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May, 2024

Dear Friends,

Spring is a season of hope and promise. At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, spring means looking forward to the many good things that will happen throughout the summer months. Among these are our various summer fundraisers. These include:

- **The 31st Annual Feast of St. Antonio** on Thursday, June 13. A portion of the proceeds from sales at the various Antonio's Restaurants is donated to the Soup Kitchen.
- **The 43rd Annual Ahee Souper Summer Celebration** on Saturday, June 1. Once again, Comerica Park will be the setting for this fundraising event.
- **The 31st Annual Benefit on the Bay** will be held on Friday, August 23. MacRay Harbor on Lake St. Clair is the setting for this beautiful event.
- **The 52nd Annual SOCK Dinner** will be held on Friday, October 25. The Icon - 200 Walker St in Detroit will be our new location this year.



▲ Capuchin Brothers Steve Kropp and Fred Cabras, celebrate the Feast of St. Antonio in appreciation for the support of Antonio's Restaurants.

So, mark your calendars! We are grateful to Antonio Rugiero, Stefan Ahee and the Ahee family, and Mike Schodowski, respectively, for sponsoring these events and to Joe & Rosalie Vicari, serving as the SOCK Dinner Chairs. These fundraising events and others provide significant support to the Soup Kitchen.

We also look forward to the Rosa Parks Summer Peace Camps held daily from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. This year's dates are:

- Monday, July 8 to Friday, July 12
- Monday, July 15 to Friday, July 19
- Monday, July 22 to Friday, July 26

The Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program also sponsors a Leadership Camp for Teenagers:

- Monday, August 19 to Friday, August 23



▲ Counselors work with children attending Peace Camp.

Over, Please

Dear Br. Gary & Br. Tien, Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, and their many ministries serving those most in need.

Payment Type: Check (Made payable to Capuchin Soup Kitchen)

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX (Your credit card statement will read Province of St. Joseph)

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Of course, our programs continue to operate normally throughout the summer months. The construction at our Meldrum Kitchen is proceeding at a decent pace. We hope to be fully utilizing the renovated space by November.

Peace and all good,

*Br. Gary Wegner*

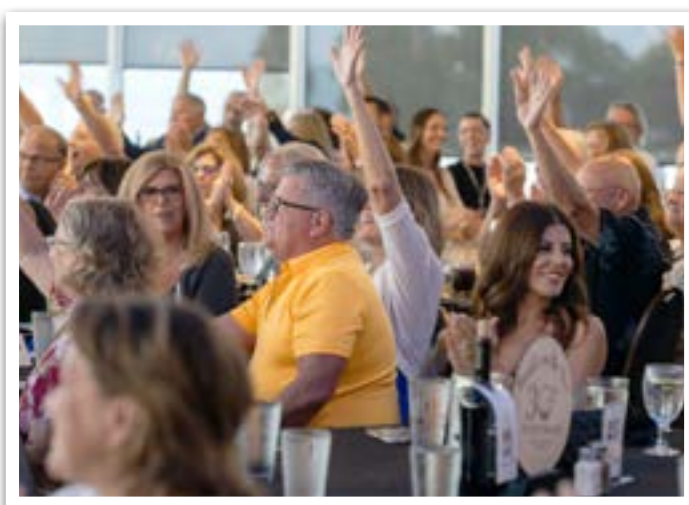
Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Cap.  
Executive Director



P.S. Despite the change of seasons, your support is always gratefully received. Please make a gift today to help us as we minister to our community.



▲ Capuchin Brothers Brendan Ertl and Tien Dinh enjoy meeting guests at the Annual Ahee Souper Summer Celebration in Comerica Park.



▲ People celebrate the Capuchins' ministry at Benefit on the Bay.



▲ Attendees at SOCK bid on auction items.



▲ Capuchin Brothers help clear the tables as SOCK wraps up for another year.

***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”***  
***- John 14:27***



## Silver Linings at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen

*Conner Kitchen, Earthworks Urban Farm & Rosa Parks Children & Youth Program Celebrate 25 Years of Service*

The Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program, Earthworks, and our Conner soup kitchen location are commemorating 25 years of ministry. The Capuchin Soup Kitchen prioritizes our guests' needs to nourish all who come to us. Our initiatives are influenced by the example set by St. Francis of Assisi, shaping our mission to stimulate intellectual growth, uplift spirits, and drive sustainable, impactful transformations. In celebrating our quarter century of service, we spoke with the Executive Director of Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Brother Gary Wegner, and Food Service and Hospitality Director Alison Costello.

Conner has established a strong presence in the community due to the commitment to keeping the doors open. Even during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to serve meals for takeout. Brother Gary was crucial in ensuring the soup kitchens operated smoothly for lunch takeout. As restrictions eased, we gradually reintroduced dinner service. Brother Gary expresses gratitude for this decision, as he witnessed families filling up the dining room last summer. The demand for assistance remains high in Detroit.

When Alison initially arrived at the Conner Site, she identified several areas for improvement. A significant portion of the meals served were pre-packaged. Recognizing the health challenges faced by many patrons, such as childhood

obesity, high blood pressure, gout, heart disease, and hypertension, she resolved to introduce a menu focused on clean, organic, low-sodium, and chemical-free food options.



▲ Alison Costello, Food Service & Hospitality Director oversees the meals at both Conner & Meldrum meal sites.

Understanding our guests' preferences, she ensured that healthy dishes like asparagus were grilled to perfection, catering to their palates. Drawing from her extensive experience in food retail, Alison played a pivotal role in elevating the standards of our meal sites. She identified the lack of recycling practices, prompting a discussion with former Friar Rick Samyn, the founder of Earthworks. As a result, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen now recycles all waste from both sites.

Earthworks is an exceptional program that provides abundant fresh food for our Meldrum kitchen, enabling us to offer our guests a delightful dining experience. While relying on pizza and French fries might be tempting, prioritizing nutritious meals is paramount.

Wendy Casey is the dedicated Earthworks Director. She and three other Earth workers employees have undergone comprehensive training through the program. Beyond its focus on growing food, Earthworks has cultivated a strong team, which Br. Gary commended.

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## 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



## Silver Soup Bowl Returns

by Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Capuchin  
Executive Director



Sometimes, what is old is new again. At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's 2023 SOCK Dinner, we brought back the tradition of presenting the Silver Soup Bowl Award. The Silver Soup Bowl was awarded annually by the Capuchin Charity Guild to a member of the Detroit Lions at the Annual Capuchin Football Dinner in the Fall and to a member of the Detroit Tigers at the Annual Spring Baseball Dinner (1943-1975). This was a way to say "Thank You" to the respective teams for participating in these fundraising events.



▲ Fr. Gary welcomes people to the annual SOCK dinner and auction.

We have revived the Silver Soup Bowl Award, albeit in a somewhat different form. In the Fall at the Annual Sock Dinner we presented the award to individuals or organizations that have provided exceptional support to the Mission of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen (Buddy's Pizza and the Van Elslander Foundation). At our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 24, 2024, we presented the Silver Soup Bowl Awards to the following individuals for their contributions as volunteers at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Amy Roth is a longtime volunteer at our Earthworks Urban Farm. Wendy Casey, the Director, noted that Amy has been an Earthworks volunteer for 5+

years. She consistently supports our cause of growing food sustainably for our community and restoring our connection to the environment. Her tireless efforts, steadfast dedication, and unwavering commitment have made a real difference.

Dorian Nash is another longtime volunteer. She serves at the Capuchin Services Center. Dorian works well with the workers provided by the Services to Enhance Potential (STEP) group as well as any additional groups that may be placed

in the clothing department. Dorian welcomes new tasks, such as searching for clothing for the shower program.

Melissa Hurley has been serving at the Conner Kitchen for many years. Melissa knows the names of virtually every guest who regularly comes to the Conner Kitchen. Melissa is great on the serving line but willing to help in any task. She is positive and cheerful. Melissa will offer suggestions to improve our services to our guests when asked.

Margie & Mark Coleman and Kris & Michele Nelson are joint recipients and longtime volunteers at the Meldrum Kitchen. The Colemans volunteer three days a week and the Nelson

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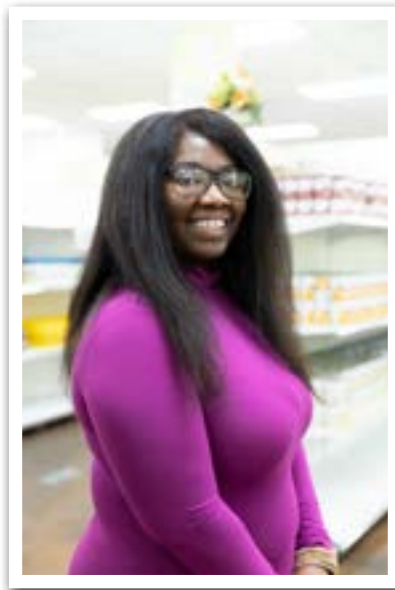
# Rosa Parks Alumni Return to Serve

The Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program has dedicated 25 years to fostering community well-being through initiatives such as art therapy, tutoring, and diverse events. As we celebrate our upcoming 25th anniversary, we pause to share some of the memories shared with us by our program's alumni. We took some time to connect with Kelsey Dinwiddie and Kamaria Norwood.

Kamaria, a Detroit native, participated in our program at a young age. The impactful experience allowed her to truly embrace her childhood through art therapy, gardening, tutoring, and connecting with other children. With a single mother and as the eldest child, she shouldered significant responsibility. Kamaria's dedication led her to graduate high school in 2016 and pursue social work at the University of Detroit Mercy. Now a social work intern at our service center, she is committed to making a difference in the community. Kamaria aims to continue her education and help those facing food insecurity.

