

November 10, 2017

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.

Starting with nothing more than a stone in a boiling pot of water, a hearty soup is made by members of the community adding what they can. One person adds a few herbs and spices, another adds some carrots. Potatoes follow from another contributor. Chicken from another. Piece by piece a “miracle soup” is created with nothing more than a stone.

What a beautiful story of community coming together, and how bringing what they have to contribute makes a meal. We see this happen daily at the Warming House.

For over 40 years this has been the Warming House model, gathering together as community and seeing day after day that when we all bring what we can to the table we do find nourishment in many ways. Some members of the community are fed physically, others spiritually, all fed in a way that affirms our inherent dignity.

It has been a joy to join such a community. After years working alongside Franciscan friars and the local community in Cochabamba, Bolivia both in their Justicia, Paz, e Integridad de la Creación office and through Pastoral Penitenciaria, I am glad to enter into another community that recognizes and affirms the dignity of all.

Now part of the Franciscan Center for Social Concern within University Ministries, the Warming House continues to be the oldest student-run soup kitchen in the country. Since I joined the St. Bonaventure community earlier this year, we have worked to reclaim those student-run roots and invite student leaders into even more components of the organization.

The Warming House is so much more than a soup kitchen, and we now invite students into so much more than preparing and serving a meal. We all have different gifts and talents that we bring to the table and it is a joy to share that we have students sharing their gifts in new and exciting ways. There are interns from the School of Business coordinating volunteer schedules and food donations; biology students planning nutrition workshops; history majors researching the past forty years of Warming House history; all alongside the dedicated team of meal coordinators.

Stone Soup. Not just a classic folk tale.

It is daily life at the Warming House and it is my pleasure to invite you once again into our community. I hope you enjoy this new issue of Stone Soup and it allows you to share in the experience of the Warming House and 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 Jordan Garrett, Program Manager Summer '17,
Student Meal Coordinator 2015 - 2017

We are a part of this community, and the community is a part of us. At times, while I lived in the Bona Bubble, it was sometimes easy to allow an impersonal distance to rest between myself and the surrounding area. The Warming House was the place that pulled me out of myself and into the larger world around me.

Many of our students could add new skills to their professional toolbox, drawing from the real-world experience that we offer. Knowledge of culinary arts, hospitality, and business all play a part in the daily operations, and for students to take personal care in the service they perform means that they've gained so much more than words to fill a resume.

For myself, I was given the opportunity to use the things that I had been learning through the classroom, and throughout my whole life in a way, to meet other individuals and learn their stories.

A change in my atmosphere from my home for all of my life to a new place with faces I never knew I would meet led to a change in my perspective, and that brought on a change in myself. I had never been in a position where I would be able to be a decision-maker, and I became confident in myself as a person and leader through this process. The encouragement and support from everyone involved, from guests and students to faculty and staff, helped me build up my personal and professional confidence that I knew could only come from doing a job well done.

I know that the many personal relationships that I've formed in my time at the Warming House will go with me wherever I go in life, and I'll always have a place in Olean that I can call home.



Left: Warming House Program Manager and current MBA student, DJ Mitchell working in the kitchen.

Below: Members of the SBU community including President Dr. Dennis DePerro and wife, Sherry, contributing to a Day of Action



Table Talk

Written by a member of the Warming House community

A place to rest... A place to speak;
A place for the hungry, thirsty or weak
A place to find anchors in the midst of your storm
To find listeners, talkers and a place that is warm
A place to find caring, acceptance, and a friend
A pit stop for strugglers where prayer has no ends.
A place where it's leader and helpers are kind
A place where community has you on their mind
A place hospitality is the name of the game
Lets others feel loved tho' we're not all the same.
A place where compassion has no real end
Where you'll always be welcome- again and again
So if you are hungry... the cupboard is bare
Don't stay all disheartened, come where people care
A place on "West State" street, connected to "First"
Come... Quiet your stomach and quench that strong thirst.

By Sharon
Reprinted from Stone Soup, Fall 2008



FCSC Director, Jeffrey Sved enjoying a cup of coffee and a few laughs in the Warming House Dining Room

Community Buzz

Learn what new things are happening

By Rev. Carrie Wolfe, Christ UMC, Olean

We don't work with the poor, we become poor ourselves, and work with our brothers and sisters. The call to mutuality I heard in this piece of Franciscan wisdom shared by Jeff Sved at a recent Warming House Advisory Board meeting is echoed in our (United Methodist Church) John Wesley who said, "Solitary religion is not to be found." "Holy Solitaries" is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than Holy Adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection. UM theologian, Steve Manskar posits that when Wesley says that holiness is social he means that the depth of our love for God is revealed by the way we love those God loves.

So, do we love from a place of mutuality or a place of power? The traditional hand-out and even the hand-up models of engaging with poverty both create power imbalances with one side giving and one side receiving. The mutuality of a hand-across (Joerg Rieger) model of engaging with our human poverty creates space for us all to be transformed into people whose depth of love for God is deepened by the way we love those God loves.

It is with a focus on a deepening love for God that Christ United Methodist Church (633 Linwood Ave., Olean) has invited its youth group, for the past eight years, to serve with the guests at the Warming House. Through our time with guests and St. Bonaventure students as well our workshops, chats, and retreats with Warming House directors (Trevor, Jamie, Maggie, and Jeff) local high school students from Olean, Allegany, Hinsdale, and Cuba have been afforded opportunities to contemplate and embrace their own poverty (lack in all forms) so as to meaningfully engage with the poverty of others and do the justice disciples of Jesus Christ are called to. So, for that we are thankful! Thankful to St. Bonaventure University for its rich Franciscan charism, for its willingness to share that gift of the Spirit with we United Methodists, and for teaching us to open ourselves up to a life of continued grace, peace, and conversion.



A Warming House volunteer prepares plates before serving the meal.

Meet our Advisory Board

See what visions they hold for the Warming House

By Robert Crowley, SBU Class of 1971

I graduated in 1971 with a BS in Mathematics. I've served on the Science Advisory Council, as president of the National Alumni Association Board, and as an ex-officio Trustee for two years. I worked in the Planned Giving department of University Advancement for three years and served as one of my class's annual fund volunteers for more than 30 years. To me, the Bonaventure culture of respecting individual dignity, community, and service to others has a profound influence on how I live my life, and that's the defining reason why I am honored to serve on the Warming House Advisory Board.

I've been on the advisory board for two years and I have been on the board of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania for 10 years. I volunteer monthly to distribute food to senior citizens who have a genuine need for it. I also volunteer to do Christmas baskets to over 100 people where we give roughly one month of food, plus once a week I pick up food at a local grocery store to deliver to the St. Joseph Soup Kitchen. In addition, I volunteer at two mobile food pantries every other month where we help another 125 people in need. We also have a backpack program that I was instrumental in starting in Warren County where we feed 350 students in grades 1 through 5 every Friday during the school year. My greatest satisfaction is helping serve those in need.



Robert Crowley, SBU grad 1971 and member of the Warming House Advisory Board

Current In-Kind Needs

Coffee and teas
Coffee grinder
Baking/Dessert related items

Large coffee filters
Cooking utensils
Non-stick skillet/frying pans

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: _____

Name: _____

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