



Homeless Jesus Statue Gives Comfort to the Men of SJH



Pictured L to R: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Timothy Schmalz, (Artist), James Amato (Secretary, Catholic Human Services) David Stier (Director, SJH), and Karen Beyer (donor)

On July 31st the Saint John's Hospice (SJH) family of friends and supporters gathered together outside the shelter on Race Street, to mark a very special occasion for Catholic Social Services and the city of Philadelphia: the dedication and blessing of the *Homeless Jesus* statue. This life-size bronze statue is a depiction of Christ as a homeless person sleeping on a park bench. The figure's face and body are covered, with only its feet exposed to show wounds from the crucifixion. This powerful image is the vision and creation of Canadian sculptor, Timothy Schmalz.

The statue, which has been replicated numerous times, can be found outside of churches and cathedrals around the world. Places such as Dublin, Washington, D.C., Madrid, and Vatican City each have their own *Homeless Jesus*. It is Schmalz's mission to have this statue in every city in the world as a reminder to all who pass by that Christ is ever-present in those who are poor and suffering.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. presided over the blessing and dedication ceremony. Artist Timothy Schmalz, benefactor Karen Beyer, and members of the Beyer family, as well as members from the Saint John's Hospice community, were all present to share in the event. The Archbishop joined Schmalz and the Beyer family remained at SJH after the ceremony to serve lunch to over 300 homeless men.

Also in attendance were many of the men who had arrived at Saint John's that day for a meal. One Saint John's Hospice resident, Cornell, commented on the *Homeless Jesus* statue: "When people are homeless they feel sad and depressed. To see Jesus, the Creator of the universe, as a homeless person, it lets you know that no matter what happens, He is always with you—that you're never alone."

***Saint John's Hospice would like to thank
Karen Beyer and the George C. Beyer family
for this generous and thoughtful gift
to Saint John's Hospice
and to the people of Philadelphia.***



A homeless man rests on the bench beside Homeless Jesus outside of Saint John's Hospice

Gratitude and Kindness is Everywhere at SJH

A reflection from David Stier, Saint John's Hospice Program Director



David Stier, SJH Program Director

One of our residents went through a period of being unusually helpful to the SJH staff. In fact it seemed that his desire to help was a bit over the top. I asked myself what was going on. While I couldn't be sure, I thought I understood. The insight struck my heart. He was modeling behavior that God must surely want of me too.

Our resident felt a profound sense of gratitude, and wanted to give back the love that he was receiving from the staff at SJH. What really took hold of me was that his gratitude was surely born out of a heart-wrenching awareness of something lacking in his life. He knew the absence of love, and also knew the pain of being judged.

All of our SJH men are looked down upon by society.

There are many subtle ways that people, even well-meaning ones, convey a sense of superiority. Some people aren't subtle at all. Their harsh judgements against the homeless hurtfully pour out. It is an enormous challenge for even the strongest and most righteous of our men to not internalize these assaults against their souls. It can be even harder if a man admits that he has made some mistakes.

Of course we all make mistakes, big and small. All of us also lack love in our lives, not because God doesn't offer love, but because we don't claim the full portion that God gives. What really touched my heart was the realization that God must prefer that I make myself more like this resident of ours by becoming more aware of the lack of love in my life. Surely God would smile if I truly yearned for God's love just as our resident yearned for love.

It seems a timely thought during the Christmas season when we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world – God's love made flesh. We have to make room for God's loving presence. Maybe this Christmas we could all focus on how much we lack; actively note the ways that we allow our lives to become empty; create a larger space for God; enter more fully into the love that is all around us. If we can model ourselves after our resident, it will be a beautiful Christmas!

