



Knights of Columbus All Saints Council 9709 St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community

The official Publication of the Knights of Columbus All Saints Council 9709

APRIL 2022

CHARITY SEES THE NEED

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COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Our Council was fortunate to raise significant funds during the 2021 calendar year. This was only possible due to the hard work of our many Brothers who volunteered hours upon hours during the Durham Bulls baseball games to earn commissions and tips working at several concession stands. The funds raised are now being donated to numerous charitable organizations in Raleigh and surrounding area. A Capital Spend Committee, headed by Mike Rock, was established to select the organizations to receive the funds followed by a final vote of the Council. Here are the approved categories : Community \$4000, Right to Human Dignity \$4000, Culture of Life \$4000, Health Services \$2000, Education \$2000, Veterans \$2000.



Rebecca Hix, Director, Habitat for Humanity, receives \$1000 check from Tony Rivezzo

Habitat for Humanity--\$1,000
Houses built mostly by volunteers from the community for families who cannot qualify for a loan primarily due to a low credit rating and marginal income. Because the houses are constructed at a lower cost and by arranging special mortgage rates, these families now have the opportunity to own a home.



Anderson Davis, Interact Development Manager, receives check from Tony Rivezzo

InterAct of Wake County--\$1,000
InterAct provides urgent help for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Its protective services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, counseling and therapy for the victims. InterAct's stated aggressive goal is to eliminate this type of violence in our county.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS



St. Vincent DePaul--\$1,000

SVDP ministry at St. Francis has been helping families who have been affected by the pandemic. Our neighbors, mostly within the local 3 zip codes, who may have been infected with the virus, or who lost a job, or may have been dealing with higher childcare costs are receiving some financial aid from SVDP. Last year SVDP assisted 281 neighbors with rent and utilities totaling \$54,000. Marsha McMamara, treasurer receives check from GK Steve Becker.

Coats for Kids

Coats for Kids is a community program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and supported by St. Francis of Assisi. Recently, our council purchased 24 coats which were donated to Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Louisburg and Note in the Pocket.



Sierra Club of NC/The Umstead Coalition--\$500

The local Chapter of the Sierra Club, The Umstead Coalition, is committed to preserving and protecting Umstead Park's green spaces, hiking trails and its wildlife. Recently, the State Legislature did not approve a permit which blocked the expansion of the quarry. This was a win for the Coalition and will continue to fight to protect Umstead Park.

Jean Spooner, Chair of the Umstead Coalition, receives a check from Tony Rivezzo

RIGHT TO HUMAN DIGNITY

Casa King's Ridge Project--\$1000

Affordable housing in Wake County, CASA purchased six acres of land in Raleigh as the future site of the King's Ridge Apartments. King's Ridge will end homelessness for single adults and families, reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in Raleigh/Wake County by 10%.



Note in the Pocket--\$1000

Provides clothing to impoverished and homeless children in Wake County with the belief that children are limited in their social development because they don't have appropriate clothes. GK Steve Becker handing check to Dallas Bonavita who runs Note in the Pocket.

Catholic Parish Outreach--\$500

CPO food pantry serves those in need in our community by feeding the hungry and providing clothing and diapers for the young children..

Here is a picture of CPO personnel receiving the check our council provided to CPO this past week. Standing in the picture, and holding the check is Deanna McCulloch who is the Assistant Program Director at CPO. Seated is Donna Walker, Catholic Charities Raleigh Regional Executive Assistant. The check was received with much gratitude. As I approached CPO facility, I was struck by the large number of people that were lined up to receive food. The parking lot was full (three lanes across) and there was a line of cars up the road to get into the lot. The line had only got longer by the time I left the facility.



Written by: Mark Baumgartner.

