

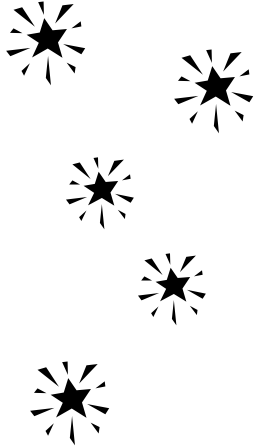


McAuley Miracles

A Newsletter of McAuley Ministries

Fall 2011 

Creativity Blooms in Artists' Garden



- McAuley Ministries is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that includes:*
- *-McAuley House meal site for the hungry*
 - *-McAuley Village transitional housing for single parents and their children*
 - *McAuley Village Child Care Learning Center*
 - *The Wardrobe thrift store*

Ray Guillenet recalls summers at a family farm near his childhood home in Louisiana.

“We grew up eating fresh vegetables,” he said. “Everything was fresh.” Guillenet finds a taste of home—and a place of peace—in a garden in South Providence.

This year, Kathy King, who directs the McAuley House art program, cultivated a garden with House artists in mind. King, a therapist and artist, works with guests struggling with homelessness, addictions, depression and other challenges. She nurtures their crea-



McAuley House guest Ray Guillenet and art program director Kathy King work in the artists' garden.

tive spirits through painting, collage and sketching. The garden, she said, is an extension of her work: “This is a form of expression, too,” she said.

Located in the Amos Earley Park, on land developed by the South Side Community Land Trust, the garden has put forth French green beans, Arugula, Romaine lettuce, Swiss chard, spring onions and tomatoes.

King planned the plantings with the artists, then welcomed

them to tend it as they wanted.

Guillenet is its most enthusiastic gardener. Weekly, he weeds, picks—and rests. “When I come here,” he said, “I leave all my troubles behind.”

Guillenet, a budding painter, finds art in gardening. And sustenance, too. One recent night he picked peppers, tomatoes and a squash.

“This,” he said with a smile, “is supper, right here.”



Aramis enjoys a hot lunch at McAuley House.



Confronting Hunger One Meal at a Time at McAuley



Today a cup of coffee can cost \$1.50 or \$4.50 Starbucks anyone?

That seems like a lot when you consider the homeless and hungry come to McAuley House for a free nutritious lunch, including a cup of coffee, and the cost to provide both is no more than \$2.

“The key ingredient in our recipe to reduce hunger is you, our supporters.”

A homeless person asks:

“Can you spare a dime for a cup of coffee?” (circa 1950)

“Can you spare a quarter for a cup of coffee?” (circa 1970).

The days of a 10-cent or a 25-cent cup of coffee are long gone but, unfortunately, the homeless and hungry are still with us.

There are many theories, ideas and proposals to reduce hunger. Some take a long time to implement and some are costly.

At McAuley House, we reduce hunger every day with just two paid kitchen staff

and 15 volunteers, and we have been doing it for more than 35 years.

The key ingredient in our recipe to reduce hunger is you, our supporters.

It takes donations from you to sustain the McAuley House meal site so we can feed up to 300 men, women and children daily.

A donation of \$50 feeds 25 guests; a donation of \$100 feed 50 guests; and a donation of \$500 will feed all our guests for a day.

Can you support McAuley House with a donation for a hot lunch and a cup of coffee?

Thank you for all you do,
Don Wolfe
Executive Director

Welcome Home to McAuley Village: Volunteers Help Families

“Home sweet home” is part of American culture Home is where we are safe and loved, and yet for many Rhode Islanders home is a dream. There are 1,700 homeless families and many more seek shelter to flee violence. While shelters try to meet this need, McAuley Village is uniquely able to offer a “home.”

With a bright and cheery building, and a welcoming staff, we offer a two-year , program with wrap-around services empowering families to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Recently, we expanded this welcome by launching **“Welcome Home Teams.”** Teams of volunteers act as a welcome wagon, cleaning and painting an apartment and providing a welcome basket for the new residents.

Our first **“Welcome Home Team”** was made up of parishioners of St. Jude’s, Lincoln.

“One volunteer, with paint sprinkles in his hair, shared that the day he spent painting the apartment was the best time he had had all summer.” said the Rev. Michele Matott, Village Administrator.



St. Jude’s parishioners Lisa Young and her daughters Elizabeth and Megan paint. To join a Welcome Home Team, call Rev. Michele at (401) 467-3630 x10

Helping Those in Need This Autumn

Want to help those in need this season? Here are ways we welcome!

- Support our meals program. A \$50 gift provides 25 women, men and children with a hearty lunch.

Giving Tip: Taxpayers over the age of 70 1/2 have until Jan. 31, 2011 to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to charity, and possibly receive a tax break without itemizing deductions.

Ask your tax advisor for more information on giving.



- Re-stock our toiletries closet with razors, soap, toothpaste and shampoo.
- Donate gift cards to grocery and drug stores to help families with urgent needs.
- For information on giving, call the Rev. Mary Margaret Earl at 401-941-9013 ext. 302.