Wishing you the gift of God's love this Christmas and always,

David Stier



**Saint John's Hospice seeks to be
a community grounded in
faith and service
where homeless persons find
dignity, respect, nourishment and
opportunities for new beginnings.**

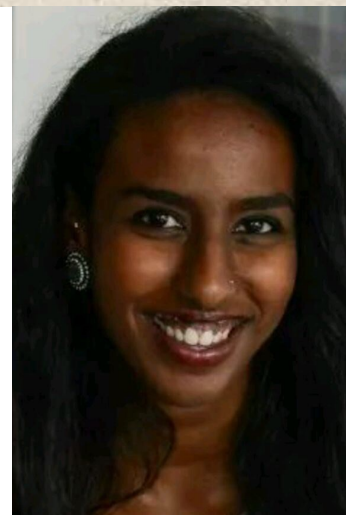
Meet Our New Employees



Sharon Johnson
SJH Weekend RA



Marty Farrell
Community Relations
Coordinator



Nada Elsayed
GSP Weekend RA

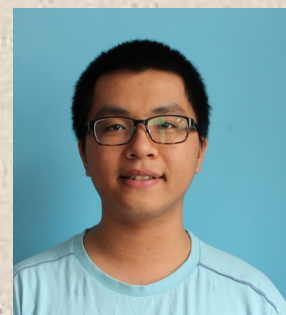
Franciscan Postulants Join Saint John's Hospice for a Year of Service



Postulant Luke Kim

Saint John's Hospice welcomes Franciscan Postulants Luke Kim and John Pham to the SJH family. A Postulant is a person who is taking the first step in his/her religious life before entering the novitiate and receiving the habit. The purpose of postulancy is to acquire some knowledge of the religious life through personal experience and service. Luke and John chose Saint John's Hospice as their service project for their first year of formation. Luke volunteers his time working with our Day Services guests as a case management assistant: "I assist Mr. Braxton in the basement. We work with day-service men to get them what they need to improve their situations. I enjoy being able to work with these men one on one. It allows me to build a stronger bond with the community."

John spends his time in the SJH kitchen, working with the staff and volunteers to provide hot, nourishing meals for hundreds of homeless men each day: "I work in the kitchen and on the floor during the lunch hour. It's great! I look forward to working with the men and volunteers every day." Thank you Luke and John, for your service, commitment, and compassion for our men. May God bless you during this very special year!



Postulant John Pham

Join Us in Support of the SJH 2017-18 Annual Appeal!



To all who have already made a gift to our 2017-2018 Annual Appeal during this holiday season, **"THANK YOU!"** Your contributions enable Saint John's Hospice to provide life-sustaining services such as hot meals, showers, clothing, case management, nursing care, mailroom services and mental health counseling to thousands of homeless men of our city every year. We welcome all of you to consider joining our Annual Appeal which runs until June 30, 2018.

For more information on our programs and how your donation truly makes a difference, contact Kris Jaeger at 215.563.7763 or kjaeger@chs-adphila.org.

Saint John's Hospice 2017 Fall Fling Gala



Thank you to all of our friends and supporters who came out on September 15th to attend
*the Fourth Annual
 Saint John's Hospice Fall Fling Gala
 at the beautiful
 American Swedish Historical Museum!*



We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for everyone's support and for the generosity of our annual Gala guests, sponsors, donors, volunteers and local businesses for making this event a success.



***Thanks to you,
 we were able to raise \$113,000,
 all of which will go directly to our program to
 provide life-sustaining services such as food, shelter,
 showers, mailroom services, case management,
 nursing care and mental health counseling
 to thousands of homeless men of our city.***



Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors



“One Step Away From Homelessness”

I was called to do hospice service on a street called Race.
I wasn't sure what to expect when I arrived at this place.

St. John's provides shelter for those men with no home.
Ensuring the homeless they are never alone.

God's work is practiced and achieved at this facility.
Providing clothes, showers, and beds for those with no ability.

I shared lunch and conversation with Leonard who lives upstairs.
I agreed to keep him and the others in my prayers.

