



# The Father McKenna

C E N T E R • I N C

19 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-1425 | 202-842-1112 | [www.fathermckennacenter.org](http://www.fathermckennacenter.org)

Fall 2024 Newsletter

## WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FATHER MCKENNA

Dear Friends,

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the McKenna Center hosted its most successful Annual Walk4McKenna ever with more than 400 participants. With the help of our generous sponsors and walkers, we raised a record \$109,000 to help those in need. We are very grateful to all who participated. I was honored to meet the great nieces and nephew of Father McKenna who are keeping his legacy alive, including our youngest attendee, two-year-old McKenzie Allen.



*Back Row (left to right): Dennis Dee, Jim Allen, William Horace McKenna, and Charlie & McKenzie Allen. Front Row: Carroll Ann McKenna Adams, and Nancy McKenna-Allen*

*With the Thanksgiving holiday quickly approaching, I am asking you to consider making a special gift to the McKenna Center to serve those in need.* We will provide men experiencing homelessness with a Thanksgiving meal. We will also give away hundreds of turkeys and Thanksgiving baskets to our Food Pantry patrons.

With thanks,  
Dennis Dee, Executive Director

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## SAVE THE DATE: 6th ANNUAL LESSONS & CAROLS December 5 • St. Aloysius Church • 900 N Capitol St NW • 7:30 PM



Please join the McKenna Center for an evening of joyous music and inspiring readings to start the Christmas season. This event will feature The McKenna Singers, a group of men in the Center's Day Shelter Program. A reception will follow in the McKenna Center.

Lessons & Carols is open to the public at no cost. Voluntary contributions for holiday food baskets for seniors are welcome. We look forward to seeing you on December 5th.

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# 8TH ANNUAL WALK FOR MCKENNA

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

## WALK SPONSORS

### CHAMPIONS

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Kate McAuliffe Family

Joe McCarthy '68

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"I'm walking today to help the unhoused in Washington, DC to continue to get all the support needed so that they can find permanent housing."



"I walk for all the beautiful people I've met at the food pantry."



"The McKenna Center means so much to our family! We try to support the Center in Fr. Horace's name."  
—Carroll Ann McKenna Adams





"I walk for the beauty of the McKenna Center mission."



"I am walking to support Fr. McKenna's legacy."



As a member of Holy Trinity, I want to support one of its important missions."

## WALK SPONSORS

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*Gonzaga Football at the 2024 Walk for McKenna*

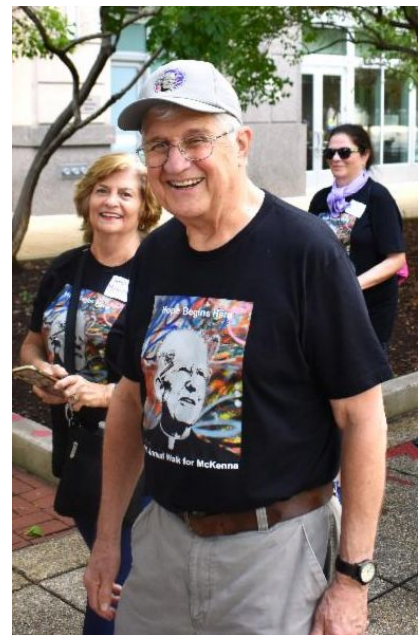
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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Don Kisicki

Don Kisicki has worked in the McKenna Center kitchen two days a week for more than a decade through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. According to Volunteer and Food Pantry Manager Emily Dold, Don exemplifies the mission of the McKenna Center of providing comfort to others. Don even ran the kitchen full-time when the McKenna Center was between Kitchen Managers. He can be found standing at the sink until the very last dish is washed. Current Kitchen Manager Russell Byrd calls him a brother.

More than 10 years ago, when Executive Director Dennis Dee arrived at the McKenna Center at the lowest point in his life, Don sensed his need for a kind gesture and gave him an extra pastry. Don is such a part of the McKenna Center that he attends weekly staff meetings and closes these gatherings with a meaningful prayer and thoughts.



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## HYPOTHERMIA TRANSITION PROGRAM TO START NOVEMBER 1ST

Each year, the McKenna Center houses up to a dozen men through the Hypothermia Transition Program from November 1 through March 31. The men are selected based on an assessment of their readiness to move out of homelessness through a job, permanent or temporary housing, and commitment to sobriety and mental health.



*Darren Staton with Executive Director Dennis Dee, who served as the Program Monitor for the 2015-2016 Hypothermia Program. They formed an enduring friendship.*

The McKenna Center provides our guests with a clean bed, shower, case management, and breathing room to get their life in order in a predictable environment. Members of the Gonzaga Mothers Club provide a home-cooked meal each night.

Darren Staton recently visited the McKenna Center. He is a graduate of the 2015-2016 Hypothermia Transition Program. Since graduating, Darren has secured a stable job and lives with his wife and children. Darren is one of many men the McKenna Center has helped to reclaim their lives.

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The Father McKenna Center, Inc. | 19 Eye St NW | Washington, DC 20001-1425 US

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