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Father Carr's Place 2B

Survival to Independence – Alisha's Story

One afternoon at Father Carr's Place 2B, two people came in with a large donation consisting of toys, chocolate, and unsold Christmas items from the store where one of them was employed. I struck up a conversation with them and found out that both of them were former residents at Father Carr's. Grateful for our help and succeeding at being independent, both of them were happy to share their story. This is the story of Alisha (not real name), age 22.

Alisha shared that she had grown up in the foster care system. She had lived in 12 different homes over the years. She was in the system because her mother, who had her first child at age 16, was a meth addict and an alcoholic and was unfit to care for her children. Alisha shared that she had a brother (age 43) that was in prison, a sister (age 41) that lived in California, and two twin brothers (age 20). She and her twin brothers had grown up in foster homes. The two older siblings had suffered growing up at home with their mother's addiction. Her sister was kicked out when, like her mother, she got pregnant at 16 years old. All of the children in this family had dealt with life in different ways. Even though there was a big age difference and the siblings didn't live too close to each other, Alisha had worked hard to stay in touch with all of them, even though at times it was heartbreaking to do so.

Tearfully, Alisha shared that her mother had died in March of 2016, but she didn't find out about it until 13 days later. No one had even bothered to inform her. She was only 18 years old when this happened.

With no guidance or instruction on how to get on her feet and live independently, Alisha had to try to find a way to stay off the street. She was emancipated from foster care and was trying to survive. Alisha is a resourceful person and was able to connect with someone she had been in foster care with. She moved in with this acquaintance to share the cost of housing. She felt that this was a good decision and that sharing expenses would help her get ahead and provide her a place to live. She soon found that she had entered into an abusive and unsafe situation. Her roommate was financially controlling, manipulative, and abusive. Alisha knew she had to move out to be safe. It was at that time she began to explore options and she found out about Father Carr's Place 2B. She was accepted as a resident and moved into Father Carr's Holy Family Villa.

Alisha felt safe for the first time in a long while. She said she felt she was given the opportunity to "reset and restart" and that "no one judged me here". Alisha is now independent and has a full-time job. She still has to share the cost of housing with a roommate, but they both have the same goals. They are both working hard, trying to overcome their past, and trying to get ahead. Alisha stayed at Holy Family Villa for three months. She took full advantage of the opportunities that she was offered. She participated in the programs offered at Father Carr's at the evening programs. She also took advantage of other resources that were offered to help her establish independence. Alisha initially found a job at Dollar Tree, which allowed her to live independently, and now has a better job with an increase in salary.

When asked what she attributed her success to achieving independence to, Alisha said "the opportunity to live at Father Carr's while finding new employment and saving up for her rent deposit" and "the Rent Smart Program that is offered here at Father Carr's." Alisha is very thankful for the help she received at Father Carr's and now gives back to help others when she can.

The coronavirus provides unique challenges at Father Carr's. Please pray that our healthcare patients, food pantry participants, volunteers and all people served at Father Carr's remain safe and healthy. Our residents, including live in volunteer staff, are particularly vulnerable because of the many people eating and living together. We are taking extra precautions but will also need prayers and the Grace of God to remain healthy. With adjustments and willing volunteers, we hope to continue to serve through this ordeal. Our food donations are down significantly so we appreciate food and financial donations to assist us in helping others. Please check our website and Facebook for updates and changes. We also pray for your health and that of your family. Thank you for supporting Father Carr's. God bless you.

Thank you to the Marytown Quilters!

Father Carr's was recently the recipient of 18 new quilts that were sewn and assembled by the Marytown Quilters.

This group started meeting years ago in the basement of a school in Marytown. When the school closed, the group began meeting in the basement of the home of Lorna Lifowe who is now deceased. Her husband, now 94, is still living and lets the group that is now lead by his daughter, Karen Heller, still meet there. The group meets regularly and has about 10 members. Karen shared that the group makes between 100 and 125 quilts per year, which includes some baby quilts.



Besides Father Carr's, the group donates their quilts to Harbor House in Appleton, New Beginnings in Fond Du Lac, Safe Harbor in Sheboygan and Hope House in Manitowoc. If anyone has fleece blankets or batting to use for the middle of their quilts, the quilters would appreciate the contribution. You can drop these items off at Father Carr's and the ladies will come and pick them up. This will help them continue their mission to provide quilts to the area shelters.

