

Hands of Hope

News from the Franciscan Center

The 2016 Holiday Season brought SO many blessings – Thanks to YOUR kindness!

Story on Page 5.



Franciscan Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sharing Dignity and Hope Since 1968

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

It's always exciting to begin a new year, with all the promise it holds. Here at the Franciscan Center we're looking ahead with joyful anticipation, ever grateful for the privilege of partnering with YOU – our donors, supporters and volunteers - in service to Baltimore's most vulnerable citizens.



The 2016 holiday season was a warm and wonderful time - and it brought bountiful blessings! We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends in the community, who gave so selflessly of their time, their talent and their financial resources to brighten the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. YOU are our HOLIDAY HEROES – and the joy you shared has made an important difference. Thank you!

The holidays are behind us now, but as winter winds blow, demand for the Franciscan Center's services is ever greater. Sadly, the gnawing pain of hunger knows no holiday! Our annual Souper Bowl of Caring continues through the month of February, raising critically-needed funds for the Center's food programs. Please consider helping to "tackle hunger" in Baltimore this winter by forming a Souper Bowl of Caring team online, taking up a collection at your church, school or office or making a donation. Remember, just \$2.74 serves a hot, healthy meal to a hungry neighbor!

Last fall's *5th Annual Voices from the Heart Gala* was our best ever – and I hope you enjoy the photos on pages 3 and 4! Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for our 6th Annual Gala, to be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017!

Warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2017.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Meg Ducey
Interim Executive Director

Franciscan Center Board of Directors

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A background image of a football field at night, with stadium lights and a green overlay box containing text. The overlay box is semi-transparent and has a dark green background.

You can help TACKLE HUNGER
this winter by participating in the
Franciscan Center's 2017
Souper Bowl of Caring.

Visit the website to see how.

[www.fcbmore.kintera.org/
souperbowl2017](http://www.fcbmore.kintera.org/souperbowl2017)





A Night to Remember - at a New Venue



The room was *alive* with Franciscan spirit on Thursday, September 29th, 2016 at the Franciscan Center's **5th Annual Voices from the Heart Gala**. This fun and festive event was held on a new night and at a new venue – and it was our most successful event *ever*! With your help, we raised more than \$92,000 to benefit the Franciscan Center's programs serving poor and hungry citizens of Baltimore. What a beautiful blessing!



Sr. Mary Therese White of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi shared reflections entitled "We Are All Brothers and Sisters" to begin the evening's festivities, and we had the privilege of honoring Mr. Kevin Wille of CB Richard Ellis with the Center's "Spirit of St. Francis" Award. A guest of the Center, Kawanda Williams, shared how our programs had changed her life, and our guests enjoyed fabulous jazz music and dancing from the Radio King



Orchestra's RKO Combo. It truly was a night to remember!

Special thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Robert Lang of WBAL Radio, our generous sponsors (listed on page 4) and our wonderful Host Committee for the event. We are overwhelmed by your kindness! We'd also like to thank our Gala planning committee, who worked tirelessly throughout the past year to make it such a great success, as well as our staff and volunteers. God bless you!

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for our **6th Annual Voices from the Heart Gala**, to be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel on Dulaney Valley Road in Towson. We look forward to welcoming you for another magical, musical evening to benefit Baltimore's most vulnerable citizens!



We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals, whose generous sponsorship of our *5th Annual Voices from the Heart Gala* helped to make it our best event ever.

PRESENTING



DRESS CIRCLE



MEZZANINE

Bitumar Stifel
Radio King Orchestra

BALCONY

Baltimore Medical System
Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Co.
Johns Hopkins University
McGuire Woods LLP

RCM&D
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Sheaffer
Talen Energy
W.R. Grace Foundation

MEDIA

The Baltimore Business Journal
City Peek

Downtown Diane
WBAL Radio

PARKING

Talen Energy

An Unexpected Challenge – and a Beautiful Blessing



Special thanks to Chris Flanery of SI Restoration!

The Franciscan Center faced an unexpected challenge last Fall – a challenge that brought us a beautiful blessing! Suspicious-looking stains on the walls in our dish room and Technical Resource Center (TRC) led us to have these areas inspected for mold. When all three of the companies we contacted confirmed that our problem was indeed mold, we moved quickly to have it treated. SI Restoration Company offered us a very fair price and outstanding service, and they took care of both areas in a single weekend. That meant we did not have to miss a beat in serving our guests!

