



The Father McKenna

C E N T E R I N C



MEETING NEEDS . . . RECLAIMING LIVES

Slow Miracles . . . Making a Difference

June 2019 Issue

Inside this Issue

Pg. 2 - Volunteer Spotlight

Pg. 2 - Guest Spotlight

Pg. 3 - The New Father

McKenna Center

Pg. 4 - President's Notes

Pg. 4 - Farewell to Andrew & Nayeli

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, Chair
Kevin Curtin, Treasurer
Mary Forde, Secretary
Steve Backes
Rev. David Bava
Geoffrey Brown
William Douglass
Gary Grandchamp
Walter Hill
Harry Kettmer
Rev. Gaspar LoBiondo, SJ
Lauren Malone
Maureen McCarty
Joyce Montemayor
Jerry O'Neill
Michael Onufrychuk
Rev. Stephen Planning, SJ
Lisa Ryan
Peggy Still
Paul Warren
Fred Henry Zimmerman
Kelsey Zimmerman
Kimberly Cox
President

3rd Annual Walk for McKenna

Saturday, September 14, 2019 @ 8:00 am

The Father McKenna Center will host the 3rd Annual Walk for McKenna on Saturday, September 14, 2019.

The Walk benefits the Hypothermia / Transition Program at the Center, which helps up to 18 men at a time with a guaranteed bed at night and an intensive program of Case Management to end his homelessness. Each year the Center's Hypothermia / Transition Program has a track record of 70-75% success rate, helping men reach their goals of a job, housing and other major steps to end their experience of homelessness.



The Walk is a 5K stroll along the streets that Fr. Horace McKenna, SJ "patrolled" on his regular walks to help his "beloved poor" in the neighborhoods that made up St. Aloysius Parish. After the Walk the Center will host a continental breakfast on Eye St, and tours of the Center's renovations will be available.

You can register by returning the enclosed Walk for McKenna reply card, or by visiting The Father McKenna Center's website (www.fathermckennacenter.org).

Registration is \$30 per person, and includes the breakfast and a t-shirt to commemorate the event.

A Few Good Women and Men Needed

The Father McKenna Center relies on the generous work of many volunteers. Can you help us?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	zFriday
Breakfast Servers	Clothing Closet		Breakfast Servers	
Midday Meal Servers	Midday Meal Servers	Midday Meal Servers	Reception Desk	
			Shower Monitor	

To offer your service, please contact Ned Hogan via email at nhogan@fathermckennacenter.org.

Breakfast Service - 7:45 - 9:00 am / Midday Meal Service - 11:45 - 12:30 pm
Clothing Closet - 9:00 - 11:00 am on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month
Reception Desk - 8:00 am - 1:00 pm / Shower Monitor - 8:00 - 10:00 am

Volunteer Spotlight

Joe Cella & Keith Frederick



On the first and third Tuesday of each month you can find Joe Cella, a Gonzaga Class of 1966 alumnus9081. and Keith Frederick, a former Gonzaga

Dad, helping out with the Father McKenna Center's Clothing Distribution Program.

Most weeks Joe staffs the underwear, socks and toiletries closet, and Keith is the "check-out man."

Joe commented, "I've been coming for about three years. I keep coming because this is one of the most meaningful things I do! I get to speak with the men as they gather the clothing, and I have come to understand that they face great challenges. And I admire the FMC staff for their compassion and persistent service of these men."

Keith reflected, "I do this because I have come to realize that many of these men face much greater challenges than I knew. I respect them, and I know that we are making a difference for those we serve."

We need additional volunteers to staff the clothing distribution program. Your commitment is two hours once or twice per month (9 am to 11 am). If you can help, please email Ned Hogan at nhogan@fathermckennacenter.org.

Save the Date 2nd Annual Lessons & Carols



Wednesday, December 18, 2019

7:00 pm

St. Aloysius Church

**Reception to follow in
The Father McKenna Center**

"I have really been homeless since I was 18 years old - that's nearly 30 years!" Alusaine Davies came to the US from Sierra Leone with his father in 1982 as a 12-year-old. "I completed high school and was living at 2nd & D Street shelter. Then I got in trouble with the law, and was in prison, and then in detention as an immigrant. I was almost deported in 2005. While in prison and later in detention I learned a skill - to paint walls and to help with other handyman chores.

Guest Spotlight



Alusaine Davies

Alusaine was staying at the New York Avenue shelter several years ago, when someone told him about The Father McKenna Center. "I came because I could get food, but Mr. Cortez was willing to help me. I am now a legal resident and I live in a SRO (single room occupancy boarding house), but will soon have a place of my own."

Alusaine continued, "Mr. Cortez speaks the truth. He doesn't sugar coat anything and he told me to take responsibility for myself. I learned to work Cortez's Pyramid, and it has led me to a really good place. I have opened my first bank account and I am ready to build a real life for myself. I owe it all to Cortez and to his care for me and others."

Father McKenna Center Wish List

The Father McKenna Center relies on the generous support of the community to provide our services to men who are 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 Baked Beans (18 oz. or smaller)
- Maple Syrup (in 16 oz. size or smaller)
- Canned Chicken or Tuna (12 oz or smaller)
- Jelly (in plastic containers)

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 need is for men's casual clothing.