Father Carr's New Executive Director

Listening to and marveling at my grandfather's memories of being a missionary to the Apache Indians has guided me to where I am today. Oshkosh is where I was born and raised and where I came back to after my own full-time ministry in two churches.

My name is John Nieman and I am the new executive director of Father Carr's Place 2B. I am very excited about this new direction granted to me.

My wife Edie works in Pulmonology at Aurora. I have been blessed with three children, two sons and a daughter, Lucas, Matt and Rachel. All are married and have given us three grandchildren. Brynn is three, Hudson is a year and Lucy is eight months. Working with volunteers is a passion of mine whether it was in the two parishes I served or at The Paine, EAA or Aurora. Being part of my community is also important to me so I have volunteered at Oshkosh Media, where I produced and hosted a show called Helping Hands, The Oshkosh Area United Way, as Chair of the Day of Caring for 12 years, Thrivent Chapter and also at my children's schools.



John Nieman and Leslie Covell Hershberger

My office is located in the Mother Teresa Center and I look forward to meeting all of the wonderful volunteers and donors who are the difference here at Father Carr's Place 2B.

Father Carr's New Development Director

Hello! My name is Leslie Covell Hershberger and I will be serving as the new Development Director for Father Carr's Place 2B. I am originally from Ohio. I moved to Wisconsin with my husband Joel 11 years ago. We live in Mayville, Wisconsin so I have a little bit of a commute, but I use that time to pray so I don't mind it at all. I have two daughters, two stepsons, and three grandchildren. I am active at my church which is Northbrook Church in Slinger. I am a member of the Mayville Rotary and I also serve in various roles for other community organizations in the Dodge County area. I look forward to connecting here in Oshkosh. I have already been out and about meeting leaders from around the community.

My background is mainly in the nonprofit world with over 30 years' experience. I have also served in various capacities as a community improvement leader. Most recently I had the opportunity to work with Blue Zones Project in Dodge County as the Community Program Manager for three years. Blue Zones Project is an international company focused on community health initiatives. Prior to that I served as Executive Director for Friends of Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center. I was hired to help organize the record keeping, increase volunteerism and memberships, raise funding to complete various projects including a new boardwalk and the new "Explorium" museum at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center. This included a complete remodel of the Education Center.

I am excited to be here at Father Carr's. It's an exciting time. Miracles happen here all the time! The support and generosity of the community is evident. Many community leaders and engaged citizens are volunteering in multiple areas here at Father Carr's. I am honored to be part of a team that works to support the continuation of an initiative that brings so much positive change to our citizens and community.

Please stop by and introduce yourself. I'd love to meet you! If you'd like to contact me please feel free to call me at 920-296-9279 or email me at lesliech@fathercarrs.org.

Experiences At The Place 2B

It was after my first full year at Father Carr's that I recall a unique moment while taking my usual quiet time before retiring to bed. A very powerful thought filled my mind declaring, "Why don't I share my experiences with the good people of the Oshkosh Community and supporters of Father Carr's?" Without hesitation I began to record my thoughts.

I first wondered why Father Carr named the organization PLACE 2B. In my own experience, The Place 2B is a place where you can experience the spirit of our founder, Father Carr. There is true love in the community, as well as our loyal and faithful volunteers who dedicate their time to help keep the organization in operation. My experiences have really helped me understand the true meaning of love and humble spirit in the Oshkosh community and beyond. One thing I really admire about the people is the spirit of SERVICE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO ALWAYS GO THE EXTRA MILE. There is so much generosity and kindness! We must continue to bring light and life to the people we serve.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Why am I compelled to talk about prayer? I just want to share something personal. Whenever you proclaim something with your words, it is likely to impact yourself while still leaving open a different outcome depending on the plan of God. I have a prayer that I have said every day for many years. Little did I know, this prayer would take me to Father Carr's, far away from my home in Ghana.

"Heavenly Father, grant that our love may go beyond our home into the world, so that we may do our part to build up Your kingdom, to feed the hungry, to help the poor, and to lead all souls to the sacred Heart of Jesus."

God answered by bringing me here to serve all those in need. The message I share is; When we pray to the Lord, He doesn't take our words for granted. He does act but, in his own appropriate way and time. Never give up on God because He doesn't give up on us. You might have been praying for an intention for several years, but still keep praying, for the Lord is just about to answer your request. It is an honor for me to serve at Father Carr's Place 2B. God bless you.

Sister Grace

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! The Lord is Risen!

