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Christmas 2024

Father Carr's Place 2B

The Gift of Littleness

It seems to follow that we want our Christmas celebrations to be bigger and grander than the year before. If we didn't receive the fullness of joy we anticipated last year, we will strive harder this year. Bigger is not better in the Kingdom of God.

See, Christmas doesn't begin with an extravagant announcement, but by God coming in the flesh as a human infant. We all gaze into the manger with our own uniqueness of our lives and the vision we behold of ourselves. Are we like the wiseman bringing the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, to open before a Newborn King; a child in a manger no less. What they brought was themselves and gifts representing the manner of life in which they lived.

Or, are we like the shepherds of quiet and reflective souls? They performed a difficult task in the expanse of the land under the canopy of the sky above. Their souls heard the voice of angels announcing the birth of the Messiah. They brought themselves, their poverty, their work, just as they were, to kneel before the manger in adoration.

ALL heard the calling of God to the manger regardless of their status in life. They all saw the Christ child who brought new beginnings to their lives and expectations of the future. A child that would grow and unfold the coming of a New Covenant. All things old will become new in the arrival of the Messiah.

No flashing lights or multicolor extravaganza, just touching the hearts with love that warmed the souls in the silent night. The whole assembly of onlookers were responding to a yearning of something missing in their lives.

We too, come to the crib, each of us, bearing many faces of our lives and seeing many faces in this newborn child. It's what the Christ Child sees in us and what we see in his eyes. We are loved as we are, and given the promise of a future that is ever unfolding for those who trust in Him.

Making our celebrations bigger, is not the answer. Our task is be little before Christ with all of our pretenses put aside, allowing for a future that the world can only offer for a season, where through Christ, the mercy and grace of God we can have eternal life.

If you want to discover the joy within yourselves that your heart is your yearning to share, join us in all family celebrations at the Place 2B. Littleness before God is at the core of this ministry.

Blessings of Christmas peace and joy,
Fr. Dave

Fifty and Counting

Fifty! It's Father Carr's Golden Anniversary and a very special milestone. What has transpired in those fifty years is absolutely amazing. Father Marty Carr started the Place 2B in 1974 as a newly ordained priest at St. Peter's Church in Oshkosh. He embraced the role of ministering to teens, as well as his pastoral duties. This was natural since he had been a teacher and school counselor before ordination. He loved working with teens and understood the struggles they encountered.



The basement of St. Peter was the original "Place To Be" for fun and positive activities. Following a brief stint in a second location, Father Carr moved to our current site in 1980 after being granted permission from the Bishop to be the full time priest at the Place 2B. He built a recreational center that included video games, a pizza restaurant and a roller rink. He later purchased a hotel on the adjacent property to help raise funds, and to house women that were victims of domestic violence.

In 1985, the Mission Statement announced The Place 2B Family Life Center, placing a larger emphasis on supporting families. Family counseling expanded, and retreats were held frequently to support both young and old in their formation. The one constant with Father Carr and the Place 2B was change. He frequently dismantled and constructed new buildings, in addition to purchasing numerous sites in the 1990s to help operate his ministry in downtown Oshkosh. The mission grew by serving the poor and others through shelter, a free health clinic and a food pantry. For decades, the Place 2B was there for others, in both times of need and joy.

In 2007, Father Carr passed away from complications of diabetes. Many still remember him and the impact he had on them. We hear stories that include his inspirational homilies, eating pizza, playing Space Invaders, listening to the latest music at the roller rink, officiating weddings, being there at the passing of a loved one, praying with prison inmates, serving holiday meals, mentoring young adults, sending hurricane relief trucks; and the list of memories continues on!

Father Carr would also be proud that our Christ Centered mission for "all" continues on. Volunteers remain our foundation, and funding will always be private. Giving by others, and for others, has been a transformational model to build community. Our Mother Teresa Center and Community Cafe bring individuals and groups together to meet, eat and celebrate. We are building togetherness as we fight a world that is increasingly isolated and lonely. Hundreds of volunteers also organize family events including holiday meals, an Annual Carnival, our Children's Christmas Party and regular evening activities.

Our mission is strong and currently led by our executive director, Jim Boehm, who empowers others in their service. Jim's leadership allows us to be there for others while enabling them to become more independent. Our free medical clinic, led by Emily Hill, not only provides healthcare, but is a Wellness Center providing programs and teaching individuals to be healthy. Our food pantry, led by Hussain Sattar, helps individuals to be well nourished and make ends meet by reducing their grocery bill. Father Dave supports our residents and ministers to the community, while also offering daily mass and spiritual guidance for all who seek it. Our Life Enrichment Program for residents, supports them in full time jobs, saving money, overcoming addiction and violence, and living on their own again. In 2024, over fifty children lived with us including five who entered the world with us.

(Continued on next page...)

