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## FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B

### Vision Statement

As a life enrichment center, we are driven by Christian values to provide a sense of community and support for people in need. We strive to foster hope, self-worth and a self-sustaining life, through housing, food, health care, educational programs and volunteer opportunities.



### A Message From Our Executive Director



I hope this summer edition of our newsletter finds you well. These last three months have brought a variety of challenges and opportunities. The challenges we face deal with how we can continue the mission of Father Carr's while following the guidelines and restrictions due to COVID-19. Our volunteers and staff are meeting these challenges head on and are working together to continue to provide services with diligent disinfecting of our facilities along with reduced hours. Our Food Pantry has transitioned to "Drive Up" mode in order to protect the health of our clients and volunteers. There are also opportunities for us to try new things. Through it all one thing remains constant, and that is our volunteers and donors. You have stepped forward to give of your time and resources. Businesses are also donating food, supplies and monetary gifts to Father Carr's. Groups are calling, asking what we need and keeping us well supplied with hand made masks and cleaning supplies. Needs are being met due to your generosity. We are truly grateful! Together we can and we do!

Blessings! *John*

PS: Contact me anytime at [johnnieman@fathercarrs.org](mailto:johnnieman@fathercarrs.org)



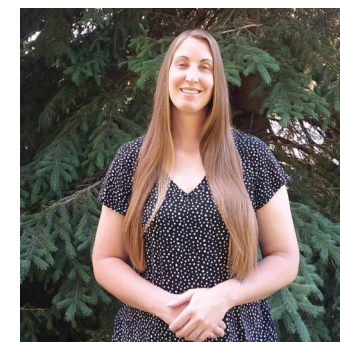
# Father Carr's Place 2B

July 2020

## How Could It Happen To Me?

By Ashley, Former Resident at Father Carr's

**"I WAS HOMELESS..."**



I was living in a car not only with an undergraduate degree, but also with a master's degree. Before it happened to me I wondered how it was possible, the stories I had heard about people living on the streets with a Ph. D or in my case a master's degree, but then it happened to me.

I had been working in my chosen field at a university and had once presented alongside Congressman Tom Petri. He spoke about serving in the Peace Corps and I spoke

about my service as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America).

I grew up in a good home with a loving family. My parents were often my coaches in elementary and middle school and they helped me with my homework in the evening and on weekends if I needed it. My family loved me very much. This last bout of active addiction I had gone through had caused my family to demonstrate tough love and they did not allow me to return home because of the things I had done to damage our relationship.

Something in my life had been missing and that something was a relationship with God and deep friendship with Jesus. Instead of faith in God, I put my faith in drugs and alcohol to feel better. Addiction is serious; it not only hurts you, but a lot of the people around you and those you love. My addiction brought me to utter despair. My once atheist self-turned-agnostic, finally decided to give prayer a shot, because nothing I did would remove my obsession to do drugs.

This was my prayer: "God, if you are even real can you please remove my addiction? I desire to be clean and sober." My prayer wasn't answered immediately, but about five months later a miracle happened and my obsession to use drugs and alcohol was lifted. This really opened my eyes, heart, and very being to God. Coming to Father Carr's helped to continue to nurture my new awareness and relationship with God, and for this I am thankful.

continued on pg. 3



Thank you to the Wisconsin Alpha Mu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi-Oshkosh for their generous donation of groceries!



We are grateful to Aladdin for the truck load of snacks, fruit and drinks they donated to our food pantry!

**To make a monetary donation to Father Carr's Place 2B** go to [www.fathercarrs.org](http://www.fathercarrs.org) or mail to:  
FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B  
1062 N KOELLER ST  
OSHKOSH WI 54902

**UPCOMING EVENT: BRIDGE WALK SEPTEMBER 12**



NEW WASHER AND DRYER DONATED

A request for a new washing machine for the women's resident hall was listed in our May enewsletter. Judy Russell, who writes a Sunday column in a well known paper republished our list. Her repost reached someone that wanted to give that as a gift for the Holy Family Villa.



Gift made in honor of Sister Angela (left) and in memory of Norris Jones.

Carol Jones walked in May 20 with a check and arrangements already made for us to buy a washer

and dryer! (the dryer had just quit working day before). Thank you for your generosity Carol and heeding God's call to give at just the right time!!

