



Getting out of the way...

– Sheila Austin, RN



Lately, I frequently find myself speechless. Reflecting back to 2009, Emmaus was just in its infancy making peanut butter and jelly

sandwiches. I am amazed and grateful to see how far God has brought this ministry along and the many blessings we have experienced since then. Only God's handiwork could of brought this ministry to a reality on Syracuse's south side. I would have never been able to map out and strategize what it took to begin an outreach ministry that served a population I did not even know, and frankly, had avoided my whole life. I came from comfort and abundance, shielded from

seeing poverty, abandonment, isolation, hunger, homelessness, and utter despair that many in our community experience.

What I have come to realize over these years, is that God works through us. We may not always recognize it. And when we fail to notice, He finds a way to catch our attention! He finally got mine some 10 years ago and I have never been the same. While my nature had always been to control things, with His grace, I now strive to "get out of the way" of His plan for me. Ironically, life is easier, more fulfilled, and purposeful. Evidence in point, the incredible blessings that have come to Emmaus, as you will see throughout this edition of *The Way*.

As people of faith, we are continually called to do more to serve God's people

and God always provides! He provides a larger facility to serve people in need; He provides enthusiastic and talented professionals to transform a building into a new home for those we serve; He provides dedicated volunteers and staff to minister to the less fortunate with compassion through our meals service, food pantry, showers and laundry, children's activities, community building, and socialization of a neighborhood; and He provides a silent force of contributors and sponsors who honor Him through their generosity!

I thank God for every one of you who do so much for Emmaus Ministry and our guests. For me, I will continue to try to stay out of God's wonderful work and allow His will to be done!

Thank You, John Drescher

I am grateful for this opportunity to thank John Drescher for serving as secretary to the board for the past four years. Those of you who know John, know he is generous with his talents and expertise, and has a compassionate heart for the underserved which is well rooted in his faith. His business expertise navigated Emmaus towards not-for-profit status which lead to our incorporation April 14, 2016. John has been involved in all aspects of the new building renovation and is an invaluable resource and support to me. John is stepping down from his duties on the board, but continues to be an active and vital part of Emmaus Ministry and those we serve. – Sheila Austin, RN

Emmaus Ministry Continues to Grow!

Over the past twelve months, Emmaus Ministry has grown by leaps and bounds. Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we have been able to increase the number of meals served, the number of guests enjoying those meals, as well as expanding other program offerings.

We now serve at least one meal six days per week: 3 breakfasts; 3 lunches; 2 dinners. Between January and September, 2018, 3,290 meals were served, and in 2019, 8,890 meals were served!

Our Children's Activities Days have become Family Days, as parents often stay with their children during this time. In 2018, 2-4 youth were participating in coloring and games. In 2019, it is not uncommon to have 12 – 18 guests every other Saturday. Our volunteer coordinators Nancy Gorman, Beth Feeney and Terry Chylinski have as much fun assist-



ing with the activities as the youth have participating! There is always an educational worksheet for the youth to complete before they move to the arts and crafts.

Among other offerings, our clothes distribution has also increased. We expect a higher demand in the coming months as the cold weather descends upon the area. The amount of winter clothing we expect to distribute will be significantly higher than in past years,

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The Expansion of Emmaus Ministry

It is often stated, "The Lord works in mysterious ways". At Emmaus Ministry, we prefer to say, "The Lord works in deliberate ways". His presence and intercession have been felt in many ways at Emmaus from Day 1 and have been quite evident in recent months.

During the Summer, 2018, it was becoming abundantly clear to Sheila Austin and the Board of Directors of Emmaus Ministry, that the Ministry was growing at such a rate that a larger location for the Outreach Center was needed.

The search for a new, larger facility began in the Fall, 2018. Sheila's goal was to remain in the same general area, "We have relationships with so many people in the neighborhoods nearby that we didn't want to move very far." The problem was, there weren't many options.

Then God's deliberate intercession pointed the way to a building on East Glen Avenue, so close to the current location that the parking lots of the two buildings share a common border.

The building had been vacant for 3-4 years and was owned by the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 158. A tour of the facility was arranged and provided by Terry Hogle, the union's District Manager, in November, 2018.

"We shared our story with Terry, providing him with our history and what we do to serve the homeless and poor in the area," Sheila recalls. "Terry took that information back to his union officers, who were quite interested in helping us."

