



The Father McKenna

C E N T E R I N C



MEETING NEEDS . . . RECLAIMING LIVES

Slow Miracles . . . Making a Difference

June 2015 Issue

Inside this Issue

- Pg. 2 The Impact of Donated Goods and Services
- Pg. 2 FMC Wish List
- Pg. 3 Volunteer Spotlight
- Pg. 3 Guest Spotlight
- Pg. 3 The McKenna Mass
- Pg. 4 President's Notes

The Father McKenna Center
 19 Eye St NW, Washington DC 20001
 202-842-1112
www.fathermckennacenter.org
 CFC Charity # 32524

Like The Father McKenna Center on Facebook!



The Father McKenna
 C E N T E R I N C

Board of Directors

- Gerry Nolan, Chairman
- Jerry O'Neill, Vic-Chair
- Kevin Curtin, Treasurer
- Lisa Ryan, Secretary
- Rev. David Bava
- Geoffrey Brown
- William Douglass
- Mary Forde
- Ruth Hildenberger
- Walter Hill
- Harry Kettmer
- Rev. Gaspar LoBiondo, SJ
- Maureen McCarty
- Michael Onufrychuk
- Rev. Stephen Planning, SJ
- Mark Ruge
- Peggy Still
- Paul Warren
- Fred Henry Zimmerman

Kimberly Cox
 President

Board Approves New Mission Statement To Better Serve Our Guests

“When I arrived at the Father McKenna Center I learned that there was not a clear statement of vision, values and mission for the agency. Our work spoke for itself, but to engage the Board, foundation partners and our donors I felt it was important to have a Mission Statement that clearly defines us and what we do,” reflected Kim Cox, the FMC President.



Through the winter and spring a committee of Board Members worked with Dr. Cox to reflect on what we do, why we do it and the inspiration for our service of the poor and homeless who count on us each day.

“The Board of Directors enthusiastically supports the efforts of the Father McKenna Center team to better serve our neighbors who rely on us each day,” commented Gerry Nolan, chairman of the FMC Board.

To read the new Vision, Mission and Values Statements, please turn to Page 4.

In the coming months the Center and the Board will be drawing special attention to the new Vision, Mission and Values, and building our services to fully implement the Mission and Vision.

Help Us Double Your Gift

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, as part of a \$25,000 grant award has challenged the Father McKenna Center to raise \$10,000 in general support from our regular donors.

Any gift made in response to this newsletter will actually be doubled. Your gift will be matched by the Cafritz Foundation challenge match grant.

All you have to do to help us is return the enclosed reply card with your gift, and we can count it toward the match!

Thank you!

Meeting Needs ... Reclaiming Lives: Donated Goods Impact the FMC

“I gave a whole bag of clothing to the Father McKenna Center. But what did they do with it?”

“My parish collects food for the Father McKenna Center each month. What do they do with the food?”

Very real questions - with real answers.

During any year FMC receives more than 500 bags of donated clothing. The men we serve come in all sizes, so donated clothing, in all sizes, is appreciated.

Clothing donated to the Center is sorted by volunteers according to size and type so the men can “shop” efficiently for what they need and want.

On alternate Tuesdays the guests of the Father McKenna Center go shopping in our clothing room, selecting what they want from what has been donated. We supplement the donated clothing with purchases of items that we need in great quantities (new underwear, socks, etc.). Each shopping day sees 50 men select clothing that they need, whether it is simply a change of clothes, or clothes for a job interview or a new job.

The donated food is sorted by where, within our program, it will do the most good. Most donated foods are distributed to the people in the community through our Food Pantry. But occasionally the packages are too large for the use of our Pantry patrons, so it is added to the larder in the FMC kitchen, to become part of the meals we serve. In our Day Program the Father McKenna Center serves about 70 breakfasts daily and



Volunteers (Jodie Rohrer[left] and Elizabeth Gilmore) sort some of the several tons of clothes donated to the Father McKenna Center each year.

55-60 Middy Meals each day. The Food Pantry supports some 30,000 meals each year. That means your donated food is part of providing more than 55,000 meals to residents of the District of Columbia.

Last year we saw that the donated food and clothing made a significant impact on our ability to meet the needs of those we serve. The FMC could not afford to purchase the clothing and food that is donated. It was estimated that more than \$120,000 of food was donated, and we can only “guess” the value of the clothing that people bring to share. It has to be worth more than \$25,000.

So, next time you think of donating a bag of clothes or a bag of groceries, please know that it will be put to good use and make a difference for those we serve every day!

Indeed, your gifts, whether financial or in-kind, help to change lives at the Father McKenna Center!

Monthly McKenna Mass

Who: Friends of the Father McKenna Center

What: A Monthly Home Mass

When: 2nd Thursday of the Month, 2 PM

Where: Home of James and Janet Walsh
5025 Yorktown Blvd, Arlington, VA

Why: To support the works of the
Father McKenna Center

Attendees make a free will offering for our work.

Please join us!

Please call Janet at (703) 534-3152 if you can join us.

Father McKenna Center Wish List

The Father McKenna Center relies on the generous support of the community to provide our services to the homeless and very low income families who seek our assistance. Below is a partial list of items you can donate to assist us. For more information, please visit our website:

www.fathermckennacenter.org

Food Items

Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Cereal Rice Pasta
Canned Tomatoes / Sauce
Canned Tuna and Chicken
Meal Packets
(e.g. Hamburger Helper)
Canned Soups

To make a donation, please call FMC (202-842-1112) to alert us that you are coming. We will assist you to bring your contribution into the Center.

