

Father Woody's Newsletter

Father Woody's Haven of Hope
operated by The Franciscan Friends of the Poor
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Franciscan Friends to Open New "Haven" in May

The Franciscan Friends of the Poor was organized and incorporated on December 18, 1998, under the nonprofit incorporation laws of the State of Colorado. All gifts, donations and grants to the FFOP are tax deductible to the donating person, firm or other legal entity, in accordance with Section 501c(3) of the U.S. Revenue Code.

The Purpose of the FFOP's ministering is to provide food, shelter, clothing, counseling, rehabilitation and hygienic services to the homeless and indigent. Over the past few years we have provided showers haircuts and laundry for our homeless guests.

We are building a 5700 sq. ft building in honor of Rev. Monsignor Charles B. Woodrich, "Father Woody." Father Woody was the champion for the homeless plight and we have named our new facility, "Father Woody's Haven of Hope." Our building should be open in May 2007, and will have 7 private showers, and bathrooms. We will have a large dining room to serve a warm meal to



Construction on Father Woody's Haven of Hope, February 2007

between 150 to 200 homeless a day, some of them their only meal for the day. We will continue with haircuts and laundry service.

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Meet The New Executive Director Kathleen Cronan

THE COMPASS: On December 1, 2006, I was privileged to be hired as the Executive Director of the Franciscan Friends of the Poor, home of Father Woody's Haven of Hope. I am especially excited to be here as we make plans to open our new building, which will allow us to be of even greater help to those we serve. Of course, with the new building comes new challenges. More about that in a moment. First, I would like to introduce myself to you in the first of what I hope will be many columns to come.



I am a native of Denver, and attended St. James Grade School, Marycrest High School, Regis College, the University of Colorado, and ultimately the University of Denver. Growing up in a loving family with a stable home life allowed me many opportunities for education, reflection and personal growth – the exact opportunities that most of our guests did not have. In high school, the Sisters of St. Francis encouraged their students to be beacons of light in our world of darkness, and to address the needs of the poor as our duty, not as an afterthought. After marrying in 1980 and being blessed with two beautiful children, I was struck with the urge to "give back" in a more tangible way. At the same time, my parish was

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Franciscan Friends To Open New "Haven" (cont.)

Following is a list of the kitchen furnishings still needed:

2 New Blue Air 2 door refrigerator w/casters	\$ 5,850.00
1 New Blue Air single door freezer w/casters	\$ 3,250.00
1 New Supreme Metal 3 hole electric steam table w/casters	\$ 1,170.00
2 New Blue Air 48" sandwich prep table w/casters	\$ 6,240.00
1 New Ice O Matic 355 ice machine	\$ 4,420.00
1 American Dish Machine pass thru dishwasher w/dirty & clean table (low temp)	\$ 5,850.00
1 New Blue Air veggie prep sink (includes hardware)	\$ 650.00
2 New Blue Air wall hand sink	\$ 455.00
1 New Royal 6 burner stove w/casters	\$ 1,625.00
1 Microwave oven	\$ 325.00
1 New Blodgett gas double convection oven	<u>\$10,140.00</u>
Total	\$39,975.00

Mission Statement

To provide food, shelter, clothing, counseling, rehabilitation and hygienic services to the homeless and indigent.

How We Served in 2006

- \$9,000 paid in rent to avoid eviction
- \$1,400 paid in gas and lights to avoid power disruptions
- Sent 25 homeless out of state to be reunited with families
- \$5,500 in groceries to the feed the poor
- Served over 21,000 five course hot lunches (for many, this was the only meal for the day)
- Afforded 1,800 hot showers
- Served continental breakfast to over 5,000
- Distributed medicine, toiletries and personal hygiene daily
- Provided 7,500 minutes of local and long distance phone service
- Delivered over 350 boxes of food to neighbors in need
- Laundered over 1,500 bags of clothing for the homeless
- Distributed over 10,000 articles of clothing, coats and basics

"This place is unbelievable awesome," said one homeless man who had breakfast, lunch and a shower at the home this week. Giving only his first name, Jared, 36, explained that he lost his apartment four months ago after a week without work meant he couldn't pay his rent. The jack-of-all trades then lived in motels until his money ran out. His car was serving as his home until it disappeared - either impounded or stolen - three weeks ago.

"They saved me," he said about the Franciscan Friends, "because I didn't know where to turn. I'm starting out from nothing now."

Quoted from the Denver Catholic Register July 19, 2006 by Roxanne King.



John Metsker volunteers every other week to give haircuts

Board of Directors

Catherine Canny
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Meals served in tent until new construction is complete

Letter from the Director (continued)

building a new Church, and our pastor requested that our community build a Habitat for Humanity house as part of building a new house for our parish. That event led to an 18 year stint as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. That experience taught me the necessity of stability for the success of the working poor.

The Poor that we serve at the Haven of Hope suffer from more than instability. The issues that they face are endless: mental illness, abuse, addiction, criminal history, spiritual and physical trauma. For many, the Haven of Hope provides the only source of stability in their lives.

It is often said that you can choose your friends, but you cannot choose your relatives. These poor, the mentally ill, abusers, addicts, criminals and victims are all our relatives – we are all one family in the Lord. These are our brothers and sisters. We may not have chosen them, but God has chosen them. Each of them is precious in God's sight, and we must hold them precious in our sight .

So I was asked to tell you why I have chosen to accept the position of Executive Director of the Franciscan Friends of the Poor. There are a myriad of reasons, some of which I am sure I have yet to discover. But the first one I will share with you: if not now, then when? I am getting no younger --- are you? It is my responsibility to care for my brothers and sisters, even if it means sacrifice, even if it means discomfort, even if it means suffering. I hope as time goes on we will discover together all the reasons we have chosen to serve the poor during our lives. I am sure that each of you have your own story which has compelled you to care for the poor. I hope I can meet each of you personally and share your stories as well. I would also like to hear from you via email at cass@frwoodyshavenofhope.org.

I mentioned that the new building, which we plan to open in May, brings new challenges. If we are to take full advantage of the new facility, we will need more help than ever before. I know that many of you already help in many ways, including making donations and volunteering your time. Another way you can help is to spread the word about our efforts. Let others know about the Haven of Hope. Encourage your friends to help, so we can greatly expand our base of volunteers. There is no shortage of tasks; no shortage of people we can help.

Finally, why have I called this column a “compass”? A few weeks ago, one of our homeless guests gifted me with a compass that she found on her “route”. When she gave it to me, she told me that the compass was given to me so that I could find my way back to them – our guests.

It is my hope that over the next weeks and months that we will find our way back to them together.

In service, Cass