

1062 N. Koeller Street,
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902-3245
Telephone: 920-231-2378
Email: blang@fathercarrs.org
www.fathercarrs.org



Summer 2018

Father Carr's Place 2B



FATHER CARR'S PLACE 4U! (Teen Scene Returns to Father Carr's)

Father Carr's Place 2B opened its doors once again and welcomed the area youth in an event called "Place 4U." On Friday April 20, over 80 area youth, grades 8-12, gathered to eat, play games and just hang out together.

The idea for the Place 4U event was developed when the Tomorrow's Leaders of Lourdes Academy advisor Karen Boehm, met with our very own Deacon Keith to discuss how the Lourdes Academy leadership group could make a greater impact with Father Carr's Place 2B than just volunteering for a day. This is where the idea grew to bring back the teen-friendly atmosphere many Oshkosh natives fondly remember of Father Carr's Place 2B. Father Carr loved the youth and bringing back events such as this keeps the spirit and mission of Father Carr going strong.

The Lourdes Academy Tomorrow's Leaders group partnered with the Oshkosh West Rotary Club to plan, seek sponsors, advertise, set up, and implement the Place 4U Event, making this truly a night for teens and planned by teens. The youth gathering was made possible by several very generous donors including ALS Printing, Caramel Crisp, Christianos Pizza, Marcus Cinemas, Pizza King, Rhapsodies Frozen Custard, and Thrivent Financial.

Was the night a success? Hmmm. Over 80 teenagers attended! The tables of board and card games, pool games, foosball and air hockey were busy all night. Meanwhile, Wii's Just Dance drew a crowd...much laughter, many smiles, minimal cell phone use, all while Rhapsodies custard bars kept making the rounds every hour! The scheduled end time of 10:30 pm arrived but no one headed for the door. You tell me, success or not?!

An offer from a generous person to help sponsor the next Place 4U event, and the random comments as kids were leaving for the night, "This was actually really fun - I hope they will do it again someday" shows just what a success it truly was! Throughout the entire evening, one could see Board President Nic Bur and Board Vice President Dan Geffers enjoying the teenage fun and remembering back to the good old days when they were the teens hanging out with Father Carr! *Thank you* to all who helped support this unique event!

Are you creative and good with youth? Maybe you would like to help plan the next Place 4U event!

Letter from the Director

Summer greetings to you from all of us at Father Carr's Place 2B. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and for supporting the mission of Father Marty Carr (Matthew 25, vs 31-46).

The Place 2B is alive and active with residents, volunteers, benefactors and the Holy Spirit! People have received and have given so much! The 3rd Annual Bridge Walk was on Saturday, June 2nd. It was a very special day at the Place 2B. We raised awareness and funds for the homeless as we walked over and under the Lake Butte des Morts I41 Bridge. We celebrated with an open house, food and fellowship. Some took tours and won prizes and all enjoyed the food, ice cream and family oriented activities. Come and enjoy your morning on the first Saturday of June each year.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, Father Marty Carr was remembered reverently 11 years after his death. Our dear Sister Angela, who remains with us at the Holy Family Villa, arrived a few months before his passing in 2007. She cared for him and loved him to his Father in heaven. His spirit, legacy and mission lives on.

The Board of Directors would like to invite you to an open house on **Saturday, October 6th**. Father Dave will celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. A dinner, reception, short program and tours will follow. Please join us for the entire evening or for a portion. Either way we would enjoy your presence. Remember, ALL are welcome. I encourage you to invite a friend and/or relative to come along with you. No rsvp is necessary.

Herein I would like to thank you for your time, talent, treasure and prayers. You are making a positive difference in the lives of many. Without YOU and the HOLY SPIRIT we could not do the important, challenging and life changing work of the Place 2B. Celebrate summer and keep His presence in your daily activities. May the Holy Spirit set us on fire...*all for the Glory of God*.

God Bless,
Bob

By the Grace of God....

People come to Father Carr's Place 2B for many different reasons, and sometimes it's simply by the Grace of God. My name is Melissa Vandenhouten and I have been volunteering at Father Carr's Place 2B for more than a year, both in the Mother Teresa Center and at the St Francis Free Medical Clinic. I came to volunteer because I felt a gentle nudge to try something new, and then I met Debbie Lang....enough said! Who can say no to that great smile and positive energy! Thank you Debbie!