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Giving with Heart: Featured Donor Marcia McVicker

Marcia McVicker began donating to McAuley House 20 ago, when a friend said he volunteered there—and had witnessed firsthand the ministry’s frugality.

“He’d say ‘Your money doesn’t go to waste there,’” she recalled.

McVicker, of Narragansett, has supported McAuley House with a monthly donation since.

“She’s a faithful supporter,” said Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, House Administrator. “She helps ensure people are fed year-round.”

McVicker’s generosity is an expression of her philosophy: Kindness.

“We have to treat others the way we want to be treated,” she said. Her outlook holds true elsewhere.

McVicker worked as an elementary teacher in South Providence, helping children from troubled families.

And when her brother’s wife died, leaving behind four young children, McVicker



helped raise them. She wouldn’t have had it otherwise.

She loves her family and considers herself blessed. “I’ve been lucky,” she said. “Very lucky.”

Planned giving is a way of expressing your support for McAuley Ministries into the future. For more information, contact Executive Director Donald Wolfe.

Right from the Start: Sister of Mercy Still Tends Spirit



Sr. Ginny recently serves a McAuley House guest, as she has for more than 35 years.

Sr. Ginny Burke was among the Sisters of Mercy who in 1975 opened the doors to McAuley House.

Working with a social justice committee and motivated by love for those who are poor, Sr. Ginny helped serve hot meals to women, men and children in need.

In 2011, she is still serving.

“I stay faithful to McAuley House because it’s a part of me,” said Sr. Ginny, a Sister of Mercy for 50 years. “I just love the people I work with.”

And they love her in return. Sr. Ginny quietly volunteers

on Mondays, serving meals while listening to guests, and offering them her gentle presence.

She also co-leads a class for new volunteers, on the Spirit of Mercy. Few are better able to do so, said Sister of Mercy Joan Rokicki, a long-time House outreach worker.

“Her compassion, kindness and grace are matched by very few,” said Sr. Joan. “We are honored to know her, and thank God for her gifts, shared with our guests. Thank you, Sr. Ginny.”

Celebrating Our Gifts: When Student Becomes Teacher

Two years ago, in partnership with Riverwood Community Mental Health Services, and with funding from the United Way of Rhode Island, McAuley House launched an afternoon activity program for homeless and newly housed men and women. The goal was ensuring newly housed people don’t become isolated, and providing homeless people activities before shelters open.

Workshops have included resume writing, housing searches, life skills and healthy living.

Program coordinators this year focused on supporting participants in teaching classes them-

selves. “We all have gifts to share, no matter what our struggles,” said House Administrator, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl. “This affirms our guests and builds confidence.”

Ronald Reeves is among the guests now helping teach. A military veteran who lost his job of 10 years after becoming ill with depression, and who then became homeless, Reeves began visiting the House for lunch.

He began attending classes, and then sharing his own gifts, teaching origami and painting to other McAuley guests. Now, with his McAuley experience, he teaches a class at the Veterans’ Hospital.

“It helps me emotionally and mentally,” Reeves said of teaching. “I like to help others.”



Artist Ronald Reeves with Hope Indeglia O’Brien, a co-coordinator of the afternoon activity program at McAuley House

The Warde-robe: Celebrating 15 years in CF

As headlines highlight the financial troubles besetting Central Falls, one ministry continues faithfully serving the city: The Warde-robe.

This summer, The Warde-robe thrift store celebrated its 15th year serving financially poor families in Central Falls and Pawtucket. The store was founded in 1996 by two Sisters of Mercy, and opened its doors on Aug. 1 of that summer.

The two founding sisters, Sr. Lois Harten and Sr. Alberic Martin, created the store at 1286 Broad Street. They had “retired” from other ministries of service, and shared a vision of selling quality clothing and household goods at a low price

to working poor families in Central Falls.

In 2004, with both Sisters growing older, the store came under the wing of McAuley Ministries. “We are proud to continue providing this basic human need to those trying to make ends meet,” said McAuley Ministries Executive Director Don Wolfe.

A strapped economic climate hit Central Falls and Pawtucket residents hard, and the store is needed more than ever, said Sr. Alberic.

“There will always be those in need, in any time,” she said. “But now, families who had been working and now are unemployed need the store just to stay afloat.”



Sisters of Mercy Alberic Martin and Lucy Donohue are among many Sister still volunteering at the store. To donate clothing and household goods, call 401-729-0405.

Summer Memories: Moments of Joy Lighten Burdens



Singers at Healthy Body Mind Spirit fest, co-sponsored by the Providence Center.

Much of McAuley Ministries’ work is meeting the basic needs of vulnerable Rhode Islanders: Food, shelter and clothing. However, supporters provide summertime joy, too.

Donors such as Conway Tours, Bishop Hendricken High School, St. Mary Star of the Sea and St Thomas More churches —both Narragansett parishes—were among those this summer providing transportation, food and entertainment to help people living in poverty find relief from the heat, hunger and stress in the city.

It has been said: *“The poor need beauty, too.”* We know they also need to smile, laugh and savor life’s blessings.

Thanks to those who gave those gifts this summer!



A young McAuley House guest enjoys a cookout and concert provided by Bishop Hendricken Arts Academy this summer.





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