To be exuberant and joyful about truth and its beauty is no small celebration. The Resurrection of Our Savior takes the "normal" in life and raises it to new possibilities with help of God's grace.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jn 8:32

This doesn't ignore the reality of our circumstances. Rather, truth embraces and enters into difficult moments as to provide a guiding light. The truth presents us a clearer view of the possibilities that lie ahead. Grace gives us hope beyond our perceptions and the divine strength to see us through the darkest of days.

Jesus knew the cost He would pay for the redemption of sinners. The truth of the Father's love was more than enough to lead him to the Cross for all of mankind. If we live, serve and walk in the truth we live with the promise of eternal rewards. Let us live the promise of Christ, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (Jn 10:10b)

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Easter Joy and Blessings,

Fr Dave



Winneconne students organized a food drive.



Oshkosh North students giving back.



The Mother Teresa Center was prepared for our 45th annual Christmas meal.



Longtime and trusted volunteer, Jerry preparing to serve.

MAY
30



— FATHER CARR'S —
BRIDGE WALK

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Food / Shelter / Fellowship 

SAVE THE DATE

It's that time again! The time we have been eagerly awaiting.

Father Carr's Bridge Walk on May 30 @ 9:30am

So grab your walking shoes and all your friends to join us as we walk across the Butte de Morts bridge on the Wiouwash Trail in support the many facets of Father Carr's ministries. [Registration at fathercarrs.org](http://fathercarrs.org)

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Shop On AmazonSmile And Support Father Carr's All Year

Log on to smile.amazon.com

Search and select Father Carr's Place 2B as your charity

Or type the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1334342>

Each time you purchase eligible items, Amazon will donate .5% of purchase price to Father Carr's

It's that simple!!

You must be logged on to smile.amazon.com for each purchase.



Facebook Fundraiser for Father Carr's

Sponsored by UW Oshkosh Student, Alyssa Ertl

"With everything that is going on in the world today, I would like to take this opportunity to support Father Carr's and recognize their dedication to providing hope and positivity to those who need it most, and I could really use your help! I have set up a Facebook fundraiser that will run until Sunday, April 12 to raise money for this amazing organization.

Just look for "Alyssa's Fundraiser for Father Carr's Place 2B" under Fundraisers on Facebook, or visit https://www.facebook.com/donate/801228697030825/?fundraiser_source=external_url to make your contribution, and feel free to share the fundraiser to spread the word even farther! Thank you for your generosity!"

This fundraiser will also be shared on Father Carr's Facebook page. Thank you for your support!



Lots and lots of projects were completed here at Father Carr's the week of March 9th. We were blessed to have **25 students from Michigan Tech** in Houghton here as part of their spring break. They were led by Father Ben, Father Dustin and Sister Jacqueline. We are so grateful that they chose to spend their break with us in service. They have made this a yearly trek to offer their hearts and hands to benefit the Father Carr's and our community.

Donation Needs

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our new Executive Director, John Nieman, at 920-379-0031 or johnnieman@fathercarrs.org. You may also just stop in. If you can give a minimum of 3-4 hours per week it would be a big help to us.

For Medical Clinic

Hand Sanitizer
Juice Packs
Individual snacks
Over the counter cough and flu medicines

For Food Pantry

Cereal
Chunky Soup

Tuna
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Baked Beans

For Shelters

Laundry Soap
Twin size flat sheets
Copy paper
Bus Tokens and Punch Cards from Go Transit

General Needs

Bleach
Clorox/Disinfectant Wipes

Volunteer Needs

People to Clean the Mother Theresa Center and Medical Clinic
People to help in the Food Pantry with sorting food M-F

A Warm Welcome to Sister Rebecca!

Sister Rebecca arrived at Father Carr's just a few weeks ago. She is happy to be here serving at the women's shelter and loves playing with the children. Her bright smile and joy fill the room when she enters.

Sister Rebecca Amenyo Atsu is from Ghana. She recently received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Fashion and Textile Education. She was sewing before she left and had five workers that she was training. When asked how she might use her education and skill here she said "We will see where God leads." She has already made dresses for the other sisters.

Please introduce yourself and welcome Sister Rebecca if you see her at Father Carr's.



Upcoming Events

Easter

Sunday, April 12
Meal deliveries from 10:00-noon
Meal served from noon-1:30pm

The Place 4U Teen Night High School Fun Night

Friday, April 24,
7:30pm-10:30pm

5th Annual Bridge Walk

Saturday, May 30,
9:30am

Please check Facebook and website. The coronavirus situation may require changes to these events.