I have a dear friend, Jim, whose story starts similarly as he, too, felt God calling him to volunteer at Father Carr's Place 2B. On Monday, May 7, 2018, by the Grace of God, Jim arrived at the Mother Teresa Center to fill out a volunteer application form. After meeting many of the lead volunteers and getting a tour, the unthinkable happened. Jim became unresponsive and had a heart attack right in the Mother Teresa Center. By the Grace of God, CPR was started. The St Francis Free Medical Clinic was open and immediately Dr Radford was sent over. Sister Angela was present and went to pray and plead for Jim in the Chapel, while another volunteer astutely called 911, and yet another quickly went for the AED.

By the Grace of God ...Jim was placed in a 24 hour medically induced coma in the hospital, in order to rest his healing heart. During those hours, many came to visit family, and to pray. Over 30 men gathered in the hospital's chapel to pray the Rosary and a special Mass was said at Lourdes Academy in faith that God would allow Jim to remain with us here on earth. After those long hours Jim was slowly brought out of the coma and woke to bless his family with a bit of his wit and humor. By the Grace of God, and the prayers of many, Jim is with us today. By the Grace of God, Jim is the miracle and answer to the prayers of so many. In those moments of doubt as to Jim's health, the words of Sister Angela and Sister Grace replayed reassuringly in my head, "Jim came to Father Carr's to do good. He came here to help people. God brought him to us so we could help him. God will take care of him." And by the Grace of God, we pray Jim will continue to heal, gain his strength, and give volunteering at Father Carr's Place 2B another chance. God Bless you Jim!

Creative Hearts

Creative Hearts is an art program for homeless and displaced persons. We meet the second Saturday of each month at Father Carr's. Art, in its many forms, is an excellent means to build optimism. The mission of Creative Hearts is to engage homeless people in the arts and create empowerment, a sense of self and a sense of freedom.

The story of one participant exemplifies the mission of Creative Hearts beautifully. He was about 13 years old and came late to the art program one Saturday at Father Carr's. The art form that day was shaving cream art, which creates beautiful designs on paper using shaving cream and food coloring. He came to the table, but by the time he got there the shaving cream was turning mucky. I told him to add a splash of color, which he did; he chose yellow. He followed the whole process, dipping his paper in the shaving cream, and twirling it around. When he finished, he tossed it aside and walked away. I encouraged him to pick it up and put it into a frame. I showed him what an artist he was and the beautiful piece of art he had made. His eyes grew to the size of a walnut! With a big smile on his face, he proudly walked around the room and showed his art to everyone. There are many more stories of people who have come to the Creative Hearts program like this young man and who have found a spark of hope, joy, self expression, empowerment and freedom through the projects they worked on.

Past programs have included Zen Doodles, jewelry design, a drum circle, shaving cream art, card design, ceramics and flower design. Volunteers come from noon to 3 pm and participants come at 1:00 pm. Creative Hearts hopes to expand their offerings of art forms as more volunteers and materials can be acquired. The vision is to expand to other facilities serving homeless and displaced populations by the end of the year.

Volunteers are needed on the Advisory Board which meets once a month. Specific needs are a marketing person, art teacher, volunteer coordinator and a program chairperson. In addition, volunteers are always needed to help out with each event putting out supplies, assisting participants as needed and cleaning up afterward. Supplies are also needed, such as table easels, acrylic paints, 2 long folding tables and some extension cords.

Creative hearts is funded by private donations and grant monies. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or just want more information please contact Betty Hawley at creative7hearts@gmail.com. You can also call her at 920-231-2033 between 9 AM and 6 PM. *Betty Hawley, Creative Hearts Director*

A Magical Beginning!

My name is Rajon Lynch and I am a magician. I just turned 22. This summer I will be travelling to China to start a summer magic program. I can trace the moment that allowed me to perform magic for a living. That moment was volunteering at Father Carr's. In 2015, I was 19 years old and I came to Father Carr's for a tour with UW-Oshkosh. I was amazed by the large campus and I had never seen a food pantry before. I remember Bob Lang encouraging us to volunteer if we were interested.

At that time I had not performed magic for anyone and I didn't realize I was about to have an experience that would change me forever. I had gotten a job offer to teach magic at a performing arts camp in New York. That summer, I learned many amazing tricks but when I came back I had nowhere to perform. I needed practice if I was to begin performing. I remembered touring at Father Carr's months earlier and I thought, "Wouldn't it be cool if I could perform for the kids in the Holy Family Villa Residence?" I contacted Neil Romenesko, the director of the Bethlehem Inn, and he was excited to allow me to come in and perform for the residents. The first people to ever see my routines were the children living at Father Carr's and they shaped the way I perform to this day.

