

CSK Staff Serve in Multiple Locations & Languages

People struggling to be heard know CSK listens

David Girard, Guest Services Specialist at the Capuchin Service Center, lives the Capuchin virtue of hospitality in his daily work through an uncommon, God-given talent: speaking many different languages. His story begins in a bilingual French and English-speaking household in an immigrant neighborhood of people of German, Polish, Italian, and Hungarian descent.

David's upbringing marks the origin of his ever-increasing love for learning languages, cultures, traditional music and dance, cuisine, and traveling. Years later, he possesses the remarkable gift of speaking seven, going on eight (Arabic is next), different languages, and has lived and worked in various countries worldwide.

David affirms, "Learning languages, especially when young, has enormous value in all ways. It opens the mind, heart, and soul to other cultures and ideas." Working in customer service since his first high school job at his cousin's bakery, David has discovered that people are very

grateful to communicate in their native language. "I believe that increased comfort is the basis of hospitality," claims David. He further shares, "Nearly everyone appreciates a smile. Being efficient helps as well, and I strive to be better at that every day."



▲ David Girard, Guest Services Specialist at the Capuchin Services Center, speaks one of seven languages while interviewing a guest by phone.

To David, the best part of speaking multiple languages in a support role at the Capuchin Services Center is that he can be sure he understands the needs of the guests. "...both parties can be confident that the message(s) are understood and that questions can be addressed immediately."

Today, David continues to pursue his passion for language and culture by cooking, traveling, continually learning, and adding the Arabic language to his skill set to more fully serve the service center's guests. The Capuchin Service Center is extremely grateful to have David's expertise in language and vast experience of culture to strengthen the order's commitment to the charism of hospitality.

Child Abuse Prevention Program Taught by and to Capuchin Staff

Michelle Anderson leads the Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program. She is also trained in a child abuse prevention program called Stewards of Children. Recently, the friars asked Michelle to train the staff in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"I didn't initially see the need in Milwaukee," Michelle said. "As I taught, I learned that the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal



staff frequently see children and vulnerable adults at the ministry sites. They have children who eat at St. Ben's Meal with their family and others who accompany their parents to the House of Peace's food pantry."

Fr. Gary Wegner, Ministry Director said, "We sent Michelle to Milwaukee because we Capuchins remain very committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults."

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen depends on others in the community who share our concern and commitment to people in need. You can view and sign up for the volunteer opportunities below here: <https://ofmcap.cc/CSK-Vol>

SCAN ME



Capuchin Soup Kitchen – Meldrum & Conner locations:

- Preparing food & trays for guests
- Wiping and sanitizing dining room tables and chairs
- Special events & projects

Capuchin Services Center:

- Sorting and organizing clothes
- Stocking and organizing food items
- Special events & projects

Rosa Parks Children & Youth Program:

- After school tutoring assistance
- Art therapy program assistance (no art skills required)
- Special Events & Seasonal Activities
- Volunteers are asked for a weekly commitment per academic semester

Earthworks Urban Farm:

- Mixing soil/making soil blocks or germination trays
- Planting/seeding/thinning seedlings
- Cultivating/weeding beds & flipping compost
- Other tasks related to gardening or farming



Food, Memories and Tributes

by Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Capuchin
Executive Director



Who doesn't have a favorite meal? From an early age, homemade potato pancakes have been the dinner closest to my heart. If Catholics were sometimes rudely called "fish-eaters", it was an insult that didn't land on me. Like my father, I have never liked fish. So, nothing made a Friday in Lent better than my mom making potato pancakes for my dad, my two brothers, and me. Ironically, Mom did not share our love for potato pancakes. Mom agreed to make the potato pancakes if Dad would go and pick up a fish sandwich, which he gladly did.

As an adult, enjoying mom's homemade potato pancakes became more than a meal. They carry memories of Mom's love made real by making a meal for us that she did not like and would not eat, with knowledge that we loved it. Mom did most of the cooking and the dishes. But this was a meal in which Dad grated the potatoes before getting Mom her fish sandwich. Seeing them work together in the kitchen is a precious memory. After my mom died, my sister-in-law, Sue, would invite me to their house on Ash Wednesday afternoon for potato pancakes from our mom's recipe. When I was transferred to Detroit to become Director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, I thought my potato pancake days were over. Little did I know that one of Br. Larry LaCross's specialties was homemade potato pancakes, similar to my mom's.

I thought of potato pancakes when Br. Larry passed

away at the end of February. He died after a long battle with cancer. As the weekend cook and Kitchen Manager at St. Bonaventure Monastery, Br. Larry served his brothers well. A favorite meal is often more than food. It is memory, hospitality, love, and ritual.

There is a reason why Jesus broke bread and shared cups of wine when he told his disciples, "to do this in memory of me". Whether we feast or fast, food is central to our lives and the lives of billions of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. So too at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, we do not feed our guests but serve them meals.

One of our rituals at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen is to pray for the donors who have provided the means to obtain the food, the staff who have prepared the meal, and the volunteers who are serving the meal. After the prayer, the chaplain thanked the volunteers who were about to serve the meal. Our guests always applaud with gratitude these volunteers.

