The Father McKenna CENTER • INC

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Fall 2026 Newsletter

Fr. McKenna's Legacies Working Together: FMC and SOME reopen Kirwan House



Dear Friends,

A few years ago, I was deeply saddened to hear of the closure of So Others Might Eat's Kirwan House - a transitional "safe house" and stabilization center in DC for men preparing to enter SOME's substance use disorder treatment program in West Virginia.

Today, I am excited to share that the Father McKenna Center has partnered with SOME to reopen the Kirwan House, providing a new pathway for clients of both organizations to explore and access treatment for substance use disorder.

The house is named after Michael Kirwan, who opened his own home to homeless individuals struggling with substance use and mental health issues in the early 1990's. Kirwan House will reopen this month as a 10-bed stabilization shelter for men preparing to enroll in SOME's residential recovery program in West Virginia. We are thrilled to be entering into this partnership, which will enhance SOME's treatment continuum and strengthen ties between FMC and SOME.



In addition to reopening Kirwan House, this partnership will also provide Father McKenna Center clients access to SOME's Recovery Support Specialists, who will join us on-site three times a week. SOME will also provide information sessions on and coordinate access to their substance use, mental health, and housing programs.

"This new partnership will immediately effect the volume of care we are able to give our Day Shelter Program guests and opens the door for more recovery-focused programming. I am excited to be combining forces with an organization so closely tied to the work of Fr. McKenna, and look forward to deepening our relationship with SOME while giving our clients access to new services"

-Dennis Dee, FMC Executive Director

Sights & Stories from our 10th Annual Walk for McKenna

On Saturday, September 26th, more than 400 of you joined us on Eye Street for our 10th annual Walk for McKenna. With great thanks to our community, we can proudly share that this year's Walk **raised over $200,000** in support of the Center's programs and services, making this year our most successful Walk yet!

As demand for our programs continues to surge, this will have a direct effect on our ability to meet the needs of the men and families who rely on us for critical support.



Below, please enjoy some photos from the event as well as testimonials from Day Program and Food Pantry clients about the impact the McKenna Center has on their lives.

"I'm very appreciative - [The Food Pantry] helps out a lot when you don't get food stamps"
-C. Daniels, Food Pantry Client

THANK YOU TO OUR WALK SPONSORS!



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The Matan Family Foundation
The Mike & June Beyer Family
Tom & Nancy Woodley
Warren Communications News

"The [Day] Program means alot to me. It allows me to be grateful for what I do have"
-FMC Day Program Client



Visionaries

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Robert (Bob) Ewald
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Barbara Patocka
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"The McKenna Center means a legacy of care, kindness, and compassion. Viva Horace!"
-Walk Participant

Friends

Melissa Bernard & Aaron Sleasman
DLA Piper
Leo Donohoe & Margaret McGovern
The Felmlee Family
The Frost Family
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Walter Hill
The Keats Group
Emily King
In Memory of Patti and Patrick Kisicki
The Chris Lucey & Katie Jack Family
Joe McCarthy ‘68
The McKenna Family
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The Ryner Family



“The Center is a place of respite and resource for the community - a safe place in trying times”
-Walk Participant

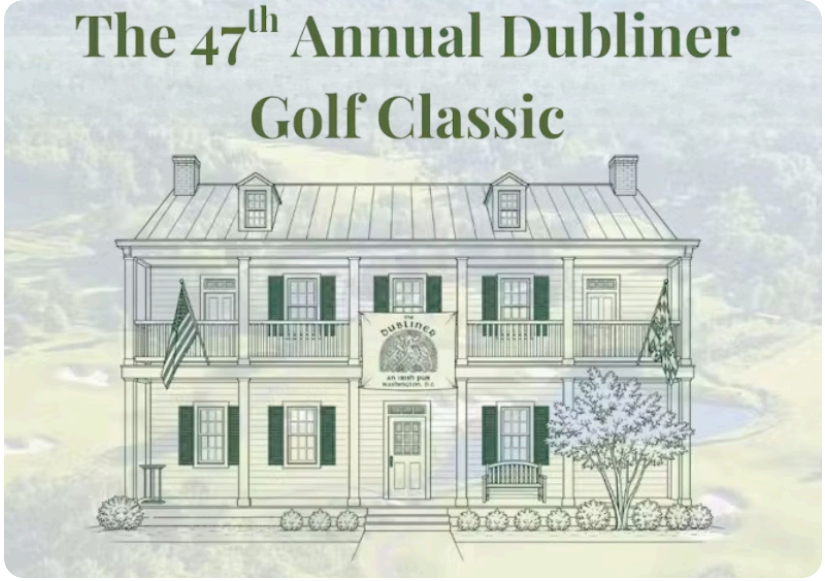


Patrons

Maddi Brown
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Patrick Judge
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Walt Lukken
Kate McAullife
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McGrath
Dr. Eileen Moore
Mrs. Peggy Still

“This Food Pantry means so much to me and my family. We would starve most days without it.”
-Andrea S, Food Pantry Client

The Dubliner Supports FMC at 47th Annual Golf Classic



On Monday, September 28th, friends of the Dubliner gathered at Worthington Manor Country Club for the 47th annual Dubliner Golf Classic. 120 golfers came together for the event, raising $40,000 for the Father McKenna Center!

While this is the 47th year of the event, this is the first time the McKenna Center has benefitted from the proceeds. With colder weather coming soon, the funds raised will help to support our Hypothermia Transition Housing program, as well as our winter clothing distributions.

We are deeply grateful to the Dubliner and the Coleman family, including FMC Board member Gavin, for their dedicated support of the Center over the years and through this event.

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