

# An Urgent Appeal From Br. Ronald

Br. Ronald Giannone,  
OFM Cap.  
Executive Director



Dear Friends,  
We are concerned that our income is not matching our expenses.

While we have been reaching out through the 19 unmet needs which our programs provide, sadly, our income has decreased. I make an urgent appeal to all of you to help us.

Won't you consider sending a donation

or stock, or remembering us in your will? I know that many of you support us, and for this we're most grateful. May you continue to do so through our 2016 holiday appeal.

Our dedicated staff joins me in blessing you in helping us to help the poor. May the Lord abundantly reward you and your family for your generosity. I wish you a joyful holiday, and a Happy New Year!

For your convenience, we have enclosed a donation envelope.

Gratefully,

*Br. Ronald*

## Shades of Ireland Tour

August 24 - September 2, 2017

Experience the magic of the Emerald Isle with Br. Ronald and friends of the Ministry of Caring!

For information, contact Debbe Philips at 302-652-5523 or [dphilips@ministryofcaring.org](mailto:dphilips@ministryofcaring.org).

The Ministry of Caring is on Amazon Smile. Learn how your purchases can help the Ministry at no added cost: visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

### THE MINISTRY OF CARING INC.

115 East 14th Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801-3209  
[www.ministryofcaring.org](http://www.ministryofcaring.org)

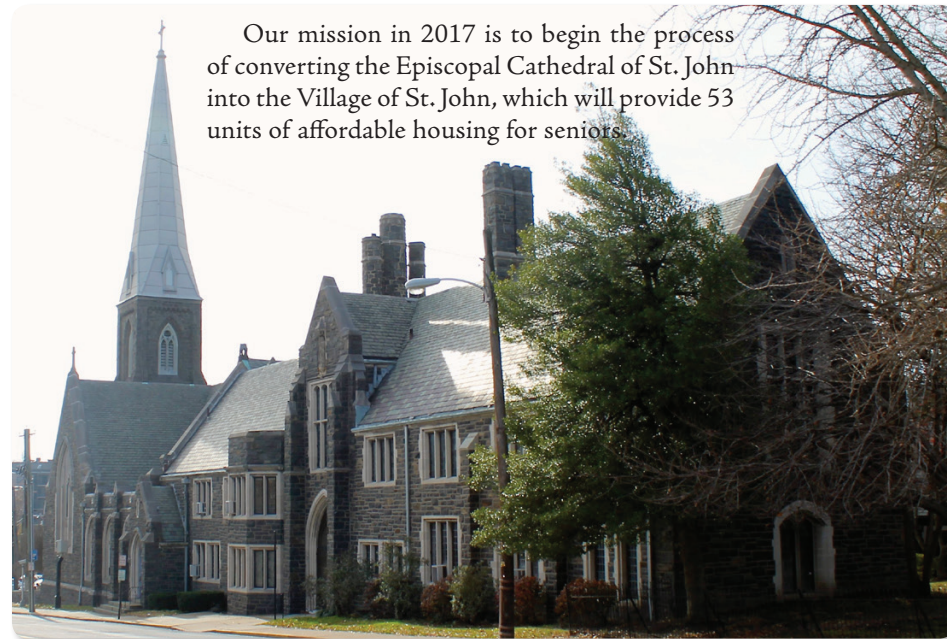


Support us through your work:

United Way donor code 0295

Delaware State Employees' Charitable Campaign code 50295

Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign code 63380



Our mission in 2017 is to begin the process of converting the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John into the Village of St. John, which will provide 53 units of affordable housing for seniors.

# Reaching Out

Serving the poor with dignity and respect



Founded in 1977

## You Have the Power

The electricity had gone out at Emmanuel Dining Room West—an extremely rare occurrence—and Bob McEvoy was standing at the door, telling hungry people lined up around the corner he could only give them donuts.

"It was a cold morning, and those coming were looking for a place to get warm and a hot meal with coffee," he said. "We could not provide that, and it made us feel sorry for our friends."

McEvoy, who has volunteered with the Ministry for more than 10 years, said that experience reminded him of the importance of Ministry of Caring programs for the poor and homeless.

It was also a reminder of the immense importance of volunteers and benefactors like him, who are a vital source of power for Ministry

programs, even when the electricity is out.

"Since our earliest days, volunteers have been the driving force that allows the Ministry of Caring to serve the poor so effectively," said

Br. Ronald Giannone, OFM Cap. "I thank God every day that so many kind people have joined our efforts."

There are many ways to contribute. As a guitarist, McEvoy has provided musical entertainment with his wife at Emmanuel Dining Room. His bluegrass band, Acoustic Turnpike, has raised more than \$1,200

through charity concerts in recent years.

Because he serves in the dining room, he is able to see the impact of those donations—to meet and interact with the people being served.

"So many people are willing to help, and every little bit counts," he said



Volunteers from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church serve in EDR's kitchen.

### Holiday Bread Cards Are Here!

This Christmas and Hanukkah, instead of leafing through cards at the store, considering sending a Ministry of Caring bread card.