Unfortunately, when the wall between our TRC and Emergency Food Pantry was opened they found more mold. This was quite a dilemma, since we did not have funds for any of this remediation in our budget. When they learned about the services we provide, this community spirited company agreed to do the additional mold remediation pro bono. What a blessing! A heartfelt “thank you” to our friends at SI Restoration, for their professionalism and their great kindness. You can check out their website at: www.SI-RESTORATION.com.

A Bountiful Holiday Season!



We are *overwhelmed* by the kindness of our Donors, Supporters and Volunteers, whose generosity helped provide food, warm clothing, toiletry items and CHRISTMAS JOY to THOUSANDS of our neighbors in need! You truly are our HOLIDAY HEROES! THANK YOU, one and all, for sharing so generously of your time, your talent and your resources in service to those less fortunate.

We'd like to give a special "shout out" to several of these HOLIDAY HEROES whose kindness helped to make the holiday season EXTRA SPECIAL for the men, women and children whom we serve at the Franciscan Center!

- The **LONG GREEN COUNCIL of the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** and the **SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES PARISH FAMILY**, who provided food for our THANKSGIVING DINNER.
- **THE BALTIMORE RAVENS** organization, who donated MORE THAN 250 NEW WARM COATS, GLOVES AND HATS for our most vulnerable neighbors!
- **BANK OF AMERICA**, whose generous staff prepared HUNDREDS OF BAG LUNCHES, as well as 600 BAGS OF NEW TOILETRY ITEMS for our guests.
- **ALL OF THE CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS** who collected new, warm clothing, food and toiletry items in our HOLIDAY GIVING TREE project
- The **EPIC BROS**, a group of young men from Phoenix, MD, who worked with their families and neighbors to collect food, toiletry items and clothing for the Center.
- **THE HYATT REGENCY BALTIMORE**, who collected MORE THAN 550 NEW, WARM BLANKETS for our guests in their BLANKET BALTIMORE campaign, and to **RON MATZ of WJZ TV**, who helped to promote this project.
- **HEAVEN ON EARTH NOW**, who prepared and donated 550 BAGS OF FULL-SIZE TOILETRY ITEMS for our guests!
- **GIVING BACK, LINDA'S LEGACY**, who delivered 250 BACK PACKS FILLED WITH NEW HATS, GLOVES, SOCKS AN OTHER ITEMS on December 23rd, as well as food, gently used books and clothing.



Our Friend ROBERT LANG from WBAL RADIO visited the Center for our Christmas Celebration on December 22nd and taped an interview that aired on Christmas morning. Check it out on our website, at: www.fcbmore.com.

Our New Refrigerated Van Hit the Streets in January.



When you're driving around Baltimore these days, you may see the Franciscan Center's familiar "heart and hands" logo on a beautiful new refrigerated van. Thanks to a generous grant from the France Merrick Foundation, the Franciscan Center is now the proud owner of this vehicle, which hit the streets in January. What a beautiful blessing! The purchase of this refrigerated van opens up many new possibilities for the Franciscan Center, allowing us to receive donations of perishable food that have never before been available to us. Special thanks to our friends at the France Merrick Foundation for making this possible!



The holy season of Lent begins in just a few weeks – a time of prayer, reflection and almsgiving. As you prepare your hearts and homes to celebrate the beautiful feast of Easter, we ask that you remember the Franciscan Center in your prayers. We continue to pray for YOU – our donors, supporters and volunteers – whose kindness makes our mission possible.

There Are No Words!

At the Franciscan Center's *5th Annual Voices from the Heart Gala*, Presenting Sponsor Ryan Yu of Daly Computers took Interim Executive Director Meg Ducey aside and shared some news that moved her to tears. Ryan offered to donate new computers, monitors, laptops and printers to replace the aging equipment used each day by the Franciscan Center's staff. What an incredible blessing! Daly team members visited the Center in October to deliver this equipment and begin the installation process.

Words cannot begin to express how grateful we are to Ryan, his wife Margaret Chao and all of our friends at Daly Computers. This amazing, community-spirited company is an important partner in service to Baltimore's most vulnerable citizens! Check out their website at www.daly.com.



Nydia Walsh of Daly Computers helps unpack our new equipment

Franciscan Center's 22nd Annual
Charity Golf Tournament
Tuesday, July, 11, 2017



Eagle's Nest Country Club

PLEASE
SAVE
THESE
DATES!

Franciscan Center's 6th Annual

*Voices from the
Heart Gala*



Thursday, September 21, 2017
Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel