



Summer Updates

Mission Moment - Our Partnerships



The Center has enjoyed many partnerships over the years. They expand our reach and we benefit from the experience and support of others who serve our guests. One of our newest collaborations is with the McKenna Academy and Catholic Charities and the Financial Stability Network (FSN). Together, we are helping the men of the Academy gain important financial literacy skills. Academy members have the chance to open bank accounts and we are delighted that a donor is helping to make small deposits in these accounts, so the men can learn important money management skills. These funds can be used towards application fees and down payments on apartments. FSN is also providing mentors for the men to help them develop the skills they need to be smart consumers. We are grateful to Deacon Jim Shanahan at FSN for his support and interest in the Academy.

Upcoming Events



Walk4McKenna

Join us on Saturday, September 10th at 8:00 am for the 6th Annual Walk4 McKenna. It's a chance to "walk in the footsteps of Fr. McKenna" and raise funds to help support our mission. Together we can help men experiencing homelessness and families that experience food insecurity.

If you are walking in person, you can pick up your t-shirt on the day of the walk. If you are walking virtually, register soon, so we can mail your shirt!

[Register](#)

Updates



Coaches Day of Service

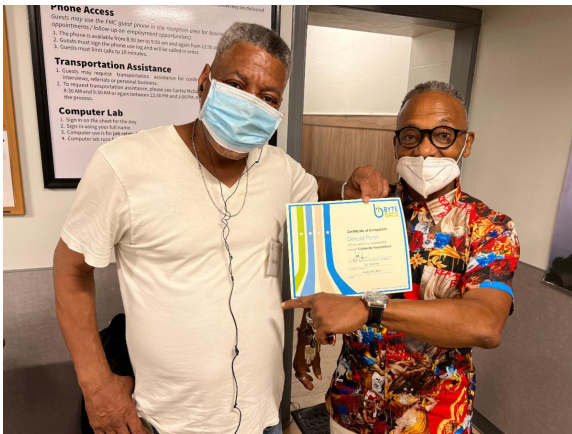
We welcomed Gonzaga Assistant Head of Student Life – Jim Kilroy and twelve coaches for the first ever “Coaches Day of Service.” We are grateful for their help serving meals and helping guests of the Center and Food Pantry. The men greatly enjoyed the talk the coaches gave on the qualities of leadership they seek to instill in the boys who are on their teams.

Meet David, our 22-23 Full-Time Volunteer!

We have been assigned one Jesuit Volunteer Corps member, David Bukowski. He is originally from Huntingdon, PA, and is a recent graduate of Lafayette College. He enjoys playing soccer and practicing the harpsichord, organ and piano. David started at the Center yesterday. David is "thrilled to be a member of the McKenna team. This community exudes such kindness, care and solidarity in the spirit of Father McKenna." Welcome David, we're grateful you're here!



Program Impacts



The McKenna Academy is the newest initiative of The Father McKenna Center. We provide intensive supports to men and offer classes in digital literacy, financial literacy as well as courses on health and well-being and recidivism prevention. It's hard work and we're grateful for the men who attend. We have added enriching field trips on Fridays, which are greatly enjoyed by the men. Outings include museum and library visits and even a trip to the Zoo.

Pictured here is one of the Academy members, Gerald. We partner with Byte Back, an organization dedicated to closing the digital divide. Gerald graduated from his first session in Byte Back's



In July, we celebrated the contributions of our three Full Time Volunteers as they completed their year of service through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and the Franciscan Mission Service. Lauren, Alex and Chris have been great colleagues and integral to our work. We are extremely grateful for their dedication,

program and learned the basics of email and internet searches. He even sent our case managers an email showing off his hard work. Coming to class every single week since May has paid off. Congrats Gerald!

hard work and kindness. They made an incredible impact on the Center. They will be truly missed!

Message from Dan

Friends,

As a longtime educator the last weeks of August were always bittersweet. Like the students, I lamented the end of summer vacation, but I also was excited about a new school year and freshness and momentum that accompanies each September. Next week we participate in Gonzaga's Orientation Activities. On Tuesday, we will share McKenna Center programs with Sophomores and Juniors and on Wednesday, we will host the newest Eagles as the Freshman tour the Center and hear from staff. It will be an exciting time for us and for the boys as we all begin a new school year on Eye Street.

Recently, we welcomed a dozen Gonzaga coaches for the first Coaches Day of Service. Organized by Jim Kilroy, the Assistant Headmaster for Student Life, coaches from a variety of sports spent the day with us; serving meals and working in the Clothing Closet and Food Pantry. Some coaches presented at the 11:00 meeting about the qualities of leadership they hope to foster in Gonzaga boys. The men seemed very receptive, and we are discussing ways we can continue this relationship.

The Academy continues to move forward. We are pleased with the program we are offering the men and one of the highlights of the Academy has been "Field Trip Friday." We have organized outings to the National Portrait Gallery, the MLK Library to get library cards, to the Zoo and two trips to the beach. We see these outings as a reward and incentive for regular attendance at the Academy, but these trips broaden men's horizons and perspectives. For some, it was the first time they had ever been to the beach or inside one of the Smithsonian museums. The men truly look forward to these outings.

We are starting to see men from the migrant buses, which arrive each morning at Union Station from Texas and Arizona. You may have seen some stories in the media reporting on asylum-seeking migrants from these buses are overwhelming shelters and taxing the resources of the nonprofits who seek to provide assistance. Indications are that numbers of men arriving at the Center will continue to increase. We have a plan to respond to meet this need and we sent out a call for Spanish-speaking volunteers. We have also arranged an outdoor place for intake for the travelers who do not have vaccination documents, so we can provide essential services to them in an environment that is safe.

Finally, we are busy planning the Walk4McKenna, to be held on Saturday, September 10th. Details can be found [here](#). We are grateful to our Board and all our sponsors for their record setting support. We also appreciate the support of the Dubliner and Phoenix Park Hotel who will provide refreshments (coffee not Guinness) for the Walk.

All the best,



Dan

Assistance Needed

Food

- Brown rice, baked beans, maple syrup, canned meats, chunky soups and diced tomatoes

Clothing

- Jeans, shorts, sneakers/tennis shoes, baseball caps (no dress clothing is needed right now)

Other

- Backpacks

Alexandria, we need your help!

- Each Sunday evening, the Panera Bread on Dulaney St in Alexandria generously provides the Center with overstock bread, cookies and pastries. This is a vital component to the food pantry and for the meals we serve. We need help with the pick up.

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

Donate

- If you you are interested in picking up on Sunday night and dropping off at the Center on Monday morning please email Arianna (Director of Operations) at acicchinelli@fathermckennacenter.org.

Contact Us | 202-842-1112 | 19 Eye St. NW Washington DC 20001 | fathermckennacenter.org