



# Breaking Bread

Summer 2019

A Newsletter of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen  
1820 Mt. Elliott Street • Detroit, MI 48207

313-579-2100

[www.CSKDetroit.org](http://www.CSKDetroit.org)

## Capuchin Soup Kitchen recognized for program excellence



*Br. Jerry Johnson and Stevie Washington accept the Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence from Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan*

At the June meeting of its board, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan recognized the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with the 2019 Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence.

The Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence identifies a nonprofit that reflects Mr. Huegli's high standards in human services programming and belief in human potential. Huegli, who passed away in 1988, was an integral figure in the Detroit region's human services sector for nearly half a century, spending 42 years with United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, now part of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. He later helped to establish the Community Foundation for Southeast Michi-

gan and served as the Foundation's acting director in its first year of existence.

"Like the many wonderful non-profit organizations in the region, we resonate with Mr. Huegli's belief in human potential," says Brother Jerry Johnson, Capuchin Friar. "Working together with others, we try not to think of someone in need as a case to be solved, but as a sister or brother to be listened to and cared for. We are humbled by so many people working together to support our sisters and brothers with their short and long-term dreams and goals."

# *Notes from Brother Jerry*

## **Responding to the needs of the times, with compassion and love**

With a view to the context of 800 years in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, we continue to take a look back at the 90 years of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Today, our Jefferson House Program for formerly homeless men seeking to reclaim their lives from addiction is under the very skilled and caring hands of manager Amy Kinner along with Don Benner and the rest of the Jefferson House staff. The length of the program (6 - 9 months), the skill of the treatment (C.A.R.F. accredited treatment program), and the caring community that pervades the entire program are central features that assist the men in the program to make progress on issues that have been covered up by addiction for so many years. The concepts for the Jefferson House program go clear back to the late 1960s: a time when caring people were considering creative ways to support others by addressing underlying issues that contributed to suffering.



*Jefferson House*

Responding to the needs of the times, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen began to expand its services. In 1970, the soup kitchen hired professional counselors, organized neighborhood youth activities, and started self-help groups. Friars such as Albert Sandor, Rock Janowski, Ignatius Milne, and Philip Naessens helped rehab a nearby house and used it as a half-way house program called “Meldrum Manor” for men coming out of prison. Because the building was in such poor condition, this program of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen was reorganized in 1976 into “Jefferson House” at its current location at the corner of East Jefferson Avenue and Seminole Street.



*Meldrum Manor*



*Br. Bob Skeris*

Sue Lane and Bob Skeris were the main designers of the program. At this time in the history of the Province of St. Joseph, friars were getting more specialized training for ministries. Br. Bob had a master's in social work and Br. Joe Monachino was trained at Hazelden and holds a Master's in Clinical Psychology. Current manager Amy Kinner LMSW CAADC, continues this line of trained professionalism continues this line of trained professionalism and combines the Franciscan values of recognition of the uniqueness of each person with a deep respect for human dignity. As a former Jefferson House resident remarked: “They love us until we learn to love ourselves.” My appreciation goes out to the thousands of people who, one way or another, have helped shape this program of healing and recovery.



# “Christ has no hands but yours”

*Chaplains provide spiritual support, accompanying guests*



*Capuchin Soup Kitchen chaplain Br. Bob Malloy used this statue of the risen Jesus, with hands missing, as a reminder that each of us is called to serve as the hands of Jesus*

“Brother Bob, you’re everywhere,” said a guest at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with a smile. Br. Bob Malloy, with a twinkle in his eye, smiled broadly, then quietly returned the greeting. Brother Bob, along with all of the chaplains at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen sites, it seems, really is everywhere.

The chaplains at the Soup Kitchen are present for guests, walking with them on their journey, working to lift them up. The chaplains listen, counsel and offer to pray with and for guests of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Never proselytizing, but always there to comfort and help.

On Wednesdays at the Meldrum meal site, Br. Bob convenes a prayer service for those who wish to spend some time in worship and prayer. It’s not a Catholic Mass, rather it’s the Word, hymns and a reflection from Br. Bob. The service is highly interactive, with guests invited to share in the celebration. On this day the Gospel reading for the day is about the risen Jesus walking with his disciples on the road to Emmaus. None of the disciples recognize Jesus until they sit down at a meal and Jesus breaks the bread. At that point, the disciples recognize Jesus and are amazed. Br. Bob relates to how sometimes we don’t recognize Jesus in our midst, but that even when we feel beaten down, we walk with God.

Br. Bob then shows a small statue of the risen Jesus. The hands are broken off. Br. Bob shares that the

statue serves for him as a reminder of a phrase attributed to St. Teresa of Avila: “Christ has no hands but yours.” Each of us is called to be the hands of Jesus in the world.

Through the good work of the friars, staff, volunteers and benefactors, the hands of Jesus helped Thomas, a guest attending the prayer service this day. Thomas came to the Soup Kitchen for a meal after facing difficult circumstances. The emergency assistance team referred him to temporary housing through the Neighborhood Services Organization, then to permanent housing. Finally, through Street Outreach Court Detroit held at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Meldrum site, Thomas was able to get his driver’s license reinstated. This opened the door to finding work.



Part of the ministry of the Soup Kitchen is working with guests like Thomas to build self-esteem and undo years of being told by society: “you’ll never amount to anything.” The chaplains recognize the human dignity of every individual and work to build up what the world has torn down. At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, to serve means more than just food. It also means delivering spiritual food, respecting the dignity of the individual, building relationships and regenerating the connective tissues that make up the social fabric of our communities.

