear this winter.

Sister Angela celebrates her birthday with children. Sister Grace also recently celebrated her birthday and her one year anniversary with us.

— Easter Message —

Many things in life are not what they seem. A tackle box full of old paint tubes and brushes are the beginnings of a work of art. A basket of old discarded clothes forms the tapestry of a heirloom quilt. A pile of assorted building materials is transformed into a one-of-a-kind backyard deck. What seems random and worthless becomes a thing of beauty when put in the right hands. The inspiration for any of these creative endeavors surround us each and every moment of daily living. If we nurture a desire to imagine strangely new opportunities, we discover an excitement that presents life as a mystery to unfold.

Our lives then, are full of possibilities yet to be imagined and realized. We need to open our hearts and minds beyond our own limited perception of ourselves. Much of who we are and what we are capable of doing awaits to be discovered. Our Lord said it succinctly to the prophet Jeremiah (29:11), "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We are the "works of His hands" and thusly possess the innate abilities to become true "works of art" in the Master's hands.

The Resurrection of Christ reminds us always of the new beginnings God offers us when we seek His will and guidance for our lives. Faith and trust in His desire for us are the seeds of new life and joyful hope. The possibilities are endless in the creative hands of God.

May the Grace of this Easter season inspire us all to see the newness Christ brings to all things.

Father Dave

Matching Gifts Benefit Father Carr's

Many companies match donations to nonprofits. Please check with your company to see if they will match a certain percentage of your donation to Father Carr's. It is an easy way to help us in helping others. We are 100% privately funded and your donation of any amount is so valuable.



@ **9:30 AM**

**1062 NORTH KOELLER ST.
OSHKOSH, WI**

- Enjoy a wonderful event bringing our community and supporters together.
- Walk begins at Father Carr's and then over the Butte des Morts Bridge causeway and back.
- Raising funds to support Father Carr's Mission
 - Lunch and open house begin at 11 a.m.
 - Tours available.
 - Raffles

Father Carr's operates from private donations and receives no government or church funding.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION
AVAILABLE AT
FATHERCARRS.ORG**

...And My Life is Complete

Hello, my name is Deacon Keith. It was spring in 2002 and I was arriving in Oshkosh for an interview at the shopping center. Off to the left I saw the sign, "Father Carr's Place 2B." I wondered if that was the same Father Carr that crossed my path 30 some years ago. He was a young, transitional deacon at my parish, St Boniface in Manitowoc. I was a teenager, active in our youth activities and Deacon Carr was active in everything. He encouraged us to channel our energy and activity into caring and faith filled things.

After I accepted the position at the shopping center, it took me almost two years but I eventually stopped in at the Place 2B, and it was indeed the same man. His first words were, "What took you so long?" Apparently I had missed several invitations to deacons he had posted on the Compass and Deacon Newsletter. We had a wonderful visit and he encouraged me to come back. After some visits, Father started hooking me up with different residents. He would look at one of the residents or college students that spent time at the mission and say, "Why don't you find a quiet place with Deacon Keith and tell him what's going on in your life." It was the beginning of my formation as a mentor. I would visit several times a week after work and then about 9:00 drive back to my home in Green Bay.

I was wondering what Father Carr really wanted me to do. When I asked, he just said, "Be yourself." He knew God had given me everything I needed to help those he would put in my path. He knew that I came from a large family to which faith was important. He knew I was in a good marriage with 3 great daughters. He knew I had had several successful business leadership positions and I was a deacon. In his eyes, I had received the formation necessary to help others find their way.

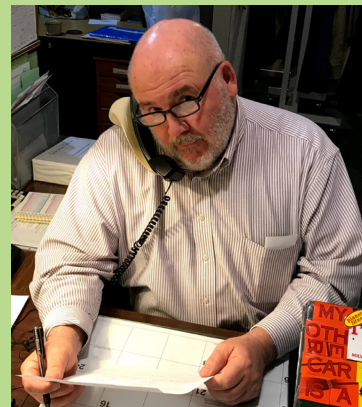
One evening we were visiting in the Mother Teresa Center and he asked Adam Brechtal, a young man in residence, to show me something they had for me on the third floor of the Bethlehem Inn. Adam was a very dedicated assistant to Father Carr and played a crucial role in the transition after Father's death. On the 3rd floor was a room with my name on it. From then on, I did not have to leave Oshkosh on the nights I served at the mission. That brought tears to my eyes and assured me I was exactly where God wanted me. I never doubted that God had given me a wonderful life; My

parents, 10 siblings, wife extraordinaire, 3 beautiful daughters, and grandchildren (6), several great employment opportunities, and several wonderful parishes that were all signs that made that obvious. Yet, as I tell Mary Ellen and anyone else I can, it is this experience in this holy corner of Oshkosh that has completed my life.

