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Thanksgiving 2020

Father Carr's Place 2B

St. Jude Parish Donates \$32,025 to Oshkosh Charitable Organizations

On Wednesday, September 30, members of the St. Jude the Apostle Parish community presented donations of \$10,675 to each of three local charitable organizations: The Christine Ann Center, the Day by Day Warming Shelter, and Father Carr's Place 2B. St. Jude raised the total of \$32,025 through its Living the Gospel fundraiser, in which donations from St. Jude parishioners were matched up to \$15,000 with funds from a restricted parish account designated for charitable giving.



St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church recently donated \$10,675 to Father Carr's through its Living the Gospel Matching Gift Program. This donation to our food pantry will allow us to continue serving those in need of food assistance during these challenging times.

As we reflect on our blessings, we are so grateful for our ability to serve those in need. Driven by passionate volunteers and supported by incredible partners, Father Carr's Place 2B has been serving the Oshkosh community since 1974.

Greetings from the Executive Director

Anyone who knows me knows that Thanksgiving is one of my most favorite holidays. I love the idea of families working together to get the meal ready for the big day. Everyone has their favorite item that they prepare which truly makes it a team effort. Before the family eats, they pray together, giving thanks for all their blessings and even for ones to come. In our family, we follow this tradition by going around the table and say what we are truly thankful for. Once everyone has their turn to express their blessings and thanks, everyone then enjoys the fruits of their labors. The first dish, I always reach for is the ever-popular rutabaga. I just love the smell and it brings back wonderful memories of my dear grandmother and her kitchen.

I have always wanted a big family and here at Father Carr's I have just that. We are blessed with volunteers who give thanks in service every day of the year and for that we are eternally thankful. These past eight months have brought with it many challenges and restrictions, but we continue to adapt and work hard with what we have. However, one thing that we can always count on and that does not change, is the generosity of our volunteers and our donors. They are here for us because of the mission of Father Carr's. Whether it is supporting our Free Clinic, our Friday Drive-Thru Food Pantry, our Daily Bread, or the Mens & Womens' Residence; their faithful support continues and so does our work in our community.

From our wonderful family here at Father Carr's to your dear family, Happy Thanksgiving and God bless us everyone!



John Nieman
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Welcome College Interns

Welcome to Natalie and Olivia, our college interns. Olivia is a senior at Marian College in FDL and is majoring in social work and psychology. She works with the men and women residents in our Life Enrichment Program, designed to support people in becoming independent again. She supports them in mental health services, obtaining employment documents, accessing addiction support groups, making a budget, medical appointments, obtaining insurance and accessing multiple resources. Natalie is a Senior at UWO and is majoring in human services and criminal justice. She works closely with our director John, to update our community resources and communicate these resources to our guests that need these services. Natalie also works with and helps to organize our volunteers. Thank you to both Natalie and Olivia. It is wonderful to have them supporting the people we serve while gaining valuable experience for their future.



Many UWO students from the Newman Center came to clean and move furniture and prepare for new flooring that we received as a donation.

The School of Thanksgiving

It is easy to give thanks when our lives follow a predictable pattern and things fall in line with our expectations. But health, financial or other personal tragedies can dampen or fade our hopes and dreams. What we placidly presumed would happen didn't, and new situations call for a rethinking of our perceptions and plans. Such are the times we and most of the world live in today. Our expectations have not materialized and now we must adapt to the changing situations around us. When we are struggling to hold our ground, giving thanks seems to be an upward battle. **BUT IS IT?**

