



St. Benedict Community Meal

A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

1015 North Ninth Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

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Annual Report for the fiscal year 2009

Meet One of our Guests



Heartfelt Thanks

Homeless Guest Shares Her Gift Of Organizing

Even with heart and other health problems, Tracy B. is a woman with a grateful heart. Homeless for the last three years, Tracy has lived in shelters and on

the street near St. Ben's Community Meal. She explains she became homeless after her husband died; due to their debts she had to sell their property.

Tracy has turned to St. Ben's frequently for assistance. "St. Ben's has provided me with toiletries, blankets and a place to shower," Tracy said. "All of my clothing is from St. Ben's as are my shoes." Tracy added, "I have had my hair cut here at least once, and the Columbia-St. Mary's Medical Clinic at St. Ben's helped me get onto BadgerCare."

"St. Ben's has also helped me to get a new ID and bus tickets," Tracy said as she proudly displayed her new ID. Tracy has been very grateful for all of the help she has received from the Capuchin friars at St. Ben's. Last July she realized she needed to give back. St. Ben's stores clothing and hygiene bag supplies in the office basement. Tracy set up bins for the items and a system to fill the bags.

Br. David Schwab, OFM, Capuchin commented, "I am constantly amazed at the graciousness of guests who come to the Meal and for other services. Many of them, like Tracy, sincerely want to give back. It is very heartening to hear their expressions of gratitude for food, bus tickets, hygiene products, etc. Most guests are very grateful for the generosity of sponsors and donors."

Our Ministry's Purpose is...

St Benedict Community Meal serves a hot meal six nights a week, Sunday through Friday. There are 75 sponsor groups from the surrounding area, representing a variety of religions. They prepare, transport, and serve the food. St. Ben's provides meals and nourishment nightly for up to 500 men, women, and children of all ages.

St. Ben's also hosts a hygiene program, where individuals receive toiletries for use throughout the month. We also assist our homeless population to obtain a Wisconsin State ID, which gives them access to many services. Emergency transportation assistance is provided both locally and out of town. Free haircuts are available to those in need each week.

The Capuchin Friars who reside at St. Ben's are on call and ready to assist those who come to the door. St. Ben's programs affect human health and the welfare of the target population by improving nutrition, socialization skills, physical and mental health, and spirituality.

Mission Statement:

St. Benedict Community Meal strives to:

- Affirm the dignity of all who gather at the meal site
- Share a nutritional meal in a hospitable and safe setting
- Collaborate with other agencies in addressing the root causes of poverty
- Develop an integrated spirituality that emphasizes faith, justice, and service



A Message from Our Ministry Director



We are happy to provide the 2009 Annual Report for St Ben's Community Meal. As you review the mission, statistics, and financial information, you will note that St Ben's has been blessed with much cooperation from many people to make services to the homeless possible.

Br. David Schwab ofm Cap However, the St Ben's Community Meal offers more than food for hungry stomachs. St. Ben's is a place where people come together to share what they have with one another. Some bring food. Some offer service. Some bring themselves. All receive something more than what they bring.

The community aspect of St Ben's Community Meal is witnessed on both sides of the table. We see our community of guests coming together and sharing with one another and with the sponsor groups. We also witness on a daily basis the generosity of the greater Milwaukee community that provides the food and service. These churches, congregations, mosques, and temples represent a cross section of the Milwaukee faith community who are willing to put food on the table for our homeless guests and thus respond to the gospel call of feeding the hungry.

The Meal is an opportunity for coming together. It is an expression of people caring for one another. When poor and rich, humble and proud, recognize each other's humanity in the ordinary act of sharing a meal, barriers break down, prejudices are forgotten and labels become obliterated. People become not just faces in a crowd, but take on names and become friends.

As we join together in our efforts, we offer a sign of hope for the world. I am grateful to you and so many others for making the mission and ministry of St Ben's possible. On behalf of our poorer brothers and sisters, I thank you and ask God's special blessings on you.

Sincerely,

Br Dave Schwab, ofm Cap
Director

Our Ministry's Program Statistics

St. Ben's Community Meal provides services to those individuals who reside in Milwaukee County with an emphasis on the areas of downtown,



West and North side. Two-thirds of those who eat at the Meal are homeless individuals. The majority of them are single African-American men. However, there are also many families who take advantage of the services especially towards the end of the months during summer, when St. Ben's provides meals for nearly 100 children each evening.