RIGHT TO HUMAN DIGNITY

HELPING THE MIGRANT WORKERS—\$500

The Council approved \$500 to purchase Coats for Kids for Our Lady of the Rosary in Louisburg. When it came time to order, the seasonal need for coats no longer existed. Subsequently, to make proper use of the funds, Fr. Marlee and Deacon Mcilmoyle suggested that the best alternative solution was to buy essentials for the migrant workers who are just beginning to arrive for the season. Our approved funds were able to cover the recommended list of items which included work gloves, t-shirts, socks, soap, bandanas and towels. St. Francis of Assisi has always supported OLR with food drives and the Migrant Ministry. Our Council should revisit the Coats for Kids program this fall.



A PLACE AT THE TABLE \$250

Our Council has and will continue to support with financial aid and volunteered time, A Place at the Table. Considering the accomplishments of this pay-what-you-can restaurant which, on an annual basis, not only serves thousands of fully paid meals but also thousands of free meals for people in need, there is no question our Council will remain an ardent supporter. A Place at the Table is not a soup kitchen. Rather, it provides a menu with many breakfast and lunch specials prepared by a highly regarded chef served in a pleasant atmosphere. Maggie Kane, its founder and Executive Officer, has received national acclaim and honorary recognition from her alma mater, North Carolina State University.



STEPUP MINISTRY \$500

Attached is a picture taken when I delivered the council's donation check to StepUp Ministry. Pictured with me is Linda Nunnallee, Executive Director of the [STEPUP Ministry](#). Our funds were accepted with gratitude and Linda was interested to learn more about our organization. Transforming the lives of adults and children through employment and life skills training. A well-established resource in Wake County for people seeking to improve their lives and develop stable careers.

Written by: Mark Baumgartner



RIGHT TO HUMAN DIGNITY



FRIENDS OF KINDNESS-- \$250

Provide warm meals, coats, blankets for children, senior citizens, and military veterans in Raleigh, Wilson, Butner, North Carolina. For 16 years, as private individuals, the organizers have been seeking donations from friends family and businesses. In April 2021, the organization became a nonprofit, with hopes of extended more assistance. Omar Bashi presents the check to Dr. Kim Rocha.

Maty Ferrer Hoppmann, Director for Centro para Familias Hispanas (Center for Hispanic Families). Centro para Familias Hispanas, is a program of Catholic Charities, with a mission of empowering Hispanic families as they overcome barriers by providing direct services and connections to community resources. Maty enthusiastically and gratefully received our donation and was interested in learning about the mission of the Knights. By the time I got home from meeting with her, I had received an email from Maty that said:

Thank you so very much for the donation you dropped off today for our center. We are super grateful; we know it can make a big difference in some families and we couldn't help them if it wasn't for donations like Knights of Columbus. Thank you again for considering us and I hope you have us in mind for the future as well.

Written by: Mark Baumgartner



Maty Ferrer Hoppmann, Director for Centro para Familias Hispanas

HEALTH SERVICES DONATIONS

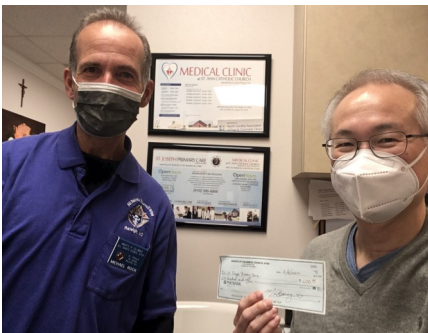


Dave Shore, ALS Chief Operating Officer, receives \$500 from Mike Rock.

-ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. Common age for getting the disease is 40 - 70 years old

Michele Smith, Development Manager, receives \$600 from Mike Rock

-Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a progressive genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system as well as many other organ systems. It causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs, which leads to life-threatening lung infections. There are approximately 30,000 people with CF in the United States and 70,000 worldwide.



Peter Le, Executive Director **Joseph's Primary Care** receives \$600 from Mike Rock.

To provide comprehensive, affordable, personal care to all of our patients, without regard to income, employment, insurance, faith, or documentation status.

Ashton Herbert, Healing Transition Development Coordinator, receives \$300 check from Mike Rock.

Our mission is to offer innovative peer-based, recovery-oriented services to homeless, uninsured and underserved individuals with alcoholism and other drug addictions. Our program is specifically designed to rekindle a person's desire and ability to return to a meaningful and productive life.



