

Reaching Out

Serving the Poor with Dignity and Respect

THE MINISTRY OF CARING INC.



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On the frontline in the battle against hunger

Emmanuel Dining Room

Emmanuel Dining Room West has been open at Second and Jackson Streets since 1982, housed in a converted fire station. EDR West, the main hub of the Ministry's food programs, is also one of the largest food programs in Wilmington, feeding breakfast and noon-day meals to an average of 500 people every day. Recently, EDR witnessed a huge increase of people, as many as 750 or 800 a day.

"It began as a slow increase that was almost imperceptible and built up in August, when people first started talking about recession," said Brother Cory Moody, OFM Cap., program director of EDR. "By then we were already serving more than 700 people a day."

Emmanuel Dining Room is one of the Ministry's oldest programs, second to our women's shelter, Mary Mother of Hope House I. EDR was founded because hunger was identified as a serious problem. Modeled after a similar food program in Detroit, EDR is a collaborative effort that is truly ecumenical. Nine-three churches, synagogues, civic groups and businesses work together to collect, deliver, prepare, and serve food each day, every day. EDR is never closed.

"The staff at EDR are here to fill in the blanks, but amazingly, a great deal of what happens behind the scenes is the work of hundreds of volunteers," continued Br. Cory. "After more than 25 years in operation, it is almost like clockwork. With such a massive system of supplying food, you would think that there might be missteps. But they are rare. Everyone is working together - Christian, Jew and Hindu - to do God's work of caring for the poor."

Br. Cory estimates that 60 percent of the food served at EDR is donated by area churches, community groups, businesses and individuals who drop off non-perishables. There are also many restaurants and bakeries that regularly donate surplus food. The rest comes from the State of Delaware Government Support Services, the Food Bank of Delaware and wholesale food distributors. Although deeply discounted from grocery store prices, nevertheless, EDR must raise money to purchase this food.

"One third of our funding comes from United Way contributions," said Br. Cory. "The rest is from generous donations made by businesses and individuals, including our major fundraiser, the EDR Auction, which takes place in April (see Save the Date, page 4)."

"We have seen a lot of new faces since the weather started turning cold. We prepare baskets each year at Thanksgiving, with donated turkeys and non-perishables, so that families can share in the bounty of the holiday. Last year we had 530 requests for food baskets, which we filled. This year, we had 750 requests. It will be the same at Christmas time."

"It would be easy to fall into despair over the unending line of hungry, poor people, in this, the richest country on Earth," concludes Br. Cory. "But every day is a celebration to see so many hands working together to provide for the needs of others. 'Many hands lighten the load.'"



Volunteering Pays

Companies stand behind their employees' support

EDR West volunteer Bob Dinan, left, of Hockessin comes to Emmanuel Dining

Room several times a month and helps organize donated food in the pantry. And - so to speak - he pays for the pleasure. Bob is one of a small number of current and former employees whose company makes cash donations to EDR because Bob volunteers his time there. Bob's former-employer,

ExxonMobil, donates money for every hour that Bob donates, up to \$2,000 a year. Staff at EDR joke with him that he is the only person they know who pays for the privilege of volunteering.

Actually, there are a number of volunteers at different Ministry of Caring programs whose companies contribute matching funds for their current or former employees' volunteer hours or contributions. To mention a few: AIG, Bank of America, Johnson & Johnson, JPMorgan Chase, Wachovia and Ganett.

"Programs like this encourage people to get involved, stay active, and to make a contribution to their communities," says Bob, whose wife, Jane, volunteers at EDR East through St. John the Beloved Church.

EDR is always in need of non-perishable food, volunteers to prepare and serve meals, especially breakfast, and your generous financial support.

For more information call **302-652-3228** or go to **www.ministryofcaring.org**.

Happy Holidays and Blessings in the New Year!

Speaking Out: Who Will Bailout the Poor?

Dear Friends,



I hope that you will enjoy this joyous time of the year, the holidays!

A great deal of the news we heard is challenging: the stock market continues to decline, unemployment figures are increasing, and several banks and corporations are looking for a government bailout. For many who are a part of the Ministry of Caring, it is not a revelation that our economy is headed south, it started months ago.