Make a small donation and let your loved ones know you are helping to feed the hungry in their name. Holiday bread cards are new, and we continue to offer cards given in memoriam and for special occasions. For information, contact Sue at [sharris@ministryofcaring.org](mailto:sharris@ministryofcaring.org) or 302-652-5523.

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December 4, 2016

**Voices of Caring**  
Holiday music festival benefiting child care programs at University and Whist Club  
Call Priscilla at 302-652-5523 or [prakestraw@ministryofcaring.org](mailto:prakestraw@ministryofcaring.org)



Sundays in 2017

**International Night**  
Dinners featuring global fare, benefiting EDR  
January 22: Polish  
February 26: Spanish  
March 26: Irish  
Admission \$25: 302-652-3228



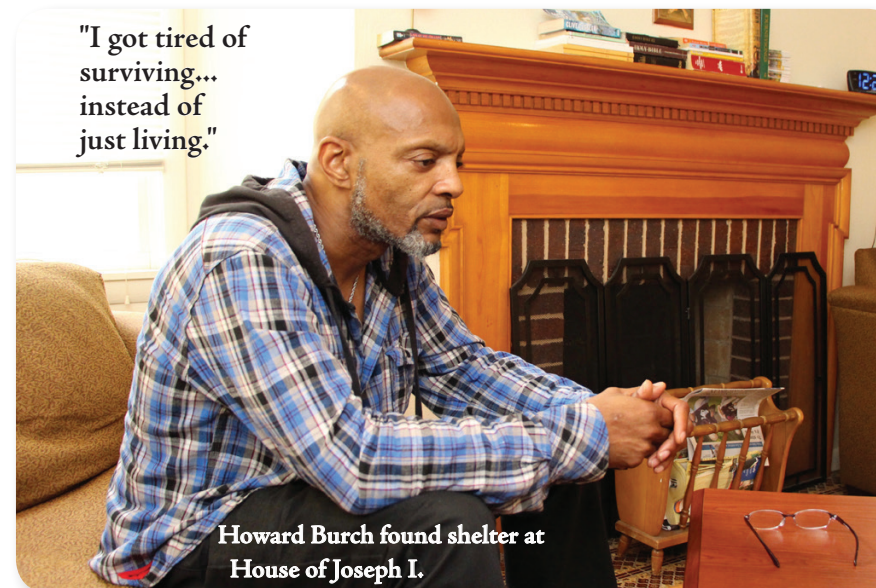
April 29, 2017

**EDR Spring Auction**  
A live and silent auction featuring music and dinner  
Held at Barclays Bank  
For information, call 302-652-5523  
[www.ministryofcaring.org](http://www.ministryofcaring.org)



May 11, 2017

**Recognition Dinner**  
A banquet held at Francis X. Norton Center to honor our supporters  
Tickets \$75: 302-428-3702 or [www.ministryofcaring.org](http://www.ministryofcaring.org)



"I got tired of surviving... instead of just living."

Howard Burch found shelter at House of Joseph I.

## A Marine Searches for Peace

Howard Burch, a combat veteran, spent two nights in the woods before finding shelter at House of Joseph I.

Shortly before he came to the Ministry of Caring, Howard Burch spent two nights sleeping outdoors.

A 56-year-old Marine combat veteran who served in Beirut, Lebanon, Burch had post-traumatic stress disorder stemming from his service, compounded by strife in his family.

"I was caught between a rock and a hard place," he said. "I just wanted peace. I wanted to practice peace."

Burch was recently divorced and had been living with an Iraq War veteran, but she became caught up in drug addiction.

Continued inside

## A Poem For the Holidays

Priscilla Rakestraw  
Development Director

[prakestraw@ministryofcaring.org](mailto:prakestraw@ministryofcaring.org)



With heartfelt gratitude for your love for the poorest among us, I offer the poem below.

Thank you for caring and sharing... for being part of the Ministry of Caring "family!" I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season, filled with all the traditions and people you love most!

### "What Do I Want for the Holidays?"

So many friends ask me...(as the holidays draw near),  
"What do you want for a gift? Something special this year?"

If I say, "Gosh, I don't know!" they'll buy a present anyway.  
So maybe I should think real hard. When asked, what will I say?

I have so many things now – vases, candles and clocks.  
My closets are filled with clothes... and lotions, jewelry and socks!

Candy is too fattening. Glasses? I've more than twenty.  
I don't need more plates or cups. Knickknacks? No, I have plenty.

No wall space to hang more pictures; books that I've not yet read!

So please give what you'd spend on me, and help the poor instead!

Help us care for the children, and help us feed the poor.  
Help us shelter the homeless, who come knocking at our door.

Please send us a holiday donation... here's all you'll need to do.

Just a small envelope — no wrapping paper, ribbons, ink or glue!

Your gift won't cost much for postage, as a package sent would do.

And in your heart you'll feel so many... gratefully thanking you!

*Priscilla*

## Bequests: A Lasting Impact

What truly lasts?

A smile, a hug, a laugh... they are fleeting, but their warm memory lasts.

As you remember the good feeling you get by helping the poor and hungry through the Ministry, consider going further and leaving a gift to the Ministry in your will. The impact of your gift will create a lasting memory for the people we serve.