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

On Saturday, March 19th, seven Brother Knights volunteered to work the 11:00 am to 2:00 pm shift at A Place at the Table restaurant. The purpose of the trip was two-fold: present a donation of \$250 to Maggie Kane, Chief Executive Officer, and help with the service at the restaurant. After signing waivers, we were directed to pick up dirty dishes, clean tables and work in the kitchen to help the staff clean the dishes. Since our entire group was not needed to work at the same time allowed a few minutes for lunch. Volunteers are entitled to a free meal, but each in the group paid for their lunch. The volunteer workers, donations and customers paying full price enables the restaurant to achieve its goal of feeding the less fortunate who can't afford a meal.



RSVP SUPPORT PROGRAM



Missy Gibson is our newest RSVP candidate. She is our 3rd candidate from the Poor Clares at Travelers Rest, SC. Missy is a native of Chicago and where she attended parochial schools through high school. Her parish was run by Franciscan friars from Croatia and the elementary school was run by Franciscan School sisters of Christ the King. Her family life was steeped in the faith and living out spiritual and corporal works of mercy; whether they were delivering food to others or helping do someone's yardwork, participating at mass, visiting their grandmother and all the residents in the nursing home. Her discernment into a religious vocation began with a pilgrimage in 2005 where she met the most joyous Poor Clare nuns from San Severino and Camerino, Italy. In 2006, she took a month-long leave

of absence from work to spend time in Camerino with the sisters. She was first called to return home and care for her mother, which she did until 2018. After which, she set about to revisit the call to contemplative life in 2019. Then in early 2020, she met the sisters of Poor Clare at Travelers Rest to more seriously consider a contemplative religious life. On Feb 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Missy was admitted to the postulancy to begin the next steps of discerning this joy-filled call to live out the Gospel, as a Poor Clare at the Monastery of St. Clare.

Written by: Richard White

Letter from Mary Alice:

My name is Mary Alice Gibson, I go by Missy. I was born and raised in Chicago. I was baptized as an infant and went through parochial schools 1-12th grade. My parish was run by Franciscan friars from Croatia and the elementary school was run by Franciscan School sisters of Christ the King. I attended Bishop Noll Institute for high school. My family life was steeped in the faith and living out spiritual and corporal works of mercy; whether we were delivering food to others or helping do someone's yardwork, participating at mass (my brothers as altar servers, me in the children's choir), visiting my grandmother and all the residents in the nursing home. Life was full of teachable moments.

I chose to move away for college and spent 8 years completing two bachelor degrees at the University of Oklahoma. I spent most of my free time at the catholic church adjacent to campus participating in many of the campus ministry opportunities provided.

I moved to Atlanta for my career and spent nearly 30 years there. Actively participating in my parish and the young adult ministry in the archdiocese; I was involved as a catechist with High school and middle school youth, participated in mission trips to Jamaica went on and ran retreats and became a Eucharistic Guardian for the perpetual adoration chapel. Life has always been full of a longing/hunger that seems insatiable.

I had the opportunity to go on a Franciscan pilgrimage in 2005 and met the most joyous Poor Clare nuns from San Severino and Camerino, Italy. In 2006, I took a month-long leave of absence from work to spend time in Camerino with the sisters. They provided the time and space for me to discern and understand that while I very likely had a vocation to contemplative life I was first called to continue caring for my mom. I returned home and did just that. My mom had come to stay with me in 2002 and remained with me until 2018. I set about to revisit this call to contemplative life in 2019; in early 2020, I met the sisters here in Travelers Rest and for the past two years, throughout the pandemic, we have allowed the Spirit of God to guide my steps in discerning.

On Feb 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, I was admitted to the postulancy to begin the next steps of discerning this joy-filled call to live out the Gospel, as a Poor Clare. May the good Lord grant me the grace and strength to persevere in fulfilling this call.