*Note: the names of guests have been altered to protect their anonymity.*

# Earthworks, Keep Growing Detroit collaborate to spread urban agriculture across city of Detroit



Soup Kitchen, once again worked in collaboration with Keep Growing Detroit to distribute seedlings to urban gardens and farms throughout the city of Detroit as part of the Garden Resource Program. Over the course of two, three-day distributions, tens of thousands of seedlings, ranging from broccoli to tomatoes, were distributed. About 40 percent of the distributed plants are grown with love at the Earthworks greenhouse adjacent to the Meldrum meal site. Each of those plants typically yields at least one pound of fresh vegetables.

“It’s about listening to what Detroiters need in order to be able to connect with the land and start growing food,” said Ashley Atkinson, executive director of

Keep Growing Detroit. “The Garden Resource Program currently supports just over 1,600 gardens and farms across the city, engaging about 25,000 residents.” This represents the largest coordinated urban agriculture effort in the United States.

More than that, it’s also about building community. “We see many of the same people every year,” said Patrick Crouch, farm manager of Earthworks Urban Farm. “The Garden Resource Program brings people together to connect and be part of something bigger than themselves.” The Garden Resource Program is a growing movement toward building a sustainable agricultural economy, built by and for Detroiters.



# A handful of time

## By Anthony Yousef



Why do I like volunteering at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen?

Volunteering is important for numerous reasons that benefit both the community and the volunteers themselves. When someone donates a handful of time, the difference made is tremendous and it shapes a community

for the better while the experience improves the person who donated the time.

Volunteering is what makes a community because it brings people together to work on a goal. Whether it is a fundraiser for the research to cure a disease that affects the whole world, or to help a local family that has fallen in a time of calamity, volunteers make it happen. Community life is improved by aiding others and lending a helping hand to get a job done more effectively.

Donating time now will also aid in the future. Volunteering strengthens present skills and also shows an employer that an effort has been made to make an improvement. Such skills include communication skills, the ability to work with others, the ability to take direction and lead others, dedication and time management.

These are just a few reasons why volunteering is important. Not only does volunteering bring hope and happiness to people, but it also leads to spiritual and personal growth. It is an experience that cannot be bought with any amount of money.



### Employment Opportunities Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph - [thecapuchins.org](http://thecapuchins.org)

Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of St. Joseph together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to the spiritual and other basic needs, especially those of the poor and disenfranchised, promoting justice for all.

#### Visit:

[thecapuchins.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities](http://thecapuchins.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities)

**"I have two loves: the sick and the poor?"**

Fr. Solanus Casey, Capuchin



# Calendar of Events



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events supporting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Please note that in the spring 2019 edition of Breaking Bread, an incorrect date was given for Benefit on the Bay. The correct date is Friday, August 23, 2019. We regret the error.

## 26th Annual Benefit on the Bay

Friday, August 23, 2019

5:30pm – 11:00pm



*Speed painter Dave Santa executes a portrait at the 2018 Benefit on the Bay*

## MacRay Harbor

30675 N. River Rd., Harrison Township, MI 48045

Join the Capuchin friars for appetizers, dinner, beer and wine, entertainment, dancing, a live and silent auction as well as live speed painting by Dave Santa, all unfolding at the 26th Annual Benefit on the Bay! The emcee for the evening is Jay Towers of FOX 2 and 100.3 WNIC.

Tickets are \$75 and includes complimentary valet parking.

Visit [www.benefitonthebay.org](http://www.benefitonthebay.org) for more information. Advance tickets by calling Shelving, Inc. at (248) 852-8600 or [shelving.com](http://shelving.com). Or call Capuchin Development at (313) 579-2100, ext 153.

## 47th SOCK (Support Our Capuchin Kitchen)

### Dinner

Friday, September 27, 2019

5:30pm – 11:00pm



*SOCK Chairs Maria and Ray Scott serving at the Meldrum meal site*

## Cobo Center

Grand Riverview Ballroom

One Washington Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226

Join Brother Jerry and the Capuchin friars for a beautiful gala celebration with spectacular views of the Detroit River, all benefitting the Soup Kitchen. As the Capuchin Soup Kitchen marks 90 years of service, the Soup Kitchen is pleased to announce Maria and Ray Scott are our 2019 SOCK Dinner Chairs! Ray Scott is president, chief executive officer and a director of Lear Corporation. More information, tickets and sponsorship packages are available by visiting [www.sockdinner.org](http://www.sockdinner.org) or by calling (313) 579-2100



The signature auction item is a “When in Rome” travel package courtesy of Lear Corporation and Corporate Travel, Inc. valued at \$16,000. The package includes:

- Four nights in a 1,500 sq. ft. luxury Rome apartment
- \$4,000 flight voucher
- Private Mass at St. Peter's Basilica
- Cooking class with a master chef
- Special seating for a Wednesday audience with Pope Francis
- Private tours of the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's with renowned art historian Dr. Elizabeth Lev
- Lunch at Villa Leticia, residence of the Fendi design family
- And much more!

For more information on this and other exclusive auction items up for bid this year, visit [www.sockdinner.org](http://www.sockdinner.org).

## 28th Annual Souperbowl

Sunday October 27 2019 - Noon to 7 PM

Location: Century Banquet Center

33204 Maple Lane Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Further info call: 586-573-4121-586-751-3575- 586-776-7954