

Volume 31

Spring 2019

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**REFLECTIONS ... A newsletter for friends of the CWH**

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**THANK YOU!** The Catholic Worker House would like to take a moment to express our tremendous gratitude to the Maurice Paul & Glennys Brimmer Foundation. We are able to support many lives each year because of supporters like you. The Catholic Worker House uses every donor dollar for operational costs to shelter our clients. In 2018, we provided 6,328 nights of shelter, serving 218 individuals. That's 218 people who had a warm meal, a soft bed, and a sense of belonging while they were in our home.

New this year is the Catholic Worker House Extension, which provides longer term housing to those that qualify and have completed a successful stay at the Catholic Worker House. This will allow us to provide additional shelter in 2019.

MAURICE PAUL & GLENNYS  
**BRIMMER**  
— F O U N D A T I O N —

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## CWHx BLESSING AND OPEN HOUSE



On Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Father Mark Ressler from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton blessed the new Catholic Worker Extension House (CWHx). He presided over the joyful event in which participants thanked God for the gift of this new home.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the CWHx Open House on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a fun afternoon with good snacks, and incredible community. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with the event.

## CWHx READY TO OPEN

**By Karen Volz**

After months of hard work and planning, the CWH Extension Program received the first application for participation in the program and is ready to welcome single women and their children into our wonderful four bedroom home. Only those who have had a successful stay at the Catholic Worker House shelter may apply for the CWHX program. The program is designed to give this most vulnerable homeless population the added support and skills to avoid situations of homelessness in the future. Like any personal growth and learning experience, the program is not easy. Along with the application is an interview process and goal setting. Once accepted, participants in the program pay a program fee to cover some of the costs associated with housing, like utilities and maintenance. With the help of a terrific program offered through Horizons, participants learn budgeting skills and set financial goals like savings for a car, paying off debts or just accumulating savings for emergencies.

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## CWHx READY TO OPEN - Continued

Participants and their children have a furnished private sleeping room with a locked door. There are security cameras in the common areas for safety. They have use of a beautiful kitchen, fully stocked with pans, dishes and appliances so they can do their own cooking and grocery shopping. There is a laundry area downstairs with storage space, a dining room and living room as well as three bathrooms. It is a vast improvement from the homeless shelter and much safer than many of the housing options available under government programs.

The staff at the Catholic Worker House continues to meet with them and make sure that they are following rules and working together. At the end of their stay, they receive financial assistance if they have reached their goals. Keep all of these families in your prayers and we will keep you posted as to their journey and success.



We sincerely appreciate all our CWHx donors. Thank you for your support to make this happen!

Special thanks to Home Appliance for assisting with appliances and Cabinets Galore for the beautiful cabinets! We couldn't have done it without you.

Please utilize the services of our donors. While there, be sure to thank them for their support of Catholic Worker House. Their generosity contributes greatly to the continuance of our services.

**CABINETS  
GALORE**

**HOME  
APPLIANCE CENTER**



## SURVIVING IN DEADLY ZERO-DEGREE WEATHER

**By Larissa Ruffin**

The Overflow Season is ready to come to a close. There is a group called COWSS- Community Overflow Winter Shelter System, which operates the Salvation Army Overflow Shelter located on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE. Catholic Worker House is a member of COWSS. We have served as an Overflow Shelter since November 1, 2018 for any married couples, single women or single mothers. We served at least six to ten overflow guests nightly, in addition to our regular clients. There is a huge need in our community for shelters to provide these overflow accommodations. As of February 28th we have provided over 715 nights of shelter to overflow guests. The main overflow shelter served 50-60 people nightly. Imagine, where all of these individuals would sleep if we didn't have this overflow shelter system each year!

This winter was brutal for our clients. It was difficult for everyone in the shelter, especially the children. It was too cold to play outside, in addition to all of the days off from school, the kids were getting a little stir crazy! Starting this spring, we will be collecting gift certificates to use next winter. We would appreciate gift certificates from Playstation, bowling allies, movie theaters, Speedeez Go carts, Sky Zone, swim passes, Kids First gymnastics and more! Keep in mind you go can donate for just one child or more than one...it is up to you! That way we can have gift certificates on hand for the children to be able to get out and run off some energy. If you have any questions please contact the staff at CWH.



## HER SMILE IS CONTAGIOUS!

**By Larissa Ruffin**

One of our newest employees is Ashley McCann. Ashley works nights and weekends for CWH.

Ashley loves to cook and also enjoys baking. One of her favorite parts of her job is setting up the nightly meal. She enjoys setting everything up and making sure the evening meal is presented in a beautiful way.

Ashley is also responsible for cooking the evening meal, if we do not have one provided. It can be a big chore, but Ashley always has a client willing to help. It is much different cooking for 25 versus her normal family of three!

Ashley has an 11-year-old daughter named Kaylee and her fiancé Ron. After living away from Cedar Rapids for the last two years, Ashley returned to the area in December of 2018.

She has been a great addition to our staff. Ashley looks forward to attending training and to learning new things at CWH. Please stop in and say hello if you haven't had a chance to meet her yet!

### **Another way to support the Catholic Worker House!**

- Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
- Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
- Select St John of the Cross
- Start shopping



## TOILET PAPER OLYMPICS

**By Larissa Ruffin**

For the past several years, Regis has coordinated the "Toilet paper Olympics" during Catholic Schools Week. This year the students from Regis Middle School collected 1580 rolls of toilet paper and 103 containers of laundry soap pods! What an amazing donation this year!

Labirda Williams White is one of our AARP Senior Employees and she said, "Where are we going to put a School bus full of toilet paper?" Needless to say we had plenty of room! During the time we spent getting all of the donations inside of Catholic Worker House I had several students tell me it was their goal this year to DOUBLE their normal donation because we were opening the new house, CWHx!

Since we started this event about three years ago, we have never run out of toilet paper. Being down to our last 100 rolls used to be a common occurrence.

Thank you to the teachers and students of Regis Middle School, we are grateful for the help. You all did amazing work especially with the weather we were handed! We missed so much school this year and especially during Catholic Schools Week! It took a lot of coordination to get these items delivered on a day that was warm and safe enough. Thank you all who make this happen each year!



If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email us at [stjohncwh@msn.com](mailto:stjohncwh@msn.com).

For more information



check our Facebook page

St John of the Cross catholicworkerhouse

or visit us at [www.catholicworkerhouse.org](http://www.catholicworkerhouse.org)

## Top Donation Needs

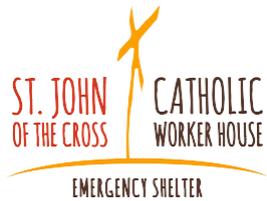


- Floor cleaner (Pine-Sol)
- Multi-purpose cleaners
- Lysol cleaning wipes
- Laundry soap pods
- Dryer sheets
- Hand soap
- Body wash
- Diapers and pull ups
- Coffee/sugar/creamer
- End tables for CWHx

## Financial Gifts

We couldn't do this without you!

- Donate online at <http://www.catholicworkerhouse.org/be-involved/wish-list/>
- Mail checks payable to Catholic Worker House and mail to 1027 Fifth Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
- To support our endowment at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, please call 319-362-2862.



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