



# The Father McKenna

## C E N T E R • I N C

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### The Father McKenna Center September Newsletter

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## FINAL REMINDER: 9th Annual Walk for McKenna Saturday, September 27th, 2025



*2024 Walk for McKenna*

We are gearing up for our 9th annual Walk for McKenna, taking place just 10 days from now on **Saturday, September 27, 2025!**

The walk allows us to bring our community together to share stories, honor the memory of Father Horace McKenna, and support the mission of the Center.

**Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM, and the walk will start at 9:30 AM.** Parking will be available in the Gonzaga garage, located at 19 Eye Street NW in Washington, DC.

There is still time to register, so grab a friend, a water bottle, and click the link below to join us!

**Individual  
Registration**

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## Volunteer Spotlight: Andres K.

We are excited to announce our new spotlight series, where we work with volunteers, staff, and clients to learn about what brought them to the Center, their experiences here, and how their time with us has impacted their lives. We hope you enjoy this new way you can get to know the people who walk through our doors and are a part of our community!

Our first spotlight features Andres K., a 2025 graduate of Gonzaga College High School who interned at the Center this August. Andres was a vital part of our team, helping with the food pantry, serving breakfast and lunch, and working with volunteers.

Andres started serving at the Center when he was a sophomore at Gonzaga. He began to connect what he learned in school – about a shared humanity and dignity of all – with his service at the Father McKenna Center. Andres came to believe that there is no difference between the men he served and



*Andres serving lunch to clients*

himself.

We were blessed to have Andres with us this Summer and wish him the best as he heads off to college! We know that he will accomplish great things with the foundation of knowledge and humanity he gained from Gonzaga and the Father McKenna Center.



*"It goes beyond just saying that 'these people are human too'. It's that there's really very little difference between the people that I'm giving a meal to and myself."*

Like the video? Make sure to **subscribe** to **The Father McKenna Center** on **YouTube** and click the **bell icon** to get notifications when we post new stories.

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## Client Updates

We are excited to share that two of our community members started jobs this week! Ben began working as a package handler and Shawn started working a job in sales.

The Center helped the men write resumes and apply for the jobs. Our case manager, Sydney, and intern, Max, worked with



*Sydney, Ben and Max celebrate Ben's new job*

Max will be shadowing Sydney this semester as he completes his undergraduate degree at SUNY Brockport. He is originally from Rochester, NY, and is getting a dual degree in Social Work and African American Studies. He's already off to a great start, building rapport with clients and supporting our case management efforts. We are happy to have him on our team!

the men to help them acquire uniform attire and transportation to and from work!



*Dennis Dee and Shawn*

## Back to School Means Back to Service!

As students return to school, they also return to our regular student volunteer opportunities! Over the past month, we've welcomed back the students at Gonzaga College High School and college groups around DC.

By taking the time to serve with and support our community members in need, students are able to benefit from understanding another perspective and learning about their neighbors.



*Gonzaga College High School students serving lunch*

The Center is always excited for the youth and energy of these students to brighten our halls and fill our clients with joy. There is something special about having young volunteers serve that puts a smile on everyone's face.

It brings us hope that the new generation of students are getting such a strong service education before going on to





become stewards of the world. We are honored and humbled that these bright students chose to spend their time volunteering here with us!

*Catholic University student restocking the clothing closet*

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