THANKSGIVING NEWSLETTER 2026

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WHAT IF...

What if tomorrow, we woke up with only what we thanked God for today? That was a question inside the sermon Deacon Greg from my parish gave a few weeks ago. The question stopped me in my tracks. I thought, "Oh, how little I would have." It is so easy to get wrapped up in the days and weeks' activities that all I think about is what I need or what I must do. My life is full of blessings and gifts. These all originate from God and I usually take them for granted. Sorry God! *"Every good and perfect gift is from above..."* James 1:17

Our Father Carr's community is a source of love for all who are part of it. No matter where you fit into it, the presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit will be very apparent. As with everyone, we have challenges, rewards, peaks, valleys, and crosses to bear in our everyday life. It is the strength of the whole community that keeps us energized, enriched and eager to make a difference in each other's lives. *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* 1 Thessalonians 5:18. I am so thankful to be part of this organization. Thankful for the hundreds of volunteers, residents, benefactors and guests that believe in what we do. You are not taken for granted. Thank you for all you do, Father Carr's loves you, I love you.

Of course, that love we are all feeling, is God Himself. God is love! *"God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."* 1 John 4:16

On behalf of Father Carr's ministry, our Board of Directors and myself, we hope you have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving Day and season.

Pax Christi,
- Jim

LITTLE THINGS *by Sami Boehm*

Each day I exist
As though I'm promised tomorrow
It doesn't hold much weight
And my time isn't borrowed

But what if I woke up
My eyes opened in praise
Because I've been gifted a new day
And won't let it go to waste

What if I didn't care
About a lump in my bed
Because I got to sleep soundly
With a roof over my head

What if the leftovers in my fridge
I've been staring at all week
Were a reminder to thank You
For something to eat

And when my schedule fills up
I have no time to myself
I'll take a minute to praise You
For helping me live my life well

And the dishes in the sink
And laundry on the floor
Become memories You gave me
Of the day before

All the little things
That interrupt my day
Let me lay them down
And praise You anyway

Because those little things
That become a burden or chore
Are the very little things
That others pray for

So, thank you for leftovers
And laundry on the floor
And all the little things
I haven't thanked You for

WE CHANGE LIVES

BETHLEHEM INN RESIDENT - OCTOBER 2026
The motto on Father Carr's proclaims, **"We help people, We provide Hope, We Change Lives."** I am a living testament to these truths.

I came to Father Carr's as a 61-year-old alcoholic, an inmate of the criminal justice system, and homeless. I was just completing a 90-day alcohol rehabilitation treatment program and had few options other than a sober living house I could not afford, or living on the street. Father Carr's gave me an opportunity to prove myself by being an active participant in their Life Enrichment Program. This program assisted me physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Physically, by providing me basic human needs of food, shelter, and clothing, allowed me the opportunity to ground myself with the essentials. Job assistance was provided and I landed a job that allowed me to save money. Medical and dental care was offered at their free medical clinic. As someone who has faced the elements of a Wisconsin winter, lived out of a backpack, and was not stable enough to keep steady employment, these resources were invaluable.

Mentally, I was counseled on a regular basis by staff, and was encouraged to attend onsite meetings for life skills, both personal and economic. I was also provided transportation to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings three times weekly and encouraged to continue with the program. During my time at Father Carr's, I passed a six-month sobriety date, opened a bank account, and began to establish credit for the first time in four years. The freedom of worry and the support I was given greatly assisted me mentally in terms of lack of worry, goal setting, and creating a positive outlook on life.

Emotionally, I came to Father Carr's a discouraged individual with very low self-esteem. Through the fellowship of community living, participation in chores and group activities, I gained a sense of self-worth and human dignity. I owned my faults, but was not defined by past mistakes and was given a chance to earn the respect of my peers. Accountability made me a stronger person emotionally.

Spiritually, I regained new enthusiasm and commitment to my God and Savior Jesus Christ. By receiving counseling, direction, and spiritual guidance by clergy, I found new depths in my relationship with God. This I found to be the most beneficial of the four areas I was assisted with. I will work in my future endeavors to help others find peace.

Father Carr's has indeed helped me, provided me with hope, and changed my life for the better. It is with gratitude and a firm base of understanding achievement that I step forward in the next chapters of my life due to Father Carr's.