Kelsey Dinwiddie joined the Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program at the age of 5, inspired by her brother's participation. She

recalls the valuable support she received through art therapy and tutoring. Her journey continued as she dedicated her time as a volunteer during her college years and worked with the Rosa Parks Peace Program in the summer of 2021.



▲ Kamaria Norwood smiles as she works in the Services Center.

Kelsey emphasizes the importance of gratitude and community engagement, citing the Capuchin Soup Kitchen as a profound influence. She treasures the connections she has made through the program and looks forward to new career opportunities in Chicago.

*“When it comes to creative spaces and learning environments being genuine is a must. The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is very genuine.”*  
– Kelsey Dinwiddie

We are delighted to receive

uplifting stories about our alumni. Witnessing their success illustrates the profound impact of the foundation we lay in their formative years. Thank you, Kelsey and Kamaria, for graciously sharing your experiences with us. We extend our best wishes as you continue on your journey.

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## Soup Bowl Returns

for two days a week. Dependable and reliable, they will take on any task that Chef Alison asks of them.

Marty Buchanan has been a volunteer with the Rosa Parks Children & Youth Program for over 6 years. Ms. Marty usually volunteers for our Friday library sessions. Ms. Marty makes lasting relationships with the Rosa Parks staff, students and families. She takes the time to get to know us all as individuals and she embodies the Soup Kitchen's principles.

Mary Ann Fox is one of three consistent



volunteers at our Bakehouse. Mary Ann is the unofficial “leader” of her group at the Bakehouse, often coming bi-weekly on Tuesdays. Mary Ann has perfected making Magic Bars for purchase at our On the Rise Café. She also serves breakfast and lunch at Conner on Thursdays.

In *Funny Girl*, Barbara Streisand sang “People who need people are the luckiest people in the world...” At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, our volunteers are the people we need to keep serving our guests. Congratulations to these recipients of the 2024 Silver Soup Bowl Award for Volunteers!

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## Silver Anniversaries at CSK

(Continued from pg. 1)

Br. Gary said, "We are proud to have expanded our growth beyond crops like char, carrots, beets, and strawberries. Our program has provided opportunities for individuals like Wendy, Tyler, Herb, and Daryl to develop their leadership skills and become integral parts of our team. It's



▲ Volunteers prepare fresh vegetables for the guests' meal.

truly inspiring to see this growth."

Earthworks is looking forward to reintroducing the EAT program and enhancing the farmer's markets.

### The Rosa Parks

Children and Youth Program is celebrated on page 3. Please make sure to read about it today.

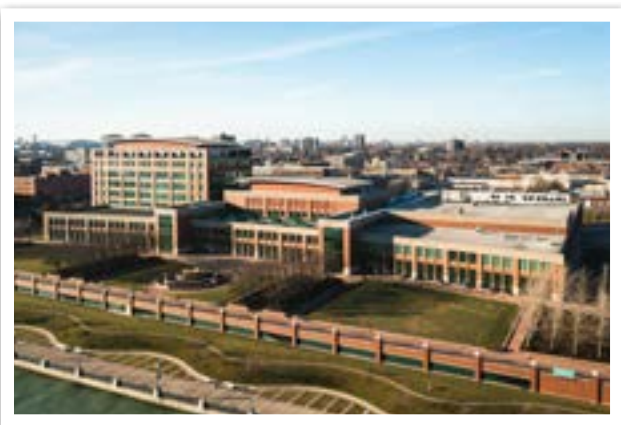
## Legacy = Memorial & Estate Gifts

People often ask us how to leave a legacy gift to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Legacy gifts are usually given after the donor's death. The two types of gifts we often receive after a donor passes are memorials and estate gifts.

**Memorial gifts** are gifts made in memory of someone. If you know you plan to do this, putting this in an advanced directive can take the stress off family members. When people make a memorial gift to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, we will also send a sympathy card to a family member, letting them know that their loved one is being remembered in the prayers of the Capuchin friars.

**Estate gifts** are made through a donor's will, life insurance policy, financial account, or trust. A gift to us through your estate plan would benefit countless people who greatly depend on our care. A gift of any size can make a difference. To learn more or to request a free copy of our booklet, Ten Secrets of Effective Estate Planning, call our office at (313) 579-2100 x185.

## SOCK has new date & location!



SOCK is a gala with excellent food, a silent auction, and a great venue. This year, we are holding SOCK at The Icon, 200 Walker Street, along the riverfront in Detroit. The new date is Friday, October 25, 2024! Please mark your calendars to join us then.

## 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  
313-331-8900

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 [Facebook.com/CapuchinSoupKitchen](https://www.facebook.com/CapuchinSoupKitchen)

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