

March 1, 2018

Stone Soup

Newsletter of
The Warming House

We reaffirm the dignity of one another, gathering as community to nourish body, mind, and spirit

COMMUNITY • DIGNITY • NOURISHMENT



Reflections from the Director

by Jeffrey Sved

Stone Soup, the classic folk tale.

I am incredibly grateful and humbled by the warm response to our latest volume of Stone Soup. Thank you for the support, affirmation, and encouragement that pushes us to continue each day in offering hospitality and a nutritious meal.

Our student leaders are the heart and soul of what makes the Warming House a special part of our community at St. Bonaventure University and I'm glad to highlight their dedication and growth in this issue.

It is a joy to continue inviting you into our story and to continue inviting you to walk alongside us as an encouraging and uplifting presence – affirming the dignity of our neighbors. These last few months have included two of our favorite meals of the year: Thanksgiving and Christmas, special celebrations when the Warming House is filled to capacity. These last few months we've enjoyed Christmas blessings, cold weather, and warm meals.

As is true every year, however, Christmas joy is followed by Lenten fasts and we now find ourselves spiritually in a period of penance and reflection. Throughout this time of Lent, I continue to question and reflect on what kind of fast is indeed pleasing to the Lord, echoing the prayers of Isaiah. "Would you call this a fast and an acceptable day to the Lord?" (Isaiah 58:5). Is it simply forty days without sweets ... or (God forbid) caffeine?

What do we mean by a fast? "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry?" (Isaiah 58: 6-7).

That's the kind of fast we at the Warming House can get behind!

With your support we continue to feast in this period of fasting! I hope you enjoy this latest issue of Stone Soup and that it allows you to feast through these rich experiences of the Warming House. Please continue to walk with us as we "reaffirm the dignity of one another, gathering as community to nourish body, mind, and spirit."



Student-Run Matters

Founded in 1974, the Warming House is the oldest student-run soup kitchen in the country

By: DJ Mitchell / Program Manager 2017 – '18
School of Business – Marketing and Management 2017, MBA 2018

St. Bonaventure University is a special place that impacts each student who is lucky enough to attend. There are a number of opportunities to get involved with organizations that set out to change the world. It becomes a part of your mindset that you can make an impact and this feeling is contagious. It is something that is not only rewarding, but humbling. It is an opportunity to learn about yourself and develop skills that will be influential for your future no matter what field you wish to pursue.

The Warming House is a place where every student will visit at least once during their years at St. Bonaventure. It has become a part of the Business School, which pushes students to work outside of their normal comfort zone to accomplish running a meal for those in need. Assignments such as this are how I got my start in the Warming House. We have made this assignment into an opportunity that many students will remember long after their time in Olean is over. It had such a profound impact on me that I continued my involvement and eventually became the Program Manager.

Working within the field of community service has truly helped me grow as a leader and understand the ethics that St. Bonaventure preaches within the School of Business. Being able to apply my business schooling into an organization that is transitioning back to fully student run has been a transcendent experience. The opportunities that the Warming House and Franciscan Center of Social Concern are offering students are unique to St. Bonaventure and will be extremely impactful for our future careers.

One of the highlights of my time at the Warming House came on January 28th when I accepted the Greater Olean Association of Churches award for Organization of the Year. It can be a thankless job working within community service and the entire Warming House team has worked selflessly to provide our service. Anytime one is being honored in the same night as Sister Margaret Carney it is an honor. Having the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Warming House has helped me show my passion for what we are doing. It is so much more than a simple meal served at 4:00pm. We are impacting the entire community in a positive way.

To continue our mission of combating hunger and providing a sense community to all we have begun to push ourselves to make sure all members of the greater Olean area are being fed. With a massive surplus of food accumulated from various donations we have worked to spread the love to many other Emergency Food Service Providers. Working closely to the Olean Food Pantry we have been able to allocate resources to impact a larger audience. We are not going to stop growing this organization and providing the most for the entire Olean area!