- Jim

BETHLEHEM INN RESIDENT - OCTOBER 2026
I came to Father Carr's with little to no hope. As someone who has always been a hard worker and used to achieving things on my own, falling on difficult times left Father Carr's as my only option. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed without ever feeling like a burden.

During my time there, I developed wonderful new habits: getting up early, keeping my space clean, and finding the confidence to begin focusing on my health. My faith in the Lord grew even stronger, and I found so many opportunities to better myself. The First and Third meetings provided support across various struggles, and the monthly Women's meetings every last Wednesday were deeply empowering. Additionally, the staff was incredibly supportive, encouraging me to save money and pay off debt, which made moving forward so much easier.

I am more than grateful for my time at Father Carr's. I left in better health, with a renewed sense of self, and a brighter outlook on life. Thank you so much for everything.

Warmly,
-Tonya

WHAT'S IN A TURKEY?

It was about three decades ago that my older brother and I decided to cook a Thanksgiving meal. Isn't that what lonely men do?

He was divorced and single and I was single as well. We used to cook every now and then for our family of eight siblings. Our favorite meal was raw potato dumplings, sauerkraut with all the fixings.

My brother knew a single gentleman in dire straits. Nice fella who lived alone in a trailer. He was also of Slavek heritage. We thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to come together for a festive meal.

As fate would have it, a gentleman on a news show shared a recipe of a sauerkraut stuffed turkey. Yes, this was to be a gourmet meal worthy of three kings!! What could be wrong with that? Our guest to the table was informed and was more than excited to be at the meal. We went to work and cooked the turkey. That was not enough for two men in the kitchen. So, we made a lot more. Leftovers are to die for in our family. Thus we made pumpkin pies, bread, butter with onions, gravy, cranberry relish and of course, dumplings.

Upon arrival, our guest was taken aback at the beautiful spread laid upon the table. We ate, shared and laughed aplenty. We continued to eat, eat and eat. When dinner was over, we continued to converse into the late hours. We sent him home with plenty of food to enjoy for the following days. When my brother and I cleared the table and put things away, we were surprised at what was left over: the Thanksgiving turkey! It had hardly been touched. We chuckled, but were warmed by the opportunity to share time and a meal with someone who needed the love and friendship of other people.

Thanksgiving is more than just turkey.

Blessings for sharing with our community at Fr Carr's, the bounty of God's love and goodness.
-Fr. Dave

Father Carr's 2026 Annual Appeal

Upgrading our infrastructure and facilities over the forthcoming years

Please consider a one-time gift, monthly, or annual pledge to support our facilities and infrastructure needs to maintain Father Carr's for generations to come.

Use the QR code to go to our donate page and select "2026 Annual Appeal".

2026 FACILITY PROJECTS

- HVAC Replacements (13 Units)
- Upgrade to LED lighting in the Bethlehem Inn
- Technology Infrastructure Upgrades

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But, the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

For more information on our Life Enrichment Center & Program and how to support the ministry through the Annual Appeal, please contact Jim Boehm, Father Carr's Exectutive Director, at (920) 231-2378 or jimboehm@fathercarrs.org

Father Carr's Place 2B Life Enrichment Center receives no government funding.

HOPE, HEALING, AND A GRATEFUL HEART



As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been reflecting on gratitude, hope, and healing, and my first six months serving at St. Francis Free Clinic. I'm beyond grateful to support the work that Father Carr started here and witness the love of Christ touch so many lives.

I often see patients come into the clinic burdened by overwhelming circumstances, yet I also witness something beautiful. Through moments of connection, compassion, and care, burdens become a little lighter and hope begins to shine through.

It's not always easy to be grateful when life gets hard. When we've experienced trauma, are facing uncertainty, or are in the midst of a crisis, it can be really difficult to see beyond what we're going through. But gratitude comes a little easier when there is hope. Hope reminds us that our current circumstances don't define our future, that healing and transformation are possible, and that God's promises are real.

I've experienced some of those difficult seasons myself. When I started serving at the clinic, I realized that some of my past experiences weren't so different from those of the residents and patients we serve. What helped me was having a family who loved and supported me through some of the hardest times. Their love gave me a place of refuge, where I could turn my eyes toward Jesus, be filled with hope, and receive healing.