That desire to provide assistance turned into an offer made by the union to donate the building to Emmaus Ministry. Sheila was overwhelmed by their generosity, "I couldn't believe that they were giving us the building and it is only a hundred feet from our back door!"

In order for the gift to be finalized, a zoning variance was required. Repre-



sentatives from the union and Emmaus Ministry presented the case for the variance at a hearing before the City Zoning Board. The variance was approved on the spot. The date of the hearing was April 18, 2019, Holy Thursday.

The Lord continued to provide.

Soon after the paperwork to transfer the building was completed Emmaus Ministry became owners of the building located at 127 East Glen Avenue!

A good and talented friend of Emmaus took charge of the renovation project – gathering bids from many contractors for the various parts of the project. Renovations got underway in May, 2019, with a goal of Emmaus moving into the new facility by December, 2019.

The cost of the renovation project will be approximately \$500,000. Added to that figure is the funding needed for paving the parking lot, landscaping, signage, and building a ramp to make the building wheelchair accessible. Bids for those items are in process.

The Emmaus Ministry Capital Renovation and Growth Campaign is now underway to secure the necessary funds for the renovations. A larger building will allow for expanded meal and other program offerings, which will also require additional funding.

Emmaus Ministry is moving towards our goal of \$500,000 for the project.

Sheila provided an update on the campaign, "We have made good progress in our fund raising, but we still have a long way to go. Emmaus Ministry's Board of Directors and I are requesting that our donors, volunteers and other supporters of our Ministry prayerfully consider making a donation to our campaign so that we are able to continue and expand our work in the beautiful, new facility. There are so many people of all ages, toddlers, senior citizens and every age in between, who are in need of meals and other offerings provided by our Ministry. We see new faces at every meal, people who are looking for the nutritious meals, love and compassion that we provide our guests."

Sheila has confidence that the Lord will continue to provide for the Ministry. "We don't always know how He will present Himself to us or how we will accomplish the tasks before us. We do know that He always has guided us and He always will."

If you would like to contribute to our campaign, please use the form on page 3 and the addressed envelope provided. You can also make a donation online at our website <https://emmausministry.org/donate-now-2/>.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

- Pete Ludden, Development & Grants



Thank you in advance for your consideration of our Capital Renovation and Growth Campaign!

Please consider a three year pledge of:

Leadership Level\$150,000

Benefactor\$ 75,000

Sustainers\$ 45,000

Stewards.....\$ 30,000

Disciples\$ 15,000

Angels\$ 6,000

Friends.....\$ 1,000

Please use the form below and the addressed envelope provided.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Amount pledged: _____ Over 1, 2, or 3 years? _____

You can also make a donation online at: emmausministry.org/donate-now-2

For information on bequests, legacy giving, or stock donations, please contact Sheila Austin at: 315-256-1982

Please send pledge forms to:
 Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse Inc.
 PO Box 15224
 Syracuse, NY 13215

Gifts are tax-exempt: EIN# 81-253617

Welcome to Our New Board Members



Monsignor J. Robert Yeazel, Board of Directors

Monsignor Robert Yeazel has joined the Emmaus Ministry's Board of Directors. Beginning in 2018, Msgr. Yeazel served as an advisor to the Board at Emmaus, but has been supportive of Emmaus from the beginning. "The reason I became involved with Emmaus Ministry was through my association with Fr. John Manno at Holy Family as well as knowing Sheila. We have supported the Center for over 10 years from Holy Cross, beginning when I was pastor." In September 2019, he became a full member of the Board of Directors, increasing his role from being a public relations and development resource to, now, being a voting member and part of the decision-making process.

Msgr. Yeazel has seen the many lives that have been touched by the volunteers and staff at the Outreach Center. He looks forward to continuing



to work with the volunteers and guests at Emmaus in his new role. His vision has helped to build the ministry into the provider of love and compassion that is demonstrated daily. "I can see the Center as the place, as the original home at Emmaus, where Jesus, in the guise of all the needy in the area, can stop in on their journey, break bread, and recognize the Lord within, and the Lord serving them, whatever their need." Emmaus Ministry is honored to have Msgr. Yeazel become a member of the Board of Directors. Welcome, Monsignor, and God bless you.

Mary Catalano, New Member of the Board of Directors



Mary Catalano has joined the Emmaus Ministry Board of Directors. "Sheila wanted a volunteer to be on the Board to bring a different perspective to that body," Mary points out. So, the mother of five agreed to serve.