Did not our parents, grandparents and great grandparents go through challenges in their own lifetimes? Many had MULTIPLE challenges. Consider WWI, Spanish Flu Epidemic, WWII, the Great Depression, Korean War, Vietnam War, Hong Kong Flu, etc. Yet, in those unsettling moments, families and countries united together in thought and faith to share the blessings bestowed. Many blessings came to be by the purifications of our vices and lifestyles. We realized through the struggles what was of value and important in life. Family friends and other relationships became treasures to behold and to give thanks for. Difficult times brought out the best as people saw each other as human beings made in the image of God deserving of compassion, love and respect. With those treasures, the other things drop in value and significance. It is

through the shared experience with others that we discovered our own humanity. It was God in the humanity of Jesus Christ that exemplifies the love of God that is to be shared with all. It is in that love of God for each of us that we find strength and the desire to help each other. When other things in our lives fall into chaos and disarray, God is unchanging and steadfast. An anchor to steady us in the storms around us.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" Romans 8:35

The "School of Thanksgiving" is a real-life lesson on the most important things in life that we should admonish and embrace. Pride, selfishness and greed are all the wrong answers. Love, compassion, forgiveness and unselfishness will move us into the school of higher learning. These times will challenge us for sure. But if we seek what is right and true as we go through them, we will become enriched in ways we never thought possible. Trials can teach us when we discover the truth.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."
1 Chronicles 16:34

Blessings in gratitude for **ALL THINGS**, great and small.
Fr Dave



Vote For Father Carr's

For the past two years, Lighthouse Harbor Associates/THRIVENT has hosted a client appreciation Christmas party to give thanks to their clients. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, they will not be hosting their annual Christmas party this year.

Instead, to honor their clients, they will provide a charitable donation to three non-profits in the area and Father

Carr's is one of them. Please vote for the organization you would like to see as the recipient of these donations. The more votes an organization gets, the more money they receive. **Please call or email Melissa Volkert to vote** at 920.933.1320 or melissa.volkert@thrivent.com. Start voting Nov 25th thru Dec 13th. Thank You!

1st place Votes will receive \$3,000
2nd place Votes will receive \$2,000
3rd place Votes will receive \$1,000

Reflecting on Our Blessings

Every day, Father Carr's is the recipient of incredible generosity. Through the many individuals and organizations that give of their time, talents, and resources, we are able to continue our mission of helping those in need. While this year has been filled with challenges and uncertainty, it has also been filled with everyday blessings and much to be grateful for. We are grateful for our incredible volunteers who give of their time and talents. From maintenance and lawn care to helping in our food pantry and free clinic, our volunteers truly make our mission possible.



Pictured left, Jim our lawn care volunteer.



The Bethlehem Inn men's shelter received a donation of a treadmill and ping pong table.



Pictured middle, Jeff and Dennis, two of our maintenance volunteers.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers for what we can do because you.

Father Carr's Place 2B Mission Statement



Check out our revamped Facebook page, great info shared there with photos and timely updates.

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.



Polling Place at Father Carr's

Father Carr's was an official presidential polling location on November 3rd. We strive to provide community activities and events for Oshkosh and the surrounding area. Activities are more limited during this time of COVID, but the election was an example of how we like to help our community in any way possible. We pray that the day comes soon where we can offer more family friendly activities to bring people together to celebrate and play!

Congratulations to Bill

Bill is one of many residents in our Life Enrichment Program. With hard work, Bill took and passed some online classes to certify for a particular job. He has started new employment, moved into his own apartment and is starting to furnish it with our support. Father Carr's Life Enrichment Program strives to support all of our residents with the resources they need to obtain independence.

**Wish list items for our 12/19
family Christmas event:**
Items needed by December 12th

- Sportsballs
- Duplos, Legos
- Dolls
- Books
- Games for all ages
- Gift Cards in any denominations
- Candy canes

Calendar Of Events:

Drive Thru Thanksgiving Meal

November 26th, 10:30am - Noon,
Phone reservations, Preregister now by phone thru 11/20

NO Drive Thru Food Pantry on November 27th

Family Christmas Drive Thru Event

December 19th,
Time slots will be from:
9:00 to 10:00am / 10:15 to 11:15am / 11:30 to 12:30pm
**Space is limited. Please call Father Carr's at 231-2378 to pre-register
for one of these time slots. reservations by phone starting 11/20**

Christmas Meal Drive Thru

December 25th, 10:30am - Noon
Reservation required