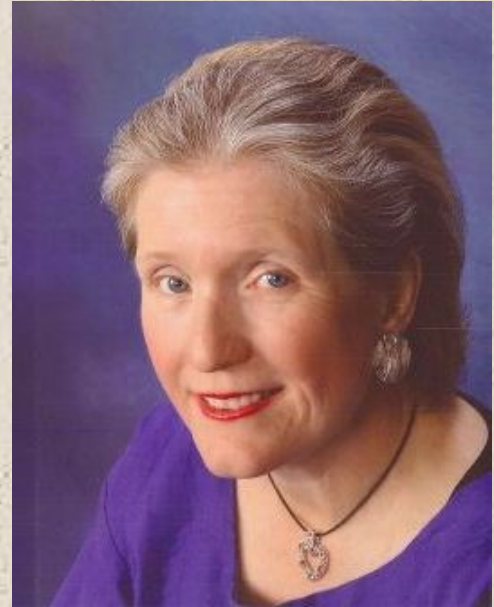
He admitted his devil was too much booze.
He ceased since his lodgings he cannot lose.

On the food line I served so many that were hungry.
The ages and faces were astounding to me.

The face of hunger has changed over the years.
The youthful able bodies almost moved me to tears.

This made me wonder what God had in store.
For the nation with so much has so many poor.

When we can't cope with life's unexpected duress,
Aren't we all one step away from homelessness.



Poet and SJH Volunteer,

Eileen Gray

Meet Saint John's Hospice Resident, Leonard B.

As a Saint John's Hospice resident, Leonard is no stranger to hardship. Born in New Jersey and raised in Philadelphia, his childhood was turbulent. Constant moves from one relative's house to the next kept Leonard from experiencing the sense of security and stability that many of us were born into and take for granted.

Never knowing the comfort of having his own home, Leonard came to Saint John's Hospice in hopes of changing his life, and ensuring a better future for himself and his family. While Leonard admits that he has made mistakes in his life, he takes great pride in his children and his role as their father: "The most important thing to me is being there for my kids, and making sure they have everything they need. My dad was on the run for most of my childhood. His absence showed me the importance of presence, of being present for my kids. People who know me, know that I put my kids first. They're everything to me."

The past year has not been easy for Leonard. Between paperwork issues and unfruitful job applications, it would be easy for him to give up or point fingers, but that isn't the case. He has his children to think of: "I really believe that things are going to get better. At this point in my life, I am devoting all of my time and energy to getting a job."

Leonard hopes to work for the Sanitation Department of Philadelphia. He is young, able-bodied, and knows that he can earn a living as a trash man: "I want to be able to wake up every morning, go to work and come home to my kids with enough to provide for them. I just want to be comfortable. I don't want anything extra."



SJH Resident, Leonard B.

Volunteer Spotlight



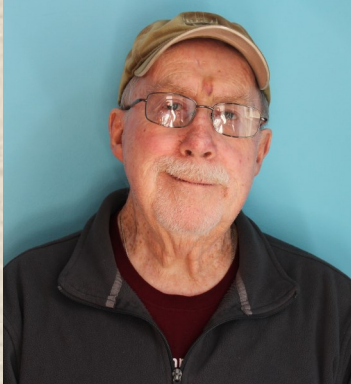
Rich Brennan

Meet SJH Development Council member, Rich Brennan. Rich's commitment to service began as a student at Saint Joseph's University: "While at St. Joe's, I was actively engaged with our Faith –Justice Institute. This

had a profound impact on my work as a volunteer for Saint John's." Inspired by the Saint John's Hospice program, Rich tirelessly advocates for the Saint John's Hospice men and mission through various fundraising events. From organizing Wells Fargo volunteer days of service at SJH, to guest bartending during Hawks games to raise money for Saint John's, Rich does it all!

Rich's fondest memory was being asked to join the SJH Development Council, where he advises on everything from finance to fundraising and events. Thank you Rich for your dedication and commitment to your community, to service, and to Saint John's Hospice!

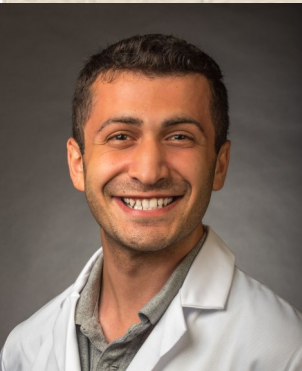
The Hawk Will Never Die!



