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Christmas 2019

Father Carr's Place 2B

A Story of Hope And Recovery

Clint came to live at Father Carr's for 6 weeks about a year ago. He was at a low point in his life after ending a long term relationship, losing his job and housing and regularly abusing alcohol and other drugs. He turned to Father Carr's in his time of need and it was the beginning of some major upward changes in his life.

In the beginning, he understandably was feeling down and depressed because he was dealing with some intense losses. The chemical use intensified these feelings. Clint understood that he must commit to being alcohol and drug free during his residence at Father Carr's. "The structure at Father Carr's was the best thing for me. I was required to be back at a certain time each day and had regular meals. I felt safe and it was so nice to have people to talk to me and support me each day. I definitely would have been living on the streets otherwise." Clint began attending AA meetings on a regular basis and was determined to stay alcohol and drug free. Attending these meetings was a huge turning point but something else was also crucial to slowly building his confidence back. "I always had a dream to own my own painting business but I never took the steps to do it." Clint began painting many of the areas in the mens' shelter, Bethlehem Inn. Rooms needed painting and Clint needed to hone his skill. It was a win-win. "I started feeling good about myself when I began painting. I felt more like a man when working."

Clint initially felt extremely broken and was now steadily feeling stronger and moving toward a goal that he had never taken the time to initiate. He continued his routine of AA meetings, painting, completing chores and talking to mentors at Father Carr's for continued support. The structure and routine made it easier to stay chemical free, work hard and make decisions leading to a better future. After 6 weeks at Father Carr's, Clint obtained a job in Milwaukee with a painting company. Having steady employment was another leap toward independence but he yearned for something more. "Speed was the most important thing for the painting company but I wanted to do a good job. I decided to try painting on my own and take steps to starting my own business." Clint began realizing his dream of over 10 years when he printed some business cards, made some signs, utilized some connections and started spreading the word. It was a little scary at first but since April he has been completely self employed and has even had to turn some people down. "I cant believe how fast it took off. During a busy time, I was getting 2 or 3 calls a day."

For over a year, Clint has remained alcohol and drug free. His family life has gotten better. He has 3 kids that he always remained committed to but he knows that his relationships with them are even stronger now. He is renting a duplex and has a goal of owning his own home. But why stop there? "I have a goal of owning rental properties." As for advice for others in tough times, Clint says, "Set goals and follow your dreams." In addition to owning his own home and rental properties, Clint plans to grow and expand his business. But before he accomplishes those goals, he has already started giving back. He helps other addicts by sponsoring them. He is a great model to demonstrate that staying chemical free is the first step in realizing your goals. Despite living in Milwaukee, Clint comes back to occasionally help out at Father Carr's. What does he do? You guessed it, painting!

The sky is the limit for Clint and his future. It all began with 6 weeks of routine, structure and support at Father Carr's. Thank you for helping us to help Clint and the many hundreds of men, women and children that live with us each and every year.



Clint recently gave his time for a painting project at Father Carr's.

Reflecting On Our Day Of Service

What can twenty powerful women do at Father Carr's? ANYTHING! pdsF.U.S.I.O.N, an Oshkosh based female running group, volunteered their time on Saturday, November 23rd, 2019. pdsF.U.S.I.O.N stands for fiercely united in strength, intention, opportunities and new beginnings. Our goal is to fuse all the elements of wellness: spiritual, social, emotional, career, intellectual, environmental and physical as well as all levels, abilities and interests into a variety of programming efforts. With graceful intensity and relentless passion, we will be connected to one another creating a healthier overall person and community.

Our group initially planned to clean the women's shelter, but a request came a few days before Saturday, to also expand into raking leaves on the campus. What a perfect request for a group of runners: fresh air, core strength and cardiovascular training.

We started our morning with a tour of Father Carr's, and for many, this was our first time there. We were amazed at the amount of health services offered and the ongoing needs of this area. Our group was astonished that all the resources were donated, and nothing was government funded. The team of volunteers that make this location successful in Oshkosh is truly one of a kind.

pdsF.U.S.I.O.N. was blessed with a beautiful morning where we could rake leaves, clean the women's shelter and spend time together; and for many with their children. pdsF.U.S.I.O.N. is more than a running group, and more than just for women. Our spouses, significant others, and children participate in our volunteerism in the Oshkosh community. At the end of the day, one of our members said, "I had no idea about the extent of services Father Carr's provides to our community. I was so glad to be of service to the organization. It filled my cup!"

I believe all of us left that day with full cups. We wish all the residents you are serving, the strength and intention to find blessed opportunities and new beginnings!

pdsF.U.S.I.O.N Sunshine & Service Lead;
Theresa Gatchell



Aegis Financial donates 50 turkeys for Thanksgiving and 50 hams for Christmas.



Jay, from Knights of Columbus presents a bundle of new coats to our Sisters for the children living with us.



Donations from DJ Trivia



Jeff volunteers several days a week to take care of maintenance needs. He is always welcome of assistance.



Jon (and Lennie) volunteer with our men.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

FIRST, Christmas IS and ALWAYS WILL BE about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. From that moment, the immense love of God was poured out upon mankind. It is a lifelong endeavor for each of us to return to God that same love we have received and to graciously share it with others. There are times we share our love easily and at other times we are heartbroken and need to receive. This is often symbolized in caring for others, sharing our time, expressing our deepest thoughts through gift giving and helping and serving the less fortunate. We give from our hearts and we know the warmth and goodness of doing so. Yet, there are times, aside from the beautiful music, joyful glad tidings and joyfulness of children that we sense there remains a deep yearning in our hearts for something more. A still voice echoes through our hearts and minds.

Do you feel it? Do you hear it?

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Can you hear the call of Our Lord drawing you into His warm and tender love?

"Listen to Him," His Mother Mary would exclaim.

His words are love and mercy. His words are Divine. No song can speak the words as beautiful and loving that He wants to share with us. No music can still our hearts like the quiet moments we spend with Him in prayer. No gift can replace the uniqueness of each of us made to be in the likeness and image of God.

When the frantic pace quiets down and disappears, it is only love that remains.

Our love, like the Love God shares with us, should be an abundant overflow onto others and into the world. Take some quiet time in prayer and rediscover the real longing of your heart's desire. Then, let that abundance you receive overflow unto others and you will experience the fullness of joy this Christmas season.

Glory to the Newborn King!

Merry Christmas!

Fr Dave



Special meal for our residents who are veterans.



Randy, another great mentor for our men.



The Oshkosh Herd Basketball Team spent an evening giving back at Father Carr's.

Upcoming Events

December 21

Children's Breakfast Program from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

December 25 (Christmas)

Meal deliveries from 10:30 AM to Noon. (Drivers arrive at 10:00.)
Meal served in dining room from Noon to 1:30 PM



Preparing the Thanksgiving newsletter for mailing.



Several of our younger volunteers on Thanksgiving Day. Over 350 people volunteered to help serve over 1050 meals including 800 deliveries.

Donation Needs

- Shark apex bagless vacuum
 - Size 5 diapers
 - Baby wipes
 - Hygiene products for men, women & children
 - Towels & washcloths
 - Laundry detergent
 - Gift cards for Marcus Theater,
- McDonalds, Culver's, Dairy Queen, Target, Walmart, Kwik Trip, Fleet Farm, Menards, Festival and Pick 'n Save
- Doctors & dentists
 - Financial gifts for new carpeting in Mother Teresa Center

Food Donation Needs

- Cooking spray
 - Brown & white sugar
 - Syrup
 - Finger desserts for Christmas dinners
- Cereal
 - Peanut butter
 - Corn



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