As we ask for your help and prayers for our future, we are reminded of the mother and her child who lived with us after recently becoming drug free. Your support of Father Carr's provided them a safe living space while Mom obtained a job and started working full time. Her job gave her an identity and the ability to save money for the first time. Her child was nurtured, encouraged and loved as they struggled to transition to a new school, but eventually adjusted successfully. Our clinic provided medical care when it was necessary during their journey. Our programs for recovery, money management and other needs provided encouragement and motivation. Sisters Matilda and Grace, and others loved them and helped guide them back to independence. Today they are living on their own and their future is hopeful.

Father Carr's first fifty years is full of endless similar stories offering love and support to transform lives. We ask that you pray for another fifty years of blessings.

Nic Bur
President
Father Carr's Place 2B Life Enrichment Center

The Next Chapter

As I write this article, I have five days remaining of my maternity leave. Looking back at these past twelve weeks, I am filled with emotions. My heart swells thinking of my sweet baby girl and all of her firsts thus far: first cry, first diaper change, first bath at home, first meeting with her puppies, first smile...the list goes on. I think about how blessed and fortunate I am to have my daughter, and how my heart breaks a little knowing that I'll be back to working full-time, and I won't get to spend every day with her, uninterrupted, to do whatever we please.

But at the same time, I have missed being at work. Missed having a purpose outside of being a mother, and working with my coworkers that have turned into family. These twelve weeks have given me renewed energy and excitement to return to the clinic and help people in need. I am determined to be a good role model for my daughter, to teach her how to be a good person and treat others with kindness. To teach her to work hard and to dream big.

I express my sincere gratitude to the board, Jim, Di-Anne, and all the clinic volunteers for allowing me these twelve weeks away to be with my baby girl, and keeping the clinic thriving while I've been gone. Cheers to the next chapter, and to helping even more people in need!

Have a blessed Holiday season,

Emily Hill RN, BSN
Clinic Director
St. Francis Free Clinic



You're invited to the first ever Whole-Hearted Wellness Fair! This is a new event we are hosting with our friends at Be Well Fox Valley on January 25, 2025. We are promoting overall health and wellness with a particular emphasis on heart health. This event is FREE, family-friendly, fun, and informative. We encourage you, your family, and your friends to join us. Please see the flyer for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!

WHOLE-HEARTED WELLNESS FAIR

PRESENTED BY BEWELL
FOX VALLEY, FATHER
CARR'S PLACE 2B, & ST.
FRANCIS FREE CLINIC

Please join us in this FREE event as we **celebrate** and promote **holistic health** and **overall wellbeing**, with a particular emphasis on **heart health**. We are thrilled to have a wide range of **vendors, health professionals, and wellness enthusiasts** to create an engaging experience for everyone!

The Whole-Hearted Wellness Fair Includes:

- Cardio Dance Classes
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Over 15 local health & wellness vendors
- Chair Yoga
- Music
- And more!
- Healthy Cooking Classes
- Free food and drinks



January 25, 2025

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Father Carr's Place 2B

1062 N Koeller St. Oshkosh, WI 54902

Scan the QR Code to
Sign Up

Or call 920-231-2378



Be Well
FOX VALLEY



FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B
1062 N. KOELLER STREET
OSHKOSH, WI 54902
MOTHER TERESA CENTER

SCHEDULE

- 7:05am RECONCILIATION
- 7:20am ROSARY
- 7:45am MASS
- 8:15am BREAKFAST
- 8:45am PRESENTATION
- 10:00am WRAP-UP



BE A MAN

Saturday, January 18th

Guest Speaker - Jacob Rudd

Musician and Missionary

**BECOME THE
COURAGEOUS
MAN GOD IS
CALLING YOU
TO BE.**

2025 Annual Appeal: A New Initiative

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36

Mission/Vision

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 self-sustaining life, through housing, food, health care, educational programs and volunteer opportunities.

Thank You!

As we approach the end of Father Carr's Place 2B Life Enrichment Center's 50th Jubilee Year, we want to thank all of our volunteers, donors, staff, friends, partners, vendors and pray-ers from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support of this caring and compassionate ministry, during the past 50 years! We look forward to working with you for another 50 years to serve women, men, families and young people who are in need throughout Winnebago, Fond Du Lac, Calumet, Green Lake, Outagamie, and Waushara counties.

A New Initiative!

In that light, as we move into the next 50 years, Father Carr's Place 2B will be initiating an **Annual Appeal** starting this coming **January 2025**. Each year, this direct mail campaign will share with our past, current and future supporters the Life Enrichment Center's ongoing needs as they relate to facilities renovations, grounds improvements, heating and air ventilation upgrades, and technology. To be good stewards of this beloved ministry, we have developed a 3- to 8-year plan of action to maintain and improve our facilities and infrastructure to make sure that Father Carr's Place 2B Life Enrichment Center will be here to serve our people and communities for future generations.