Jim Dowling

If you're ever at Saint John's on a Wednesday for lunch, you're likely to see Jim in his tan hat and big smile serving a hot meal or bussing trays for our Day Services guests. Jim says simply, "I enjoy giving back and serving the men of Saint John's every week." Jim

came to SJH looking for opportunities to serve the homeless community: "I've been very fortunate in my life. I wanted to give back to those who have not been so fortunate." He found his opportunity to do so through weekly volunteer work at Saint John's Hospice. Jim looks forward to greeting and serving the hundreds of men who come for the noontime meal. He says that he particularly enjoys when he sees one of the men in passing outside of the shelter: "There's several men here who I see consistently throughout the city. It's always nice to be able to smile and acknowledge each other on the street." Thank you Jim, for your hard work and dedication to SJH and our men!



Paul Simon

Meet one of our newest Saint John's Hospice (SJH) volunteers, Paul Simon. A recent transplant from California, Paul relocated to Philadelphia to pursue his medical degree. When asked what drew him to volunteer at SJH, Paul replied, "I was drawn to Saint

John's because it caters to a severely underserved population. St. John's provides consistent meals and emergency housing to homeless men, a group that's often overlooked when providing aid for the homeless." Over his past two months of service, Paul has been able to connect with the men who come to John's each day for food and support. One particular experience had a significant impact on him: "One of the guests came up to me and asked if he could play some music on the piano. After a nod from a staff member, the man went on to play some festive holiday tunes, and proceeded to have the biggest smile on his face that I'd ever seen from him. Then it struck me, were it not for Saint John's, this man would have not had any other way to express himself. Although music is not as important as food or shelter, it is important for a person's well-being." Thanks Paul, for your compassion and service to our men!



Joann Rothong

Joann Rothong first came to Saint John's in 2006, when she and her daughter were looking for a place to volunteer for Thanksgiving dinner. She recalls, "We were tired of how big the whole dinner thing was getting, and we wanted to get

back to the basics of the holiday. Helping to serve Thanksgiving dinner made us thankful to share the holiday with the residents of St. John's." Her involvement with Saint John's expanded from Thanksgiving dinner to volunteering monthly at lunch.

Joann's fondest memory at Saint John's is seeing one of the men come through the lunch line in a sweater that she had donated: "Sometimes, when we donate items, we cannot make the connection between the donated items and the person receiving the items. I was so happy to see the sweater put to good use so quickly." Thank you Joann, for your loyal service to Saint John's and to our homeless brothers.

CSS Employee of the Year, Mitchell Williams

Each year, Catholic Social Services (CSS) honors several individuals with the CSS Employee of the Year Award. This award is presented to those who have been nominated by their supervisor and confirmed by CSS management. Recipients are full-time staff members who exemplify the mission of CSS and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, are role models for other staff and clients, and are enthusiastic team players who work beyond the call of duty to further the mission of Catholic Social Services.

This year, Saint John's is proud to announce Mitchell Williams, Saint John's Hospice's Housekeeper, as the recipient of this prestigious honor. Mitchell, better known as "Mitch", first arrived at Saint John's in 2000 as a resident. He recalls, "When I first moved into Saint John's, the Program Director at that time, Fr. Kevin Lawrence, gave me a chance...he had faith in me." Fr. Kevin commented, "Mitch has inner strength, grace, and light that comes through in his smile and the way he treats others."

For several months, Mitch worked on managing his addiction, spending most of his days at Narcotics Anonymous meetings. It was at these meetings that Mitchell first began to find hope: "I knew that in order for me to fully recover from my addiction, I needed to seek someone or something greater than myself. The support and sense of community that I found in my Narcotic Anonymous group was the beginning of my physical and spiritual healing and road to recovery."

While living as a resident at Saint John's, Mitch worked at a print shop located down the street from the shelter. In 2001, with the help of his case manager, he moved into his own apartment. Although he no longer lived at Saint John's, his job required him to routinely pass the shelter where he would regularly see Fr. Kevin. As Mitch recalls, "One day, while out on one of my deliveries, Fr. Kevin stopped me and asked if I'd be interested in a part-time job at Saint John's. I came back later that day and filled out an application. The following weekend I received my training and began working as the weekend Resident Aide."

