



Social Justice

Giving Tree Update



The St. Cecilia Giving Tree was established by parishioner, Peg Buchanan, in the late 1970's. She recognized the need to offer assistance to those in the parish and the community during the holiday season. We currently provide gifts to Accura Healthcare of Ames (formerly Riverside Manor), Mary Greeley Behavioral Health and Lutheran Social Services. As of 2015, we have been unable to assist Y.S.S. because of our increased need within the parish. Through the years, we have seen this need at St. Cecilia increase as our Hispanic and refugee community has grown. Parishioners who need assistance are identified through our parish staff. In 2016, we provided gifts for 50 children and 12 adults. We also provide a grocery gift card to each family.

Total requests each year have ranged from 394-686 gifts. This service could not be provided without the generosity of individuals and groups within our parish. (Special thanks go to Cindy Baughman who coordinates this special "giving" project for our community and parishioners.)

Carrie Dunnwald *Executive Director of the Emergency Residence Project in Ames*

In August 2016, Vic Moss retired as Executive Director of the Emergency Residence Project (the Ames homeless shelter). Vic had been a caring, compassionate and patient person, and the board, on which St. Cecilia's parishioner Julie Haas serves, began a search for a new Director who was up to Vic's standards.



God has been good to us. The board was able to find another caring, compassionate, patient person when Carrie Dunnwald was hired. Carrie had been at Cedar Valley Friends of the Family in Waverly, IA. She was given the Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award in 2015. A YouTube video describes her as "patient but assertive, compassionate and a good listener."

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The award describes her well. During her time at Cedar Valley, Carrie implemented a motivational assessment tool which lends to better interviewing of those entering the homeless program. Since she began at the shelter, Carrie has been instrumental in obtaining grants for the shelter and for its homeless clients. Because of one of these grants, the men's' upstairs bedrooms will soon have newly refinished floors and will be cleaned, painted and have new beds and mattresses. Among other new changes, Carrie has worked with Primary Health Care in Ames to arrange an outreach worker to meet with clients at the shelter one day a week and in the future she hopes to increase the days these professionals will be available at the shelter to provide services. The long-term staff and the Board of Directors appreciate the seamless transition that Carrie has made and the work she is doing for the shelter. Welcome Carrie!

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 **STC Contact:**
Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

AMOS STC - Contact: Mary Ross
232-5080

APPALACHIA/OVERFLOW -
202 So. Duff, Ames. **STC Contact:**
Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES -
108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames
515-292-8414. **STC Contact:**
Kriss Holmes 515-292-8414

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Rose Tondra 232-4598

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT - STC Contact: Julie Haas
232-7138

FOOD AT FIRST - 611 Clark Ave.,
Ames. 515-344-4357 **STC Contact:**
Doreen Berg 956-3414

GABRIEL PROJECT- STC Contact:
Beth Dahlke 460-0403

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 613 Clark Ave.,
Ames 515-296-1449 **STC Contact:**
Phyllis Craig 291-1106

HOME FOR AWHILE STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Barb Moore (515) 337-1551

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMITTEE. STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE, STC
Contact: Garland Dahlke 460-0403

The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Oscar Romero Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Homeless Shelter re-do

On January 18, the Emergency Residence Project began to clean, paint and finish floors in the men's quarters of the homeless shelter.

A grant was obtained from Dennis Byrne Endowment Grant for new beds and mattresses and a Community Impact Grant from United Way of Story County will go towards new footlockers and dressers. Volunteers will clean and paint and ISU students from AGC Student Chapter will sand and finish the oak floors. One sleeping room at a time will be renewed. The upstairs bathroom will also be painted and a new shower will be installed.



Pictured below are: (left to right): Debbie Meyers, volunteer. Marilyn Vaughan, board member from the Jewish Congregation. Molly Grummer ISU student intern from Child, Adult and Family services. *Volunteers are always welcome at the Homeless Shelter.*