Program Manager DJ Mitchell receiving GOAC's Unity award alongside Sister Margaret Carney

Table Talk

Written by a member of the Warming House community

Percy Brown / School of Arts and Sciences, Theater Major '18
Student Meal Coordinator 2017-18

I've been involved with the Warming House for three years, but this is the first year that I became a coordinator. I've had the pleasure to meet some very nice people over the years, some whom are still around. As a Coordinator, I think that being friendly with the guest/volunteers and talking to them is just as important as preparing a nutritious meal for them. While many of the guests have their own personal hardships in life and may not be well off financially, it is important to me that I view them just like I would view a good friend: a fellow person who should be respected regardless of their circumstances.

I've been close to Daemon and Bob for 3 years, who come in and just enjoy the hospitality and food they view as a gift. Daemon, a former amateur wrestler and boxer from Brooklyn, is one of the most respectful and helpful people there. I also grew close to the volunteers from The Manor, people who are just starting recovery and Supportive Living, people who are in the final stages of recovering and getting ready for their transition to be back on their own. I've gotten the chance to know many of them personally as they opened up about their road to recovery and their life as a whole.



Student Meal Coordinator Percy Brown (right) sharing a meal and a few laughs with friends in the Warming House Dining Room

I've learned a lot from every individual that has stepped foot in the Warming House and I'm grateful to be involved.

Community Buzz

Learn what new things are happening

By: John Stevens / Management Dept. / School of Business

Each semester students taking the School of Business “Management 301” course (Management & Organizational Behavior) have a unique opportunity. Since 2006, they travel in teams of five to the St. Bonaventure Warming House, on North Union Street in downtown Olean. Their goal is to learn about management, and Franciscan values.

From a business perspective, student teams focus on how to PLAN a meal, ORGANIZE themselves to cook and deliver a healthy dinner, make decisions as LEADERS, and exercise CONTROL in meeting goals and measuring their success.

From this experience, students also learn about performance measurement, team building, collaboration, the dignity of each person, and the enriching experience of serving others.

They are asked to reflect on the Franciscan Values enscribed on the wall of the Swan Business Center including: Contemplation, Love, Respect, Joy, Peace, and Compassionate Service. In doing so, they meet and interact with the guests visiting the Warming House for a warm meal and social interaction.

The School of Business works closely with the Franciscan Center for Social Concern, which is responsible for the coordination of the Warming House.

The success of this educational and spiritual exercise is revealed in the comments students make after returning from their scheduled dinner. When asked to share their thoughts on this experience, typical comments are “I want to go back and do this again.”



Students from MGMT 301 preparing a meal at the Warming House



Meet our Advisory Board

See what visions they hold for the Warming House

By Rev. Carrie Wolfe, Christ United Methodist Church

I was a member of the former Advisory Board convened by former WH Director Trevor Thompson and then more recently when Maggie Morris resurrected the idea, and convened the current group.

Maggie asked me to chair the Advisory Board because for the last eight years, I have been bringing students from our parish to serve with the WH guests one Sunday a month. And in that time, serving with guests at the WH has become the center of our confirmation and youth group programming. Students share all the time how serving at the WH changed their lives and it's changed my life too. The Franciscan call to mutuality is not an easy call to answer but the depth of peace it brings makes it a struggle worth engaging in.

As an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church, I serve on our District Leadership Team and on our Bishop's Task Force on the Elimination of Racism. Locally, in addition to the WH, I help coordinate our parish's ministry with the Olean Food Pantry.

Prior to seminary and ordination, I was a kindergarten teacher and my MS in Education (Childhood Literacy) is from SBU (2008).



Rev. Carrie Wolfe, SBU grad 2008 and member of the Warming House Advisory Board

Current In-Kind Needs

Coffee and teas
Non-Dairy Coffee Creamer
Aluminum Foil

Vegetable / Olive Oil
Baking/Dessert related items
Large coffee filters

Napkins
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels



The Warming House
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Yes! I want to share in this important outreach through St. Bonaventure University and promote the Warming House values of Community, Dignity, and Nourishment by making a gift to:

the Warming House or Franciscan Center for Social Concern.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other: _____

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