With warmer weather upon us, we need:

- Shorts, T-Shirts, Polos
- Light jackets, Shoes and Sneakers
- Socks (particularly white)

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

A Slow Miracle - A 'New' Father McKenna Center Takes Shape

The leadership of the Father McKenna Center has been planning and working toward a major renovation of the Lower Church space at St. Aloysius for several years.

In April 2018 we launched *The Slow Miracles Campaign* to raise \$4,500,000 to underwrite those renovations and program enhancements that will increase the effectiveness of The Father McKenna Center to change lives for the men and families we serve each day.



Above: New Bathrooms - 4 stalls and 4 urinals for men and 3 stalls for women!



Above - One of the new offices. All offices have windows into the program spaces and into the staff corridor.

In February 2019 construction began. Phase 1 was to install new bathrooms and showers and to construct a Program Space.

On May 31 Corbett Construction delivered the bathrooms, Program Space and several offices. This will allow the Center to continue operating while the next phase occurs this summer. Phase 2 will complete most of the office suite and develop much of the new Dining Room. Phase 2 should be complete by

late summer. Additional phases will complete the new offices, and update the main reception area, including a new computer lab.

Kim Cox invites any of our supporters to come for a "hard hat tour" of the facility to see the progress being made. "Hard Hat Tours" will be available on Tuesday, June 25 at 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm and on Monday, July 1 at 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm. To sign-up for one of the tours, or to arrange a personal tour, email Ned Hogan at nhogan@fathermckennncenter.org.

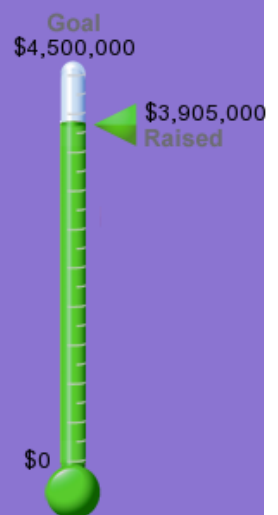
How You Can Help Make the New Father McKenna Center a Reality

During 2019 the Father McKenna Center is conducting the "Slow Miracles Campaign" to raise \$4,500,000 to underwrite the renovations of the Lower Church at St. Aloysius and to enhance the programming, through additional counselling and small group activities for the men with whom we work.

You can make a gift. Simply mark the enclosed replay card that you want your gift to go to the Slow Miracles Campaign.

You can make a one-time gift, or a pledge to be paid over three years.

Every gift helps!



As of 5/29/19



From the desk of

Kimberly Cox, FMC President

As I write this note we are leaving spring and heading into summer. For me, spring is all about new life, hope, the 'greening' of the trees with new leaves, crops are planted and..... spring cleaning. Growing up spring cleaning was an important ritual and dreaded task: move everything, sort everything, de-clutter and give things a fresh look if you can.

The renovations of the Center, which began in February, feel like perpetual spring cleaning: we are moving things, sorting, de-cluttering and attaining a fresh look. This has been a marvelous and, at the same time, stressful process. Everyone has been effected by the construction – Food Pantry patrons have reduced waiting room and shelf space; guests in the Day Program experience nearly constant noise, dust and disruption; volunteers also face the noise and dust and uncertainty as the layout of the building changes; staff members have moved into temporary offices – some of them have now moved twice! Through all of this, everyone has been gracious, flexible and supportive. One of our guests, Gary D. was looking at the new program space and said, "This is a really fine project. I see what you are trying to do." Men continue to come to the Center through all the disruption because they recognize that we are here regardless of the conditions to help them move forward.

Now that Phase 1 is complete, I think we are all relaxing because we can see genuine results. The new program space is beautiful and uplifting. The bathrooms are more than adequate and the shower room is much improved. These things alone can help to raise a man's dignity and self-respect. Everyone agrees that so far, this has been worth the inconvenience.

It will take three more phases to bring the project to completion. I believe the new spaces, designed for services will truly lift people up to a better life. Through this process the words from one of my favorite hymns have been running through my head: "Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live..." It is my prayer that The Father McKenna Center continues to be a place where all are welcome and will find safety, stability and healing on the journey to a better life.



A Year of Service - A Year of Growth

Last August Andrew Scarlott and Nayeli Garcia joined The Father McKenna Center team as full-time volunteers. Andrew has been a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Nayeli is a member of the Franciscan Mission Service.

While they will continue with us through the end of July, we want to publicly say Thank You to them. They have been vital members of our team this year, and have adjusted to the challenges of the construction along with the rest of us

Andrew has had the lead on the Food Pantry - ordering, picking up and stocking the Pantry. And each day he has coordinated volunteers to help with the smooth operation of the Food Pantry. The has also helped out in many other ways around the Center. He reflected, "My time at the Father McKenna Center as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps staff member has been an incredible experience. This Center does an amazing job in helping

those less fortunate. The Center's ability to guide homeless men to make a fresh start and to help feed the hungry was visible each and every day."

Nayeli has been responsible for the Clothing Closet - sorting, keeping inventory and coordinating volunteers and operating a small "clothing store." In addition, she



has been responsible for the Mail Program here at the Center. She said of her experience, "The big takeaway from this year is the relationships I've cultivated during my time at the McKenna Center. It was a rough start since I am an introvert, but my job pushed me to be more social and outgoing. The men who come to the center are not what we think of, they are human beings like us who are also figuring out what to do with their life. By simply saying hi or being a listener can make a difference."

Thank you to Andrew and Nayeli for a great year!