

HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED?

Love is the strongest force in the universe; it creates life and allows us to touch a little bit of eternal happiness. The fruit of love is mercy and being merciful is not complicated. In fact, mercy can be lived through simple gestures that require us to be forgiving and giving, like listening, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick or imprisoned and giving shelter to the homeless.

This holiday season, as we open the House of Mercy, we are asking you let us be “your ambassadors” of mercy to the poor and homeless in Clark County. Here is a opportunity for you to give a gift of love and mercy. Please consider sponsoring a day at House of Mercy.

For \$150 a day or \$1,000 for a week you can provide:

- Rental and Utility assistance for three families at the House of Mercy.
- Emergent Housing for up to three women per night
- Part-time staff to assist families with area resources
- Outreach staff to work with residents on budgeting and financial education skills
- Continuous care to help individuals and families obtain permanent housing.

Please partner with us in helping those in the Clark County and keep those we serve in your daily prayers. Thank you!

2016 DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

First quarter dates are available. To reserve your date and join with us in serving community members in need, please call 715-503-1005.

To learn more, donate or volunteer at House of Mercy visit cclse.org or call 888-212-HELP (4357)

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House of Mercy

*working beyond shelter
because everybody needs
a place to call HoM*



141 Main Street
Loyal, Wisconsin

Judy Morrow
Catholic Charities
Beyond Shelter
Program Coordinator
House of Mercy

HoM Advisory
Board Members:

Fr. Steve Brice
Bob Barth
Alan Billings
Steve Frankiewicz
Pamela Kernan
Jennifer Petke
Pastor Patsy Roe
Peter Schultz
Ken Smith
Gary Veltus
Dan Williams

Mary Jacobson
Catholic Charities
Assistant Executive
Director

Roberto Partarrieu
Catholic Charities
Executive Director

Karen Becker
Catholic Charities
Director of Marketing

The House of Mercy is Open!

It is so exciting to announce that the House of Mercy is open and in November the first family moved in. A mother and her two children moved in on November 4th and are making this their new home. When one of the children was asked what he liked best about his new home he responded, “I liked that the dishes looked nice already set on the table.”



How many of us sat down this last Thanksgiving to a table full of nice dishes, plenty of food, and surrounded by family? How many of us take that for granted? How many of us are worrying about what presents to place under the Christmas tree and not what tree will offer me shelter tonight?

Listening to this little boy, I felt blessed to be reminded of how simple pleasures can be. I also recognized the goodness of a caring community that offered up these “simple dishes” and so much more. In the last couple of months all three apartments at the House of Mercy were renovated, painted, cleaned, and furnished. Thanks so much to St. Anthony’s Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Loyal, St. Mary’s Church in Greenwood, and Holy Family Church in Willard. It is wonderful to witness this community’s support towards families needing a place to call home!



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Advisory Board Member - Pamela Kernan
Director of Social Services for Clark County

Growing up in Clark County, I have seen the tremendous motivation of our local communities pulling together to bring great resources to those who are managing current life struggles. I have seen the compelling compassion throughout the County and feel so honored to be part of this new endeavor. For the first time, there will be resources in Clark County that will be able to assist in providing all of the basic needs; food, clothing and shelter, for all of its citizens. With basic needs met, individuals can turn to learning

and growing and building a strong family as part of our community. The opening of the House of Mercy will provide a service that many individuals and families need in Clark County. In 2015, we had 76 inquiries and by June of 2016 we have had 46 inquiries made to Social Services specifically requesting rental/housing assistance. The continued increase in homelessness is also alarming and although we see families without a place to live, the actual number of homelessness is difficult to identify as families have to keep moving in order to survive their current crisis. I have asked the staff at Social Services to share their thoughts on this new service and here are a few excerpts from their overwhelming support:

As a social worker in Clark County, I'm painfully aware of families living in substandard arrangements (parks, campgrounds) without access to resources and programs to help enhance their abilities and strengths to obtain and maintain a successful and safe living arrangement for themselves (and/or their children). Maslow's hierarchy of needs illustrates that the need to feel safety and belonging is essential to access higher levels of functioning in life. With a safe place to call home, many of our Clark County families in need will gain a newfound ability to focus on goals of employment, household management and parenting.

The House of Mercy will bring peace and comfort for people that do not know a place they can currently call home. Home is a place that we each can relate to, a place that offers us comfort and familiarity, a place that provides a warm bed and a friendly smile. This will give them a chance to establish roots in the county and begin to grow and flourish.

A community can be proud to say that they are the persons who cared enough to reach out for those families and individuals in need to help them on their way to recovery or in time of crisis and can open other businesses and agencies eyes to this need and purpose of this shelter.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the partnership with Catholic Charities and the collaboration of the many community members that make up the Advisory Board. I have learned recently that Judy Morrow was selected as the Program Coordinator and know she has a great knowledge of the valuable resources available in Clark County. Judy has worked with many of the programs we have in Social Services and her community work has made a difference in many lives. Her dedication to helping those in need make her a perfect fit for her new role.

Sincerely grateful,
Pamella Kernan

Thank You!

... Thank you to Tina Enen from St Paul, MN for her generous donation of household items. Previously she and her husband were in real estate and had staged homes for sale. After her husband's most unfortunate death, Tina was left with five homes worth of furnishings to dispense with. When she heard about the House of Mercy opening she knew she found a home for her furnishings that would please her husband. Clients often need furniture when they move into their own home or apartment. So none of this amazing donation will go in used.



... Thank you to K&S Carriers for loading up and transporting a semi full of furnishings as a contribution to the House of Mercy- and to those who helped unload. Lots of steps!



... Thank you to St. Anthony's Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Loyal, St. Mary's Church in Greenwood, and Holy Family Church in Willard for organizing volunteers and refurbishing apartments. To all of the community volunteers who chipped in to paint a wall, set a table, clean out closets, or whatever your part was in preparing the house, we thank you!



Advisory Board Mtg.
February 7, 2017
5:30 PM

Spring Open House and
Blessing
check cclse.org to
watch for date.



The House of Mercy Advisory Board would like to welcome two new members:

Pastor Patsy Roe - First United Methodist Church, Loyal

Dave Williams - Trinity Lutheran Church, Loyal

We are excited to have their expertise join us in this community mission to serve those in need!

PRAYER FOR THE HOMELESS...

Jesus, many homeless and unemployed have no one to help them.

No one to offer shelter.

No one to affirm that their lives have meaning and are precious.

Jesus I entreat You to embrace the hearts of the unemployed and the homeless, the neglected and the lonely, the desperate and the despairing... through the practical love and personal kindness of others, to provide affordable shelter; and where there is need, to help them to rehabilitate; to obtain where necessary required medication or counselling; to supply education, jobs, retraining, or support;

Bring to them those who are respectfully willing to share their food with them; and with genuine love and wise practicality, to affirm their unique sacredness. and to inspire them to have faith in Your merciful love, and their eternal destiny with You.