That's what makes serving here so meaningful to me. We have the opportunity to offer that same support and refuge to our residents, patients, and volunteers. Sometimes it's through meeting a practical need, finding a resource, or helping someone navigate a difficult situation. Other times, it's simply taking the time to listen, offer encouragement, or remind someone they are not alone.

As a Clinic Support Specialist, much of what I do involves problem-solving, patient advocacy, and building relationships. Some of my favorite moments are sitting with patients, hearing their stories, and genuinely connecting with them. I see that same spirit of compassion and care in the relationships being built with our volunteers, healthcare providers, and community organizations. As we come together, we grow together.

I love what I do because I believe in Father Carr's mission and the teachings of Jesus: showing mercy and compassion to those who are hurting, caring for the sick, and loving our neighbors. Every day, I get to witness those teachings come to life!

I am truly grateful for this amazing community and the opportunity we have to come together, care for one another, and share in the hope and healing that happens here every day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Psalm 103:2

-Danielle Perez
Clinic Support Specialist – AmeriCorps
St. Francis Free Clinic

MEET THE FOOD PANTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

You may have noticed some new faces around Father Carr's these past few months serving alongside people you have likely known for years. Under the mentorship of the legend, Hussain Sattar, the newly formed pantry leadership group has been learning the ropes regarding the inner workings of this vital community lifeline. While they bring varied work experience to the task, these gentlemen share a common goal of providing our food pantry clients with the best available food options.



Dave Hetzel:
"My family and I have been volunteering for Fr. Carr's 15 years through our involvement with Holiday meal deliveries. This involvement, in addition to my mom's volunteering at Fr. Carr's for 20+ years (until she was 90), plus Jim Boehm's gentle shoulder taps are the reasons that compelled me to join the food pantry this past April. I think gentle prodding by the Holy Spirit also helped with my decision. My experience has been nothing but positive. The welcome I received from the long-time volunteers was inspiring. I look forward to coming in and spending quality time with the other dedicated volunteers and the friendships that I've made as a result. We are all called to be the hands and feet of Jesus and this experience provides me with the opportunity to live this mission."

Bob Wilms:
"I've been a volunteer at Father Carr's for about 18 years, and now that I'm retired, I'm able to spend more time here. Recently, I've taken a more active role with the leadership group for the food pantry. Some of the volunteers that I worked with have been helping out for over thirty years. Our clients have become friends and the volunteers have become my second family. I look forward to going to Father Carr's each week. It's one of the most fulfilling roles that I have had."

Shawn Klysen:
"My decision to join the pantry team at Father Carr's Place 2B was shaped by the meaningful experiences my wife, Michelle, shared from her weekly volunteer work at the front desk. Each week, she came home describing the incredible group of volunteers who not only served with purpose but genuinely enjoyed one another's company. Through my own time at Father Carr's, I have witnessed that same spirit first-hand—neighbors helping neighbors, strangers becoming friends, a community lifting itself up through simple acts of kindness, and an inspiring level of generosity extended to all. Feeling called to contribute, stepping into the pantry team became a natural extension of the spirit of service that has already touched my home through Michelle's involvement."

Dan Schmidt:
"Dave Hetzel described receiving gentle prodding by the Holy Spirit to join the food pantry; my gentle prodding came from... Dave Hetzel! No doubt he received an assist from the Holy Spirit. When he reached out to me the week before Thanksgiving last year to see if I might be interested in volunteering and possibly joining the food pantry leadership group I was intrigued. Following my retirement from UW Oshkosh this past May, the decision to climb on board seemed like a no-brainer. Thus far, I have enjoyed the experience immensely. The other volunteers are very friendly and especially patient, answering my many questions. I feel as though I am part of a well-oiled machine that makes a difference in so many lives on a daily basis. Reflecting on my short time with Father Carr's, I hope to continue serving others as an essential part of my own faith journey."