The kids helped me become a better performer and I was able to show them how fun magic can be as a hobby. A special time I remember is when a little girl asked where she could learn magic. I told her to go to the library and find a magic book. The next week, she rushed to show me her book. She had already read it twice. And then she had me watch her perform every trick she could remember from the book. That was the first moment that showed me the positive effects from volunteering.

After a few months performing at Father Carr's for the children and youth in 2015, I felt confident enough with my skills to contact the local YMCA and tell them that I was a local magician for hire. The activities director of the YMCA asked if I had experience. I was able to answer yes with my volunteer experience at Father Carr's. I was hired that day for my first magic show. That was my first break, all because I got involved at Father Carr's. If you have a unique talent, consider sharing it at Father Carr's Place 2B. You never know when or how the rewards of volunteering will come. But it is worth it in the end to help the community and pay it forward.

Sincerely,
Rajon Lynch
RJ THE Magician

2018 Bridge Walk

Father Carr's hosted its 3rd Annual Bridge Walk on Saturday, June 2nd. Over 250 walkers and volunteers participated to increase awareness for those in need, raise funds and have a great time. We appreciate the generosity shown by individuals and business sponsors. Thank you for helping us to help others. It was a great day walking over and under the Lake Butte des Morts Bridge and celebrating afterward. We hope you will join us next year for this fantastic family and community activity. Father Carr's Bridge Walk takes place each year on the first Saturday after Memorial Day.

Thank you to all of our 2018 Bridge Walk sponsors. A special thanks to our main sponsor, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. Father Carr's thanks you for your generosity and for helping us to help others.



SPONSORS

- ALS Printing
- Green Bay Insurance
- Thrivent
- Woodward Radio Group
- WOSH Radio
- On The Rock
- 4Imprint

JUNE 2ND, 2018

THANKS TO ALL OUR 2018 SPONSORS

Anthem BlueCross BlueShield

charitable trust
MEYER
TOM & CAROL JOSEPH FOUNDATION
festival
LAKELAND CARE + HEALTH



Michigan Tech Students Spend Spring Break at Father Carr's

Students from Saint Albert the Great Catholic Student Parish in Houghton, Michigan traveled to Oshkosh during their Spring Break to volunteer at Father Carr's. We wanted to volunteer our time and talent to make a difference in people's lives. While on our way to Oshkosh, we stopped at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, which was very beautiful. Upon arrival, we were ready and eager to serve for the next week.

We started each day with mass celebrated by Father Dave. Each day, we participated in a large variety of work and projects. We moved furniture, steam cleaned carpets and assisted in the food bank. One of the larger projects we performed was to move all of the pews out of the chapel. After steam cleaning, we moved the pews back into place. It was rewarding to know that we helped clean a place of worship. We ate our dinners with the residents and talked with them about their days and personal struggles.

Whether at the food bank or any place on Father Carr's campus, it was such a blessing to see the families and volunteers treat each other as they do their own family. Our trip was truly a blessing.

Mickey Moore
Undergraduate Computer Engineering Student
Michigan Technological University

Live and Leave a Legacy for Father Carr's

Please remember Father Carr's in your Will or Estate Planning. Consider a planned gift to the Place 2B. Planned gifts include; IRA distributions, annuities, a designated beneficiary on an insurance policy, stocks, securities, real estate or any monies that could be directed to Father Carr's Endowment Fund. Do not wait. Your last will and testament is your final statement which can make a difference for many. Consider a gift that will positively impact others while it continues to grow in perpetuity. Talk more about these opportunities with Bob Lang or your own financial advisor to determine what is best for you.

Needed Donations

- New twin beds and gently used blankets for children living with us
- Washing machines (good working condition)
- Heavy duty tractor for sidewalk snow removal
- A new computer for the St. Francis Health Clinic
- Gift cards (Target, Wal Mart, Festival Foods, Kwik Trip, Shopko, Menards, Lowe's, Home Depot etc.)
- Steel Storage Cabinet (\$975)

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 6

Friends of Father Carr's Mass & Reception

Mass at 4:00

Dinner, reception and short program to follow

Celebrate our mission, visit and have fun