Mary began volunteering at Emmaus in January, 2018. "I had been searching for a place to volunteer. My husband and a friend donate food each Christmas to organizations that feed the needy. December, 2017, they dropped off food to Emmaus. My husband called me as soon as he got to his car and said, "This is the place for you!" She began volunteering a few short weeks later.

"I was touched that Sheila wanted me to serve on the board. I wanted to help her with that need. We are all called to serve and that is exactly what we do here."

Welcome, Mary, to your new role at Emmaus Ministry.



The Benefits of Confirmation Retreats

The benefits of confirmation class candidates participating in a retreat at Emmaus Ministry are profound... and sometimes an unexpected benefit presents itself.

Beth DeAngelo, Youth Minister at St. Joseph's Church in Endicott and Sally Herceg, Director of Faith Formation at the church, shared that they want confirmation candidates to experience first-hand that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26).

With no homeless shelter in Binghamton, Beth and Sally decided to venture north for a retreat at Emmaus Ministry. In anticipation of their retreat, the students collected goods for the people served at the Center. "We brought six bus seats full of collected items to donate," Sally points out.

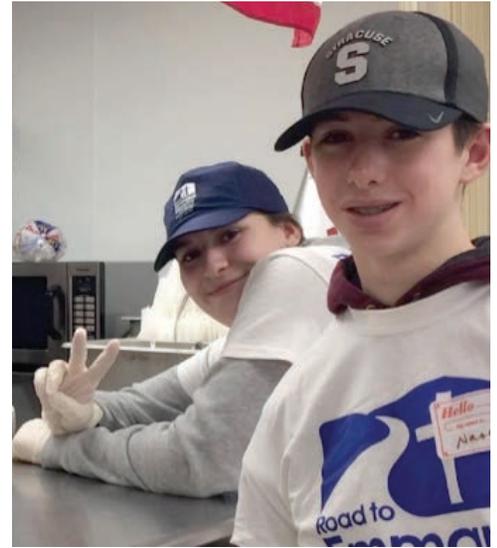
The candidates pay close attention as Sheila Austin shares the history of Emmaus Ministry and Kirk Butler tells his personal story. "The students aren't aware of the many situations that lead to homelessness," Beth mentions. "After hearing Kirk, one of our candidate's

mom told us that her daughter doesn't stop talking about this!"

Developing a better understanding of homelessness and being more compassionate towards those in need are outcomes that usually result when one spends time at Emmaus. Additionally, and quite unexpectedly, Beth and Sally found the candidates becoming closer to one another after the retreat at Emmaus. As Beth shared a few weeks after the retreat, "On the way home, it was beautiful. The kids bonded with each other. That wasn't really a goal, but that was a result."

Sally added, "After dinner the night they went to Emmaus, they left the restaurant walking shoulder to shoulder with each other. A few weeks later they sat together at a showing of 'The Passion of Christ'. They could have sat anywhere. Our candidates all sat together."

When confirmation candidates arrive for a retreat at Emmaus, they are often unaware of what to expect. Once they have participated in the loving experience of serving those in need,



St. Joseph's confirmation candidates prepare to serve our guests.

spending time talking to them and hearing their stories, they are changed. All are moved towards greater compassion for those in need. The candidates from St. Joseph's Church in Endicott bonded and became a team of youth focusing on helping those in need and have a 90% attendance rate at weekend Mass.

Oh, the wonders that take place when you see the face of the Lord.



St. Joseph's confirmation candidates gather with Kirk Butler and Sheila Austin.

Emmaus Ministry Continues to Grow!

...continued from page 1

as more people visit our center and participate in our offerings. Hats and gloves will be our greatest need!

This expansion of our services is only possible by the generous support of our many donors and volunteers. During this season of giving thanks and recognizing our many blessings, we are mindful of the generosity you demonstrate all year long. We thank you for your goodness and commitment to the needs of others and ask for God's blessing upon you and your families this holiday season.