Again, our inaugural Annual Appeal will be mailed to you in January 2025 and will include a return envelope and pledge card for your convenience, and a fact sheet sharing all the ways your previous support has touched and changed lives of our less fortunate sisters and brothers who walk through our doors.

Watch your mailboxes for the 2025 Annual Appeal!

You continue to be in our thoughts, prayers and Mass intentions during this Advent and Christmas Season as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace, Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year!

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE **BREAKFAST WITH THE BOARD**

- FREE BREAKFAST
- MEET OUR BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
- CAMPUS TOURS



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025

10:00AM – 1:00PM

1062 N. KOELLER STREET
OSHKOSH, WI 54902

In 2024, the Place 2B turned fifty years old. Come hear about the vision and mission we have planned for the next 50 years.

2024 OVERVIEW

(THROUGH OCTOBER)



WE HELP PEOPLE
WE PROVIDE HOPE
WE CHANGE LIVES

Saint Martin de Porres Food Pantry	Meals served - 48,242 Groceries provided for - 16,720 souls
Saint Francis Free Clinic FCP2B Wellness Clinic The St. Francis Free Clinic now has a free wellness clinic focusing on holistic healthcare. Enhance your wellbeing with nutrition, exercise, spiritual guidance, mental health, and more!	PATIENTS SEEN 2022 - 870 2023 - 1400 2024 - 1663 (thru October) <hr/> We are on task to provide 1.5 million dollars of free healthcare to the community in 2024.
Life Enrichment Program Bethlehem Inn	156 men, women and children were welcomed off the streets, out of their cars or from incarceration to join our Life Enrichment Program. They live in our Bethlehem Inn until they are able to attain an independence of the barriers that are preventing them from living the life they imagine for themselves. We are a place of healing.
Christmas for KIDS CARRnival for KIDS Free Community Events	Father Carr's holds two major free community events each year. Our Christmas and Carnival events brings smiles to thousands. We host many other free events throughout the year.

Your support is what sustains us

Father Carr's Place 2B operates entirely on donations from foundations, individuals, churches, businesses and other organizations. We are not subsidized with any government funding. We operate our facilities, including our clinic and food pantry, primarily with volunteer labor. Please support Father Carr's Place 2B and the community services we provide by scanning the QR code below or giving online at fathercarrs.org/donate.



Feel His Presence

I'm actually penning this final story of 2024 two days before Thanksgiving Day. Father Carr's staff is working overtime getting ready for our Thanksgiving Day dinner. It will be a turkey buster as dinner orders are many. But this article needs to be about Christmas. It's about wrapping up the year. So, I am trying to fast forward my mind to the day of Jesus's birth.

Try to put yourself back in that time. Mary and Joseph had nowhere to go for this epic event. In essence they were homeless. They were hungry with no food, cold without decent clothing. Mary was about to give birth and had no doctor in sight. It isn't a wonder why Jesus later spoke the words of Matthew's gospel and told us to take in the stranger, feed the hungry and cure the sick. His words are very familiar to us here at Father Carr's Place 2B.

If you haven't heard, 2024 was our 50th anniversary, our Golden Jubilee year. We are bringing this milestone year to a close and are very proud of the work we have done. Jesus has come to us through ALL the homeless, hungry and sick souls we have helped since 1974. He is truly present on our campus. Everything we do, we do for Him. Now, it is time again to celebrate our Savior's birth.

There is no better way to celebrate our Messiah's incarnation than to do the work He commanded. I invite you to be part of our ministry. Become part of this special place. Come feel the Holy Spirit work through you and those around you. Volunteer, donate or stop in for a cup of coffee. Come feel His presence.

Don't wait too long. We will only be here for another fifty years. We are the Place 2B.

On behalf of all of us here at Father Carr's Place 2B, may you and yours have a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Pax Christi,
Jim



If your vehicle has its best miles behind it, please consider donating it to Father Carr's Place 2B. We will have it picked up for you and will take care of the salvage. It's a great way to support our ministry.

Call **920.231.2378** for more information.

CURRENT LIST OF NEEDS FOR FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B

Food Pantry Staples

Granola/Snack Bars	Chunky/Progresso soups	Hamburger Helper
Black Pepper	Spaghetti/Spaghetti sauce	Applesauce
Chili Powder	Pasta	Flavored Oatmeal
Cinnamon	Macaroni & Cheese	Butter
Garlic Powder	Canned Chili	Canned Meat/Tuna
Onion Powder	Canned Fruit	Chef Boyardee
Italian Seasoning	Peanut Butter	Jam/Jelly
	Breakfast Cereal	Baked beans

Shelter Needs

Baby/Toddler Diapers - all sizes	Baby wipes	Bathroom cleaner
	Hair Conditioner	Cleaning Supplies

Ministry Needs

Support for Women/Children Room Renovation	City Bus Passes	Support for Landscaping Project
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Matthew 25:31-46
 The Place 2B, Ltd.
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