Late summer, we saw an increase of people at Samaritan Outreach, looking for rent assistance, help with their power bills and food vouchers.

Then there were people looking for housing. Either evicted or unable to find a place they could afford, they turn to our emergency shelters - Mary Mother of Hope House I, II & III, and House of Joseph I.

Finally, came the recent flood of people to Emmanuel Dining Room, with - as you read on page 1 - more than 750 to 850 people every day; an increase in guests of up to 40 percent!

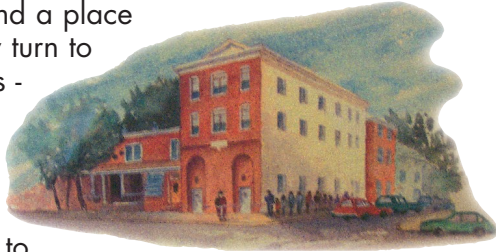
Will it get worse before it gets better? Only God knows, but in the meantime, we must assist the vulnerable in our community. While all of us struggle to make ends meet, we now have to give out of our need rather than our abundance. God is never outdone by generosity. When we are good to the poor, God will reward us abundantly.

I ask you to join me in caring for those among us who suffer now, that they will be fed, clothed, sheltered and comforted. Thank you for your generous support of the Ministry of Caring, and for sharing your blessings with those in need.

Peace and blessings,



Br. Ronald Giannone, OFM Cap.
Executive Director



Legacy of Giving

The Ministry is now offering a new planned giving program, **Legacy of Giving**, that will help us improve our planning and budgeting. Legacy of Giving, a program developed by Ministry fundraiser Dolores Alfano, will be asking benefactors to make a commitment of giving a donation of at least \$1,000 annually in support of our programs. Friends of the Poor have the option of making their donation by check or Visa/MasterCard, and can make automatic payments on a monthly, quarterly, or one-time basis.

Helping in this effort are longtime Ministry benefactors and Legacy of Giving honorary chairs Carroll Carpenter, Julie Cawley and Michele Rollins. Also joining the Legacy of Giving membership effort are Pete and Connie McCarthy, Joe DiPinto and John H. Taylor, Jr. The goal for the first year of the program is to enroll 1,000 donors raising \$100,000 to help the Ministry with expenses like utilities, food and other expenses of providing the many services to the poor and homeless. Because of the way this fund has been established, no administrative fees will be charged - 100 percent of the gifts received will go directly to provide service to the needy. If you would like to join Legacy of Giving, please call Annie at 302-652-5523 and request a membership kit. The article below tells you about an added benefit of contributing through the Legacy of Giving.

State Tax Credit Program Benefits Ministry

Individuals and organizations/businesses who pay Delaware State Income Tax may qualify for a special tax credit, through the Delaware State Housing Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Act Program (NAA). This program allows corporations, businesses and individuals to take 50 percent tax credit if they make an approved contribution to non-profit agencies like The Ministry of Caring that provide neighborhood assistance to the poor.

NAA requires a **minimum contribution of \$10,000** for a business and a **minimum of \$5,000** for individuals. The maximum contribution is \$200,000 (\$100,000 tax credit), and the program is limited to \$500,000 in tax credits per year (first come, first served), and must be pre-approved by Delaware State Housing Authority. In addition to the Delaware State NAA tax credit, the contribution also qualifies as tax-exempt on the contributor's Federal return.

To file an application to qualify for this tax credit, call Lisa McCloskey at the DE State Housing Authority at 302-739-4263, ext. 208, or email her at LisaM@DeStateHousing.com. You can also find more information, applications and forms at www.destatehousing.com/services/ot_naa. You can also call Annie at 302-652-5523 to have a application mailed to you.

Please consult your financial advisor about what tax-deductible contributions best meet your needs.

Ministry Wish List

With Christmas and Hannukah just around the corner, we thought you'd like some ideas from Ministry programs. If you are unable to sign up for a volunteer opportunity but would still like to contribute to the success of the Ministry, consider donating something from the Wish List. These are basic items that each program needs to serve its clients and can be provided by you for as little as \$5. Please tag your items that you are donating for the program you wish to support and drop them off at that program, or at the Ministry offices at 506 N. Church Street.