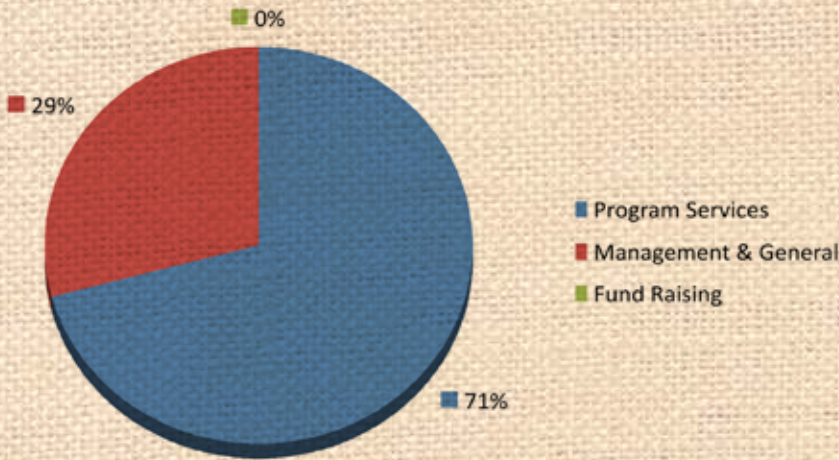
Program Statistics

In 2008, the Meal served 102,700 meals for an average of 339 meals per night. St. Ben's provides local and out of city bus tickets for individuals who need immediate and emergency assistance with transportation. Last year, St. Ben's provided transportation for 3,000 individuals for medical appointments and 166 individuals with out of town transportation. St. Ben's also provides individuals with assistance in obtaining a Wisconsin identification card (ID). In 2008, St. Ben's helped 927 individuals obtain an ID. St. Ben's also assisted 415 individuals with prescription help.

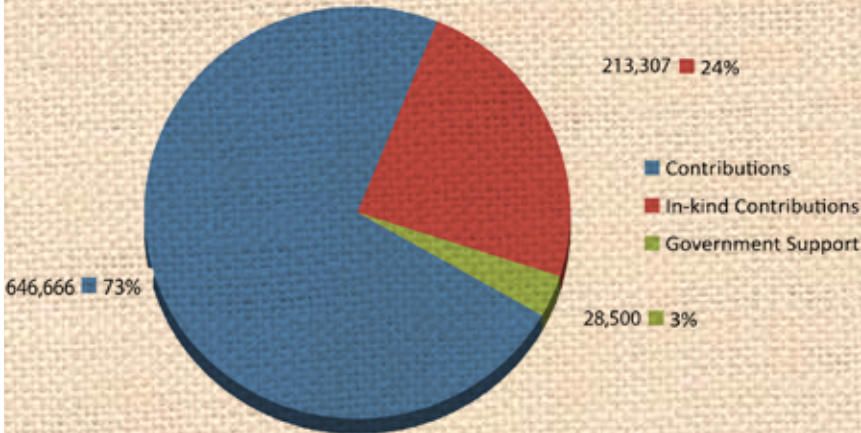


Your donation dollars at work at St. Ben's Community Meal

St. Benedict Community Meal Expenses



St. Benedict Community Meal Revenue



The financial information contained herein has been formally reviewed by a third party public accounting firm. A complete copy of the financial statement is available through the ministry's office.

100% of your gifts are utilized by St. Ben's Community Meal, a Capuchin ministry

St. Ben's Community Meal is one of several ministries in the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph.

We are a Roman Catholic religious community of friars inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.

We live and work with people in need, especially those who are poor and disenfranchised.

We serve God in a variety of ministries, including social services, parishes, schools, retreat and spirituality centers, and chaplaincies.

Our friars serve in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Arizona, Nicaragua, Panama and Canada.

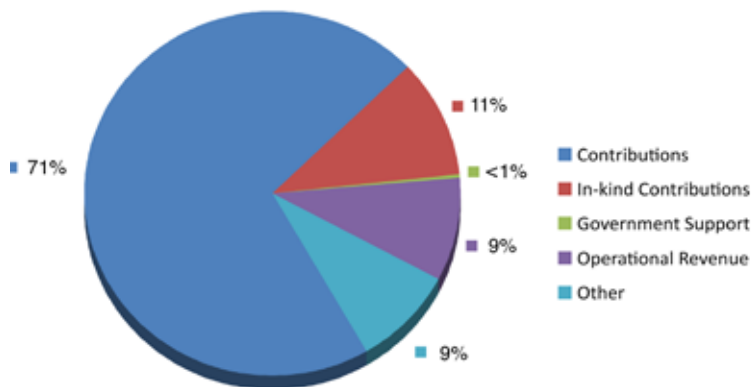
We serve God and our brothers and sisters humbly and simply.

We touch thousands of lives every day:

- * *Clothing and feeding people in our soup kitchens and community centers in Detroit and Milwaukee;*
- * *Feeding souls at our spirituality centers in Michigan and Wisconsin;*
- * *Preparing young people for service in the Church;*
- * *...and in many other ways!*

We rely on the dedication of many friars, co-workers, and volunteers, the generous support of our benefactors, and above all the grace of God.

The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph Revenue



The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph Expenses