*"The first day I woke up at Father Carr's, in my own room, with my daughter, I felt safe and free for the first time in a long time." Candice*

Emergency Resources

Salvation Army Hotline for emotional and spiritual care  
1-888-651-7294

St. Francis Free Medical Clinic  
920-230-2273

Father Carr's Place 2B  
Temporary Housing  
920-231-2378

211 provides access to health and human services and other emergency services

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services  
920-235-5998

St. Vincent De Paul  
920-235-9368

ADVOCAP  
920-236-4662

AMAZON SMILE

Father Carr's is asking YOU to sign up for **Amazon Smile** at **smile.amazon.com** and designate Father Carr's Place 2B as your charity.

63 of you are already signed up. **Our goal is to have 500 people sign up and choose us as their charity.**

When you do this, .5% of every purchase comes to Father Carr's. All you have to do is go to Amazon Smile when you order instead of the regular Amazon site. *It does not affect your Prime account.*

Here is the link to Father Carr's Place 2B so you don't have to search for it. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1334342>

Please let us know if you sign up or if you already have by emailing us at [info@fathercarrs.org](mailto:info@fathercarrs.org). **Thank you for your support!**

Support  
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When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
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HOW COULD IT HAPPEN TO ME? continued

I came to Father Carr's having been homeless and living out of my car. I was only a few weeks clean and sober. I had been very sick mentally, spiritually and physically while in active addiction, but this is what finally opened me up to allowing a relationship with God.

Getting to live at Father Carr's was such a blessing for me, an amazing grace. I had always wanted to be a morning person, but for years of my life I woke up wishing that the day was already done, that it was night again, so that I could be back in bed. Morning Mass in the chapel changed all of that for me. All I had to do was get up and tumble down to the chapel, just outside my bedroom window. This made it really easy and possible for me. It created a beautiful structure to my life. It was a half-hour to ease into waking up; thinking holy thoughts, saying holy words, singing, connecting quietly in fellowship and the Holy Eucharist.

Father Carr's fished for me when I couldn't fish for myself. I was so weak. I had literally not eaten (not much and not like you should) for two years. Mentally I was damaged from the hard drugs that I had been harming myself with. I was slow to heal. Father Carr's helped me to get strong mentally, physically and spiritually by feeding me food and the Holy Eucharist, and by housing me (the room by myself was exactly what I needed). Having my own individual room allowed me to spend time with myself, getting to reconnect with me in a good environment. I talked out loud to myself, trying to figure things out and having discussions with God. I took baths which were very healing for me. With the privacy I had I started to sing which is my new God given passion. I believe it is also important to note that the chores we had to do after supper really helped to provide me with some structure, but it wasn't asking too much of me and therefore I didn't stress out. Furthermore, it didn't give me the chance to have a meltdown. I was still very fragile.

Today, I still have the same job that I got while at Father Carr's. It was a top priority of Father Carr's that each person go out and find employment. I am grateful for that, because a job helps with self-esteem. I'm a member of St. Jude's Apostle Parish here in Oshkosh and I volunteer for several community organizations. I love helping because God has helped me so much that I want to give back. I want to show my appreciation for the gifts I've been given. I am five years clean and sober and it is my desire to keep this gift and also stay spiritually fit.

I had some phenomenal women to learn from by keeping my eyes and ears open, taking in their direction, their example and receiving their kindness - Sr. Angela, Sr. Mary, Sr. Martina, and Sr. Paulina.

***I am so thankful to all of the sisters, Fr. Dave and Bob and everyone that at the time I wasn't aware of, such as volunteers and donors that made it possible for me to be there. It gave me the opportunity to heal.***

WILL YOU HELP?

Medical Clinic Needs

Recycling wastebaskets (27 Qt.)

Lockways Magnetic Dry Erase Board 36"x24"

K-Cup carousel

Keurig Coffee Maker

Bissell Natural Sweep Carpet and Floor Sweeper

Food Pantry Needs

Tuna, soup, spaghetti sauce/noodles, milk, eggs, cereal, canned vegetable, canned fruit, pancake mix and syrup, baked beans, peanut butter and jelly

Large scale to weigh pallets

Miscellaneous Needs

Monetary Donations  
Gas Cards  
Twin size sheets  
8 foot fiberglass ladder  
Disinfectant wipes  
Gas powered weed wacker  
Industrial washer for men's dorm



At Father Carr's we depend on dedicated volunteers to operate every aspect of our mission.