Therefore, it is with thankfulness and great joy that 15 years later, I continue to serve and see no end in sight. I continue to be a mentor at each opportunity. I love sharing in the Wednesday evening men's meetings, and Tuesday evenings with the women when I am in town. Monday evenings I am available to anyone who needs a good listener. I host the front desk and I answer the door overnight. Yes, even those late night doorbells provide reward.

When someone comes to Father Carr's looking for a place to stay it is a tough day in their lives. Often times relationships have been damaged and finances are in disarray. They feel lonely, embarrassed, and just sad. Our first visit is heartbreaking as they share the journey leading to our door. When new arrivals join us for their first meal and sit in their first meeting, they are often quiet and withdrawn. Then the model that Father Carr instilled in all the volunteers takes over. The same model he encouraged in the youth at St Boniface, of caring activity, changing the lives of all we serve at the Place 2B. In a short time, they are walking taller, joining in conversation and activity and pulling together a transition plan. That model activity assures them they are loved, that they deserve respect and that this family of volunteers and residents are here to help them. With our support and encouragement, they are soon ready to step out on their own.

I thank God for these 15 years of sharing part of my life with the residents and volunteers at the Place 2B. It is no wonder, I consider my life complete.



Happy Easter from the Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire volunteer staff, I would like to extend to you and your family of very joyful Easter. First and foremost I would like to thank you for your prayers and generous giving. The Place 2B continues to thrive while serving those in need. Hundreds of active volunteers and benefactors share their support and love while giving their time, talent and treasure. His Spirit and His mercy and grace surrounds and embraces us daily. It's hard to fathom that Debbie and I will be celebrating our fourth Easter living in the Bethlehem Inn Men's Shelter. It doesn't seem possible, but it is true! So often that very same conversation is used throughout our days, both regarding our secular world and our spirituality ... it doesn't seem possible, but it is true! What an experience it has been. Debbie and I have learned so much from Sister Angela, Neil, the Board of Directors', Father Dave, Deacon Keith and the many residents, volunteers and benefactors who come and go from this special place. Myriads of people have shared themselves and their lives with us and we have been richly blessed. As shared in the final words of the Desiderata "keep peace with your soul, with all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy" So we carry on and support one another; share stories, cry, laugh and do our best to faithfully and joyfully carry out Father Carr's vision, mission, dreams and hopes for the Place 2B (Mathew 25, v. 31-46). Please take the opportunity to stop by, say a prayer in the St. Martin de Porres Chapel, have a cup of tea and mingle with others. Come and experience the Place 2B. All Are Welcome.

May God's love, peace, joy and hope be with you and your family today and always.

Bob

Calendar of Events

Easter

Meal deliveries begin at 10:30am
Drivers please arrive at 10:00am
Easter meal served from
Noon to 1:30pm

Father Carr's 3rd Annual Bridge Walk

Saturday, June 2nd at 9:30am

Walk, Raffle, Lunch,
Open House, Music & Fun
Register at www.fathercarrs.org

Donation Needs

- Refrigerator (¾ size)
- Gift Cards to Festival, Kwik Trip, Office Max, Walmart, Target
- Two New Computers
- Dressers (Narrow and Tall)
- Bunk beds
- Raffle items for Bridge Walk
Kayak with paddle, Beats, JVC portable speaker, monetary donation, sports tix, bike or any fun raffle item.



Local Hospitals Support St. Francis Clinic While Patient Volume Increases

We are so fortunate to have about two dozen doctors, nurses and other volunteers at our health clinic. There continues to be a great need for healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured. Our patient volume has risen dramatically since January 1 since the closing of Living Healthy Clinic, the only other free health clinic in Winnebago County. Aurora and Mercy Hospitals have agreed to soon offer vouchers to our patients in need of lab work or imaging. These service donations will help us to offer better care for our patients in need. We are also thankful that the doctors and nurses who volunteer their time will have this option for their patients. Like all of Father Carr's, our clinic is privately funded and staffed by volunteers. Thank you Aurora and Ascension Mercy Hospitals for your generosity and partnership!