Donations and Pledges February 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

Annual Gifts

Anonymous
Anonymous

Monthly donors

Anonymous
Sheila Austin
Rita Beard
Kathleen Davidson
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Margaret DiMartino
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Capital Renovation and Growth Campaign

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Dress Down Day
Grossman St. Armour/Bousquet
Holstein Jean Dress Down
Day
Independent Insurance Agents
of CNY – BIG I CNY
M&T Bank – Meals for the
Needy and Homeless
Wegman's – Meal Service
Sponsorship

Facebook Fundraiser Campaign

Friends of Steven Barlow

In Honor of

All Needy People
Ms. Carol Michaels

Sheila Austin's Birthday

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Anniversary
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Louise Sessa

Ms. Tina Aversano

Monsignor George Sheehan

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Joe Slavik's Birthday

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In Memory of

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Mr. Chris Whitting
Ms. Denise Yakawiak

Mission Appeal Weekend – St. Vincent DePaul

Ms. Christine Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. John Fitzgerald
Mrs. Lena Murphy
Reverend John Rose
Mrs. Mary Staub
Parishioners of
St. Vincent DePaul

Missionary Cooperative Plan Appeal

St. Mary's of the Assumption &
St. Francis of Assisi

Sponsorships

Bus Passes

Mrs. Terry Chylinski

Haircuts & Foot Care

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Maguire
Mrs. Ruth Metallo
Ms. Pamela Price

Meal Service

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Fayetteville-Manlius
Rotary Group

Jake

Mrs. Jeanie Owens
Mr. & Mrs. John Sheridan
Mr. Kurt Shibley
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Edge Group
Edmund Sullivan

Tithing

Ms. Celestine Davis

Lenten

Reverend Christopher Ballard
Pope John XXIII Roman
Catholic Church
Mrs. Jean Postell

Easter

Ms. Rita Beard
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Cichy
Church of the Immaculate
Conception Parish
Holy Family Church

Winter

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Cichy
Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
-IGNITE Conference
Mr. John Sheridan
Mr. Joseph Simmons



What makes Emmaus Ministry unique?

- Operates solely on private donations
- Executive Director is an RN and the full-time volunteer director since 2009
- Emmaus has a total of (4) part-time positions totaling 39 hours per week as of 2019
- 2 Emmaus employees are from the immediate neighborhood
- 100% of the direct guest services are provided by 65-70 volunteers per week
- Meals are served to the guests at the tables – like home...
- Emmaus Ministry provides a focused network of inner-city out reach opportunities for the youth and adults living in the suburbs and throughout the Syracuse Diocese
- Emmaus offers unique hands-on service opportunities for Confirmation Service Retreat groups connecting their faith to serving others
- Former recipients of Emmaus services have become regular volunteers



Items of need



Paul Drescher, Thursday volunteer

Our goal...

Emmaus Ministry strives to connect individuals with resources and services needed, by creating relationships and trust, which leads to opportunities for advocacy and referrals to agencies for assistance.

Our numbers...

275-300
meals per week

That's almost tripled from last year!

3 Breakfast served times a week

3 Lunch served times a week

2 Dinner served times a week

90 Bags of groceries and items of need distributed per month

800 Bus passes distributed since January of this year

The issues we see everyday with those we serve at Emmaus Ministry

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ■ Hunger | ■ Addictions | ■ The pending loss of utilities |
| ■ Health and dental concerns | ■ Lack of transportation | ■ Unplanned pregnancies |
| ■ Unemployment | ■ Crime | ■ Children, caring for children |
| ■ Lack of access to health care | ■ Housing concerns and homelessness | ■ Loss of ID |
| | ■ Unhealthy relationships | |

Emmaus Ministry Collection Wish List

We are frequently asked by schools, confirmation groups, or businesses, "What items do you need?" – These items are always needed!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular sized bar soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes & toothpaste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant (men & women) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving cream (men & women) | <input type="checkbox"/> Razors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter hats & gloves (adults & children) | <input type="checkbox"/> Diapers (newborns to size 6) |

Our services and activities...

- Shower and laundry access
- Weekly AA meetings
- Children/family activities
- Foot care/hand care
- Clothing distribution
- Holiday brunch (Christmas & Easter)
- "Ask the nurse" sessions
- "Sharing our grief" sessions



Listening to God's Voice



At the lowest point in his life, David Bird was led to Emmaus Ministry, cleaned up his life and is now a part-time employee,

cleaning and performing general maintenance for the ministry. But he almost didn't make it.

David was addicted to drugs and alcohol. At one point he was alcohol free for 10 years, but still was addicted to other drugs. A relapse into alcohol hit him hard. For three years he lived for alcohol, drinking anything he could get his hands on. Liquor, cough medicine, rubbing alcohol – it didn't matter what form it was in.

