



News and Call for Volunteers Fall/Winter 2015

It is with gratitude that we share these recent items of good news about Repairers of the Breach. If you feel called to volunteer—in our Learning Center, in our Medical Clinic, or in any of the areas mentioned in the newsletter below—please contact our Executive Director, Pastor James West, Jr., at jw.repairers5812@sbcglobal.net. **Our clinic needs more doctors.** If a doctor is able to volunteer *any* amount of time, we would accommodate his/her schedule. This could be as little as once a month! If you can connect with someone who might be interested, please direct him/her to Pastor West.

Board of Directors. We are pleased to announce the addition of Matthew C. Partain, M.D., to our Board of Directors. Dr. Partain is a resident at Froedtert Hospital and is currently serving as the Board's treasurer. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for our diverse board, please contact Rebecca North (rn.repairers5812@att.net) for more information.

Upgrades to the Center. Several much-needed improvements have been made to our facility this past summer.

- **Soup kitchen** – In partnership with the Daniel Soref Trust, we have been able to upgrade and increase our soup kitchen capabilities. Included are a new Sub-Zero refrigerator, a new sink for washing produce, and a convection oven. Additionally Center staff members are undergoing Serve-Safe training and certification. These improvements allow us to rapidly serve more individuals, refrigerate perishable food, and to increase our ability to provide additional healthy food to our malnourished members.
- **Glass protection** – Wire security mesh was installed to the front entrance after the door was damaged a second time. The metal reinforcement is already present in the side entrance and is not readily noticeable.
- **Security cameras** – To safeguard everyone who comes to the Center, nine modern cameras were installed throughout the facility.
- **Air-conditioning repairs** – Although neither unit was any longer under warranty, both were able to be fixed for \$1000 less than the original quote.
- **Commercial washer and dryer** – As of November 1 the Repairers Center has been open 258 days in 2015, and a total of 4,774 showers taken. That's a lot of clean towels we need to provide, and thanks to these new appliances purchased with a grant from the Daniel Soref Trust, we are keeping up with demand!
- **Exterior renovation** – With financial support from The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, an EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish System) cladding was applied to the aging Cream City brick exterior walls to bring the building up to code and protect it from being further damaged due to weather conditions. Not only does the EIFS material provide a durable, low-maintenance, attractive outer surface to accent and bring symmetry to our facility but it also provides additional insulation that will help reduce the building's heating costs this winter.
- **Peace Garden** – The enclosed courtyard landscaping work is nearly completed. Three of our members were employed by the landscaper from start to finish on the job. One

man's work was highly regarded & is being considered for further employment by the landscaper. Fantastic! Also, by sitting in a "dunk tank" a Sheboygan elementary school principal raised money for us to install an outside water spigot. We now have an outdoor water source available for the first time. As a result, we were able to grow vegetables in the courtyard's raised garden beds, providing fresh produce for our kitchen.

Services offered to our Homeless Members. Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of services we offer to those who seek assistance at the Center. Specific recent news is included in the list below.

- **Employment Assistance Center** – A bus ticket program has been implemented to provide transportation to job fairs and interviews.
- **Literacy Center** – Several learners have made important advances. One learner obtained his U.S. citizenship after preparing with us; another has applied for citizenship and should complete the process within 3-6 months. One learner is ready to participate in the 5.09 alternative GED program, and five learners have advanced one or more grade levels in the math and reading curriculum.

Special thanks to all of our friends and donors! Repairers of the Breach could not provide for the homeless seeking help without you.

- **Shoes** – Dr. Comfort donated 146 pairs for our members. As did Stan's Bootery.
- **Labor Day Lunch** – volunteers gave several hours of their time to serve 300 people.
- **Little Free Library box** – designed, built, and installed by Milwaukee School of Engineering students via their Servant-Leadership program.
- **Public Relations Society of America** – giving us a much-appreciated boost in updating our website (still under construction) and managing our social media communications.
- **Healthy bag lunches and nutritious meal opportunities** – provided by numerous organizations, schools, and churches.
- **Jackets and coats** – 100 new items (equivalent of \$30,000) donated by the organization New Threads of Hope.
- **Insulin and other medical supplies** – gifted to our medical clinic by a donor. The insulin alone is valued at \$36,000; with the other supplies the total donation is equivalent to \$45,000.

Additionally, faith-based communities and universities have expanded their invitations to us to visit their sites to share information about the work we do. To continue the richness of partnerships we are active in a new urban ministry program through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Finally, we are very grateful to the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation and the Service Club of Milwaukee for their recent generous funding awards.

Thank you for *your* support!

As you think about making personal/family plans for the upcoming winter months, please consider how you could include in your plans ways of helping the poorest of the poor at Repairers of the Breach. Your donations and financial support will be sincerely appreciated and used wisely. We respect donor privacy and keep our records confidential. Your personal information will *never* be shared with anyone else.