Fr. Kevin believed that Mitch was ideal for the job: "Mitch treated everyone with respect, consideration and compassion." After two years of working weekends for Saint John's, Mitchell was promoted to his current position as the full-time housekeeper.



Pictured above at the CSS Employee Recognition Dinner, from L to R: David Stier (SJH Program Director), Mitchell Williams (SJH Housekeeper) and James Amato (Secretary for Catholic Human Services)



Mitchell Williams, SJH Housekeeper

Mitch's work begins every morning before he ever arrives at Saint John's. As soon as he steps off the Broad Street Line at Race and Vine, he is greeted by men who visit the shelter for food and services. They look to Mitch for help and advice. They see him as a role model, as someone who was able to overcome the hardships that so many of them still face: "I enjoy what I'm doing," Mitchell says, "I am most proud of helping the men and letting them know that, just like me, they can have a second chance in life."

Today, Mitch is living a clean and healthy life, free from addiction. On August 14th, 2017, he celebrated his 16th year of sobriety. We are blessed to have you Mitch!

Saint John's Hospice Remembers Volunteers and Friends, William Barrett and John Weaver



*William Barrett, SJH Volunteer and Donor
(1929-2017)*

On July 21st, William "Bill" Barrett, a long-time volunteer and generous supporter of Saint John's Hospice, passed away at the age of 88. Bill was a faithful Saint John's volunteer for over thirty-five years and will always be remembered fondly for his kind smile, caring spirit, and willingness to help in any way possible. Program Director David Stier recalls Bill during his time at SJH: "Bill was well liked by the staff and other volunteers. He always came in with a smile and approached each day with a warm heart. He was determined to make the most of the time he spent with us and to make a difference for the guys here at Saint John's." Bill's wife Ethel fondly remembers how much Bill, "enjoyed the people of Saint John's. He loved working with the men." Our sincerest condolences go out to Ethel and the entire Barrett family for their loss. Bill was a great friend of SJH and will always be remembered for his love of our mission and compassion for our men.

John Weaver, 74, of Limerick, PA passed away peacefully on August 6, 2017 after fighting a long battle with cancer. You always knew when John was walking into the room; his booming voice, amazing laugh, and larger than life presence will be missed at SJH. John was a dedicated member of the Saint John's Hospice Development council where he served for six years. Board Chair Francis X. Connell commented: "John always came with a cheerful and giving spirit. He was of great assistance connecting Saint John's with a few generous foundations which led to support for the Mission. We will miss his kind way and the example of dedication he showed for the homeless men we are blessed to serve." His wife Diane recalls what drew John to service at SJH: "John loved the men— he loved interacting with them and donating his time and lots of his clothing to help them." On behalf of the Saint John's Hospice staff, Development Council, residents, and day guests, we send our deepest condolences to Diane and the entire Weaver family. John will forever hold a place in the hearts of our Saint John's community.



*John D. Weaver
SJH Development Council Member
(1942-2017)*

In Loving Memory of Our Friends and Donors.... *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

Jane Barbera	Anne Jenks	James McGarvey	Jimi Taro Patrick
William Barrett	Donald Juvan	Dermott McMorow	John D. Weaver
William Duffy	Ronald Mahoney	Barbara Miller	Peggy Woynicz

A life-affirming legacy or bequest gift through your will or estate enables Saint John's Hospice to provide life-sustaining services to the homeless community of Philadelphia, today and far into the future.
For more information, please contact Kris Jaeger at kjaeger@chs-adphila.org or call 215.563.7763

Saint John's Hospice

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www.saintjohnshospice.org

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Contact Community Relations Coordinator

Marty Farrell at

mfarrell@chs-adphila.org

215.563.7763



*Merry Christmas
and
Seasons Greetings*

May Peace
be your gift this Season
and your blessing
all year through.

From the Saint John's Hospice Family