TFS SPELLING BEE



Apollo Lin, 6th grader/ winner of the 2022 TFS spelling bee



Patrick Robbins, 4th grader Runner up of the 2022 TFS spelling bee

TFS SPELLING BEE

The Franciscan School hosted a spelling bee on Tuesday, February 1st to crown a new spelling champion. After winning a spelling competition in their respective classrooms, 19 TFS students met in Fellowship Hall for the championship. The students represented grades 3rd through 8th. Congratulations to Apollo Lin, 6th grader, on winning the 2022 TFS spelling bee. After 30 rounds of competition, Apollo correctly spelled the word “bivouac” in the championship round. Bivouac (noun) is a temporary camp without tents or cover, used especially by soldiers or mountaineers.

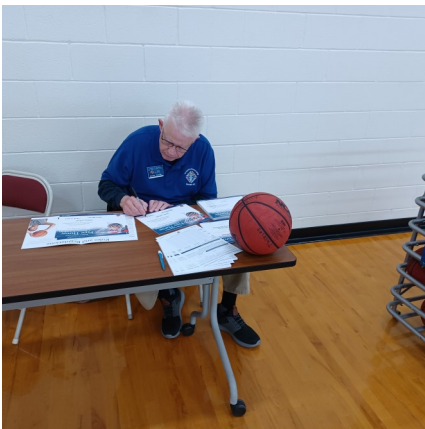
The runner-up for the spelling bee was Patrick Robbins, 4th grader. Apollo and Patrick went head-to-head for the final 12 rounds, showcasing their amazing spelling skills. A few of the challenging words on the list included: montmorency, conurbation, kimchi, and d'orsay. All the students in the competition were very supportive of their fellow participants.

Thank you to Mr. Watson, Principal at TFS, and the teachers, for their support of the spelling bee. A special thank you to teachers Jari Pathenos and Iris Lacson who served as the organizers for this year's competition.

The Knights of Columbus are proud to serve as a partner with TFS to help sponsor the Spelling Bee Championship. The Knights provide the pronouncer, judges, and a recorder on the day of the championship. Thank you to Steve Becker who served as the pronouncer for the spelling bee. The Knights look forward to supporting TFS programs, and are thankful for the dedication of the administrators and the teachers who enrich the lives of the students.

Written by: Mike Wrzesien

BASKETBALL FREE THROW



BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

On Sunday, March 13th, the Council conducted a Basketball Free Throw competition for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14. The kids competed within their gender and age with the winners advancing to the next level. Eventually, a state champion will be crowned at each level with the final competition held in Burlington, NC. There were 12 youngsters competing in the gym at St. Francis while their parents cheered them on. Before the competition began several fathers were brave enough to use the court to try out their jump shots learned from years ago. Luckily, no injuries were reported. Grand Knight Steve Becker awarded each participant an earned certificate. Next event will be a Soccer Competition.

Written by Mike Wrzesien

NEWS BULLETIN: *Noah Hoffman, one of our winners, went on to win THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP for the 9 year old Boys' category.*

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS



Sean and Nora Stacey must be proud of their three sons, Charlie, Harry and Christain. As Boy Scouts, each of these young men earned many of the 135 merit badges available to the Scouts. Moreover, their goal was to become Eagle Scouts which requires the completion of a project benefitting the community. All three chose their individual projects which would benefit Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Louisburg. Charlie came to the January Council meeting asking for \$336 to create pedestals depicting the 14 Stations of the Cross. The funds were to be used for wood, stain and pictures of our Lord's sad journey. The Council approved the expenditure. At another time, Harry chose to build benches for the playground. Lastly, Christain built picnic tables for the Church pavilion. Deacon Pat Mcilmoye of OLR sent these photos and expressed appreciation for the Stacey family and our Council.