His life was in shambles. For a year and a half, he sat in his recliner, leaving

only to shoplift to provide food for his family. His daughter, 17 at the time, left the house to find a safe place to live. Suicidal thoughts controlled his mind.

At that point, David called on God. "I always had faith. I told Him, 'I need something now. You've got 15 minutes.' He showed up. I heard a voice in my spirit."

David was entering uncharted territory as God began to communicate with him. "The voice told me, 'You have to stand up.' I stood up for five minutes. 'Go to the shower and wash. Now get dressed, go outside and walk. I'll tell you what to do.'"

David did as he was told, walking down the street. "I wound up in front of this building. I didn't know Emmaus Ministry existed. There was a sign that said an AA meeting was starting in 15 minutes. God's voice told me to go in and do everything they say."

He attends AA meetings daily, sometimes two or three in one day. His sponsor suggested that he get in touch with Sheila at Emmaus. Soon after, he began volunteering, serving meals to the guests. Eight months of volunteering turned into part-time employment at the center. In addition to working for Emmaus, he also is a full-time cook at the Sweetgrass Diner in Nedrow.

Through God's intervention, David turned his life around. "Since the day I walked into this building I haven't put a substance into my body. I no longer lie and steal. My faith has grown. I have an active relationship with my Creator." The transformation from suicidal addict to clean, productive member of society is complete.

David is quick to give appropriate recognition to the one responsible for this personal miracle. "God rules in my life. I've done none of this on my own."

The Passing of a Dear Friend

Emmaus Ministry lost a dear friend when Mark Hennessy went home to the Lord on March 30, 2019. A funeral was held on April 8 at Emmaus Ministry. Many friends gathered to offer their prayers and to bid farewell to Mark. Some of Mark's family was also present at the funeral, arranged by Tim and Dean Burns of Burns and Garfield Funeral Home.

Mark's sister, Lisa Dennison, traveled from West Virginia and two of Mark's children were also in attendance.

Lisa was so very happy to know that Mark had many at Emmaus who spent time with him, cared for him and provided him with the love that he hadn't realized was there for so many years. She asked of her brother, "Do you think he knew the Lord?"

Without a doubt, the Lord was with Mark as he walked through the doors of Emmaus Ministry the first time. Mark experienced the Lord through the many friends and volunteers here.

All those who knew Mark saw the Lord in his face. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me." (Matthew 25:35-36)



Mark received full military honors.

Did Mark know the Lord? Yes, Lisa, he most certainly did know the Lord. And we are all the better for having Mark enter into our lives.

4335 South Salina Street • Syracuse, NY 13205
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Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse, Inc.

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Emmaus Ministry@Hope Mobile1

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MISSION STATEMENT

To perform volunteer outreach ministry including Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, for the purpose of providing unconditional love, hope, support, and the presence of the Catholic Church to the poor, hungry, isolated, and homeless of the city of Syracuse, New York.

Layout and design donated by Bob Raymonda, Artist on Call, Inc. 315.439.2881

Opportunities to help serve those in need...

\$750 will provide 95 grocery bags and paper product bundles per month at the St. Marianne Cope Center for Outreach

\$500 will provide 200 hot breakfasts for one week at the St. Marianne Cope Center for Outreach

\$250 will provide 75 hot lunches or dinners at the St. Marianne Cope Center for Outreach

\$150 will provide brunch on Christmas and Easter and monthly birthday celebrations for our guests

\$100 will provide 26 round trip Centro bus passes to individuals for MD appointments, job interviews and employment, social services and housing needs

\$75 will provide children's activities, crafts and a lunch at the St. Marianne Cope Center for Outreach

\$50 will support monthly haircuts, foot care and laundry services

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone #(s) _____

Email _____

Please indicate your area of support:

- \$750 to provide 95 grocery bags per month
- \$500 to provide 200 hot breakfasts a week
- \$250 to provide 75 hot lunches or dinners
- \$150 to provide a holiday brunch, donuts or monthly birthday celebration
- \$100 to provide 26 round trip Centro bus passes
- \$75 to provide children's activities, crafts and lunch
- \$50 to support monthly haircuts, foot care, and laundry services

Individual and monthly donations can also be made online at:

www.emmausministry.org/donate

Your gift is exempt from federal taxation EIN#81-2536179

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