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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERN AT ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY  
[www.sbu.edu/FCSC](http://www.sbu.edu/FCSC)

# Furthering Francis



**Bonnies know how to encounter life! Every. Single. Day.**

By Alice Miller Nation

Do you remember the story of Francis and the wolf of Gubbio? Or what about when Francis meets the Sultan? Here is one more, the story of Francis and the leper? SBU students take a class called the Way of Francis and



Alice Miller Nation  
Director of the FCSC

Clare as part of the required curriculum, typically in their freshman year. In this class they learn some of the Franciscan literature, including these three stories.

Each of these stories is about encountering others. As the team of students and I gathered to talk about the stories and theme for this newsletter, they realized quickly that all of the content focused on the ways our students encounter others. Whether it be Lily Chittenden doing the nails of a resident at Field of Dreams in Allegany (see photo),

Brady Nicosia coming to a Bona Buddies coordinator meeting letting us know that "Billy really needs to get into Bona Buddies because he needs help with his homework and we have students who are willing and able to help him," Dan Schiffhauer thoughtfully speaking to a guest at the Warming House, or the many student volunteers at the SBU Food Pantry welcoming members of the campus community as they choose a few items to stretch their food budget – it's all about the ways we encounter one another each and every day.

In each of the outreach programs of the Franciscan Center for Social Concern, SBU students take the real life application of our Franciscan stories to heart, and to the streets. Every. Single. Day.



Lily Chittenden, '21, '22, gently paints the fingernails of a resident at Field of Dreams assisted living facility.

It is inspiring to sit in my office and open the mail to find \$5 and a handwritten note, "It was amazing to find the wonderful lunch you (the Warming House) provided at the recent Rural Area Medical Clinic at JCC's campus in Olean. I was there seven hours waiting to see the vision staff, so needless to say, the meal was so handy and very much appreciated. Thank you!" (No name)

At St. Bonaventure, we prepare young people for the world once they leave the campus. Not only do they receive a good education, but they also form and develop their Franciscan hearts. The students I have the honor of encountering each day make us all proud to be a Bonnie.

Peace and all good,  
Alice Miller Nation





▲ SBU junior Sarah Haq poses at the birthday party.

## A birthday party for the Warming House

The concept of giving is a powerful one, even among 10-year-old girls! Claire and her family began volunteering at the Warming House during the pandemic. Claire loves the Warming House as much as the Warming House loves her.

When it came time to plan her birthday party, she mixed things up a bit. Instead of welcoming gifts for herself, she invited the party guests to bring food items the Warming House does not often have in stock in the pantry.

The student coordinator team gave Claire a list of food items and the response was overwhelming. Potato chips and dip, fresh strawberries and blueberries, ice cream and sundae toppings, fresh broccoli and soda are just some of the many items donated.

Sarah Haq, a junior at SBU, accompanied Alice Miller Nation to greet and thank those gathered at the party. Like many childhood birthday parties, the girls were busy painting and giggling when Sarah and Alice arrived. After talking about the thoughtfulness of their generosity and a little bit about the people who would eat the food they brought, the girls posed for a picture and got back to decorating T-shirts and celebrating friendship.

Generosity comes in many ways. This time, a 10-year-old and her family led the way.

# Opening Hearts by opening Doors

*Special relationships formed at Warming House*

By Hannah Gonsiorek



Hannah Gonsiorek, Class of '22, psychology

For Evelyn Penman and Jon Kirk, the Warming House is an opportunity like no other.

Both community volunteers from Olean, Evelyn and Jon shared their experiences not only volunteering at the Warming House, but forming relationships with St. Bonaventure student volunteers, friars and program coordinators, as well as Warming House guests.

As assistant director of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at the university, Evelyn finds little day-to-day contact with students. In her days

spent volunteering, however, she is able to get to know student groups that come to the Warming House, even if it's just for an afternoon.

She reflected on the kindness and optimism present by all.

"In my work I don't usually see how the Franciscan values are played out as much, but at the Warming House, you can definitely see that much greater," she said.

With the reopening of indoor dining, Evelyn saw a great difference in community relationships from the previous outdoor "to-go" meals. In her experience with outdoor serving, she said that "people still came to talk beforehand," whether that was in the parking lot or while grabbing their food. Although outdoor serving put a damper on really getting to know the guests, she saw much optimism and high spirits by guests arriving at the door for a nice conversation with volunteers.

For avid volunteer Jon Kirk, the Warming House provides an opportunity for St. Bonaventure students that he didn't see at the large state school he attended.