To discuss ways a bequest or a planned gift can help the Ministry maintain and grow our programs to help the poor, contact Cindy Gamble at (302) 516-1069, or [cgamble@ministryofcaring.org](mailto:cgamble@ministryofcaring.org)

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He knew he had to move out, but he had nowhere to go. While he was looking for a place to live, he learned his niece had been sexually assaulted, and he began feeling anger he couldn't control. He went to the urgent care center at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

"They told me they didn't have no beds," he said. "I slept in the woods for two days."

A counselor at the VA told him about the House of Joseph I (HOJI), the Ministry of Caring's emergency shelter for men. Burch made an appointment to meet the shelter director, Tony Attaway, but he thought it would be another dead end. He admits to having trust issues with men. He had grown up with an alcoholic father, who showed up drunk to his high-school track meets, if he showed up at all.

"I came in here, sat down here, and as soon as I saw Tony... there was something about him," Burch said, sitting on a couch in the HOJI living room. "I heard him out, we did the interview, and I stayed. Since I've been here, everyone's been a blessing."

Attaway said he saw a courageousness in Burch.

"He was quick to stand up and speak out for what he felt was right," Attaway said. "Being in the military, he

came home with that same attitude, 'I will stand up and defend you.'"

Burch said, "I'm one of the ones who survived the Beirut experience. I just got tired of surviving, feeling as though every day was about surviving instead of just living. [House of Joseph I] gave me an opportunity to practice the small things—cleaning up in the morning, setting the table, breaking the table down, praying over the food, being thankful for the little things."

Burch began volunteering at Emmanuel Dining Room, and found comfort in serving those who were even less fortunate than himself.

Everywhere he went, he brought his backpack, filled with a notepad and a first-place ribbon he won in a singing contest. He discovered he was eligible for significant financial support due to his combat-related medical condition. After about a month at HOJI, he added a new item to his backpack—a key to his new apartment. There's one HOJI staff member he was eager to show it to—his case worker, Jeremiah Thaara.

"Mr. Jeremiah, I can't wait to see him tomorrow. He challenged me. He wanted to see the keys to my apartment. He wanted to see the lease agreement," Burch said. "I like to be a man of my word."



## One-Third of Dining Room Budget In Jeopardy

In 2015, the Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR) served over 180,000 meals to hungry men, women and children. During this year, we continue to serve those who are in need of a nutritious meal. Your generosity helped make this life-saving ministry possible – and we are most grateful.

Due to recent corporate cutbacks, and priorities set for this campaign, EDR is afraid that our allocation from United Way of Delaware will drop drastically. We are alarmed, because we count on this funding for 1/3 of our budget. **We need your help!** Would you please consider donating to United Way and designating Emmanuel Dining Room as the recipient,

using code 0295? This way, you can be assured that your money will go directly to feeding the hungry.

**Consider donating to Emmanuel Dining Room through United Way, using code 0295.**

Once again, we want you to know that all funds raised are desperately needed to support our three dining rooms, which feed many hungry people at breakfast and noon day meals.

As we approach the end of 2016 and enter into a new year, 2017, we are more conscious than ever that we need your support, so we can continue this mission of giving the people the basic need of life

– food.

We thank you, and we ask God to bless you and your faith community for your kindness to those in need.



"Every night, I open up the windows and get a beautiful view of Wilmington. I love it."

Howard Burch, on his last day at House of Joseph I before moving into a new apartment

## Volunteer Spotlight

### 'Wednesday Mornings Are Special'

Ellie Corbett Hannum talks about volunteering at Emmanuel Dining Room

Wednesdays are very special to me. It is the day I have the privilege of serving the guests of the Emmanuel Dining Room.

My husband, Buzz, and I have been doing it for about two-and-a-half years, every Wednesday. The other volunteers do every other Wednesday, but have been doing it for a much longer time. The camaraderie is great and the caring for each other and all the people we serve is palpable.

There is a commitment to make the start of our guests' day the best it can be. Great care is taken to make the oatmeal, display and serve the doughnuts, juice and coffee in a manner that would appeal to each of us. I am in charge of the beverages, so I ask each guest if they would like some milk in their oatmeal, and serve glasses of milk and ice water.

When I first started, a few people mentioned to me that the milk and water weren't cold enough. So I remedied that by making more trips to the refrigerator, so that the cartons don't sit out too long, and by keeping a bucket of ice handy to replenish ice when needed in the water. A small effort, but something that really makes them happy.

The first few weeks I volunteered I had to turn away a

*I had to turn away a few times to dry my eyes because it really broke my heart to observe the plight of many of our guests*



few times to dry my eyes because it really broke my heart to observe the plight of many of our guests, but as time moved on I learned to focus on what I can do, not what I can't. I can't cure poverty, but I can deal with each individual who crosses my path one-by-one and treat them with the courtesy, dignity and love that I would hope people would treat me with if the roles were ever reversed.

So Wednesday mornings are special—they're fun, they're fast, they're touching and, in a very small way, they make me feel that I am doing SOMETHING to help. God bless my fellow volunteers and all involved with the MOC.