If donors provide the means to purchase the food we serve and allow us to offer other services, we need folks who engage with our benefactors. Br. Larry ministered as the Director of Development for many years. In this role, Br. Larry developed relationships with donors, broke bread with many of them, and otherwise raised money to support the ministry of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Because his work was behind

(Continued on next page)

Food, Memories and Tributes - Continued

the scenes, Br. Larry never received applause from our guests, but he is a significant person in the history of the Soup Kitchen. Without his dedication and the dedication of Kristi Hassouna

and our development staff today, we would be less able to offer hospitality and healing to our many guests.



Volunteers Receive Awards



▲ Br. Gary celebrates with Alberta Asmar after she receives the Silver Soup Bowl Award.

Since the days of Blessed Solanus and Fr. Herman, we have relied on the support we receive from our volunteers and donors. In April, we held our annual volunteer appreciation dinner. We presented our Silver Soup Bowl Award to seven dedicated volunteers. Max Morrison, our Director of Volunteer Services, shared the following tributes:

Glen and Alfrida Turner:

Volunteering each Friday at the Capuchin Services Center, this husband-and-wife duo has an unwavering commitment to CSK's mission. Their consistent efforts have significantly impacted those we serve, and their hardworking nature inspires those around them.

Alberta Asmar: Volunteering on Tuesday mornings at Meldrum, Alberta personifies



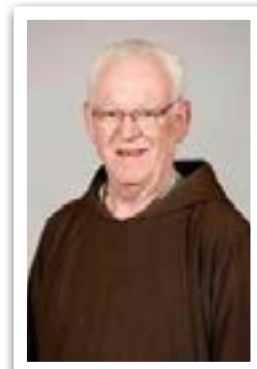
▲ Br. Rob, Director of the Capuchin Services Center (L) and Br. Gary (R) salute Glen & Alfrida Turner for their dedicated volunteering.

the mission of CSK. Not only is she a reliable and enthusiastic breakfast volunteer, but she also recycles our bottles and cans and donates the money back to us, earning the Capuchins thousands of dollars.

"The Dream Team": Given the nickname "The Dream Team," volunteers Maureen Pickard, Kathy Pitton, Cathy Nagle, and Loraine Malaspina have volunteered for lunch on Tuesdays at Conner for years. They are incredibly reliable volunteers despite rain, sleet, or snow. If one cannot attend, they have a backup volunteer to come in. They are passionate about giving back and work hard to fulfill our mission.

We are grateful for the contributions of all our volunteers and donors.

In Memoriam



◀ Br. Larry spent many years serving as the Director of Development for our Capuchin ministries. In that role, Br. Larry did much to cultivate benefactors whose generosity makes our work possible. Many of these benefactors continue to support our work.



▶ Mr. Luther Keith was a member of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Ministry Council. Two days before his death, Luther mailed a donation to the Soup Kitchen.



Donors Help CSK Serve

by Br. Tien Dinh OFM Capuchin
Assistant Executive Director

For over 95 years, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen has been a beacon of hope for Detroit's most vulnerable. None of this would be possible without the generosity of donors like you, who support our mission in countless ways.

Many events occur across metro Detroit yearly to benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. We are deeply grateful to all of our donors, whose unwavering



▲ Left, Br. Gary hoists his Star Trek cup while visiting with patrons at the Buddy's Slice for Life fundraiser.

support helps keep our mission alive. Thanks to your generosity, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen remains a place where hope is not just promised — it is served, one meal and one act of kindness at a time.

I hope to meet you at one of the special events listed on the back of Fr. Gary's letter.

Correction: We apologize for inadvertently leaving out the name of Roderick McIntosh, Jr., in the page 1 photo caption in the last issue.

School Supplies Drive

by Br. Fred Cabras, OFM Capuchin
Social Worker

School isn't out yet but we will be running our School Supplies Drive this summer. Please help us prepare our young people for success next school year. You can shop yourself using our list or visit Amazon using the QR code or link https://ofmcap.cc/CSK_SchoolSupplies. Peace and all good!



▲ Scan to help fill a backpack using Amazon

School Supplies List

Backpacks for K-8 grades	Child Safety Scissors	Loose-leaf Paper
#2 pencils, pkg.	Colored Markers	3-ring binder
Pink Eraser	Index Cards	Spiral Notebooks
Ballpoint pens	Colored pencils	Construction Paper
Pencil Sharpener	Pocket Folders	Scotch Tape
Calculator	Kleenex	Crayons
Hi-Lighters	Ruler	Glue Sticks & Elmers Glue

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN

CSK Conner Meal Site:
4390 Conner
Detroit, MI 48215
313-579-2100 ext. 4216

CSK Meldrum Meal Site:
1264 Meldrum
Detroit, MI 48207
313-579-2100 ext. 2205

Spiritual Care:
Offered at both CSK Conner & Meldrum Meal Program Sites
313-579-2100 ext. 2209

Capuchin Services Center:
6333 Medbury St
Detroit, MI 48211
313-925-1370

Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program:
4390 Conner
Detroit, MI 48215
313-579-2100 ext. 4224

On The Rise Bakery & Cafe:
1780 Mt Elliott St
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone: 313.922.8510

Earthworks Urban Farm:
1264 Meldrum St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-579-2100 Ext. 2204

Jefferson House:
8311 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48214
313-331-8900


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