Clothing

Our primary need is for men’s casual clothing. With summer weather upon us we need:

- Casual slacks & jeans
- Shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Underwear (new, please)
- Socks (particularly white)
- Shoes

If you have suits and sports coats to donate, please call Strive DC at 202-484-1264

Volunteer Spotlight

Stone Ridge Social Action

Twice each month students from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda spend several hours working alongside our kitchen and Food Pantry staff to better serve the men facing homelessness and low income families who rely on us. They come as part of their Social Action program – a commitment to work among the needy in the community.

In 2014-2015 we worked with Alanah Quinn, Sofia Keane, Paula Jiminez, Gianni Childs and Elizabeth Young. They bring very willing spirits and young hearts to serve those who depend on the Father McKenna Center.

“The work I did at the Father McKenna Center for Stone Ridge’s Social Action Program was some of the most formative and enriching work I’ve ever done. Being able to work with my peers in a setting that allowed me to directly interact and give back to individuals in my community was an unique and wonderful experience that I value greatly,” reflected one of the students.



Gonzaga students serve lunch twice each week at FMC.

Guest Profile

André Smith

“Music is my passion and has always been a central part of my life. But I have also been a functional addict for many years,” reflected André Smith, a regular visitor to the Father McKenna Center.

André is a proud member of *Praz Boszanova*, a DC-based all-original group of musicians, led by Abdul Taawab. Andre’s instrument is his amazing voice. *Praz Boszanova* is working with DC leaders to encourage youth to end bullying.

“I am a DC native, and a graduate of Federal City College. My father was a postal clerk and I wanted to follow in his footsteps, but an injury forced me to leave USPS. And then the death of my younger brother led me into a deep depression. Homelessness has been a struggle for me over the past 15 years. I will have a place, then lose it. But the Father McKenna Center is offering me real hope. Cortez’s ‘tough love’ approach has been just right for me—it has struck a chord and I am beginning to make some real positive changes in my life. I am really grateful that the Father McKenna Center is here to offer real help to those in need.”



The McKenna Mass: *Friends Supporting Us in Prayer and Deed*

Since the 1970’s a group of FOH’s (*Friends of Horace McKenna*) have gathered each month for a home Mass.

Fr. McKenna was the presider in the earliest of days, spending an evening with his friends and supporters, who helped him carry on his ministry to the poor in the neighborhoods near St. Aloysius Parish.



“We initially gathered because people were inspired by Fr. McKenna. We have stuck together over many years because we believe in what Father McKenna taught us—it is by our love for the poor that we shall be known. The people who come each month want to be connected to Father McKenna and the good works that he has inspired,” commented Janet Walsh, the hostess for the monthly gathering today.

When Fr. McKenna passed away, the group turned to Gonzaga and the Father McKenna Center to maintain the monthly Mass. For many years Fr. Ray Lelii, SJ, was the presider. And for the last several years Fr. Joe McCloskey, has been the spiritual leader of the group.

To join the group, please see the posting opposite this article.

From the desk of

Kimberly Cox, FMC President

Dear Friends,

I have just completed my first six months as President of the Father McKenna Center. With each day I am gaining greater and greater appreciation and respect for all the Fr. Horace McKenna SJ accomplished – he is my inspiration. In fact, Fr. Horace serves as the inspiration for so many of us, including the staff, volunteers, and in particular the Board of Directors.



I am pleased to present to you the new Vision, Values and Mission Statements for the Father McKenna Center, developed and adopted by the Board of Directors. In this new Mission Statement I believe the Board has captured the charisma of Fr. McKenna. It will both guide and inspire our work for years to come.

Over the past six months, the staff has accomplished a great deal and I am very proud of the work they have done and the impact they have on the lives of men struggling with homelessness and families in our neighborhood facing poverty.

Our Food Pantry Team received and shelved over 22,000 non perishable food items. 295 different families came through the food Pantry in the last six months and they took home 1,320 bags of groceries that make up parts of 17,600 meals. Two computer technology classes have been completed, providing 18 of our guests with certificates in Windows 7, Microsoft Office Suite, and internet safety protocol (v2).

During the Hypothermia Program, staff supported thirty-three men as they journey toward stability.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision:

People who struggle with poverty and homelessness will have access to the resources they need to create and sustain lives of stability, productivity, meaning and hope.

Mission:

To accompany and care for families struggling with poverty and men facing homelessness by providing food, shelter, clothing and services to support their journey toward stability, productivity, meaning and hope, building upon the good works, ideals and values of Father Horace McKenna, S.J.

Values:

We believe that all persons are made in the image and likeness of God and as such deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

We believe that people who struggle with poverty and homelessness deserve access to material, spiritual and support resources that will lead to stability and meaning in their lives.

We believe that the wider community should embrace and support people who struggle with poverty and homelessness to ensure access to the resources necessary to reduce or eliminate these conditions.

73% of the participants reached one or more of their goals to find housing, employment, reconnect with family or educational attainment.

Father McKenna preached courageously on the need to change the structures that lead to poverty and homelessness. He recognized the importance of forming hearts and minds as part of this process. We continue his efforts in this area through our Immersion Service Learning Program. In the past six months, 130 college or high school students have spent a week at the Center, living here, meeting and getting to know our guests, helping out in the Food Pantry. Each one of them shares the same feeling of being forever changed by this experience.

It is both humbling and invigorating to look over the past six months to see that the amazing staff and volunteers are carrying out the good works, ideals and values of Fr. Horace McKenna, SJ.