

Father Woody's Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Father Woody's Haven of Hope
operated by The Franciscan Friends of the Poor
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COLD WEATHER. COLD HEARTS?

“The homeless prefer cold weather to cold hearts”

That observation - made by a gentleman who simply calls himself “The Homeless Guy” - honestly describes the feelings of many individuals who, for a variety of reasons, live on the streets. He adds, “Many of the homeless have mental illness issues and drug abuse issues, meaning they are less able to handle stressful environments.”



One of our frequent guests catching a few rays outside Fr. Woody's Haven of Hope

All too often the homeless are treated with disdain. Sometimes, people are judgmental with comments like, “If only they would sober up...” or “If only they would get a job...” Cold hearts.

At Father Woody's, we work hard to make sure that the homeless don't encounter cold hearts. Instead they find warm meals and some relief from the frigid winter weather.

With your support, this winter Father Woody's Haven of Hope is serving more homeless guests than ever before. Typically, over 200 people a day enjoy a hot lunch and respite from the cold. Hot meals, hot showers, clean clothes. And perhaps most importantly, warm hearts.

There are several homeless shelters in the Denver area and usually they are bursting at the seams in the winter. So much so that during the periods of extreme cold this January, the city opened an emergency overnight shelter.

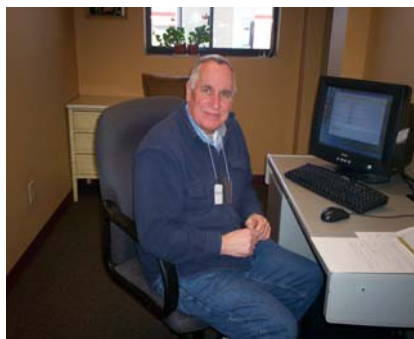
However, most overnight homeless shelters are just that - places for people to get some protection from the sub-freezing temperatures during the nighttime hours. They aren't open during the day.

That's why the services provided by Father Woody's are so important - and unique. When they have no other place to go, the homeless can get breakfast, a hot lunch and more at the Haven of Hope.

For example, in the mornings the homeless guests can take a hot shower. Father Woody's is the only homeless facility in the Denver area offering private showers, and the waiting line is long.

We also offer laundry service. The homeless guests may leave their dirty clothes and pick them up fresh from our laundry the next day. Add in other services such as haircuts, clothing, toiletries and basic hygienic items and it is easy to see just how important Father Woody's is to the homeless in our area.

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Ron hard at work on the newsletter!

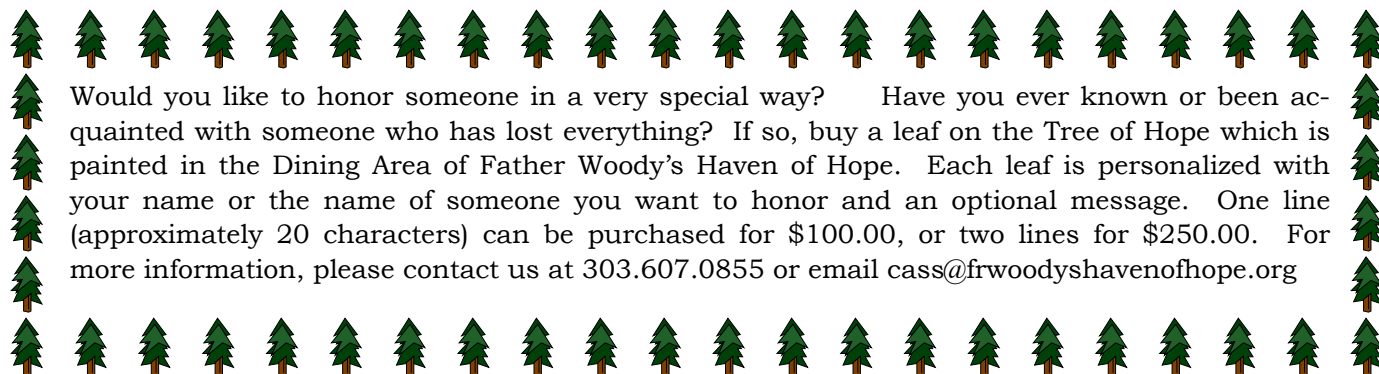
MEET RON BIBBY — VOLUNTEER

Ron Bibby, is a native of Illinois, but a long-time resident of Denver. He was moved to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL in 1992 after Lowry AFB closed. He retired from the Federal Government in 2003, returned to Denver in 2004, and began volunteering with the Franciscan Friends of the Poor when we were still serving breakfast and lunch at the church on 9th and Kalamath in the Fall of 2006. Asked why he volunteers, Ron replied that he is grateful for a successful career and good health and wishes to give back to those less fortunate.

