



Spring Updates

Mission Moment - Malta Computers

Earlier in the year, our partner, CMIT Solutions, dropped everything to set up our new computers! As soon as they were set up, we were able to create a sign out system for our guests to use the computers. One individual is participating in a program with Byte Back, that promotes digital literacy and bridging the technological gap. This participant, respectfully declined to be photographed, is taking classes every day from 9am-1pm to receive his COMPITA A+ certificate. He aspires to have a job in the field of IT after completing the course. The donated computers have helped him in and out of the classroom as we as other members of our Day Program. We are incredibly grateful for Malta's commitment to transforming the lives of our guests!



Updates



To kick off St. Patrick's Day, we are highlighting a partnership that is synonymous with the holiday, the Dubliner. For 50 years they have provided a lively communal space to gather for a glass of Guinness and fun, and we have been lucky to enjoy their support for many of those years! They have generously provided a grant to



Gonzaga's rugby team prepared and engaged with the men of the Hypothermia/Transition program for dinner. Pictured here is a member of the program and teammates playing a game of chess, in preparation to welcome a few guests to their game

purchase clothing to stock our clothing closet. Pictured here are only *some* of the purchases we've made. We can't thank them enough for their incredible support, but we hope you stop by and celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Dubliner!

after dinner!



For the past four weeks, we welcomed Jesuit Novice, Alex Harb to the Center. Alex grew up in Alabama and from a young age knew he wanted to become a priest, "growing up, a Jesuit in my life truly understood me and my family's experience." He began this process in August 2022 and we are grateful to be a stop on his journey. When he started at the Center, Alex didn't know what his role would be. Our guests quickly trusted and opened up to him as he led them in prayer every Sunday night and Art Therapy each Friday. These connections are deeply moving and have impacted Alex's perspective on individuals experiencing homelessness. He believes, "the men who come to the Center are courageous, they choose to be here because they are making an active effort to help themselves." Thank you, Alex, for your understanding. We appreciate the impact you've made at the Center on your journey to priesthood!

More Updates/Highlights!



In addition to meals and clothing we also try to offer culturally enriching activities for the men who visit the Center. This past month we took a trip to National Museum of African American History and Culture. Staff, volunteers and men participating in the Hypothermia Program also enjoyed viewing the Gonzaga production of *The Adams Family*.

Message from Dan

Friends,

A couple of thoughts as we approach the half time of Lent and the end of the Center's Hypothermia/Transition program. This season, I have been thinking a lot about Father McKenna, better than most, he understood the intersection and the profound importance of both charity and justice, not only as a Lenten practice but as one of the most powerful influences and greatest responsibilities defining Christians.

This Lent, Pope Francis has asked us to take the admonition of almsgiving a step further. We are asked not only to serve the poor, the sick, and infirm but we are asked to accompany them and advocate on their behalf. Father McKenna understood this. He recognized the need for small (and often large) acts of charity. But he also saw the power in systemic change, especially in the guests he served were to "reclaim their lives." He provided "triage" support to meet urgent needs: food, clothing, and a warm and safe place to stay. And while charity provides for this necessary and immediate relief, justice requires us to address the broader issues with solutions that break the cycle of poverty and provide for lasting structural change and permanent societal solutions.

Horace McKenna saw the face of God in every person he met. Service, engagement and advocacy were at the heart of Father's ministry, which he offered with both a practical vision and a prophetic voice. We are called to do the same, not just during Lent but as a defining element of our faith. The Hypothermia/Transition program is a prime example of living out Fr. McKenna's legacy and work. During the past few months, the men of the program have enjoyed a safe place to sleep, a warm meal, and engaged in communal activities to not only meet their immediate needs but discuss those broader societal issues.

Happy start to the Second Half of Lent. May it continue to be your best Lent ever.

Thank you,



Dan Kerns
Executive Director
The Father McKenna Center

Assistance Needed

Food

- cooking oil
- dry beans (no black beans)
- canned soup
- pastas
- peanut butter
- jelly/jam
- any unopened items in your pantry that you don't want!

Clothing *We are accepting Spring and Summer donations at this time.

- Light weight pants
 - sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, and 42 (all 32 length)
- Sneakers
 - sizes 9-14
- White socks
- Light weight Spring jackets
 - sizes M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X, and 4X
- Long sleeve t-shirts
 - sizes M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X, and 4X

Other

- Razor blades
- Deodorant

Calling all interested in organizing a food drive!

- We are asking for those who are interested to coordinate food drives during the "off seasons". While we do appreciate the incredible amount of donations during the holiday season, we still need your help when the holidays are over. Consider prolonging the season of giving to the entire year!

If interested, please contact our Food Pantry and Volunteer Manager, Emily Dold at edold@fathermckennacenter.org

- Toothpaste
- Lotion

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

Donate



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