

Mayor's Office Supporting Christmas in July to Benefit the Franciscan Center

Help the Franciscan Center celebrate *Christmas in July* by participating in a clothing and toiletries drive in conjunction with the Mayor's office. The summer months usually mean a gap in donations compared to the overwhelming support received over the holiday season. This year the Franciscan Center is holding *Christmas in July* to bridge this gap. To join in this effort, please bring donations of **clothing and toiletries** to City Hall Plaza located at 100 North Holliday Street on Thursday, July 12th from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to benefit the Franciscan Center.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will be making her donation to the collection at City Hall Plaza at 9:30 a.m. All are encouraged to stop by between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to contribute and help many Baltimore City residents who are in critical need of these items.

The Franciscan Center has been serving Baltimore's poor for the past 44 years, seeing 700 people almost every day. The Center provides a hot meal Monday through Friday in addition to emergency groceries, clothing, computer assistance, financial assistance and other social services. Our clothing program is in great need this summer season as between 30 and 50 people come through the clothing room daily. The Franciscan Center offers clothing for men, women, and children as well as basic toiletries many take for granted such as soap, shampoo, and razors. In 2011, the clothing program saw 4,636 individual clients, surprisingly it was even between men and women using the service. The Franciscan Center relies greatly on our community partners and to date has received \$145,000 worth of in-kind clothing and toiletries donations this year that have already been distributed.

If you cannot make it to City Plaza on July 12th, you may bring donations to the Franciscan Center directly anytime Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Center is located at 101 West 23rd Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. If you would like to learn more about *Christmas in July* or any of the services offered by the Franciscan Center, please contact Amy Bachman, Volunteer and In-Kind Donation Coordinator, at (410) 467-5340, Ext. 113 or abachman@fcbmore.org.