BLOOD DRIVE



BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, March 26th, our Council sponsored the first Blood Drive for 2022. There is always a need for blood. PGK Bryan Kozak who organizes numerous drives in concert with the Red Cross and a support cast of about 15-18 volunteer Knights, the Council helps to fulfill some of that need. The day begins at 6:00 am by off-loading equipment and setting up tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall. Throughout the day the volunteers are tasked with registration check-in, greeting and providing guidance, and offering water and snacks to the donors. By 4:30 pm the event concludes but not until the equipment, supplies, blood stored in styrofoam containers are loaded back on the Red Cross trucks. The community benefits from the dedication of Brother Kozak and the volunteer staff for another very successful event which resulted in collecting 129 units of blood.



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers, as I reflect on the first quarter of the year, the council activity has really increased significantly. It's great to see more and more brothers show up at our monthly council meetings! We still will continue to run the Zoom option, but now that we no longer have the mask mandate, if you feel comfortable coming to the meetings, we would enjoy seeing you in person! Of course, you are always welcome to wear a mask if you feel the need – nothing wrong with that either.

We had four extraordinary achievements to report for this quarter. First, Msgr Clay has asked Brother Mike Wrzesien to become a member of the St. Francis Pastoral Council. This is the most prestigious leadership group around – setting the strategic priorities for the parish. Having Msgr recognize that his council was missing someone from the Knights is a ultimate win for our ongoing initiative to be recognized as an integral part of the parish. Just as important, it really shows that one of our finest brothers is recognized by the head of the parish as someone he wants helping to provide this strategic guidance. This is a three-year appointment and is well deserved! Congratulations to Mike!

Second, I want to thank Brother Mike Rock, for leading the charge on the committee formed to come up with the thoughtful distribution of charitable funds - \$18,000 in total to some 20 well deserving charities across a spectrum of categories that covers the values we hold as Catholics. The credit also goes to the Brother Knights who led each of the categories and to all the committee members who investigated the charities to be receiving these funds. We can all be proud of this effort.

Third, I would like to thank Brother Kent once again for his outstanding leadership around Culture of Life, and specifically around utilizing the funds from our council and Our Lady of Lourdes for the new ultrasound for Birth Choice. We are also grateful to those brothers who personally contributed their own funds to this effort. All those contributions totaled some \$20K, and Kent worked so hard to get the \$17K match from Supreme – so all in total, we came up with \$37K for this tremendous cause.

Fourth, our WDGK Dave spearheaded the effort to lead the raffle ticket sales and blew away the friendly challenge I gave him to beat what we came up with from last year (when I led the effort). Well, thanks to the team captains and all the brothers in the council who bought tickets, we sold an amazing 1,100 tickets this year, which was 35% better than last year, and results in \$2,750 that we can contribute to the LAMB foundation!

We ran the TFS Spelling bee for the 9th straight year, and I have to say I think it was the best one we've done yet. We had 19 students participate from grades 3-8, and it was a lot of fun watching them spell words that you wouldn't imagine kids that age could even spell. I think it's a testament to the intelligence level that can be achieved with a great education and parental support!

We got back into the swing of putting on our annual basketball free throw competition. WDGK Dave did a great job pulling it all together and we had 12 participants (TFS had a competing event that we weren't made aware of until we had already scheduled). The event went off well, and one of our winners, Noah Hoffman, went on to compete in the State championship – winning the 9-year-old boys' category. We'll be recognizing him at our April council business meeting!

There were so many other activities from the quarter that went so well – New Degree Exemplification (thanks to entire team, led by Brother Tony) Blood Drive (thanks PGK Bryan), Donut Run (thanks Brother Tom), Highway cleanup (Brother John), the great attendance at our socials (Brothers Mike and Tony R.), and this great newsletter (Brother Tony R. and Brian) to name a few...I could go on and on, but I don't want to put you to sleep!

Finally, thanks for your input on the fraternal hour's activity for 2021. It's amazing to see that we as a council had over 5,500 hours of service in a year that was fairly "locked down". Thanks to Brother Wrzesien, we were also able to submit nominations for our Brother Knights for state award winners. There will be more information forthcoming on this, but just know that WDGK Dave and I, along with the leadership team appreciate all you do for the council! I'm looking forward to a busier 2nd Quarter!

Steve