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The Tree of Hope



Would you like to honor someone in a very special way? Have you ever known or been acquainted with someone who has lost everything? If so, buy a leaf on the Tree of Hope which is painted in the Dining Area of Father Woody's Haven of Hope. Each leaf is personalized with your name or the name of someone you want to honor and an optional message. One line (approximately 20 characters) can be purchased for \$100.00, or two lines for \$250.00. For more information, please contact us at 303.607.0855 or email cass@frwoodyshavenofhope.org

Tax Savings

Did you know we are an Enterprise Zone Charity? Your gift to us may entitle you to a Colorado state income tax credit. In addition to the charitable deduction allowed for your gift, if you pay Colorado state income tax, you may be entitled to a state income tax credit of up to 25% of the amount of your gift. Minimum \$100 gift required. We also accept car and truck donations!

Call or e-mail us today for more information: 303-607-0855 or info@frwoodyshavenofhope.org.

If you have not received your enterprise zone form from us for a gift in 2007, please contact us.



Unsolicited Testimonial

One of our donors sent us the following note with a donation for the Christmas Holiday:
"Thank you for all you do for people on the street, some by choice and others because of drugs or alcohol addiction. Families are always grateful when help from home isn't available. Thanks again for you walking saints. We will keep you in our prayers."

Prayers are always welcome and needed!



But none of this would be possible without your support.

The mission of Father Woody's is to provide help, "without judgment." That was the credo of Father Woody, Msgr. C. B. Woodrich, a man who certainly had a warm heart.

"We want to provide a place of comfort, a place of acceptance and a different environment than the overnight shelters," said Haven of Hope executive director Cass Cronan. "We also try to provide hope."

Perhaps it is the recession, the rise in unemployment, the number of foreclosures. Whatever the reasons, the needs are greater than ever, especially in winter.

To continue providing thousands of hot meals each month, along with our many other services, we very much need your help. It is your donation – your warm heart – that keeps our doors open.

On behalf of our many homeless guests, thank you.

Dedication Invocation

by Fr. John Lager on October 17, 2007

On Feb. 3, 1982, Fr. Woody spoke to the press about the homeless who has taken refuge in his Church and used the pews as their bed... "We cannot pray to the Lord and reject the ones he loves the most."

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness you have made this your dwelling place for the poor, hungry, and homeless.

It is now dedicated as the Fr. Woody's Haven of Hope. It is in this space that lives can be transformed, where the needy can find help, and the brokenhearted can know love and dignity. It is a place of great HOPE.

In Isaiah 58:6ff; we read: "This is the fasting that I desire: releasing those bound unjustly, sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed, the homeless ones, not turning your back on your own."

Lord, for those who are poor, it is mostly a hand to mouth and day to day existence. They know the never ending growling in the bottom of their stomachs and see the fearful look of those whom they encounter on our streets... seeking to mete out enough to survive for themselves or feed their families.

Lord, be close to your servants who move into this Haven of Hope today. We ask your blessings on those who made this facility possible, the donors, volunteers, and the foundations. Without these great lovers of the poor, you would still be poor and homeless.

Bless this ministry... those who serve and those who are served. Be their shelter when they are cold, their companion when they are lonely, and their welcome guest when they are greeted at this door. And at last receive them into the eternal dwelling place you have prepared for them in your Father's house, you who live and reign forever and ever.



...and the little children shall lead

The mother of one of our youngest donors writes:

"Dear Franciscan Friends,

One day Rebecca was inspired to wash out a large jar and use it to collect money for the poor. She would like to present you with the money she has collected thus far, with the help of her brothers. God bless you in your mission."

Thank, and God bless you, Rebecca!



Mayor John Hickenlooper helps serve lunch to our guests during his visit December 18, 2007.

Visit from Denver's Mayor

Denver's Mayor John Hickenlooper made a visit to Fr. Woody's Haven of hope to learn more about the services we provide to the homeless. During his visit he helped us serve lunch and afterwards had a tour of the facilities, and we believe he was quite impressed with all that we do and have accomplished. Since his visit, we have been able to connect with more outreach services offered by the City of Denver. Two years ago, Mayor Hickenlooper announced a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Denver.

Attention Donors

An upcoming issue of this newsletter will list all of our donors. If you do not wish your name to appear on this list please let us know soon.

Mission Statement

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

**Father Woody's
Haven of Hope**
Operated by the Franciscan
Friends of the Poor

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Denver, CO 80204

Nonprofit org
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**"We are here to serve not to judge."
Rev. Monsignor Charles B. Woodrich
"Father Woody"**