Child Care Center - 652-8992

Pampers - sizes 4 and up
Girls and boys underwear- sizes 2T - 8
Medicine spoons, baby wipes, Band-aids, Neosporin, Tylenol, Motrin, Vaseline, cloth dolls, doll babies, jewelry making kits, DVD/cassette player, games for children 5-12, education computer CD's for children ages 3 - 12

Emmanuel Dining Room - 652-3228

Aprons (w/ pockets), Water pitchers (w/ lids), gift certificates to Hypoint equipment or RES equipment, dining room chairs.

Francis X. Norton Center - 594-9455

Sewing/quilting, arts & craft supplies

Guardian Angel Day Care - 428-3620

Puzzles, art supplies, paper, crayons, markers, paint, glitter, glue, stamp and stamp ink pads, board books, music CDs for children, children's DVDs, Toy cars and trucks-no batteries, puppets, CD players, underwear, boys and girls - size 6

House of Joseph I & TR - 652-0904

Mens' underwear-sizes medium, large, XLarge, XXLarge, XXXLarge
Mens' t-shirts - sizes large, XLarge, XXLLarge, XXXLarge, toiletries, washcloths, dish towels, electric toaster

Il Bambino (6 weeks-12 months)

Board books for infants, markers, finger paint, wall decorations, ink pads, stamps, music CDs, diapers, baby wipes, Infant Tylenol or Motrin, soft toys, interactive infant toys, glitter, glue, puppets

Job Placement Center - 652-5522

Volunteer to assist with answering the phone, bus passes, gift cards to fast food restaurants, non-perishable lunch items.

House of Joseph II - 594-9473

Non-perishable snacks: Potato chips, pretzels, Tostados/mild salsa, popcorn (not for microwave), soda, peanut butter crackers

Mary Mother of Hope House I & TR, Bethany House - 652-8532

Clothing: Underwear, socks, pajamas, robes, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves, sweatsuits
Toiletries: Assorted hand and body lotions, soap, etc.
Miscellaneous: Umbrellas, flashlights, Dirt Devils, vacuum cleaners
gift cards (Burlington Coat Factory, Acme, DART, Restaurant),
entertainment tickets (movies, plays), pillows and pillowcases

Mary Mother of Hope House II & III, St. Francis Transitional Residence, Nazareth Transitional Residence - 652-1935

Toiletries: Hand and body lotions, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and paste
Clothing: women's socks, robes, slippers children's socks, PJs, hats, gloves, scarves, gift cards, DART bus tickets
Twin sheets, pillowcases, towels and washcloths, electric toaster, plastic food storage containers.

Samaritan Outreach - 594-9476

Men and womens underwear, socks, and long underwear(est. 100 per month), razors, trial size toothpaste, soap, deodorant, lotions, family size shampoos and lotions, gloves, hats, scarves (men, women and children), toys, blankets, sweaters, baby items (diapers, wipes, food, bottles, clothes, blankets, crib sheets), canned food, grocery store gift cards

Ziggy Retires

Perhaps, the most beloved worker in the Ministry of Caring is Ziggy Karas. He came to us 19 years ago looking for a job, accompanied by his wife and four young children. He did not speak English, but had an endearing smile. Br. Ronald was confident that, given the opportunity, he would work diligently for the Ministry of Caring. Ziggy left communist Poland and was able to obtain a Visa to travel to the United States. Once he entered the USA, he and his family were given asylum.



Ziggy began his work at the Emmanuel Dining Room where he won the hearts of everyone: staff, volunteers and the poor we serve. Later on, he worked with the maintenance team keeping the facilities and grounds clean and safe. It will take several people to replace him. You would find him working sometimes at 4 a.m. and staying into the evening until the work was completed; especially, when the snow covered the ground.

Ziggy will be retiring in January to return to his wife who is in Poland. "From the moment I met Ziggy, I knew that he had a heart that was filled with love and goodness, the perfect chemistry needed to assist the poor. It will be sad for us to say goodbye, but we are grateful for the 19 years that he served with us and our friendship will continue for years to come."