IRA / QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCD) GIVING OPTION

Father Carr's Place 2B would like to remind those of you who are 70.5 years or older, gifts up to $100,000 from your IRA may be directly transferred from an IRA to a qualified charity such as ***Father Carr's Place 2B LTD***, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Even though the SECURE Act raised the required minimum distribution (RMD) age to 73, the QCD age remains at 70.5, so QCDs can be used for charitable giving even before RMDs begin.

Check first with your IRA administrator or tax advisor for more detailed information about Qualified Charitable Distributions' processes and timeline.

For more information on the IRA/QCD option and other additional ways to donate to Father Carr's, please contact either **Jim Boehm, Father Carr's Executive Director at (920) 231-2378 or at** jimboehm@fathercarrs.org or **Deacon John Ingala (Father Carr's Board of Directors' Development Committee Chair) at (920) 203-9272 or** deaconji@gmail.com**.**

CHRISTMAS
For kids

As a Life Enrichment Center, our goal of Fr. Carr's is to help improve the lives of all those who walk through our doors. From those seeking a place to live, to volunteers, to those who attend special events here. This year, once again, we have the opportunity to create a special experience for children and their families at our Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 12.

This event happens with the generous support of our volunteers and donors. To help us make the magic happen, here are some ways that you can help:

Donate:
- Gift cards
- New stuffed animals
- Tween gifts
- Teen boy gifts
- Baby toys

Prayer Intentions:
- For all families attending the event.
- For our volunteer teams to experience the joy of serving others.
- Thanksgiving to all our generous volunteers.

Volunteers needed:
- Elves
- Organizers
- Decorators
- Assembly line helpers



WELLNESS SATURDAYS

HEALTHY MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT



EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAY
9 AM - 10 AM
SEPTEMBER 2026 - APRIL 2027



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Mind Body Movement
- Community Connections
- Healthy Snacks
- Health Education
- And More!

Please join us for these FREE events!

All ages are welcome!

920-231-2378 or 920-230-2273

www.fathercarrs.org

1062 N. Koeller St
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With Gratitude: Grant Partners Strengthening Our Ministry

We are deeply grateful to the grant partners whose generosity helps strengthen our ministry. We strive to foster hope, self-worth and a self-sustaining life, through housing, food, health care, educational programs and volunteer opportunities. Each award makes a meaningful difference for the people and families we serve.

2026 Grant Awards

Grant Source	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
J.J. Keller Foundation	Food for pantry	$7,000
Costco	Food for pantry	$50
Menasha Corporation Foundation	Hemoglobin A1C machine & test kits	$2,500
Society Insurance	Food for pantry	$2,000
Theda Care	2026 WISHIN HIE subscription	$1,500
Thrivent	General purpose	$4,000
Feeding America	Local Farmer and Rancher support program	$10,000
Menasha Corporation Foundation	Director's Discretionary Fund	$2,000
Ascension Wisconsin	Food Security	$10,000
Herb Kohl Philanthropies Homegrown Challenge Grant	Director's Discretionary Fund	$5,000
WI Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (WAFCC)	Wisconsin Well Woman Program - for referrals for Mammograms and cervical cancer screening	$2,800
Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay	2027 WISHIN HIE subscription	$1,500
Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund	Clinic ($65K) and Food Security ($10K)	$75,000

Thank You

Thank you to every grant partner for investing in stronger, healthier, and more supported communities. You help make us happen!

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

Food Pantry Staples

Fresh or Frozen Meat (we accept venison)
Coffee
Beef Broth/Stock
Breakfast Cereal
Pancake Syrup
Peanut Butter
Canned Fruit
Jam/jelly
Chef Boyardee
Canned Meat
Canned Fish
Flavored Oatmeal
Granola/Snack Bars
Spaghetti/Spaghetti sauce
Chunky/Progresso soups
Applesauce
Hamburger/Tuna Helper
Salad Dressing
Baked Beans

Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner

Turkeys
Butter
Instant Potatoes
Flour
Sugar
Dinner Rolls
Green Beans
Single-serve desserts

Shelter Needs

Lunch/Sandwich Meat
Toilet Brushes
Laundry Detergent

Ministry Needs

City Daily Bus Passes
Morning Food Pantry Volunteers
Front Desk Volunteers
Evening Meal Teams – See SignUp Genius on website and FaceBook

Father Carr's Place 2B

Matthew 25:31-46

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