Jon started volunteering during the summer, when many undergraduate students were not around.



▲ Students Tyrell Mason (from left), Hiryu "Mike" Waseda and Valentina Cossio plate a Warming House meal.

## Bridging the gap with Silver Wolves at Bona's

By Cameron Carr



Cameron Carr, Class of '23, journalism

"It was so long before you could even hug," said Barbara Hastings painfully as she sat in her 90-year-old mother's room at Field of Dreams senior living center. For more than a year now, the COVID-19 pandemic has isolated the elderly.

"Residents were locked in their rooms," said Hastings, one of 10 children, while gently gazing at her mom. Nancy Timme, Barbara's mother, sat beside me gingerly, decked out in Bonnies gear.

Almost a year ago, Silver Wolves set out to relieve Nancy, a longtime Olean resident, of some of that inescapable isolation. The Franciscan Center for Social Concern outreach to the elderly, Silver Wolves, participated in a drive-by parade for her 90th birthday party, putting a huge smile on her face. "I had no idea," said Nancy about the surprise, "It meant so much to me."

The Timme family lived across the street from Bonnies basketball legend Bob Lanier while he was attending SBU. She talked about the time with thoughtful and sentimental detail. Nancy's husband, Maynard, went to St. Bonaventure, and the family has been huge Bona's sports fans for several decades. During my lovely interview with Nancy and her daughters, several enthusiastic "Go Bonnies!" cheers were passed around.

Silver Wolves takes pride in bringing happiness to the lives of older adults living in nursing homes and assisted living.

He developed strong relationships with Warming House coordinators such as Hiryu (Mike) Waseda, Walter Kinder and Adam Burlingham, who he spent a lot of time with at the Warming House.

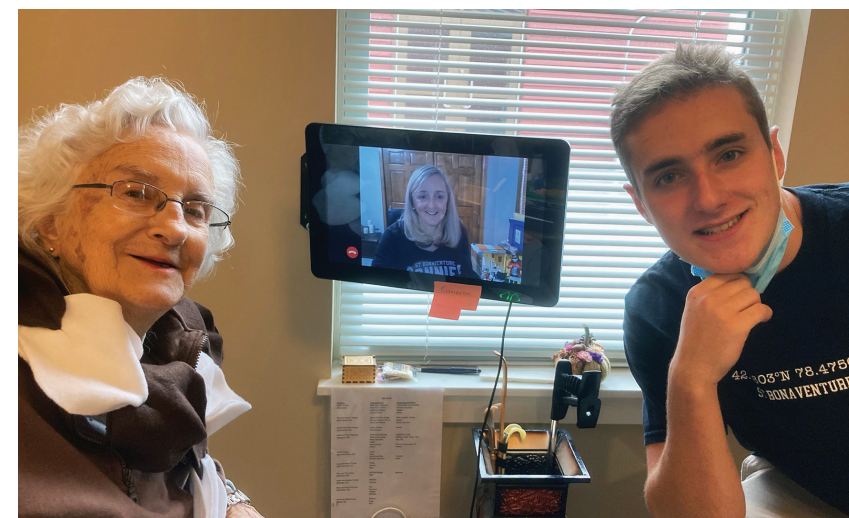
"In my opinion, I look at them as really good friends now," he said, noting that the four of them shared

advice, personal stories, and many laughs.

In having these personal conversations, Jon expressed how "it was a confidence booster knowing someone was so comfortable with me." It allowed him to make an everlasting bond with the young motivated gentlemen

beside him.

Jon also got to know Franciscan friars Br. Angel Vazquez, O.F.M., and Fr. Xavier Seubert, O.F.M. He feels as though the people he met along the way "gave him the insight to become a better person" and pushed him to continue volunteering.



▲ Nancy Timme (at left), her daughter Susan Dolan (on screen), and SBU student Cameron Carr.

"Seeing them happy makes me happy," said Caitlin Miller, an MBA student and one of the program's two coordinators. Miller loves visiting the residents and thinks it has made her a better person.

"I can tell how much they need it," she said. Silver Wolves now serves residents at Field of Dreams as well as Eden Heights in Allegany and Olean.

"It showed me how to treat others with respect," said Lily Chittenden, the program's other coordinator and an MBA student. Chittenden described Nancy's birthday party as "memorable and emotional." Chittenden was certain of the program's bright future, boasting a promising young flock of 15 highly active students.

As Nancy and her daughters expressed their love and admiration for the university, I realized that it was partly thanks to Silver Wolves. Silver Wolves is bridging the gap between the young and the old, the students and the locals, and the campus and the community.