The community will bid him farewell on January 10th at the Francis X. Norton Center at 6 pm. The evening will consist of a four-course dinner. A donation of \$20 is requested. Please join us. For your reservations, please call Sr. Gretchen at Church Street, 302-652-5523.

Coat Drives to Choose From



Several coat drives are being held throughout New Castle County to help the Ministry provide winter coats to needy families. The largest drive is sponsored by One Warm Coat, a national coat drive featured on Good Morning America, and is being held at the Burlington Coat Factory store on Naamans Road (only). Other drives are being held at local law offices, Michael Christopher Hair Salon, and all Brew Ha Ha coffee shops. Please contact each location for drop-off hours and end date.

Help Us ... We Need Your Support More than Ever

Please be as generous as you can. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. We are counting on your donation to help the Ministry continue our many programs that serve the poor.

We are really hurting. We have a financial deficit, but no different from any other year. This is the reason that we depend on your generous holiday contributions to end the year and carry us into the New Year. Perhaps more than ever, this will mean a great sacrifice on your part, and we bless you for your goodness and generosity.

2009 International Night Season Tickets

Makes a great holiday gift! Order Season Tickets and save 20 percent off the regular ticket price. Packages of 5 dinners start at \$100. Help support Emmanuel Dining Room and get someone a nice gift at the same time! Season Ticket sales end on January 16.

Call Beth at 302-652-3228 or order online at www.ministryofcaring.org/events.

Save the Date!



Annual Recognition Banquet

The Ministry's tradition of honoring dedicated volunteers with the Caring Bowl continues! The 16th Ministry of Caring **Annual Recognition Banquet** will be held on Wednesday, **January 28, 2009**, 5:30 pm, at Francis X. Norton Center, 917 N. Madison Street, to honor nominees **Theodore & Cynthia Dwyer, The Honorable Richard & Lynn Cecil, Daniel & Kitty Benarcik, Carmella Brown, Xavier Teixido and Thomas Moore.**

Gather with us to hear their stories of commitment and loving services while enjoying the culinary artistry of Chef Dan Butler of Toscana Kitchen + Grill and Deep Blue Bar and Grill, who generously prepares and donates a delicious meal.

Don't miss out on this wonderful evening with friends both new and old. Invitations will be mailed after Christmas. Tickets \$75 each; Benefactor table of eight, \$1,000. To purchase tickets with a credit card, go to www.ministryofcaring.org or call Beth at **302-428-3702**. For more information, contact event chair, Judy Saydlowski at **302-478-2758**.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 10, 2009 - 6 pm

Ziggy's Retirement Party

Francis X. Norton Center, 917 N. Madison Street, Wilmington, DE
Join us as we celebrate the retirement of Zbigniew "Ziggy" Karas after 19 years of service to the Ministry (see page 3). Dinner, tribute, and a four-course meal for \$20. Cash bar. For tickets, contact Sr. Gretchen at 302-652-5523.



SAVE the DATE! Sunday, April 26, 2009 - 3 - 8 pm

27th Annual Emmanuel Dining Room Auction

Deerfield Golf & Tennis Club, Newark, DE

Join your friends from the Ministry at the year's biggest fundraiser for Emmanuel Dining Room. The Guild and event chair, Louisa Teoli, have a number of surprises up their sleeves for us. To volunteer, contact Louisa at 302-652-5523. Invitations will be mailed in early Spring and tickets will be available at www.ministryofcaring.org.

A Note About Stocks and Bonds

Each year, a number of generous Ministry benefactors donate stocks and bonds, often at the end of the year. If you plan on making this type of donation, please call Debbe Philips at 302-652-5523. And thank you for your continued generosity to the Ministry's programs!

Keep in Touch with Us

If you would like to know more about upcoming events, learn about our programs to serve the poor, or make a contribution to the ministry, go to our website, www.ministryofcaring.org.

For any mailing address changes, including seasonal changes, please contact Tres Haines at 302-428-3652, or email her at thaines@ministryofcaring.org. By doing this, you help us save postage costs. Thank you for your continued support.

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