

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE

WORKERS & FRIENDS

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WHERE WE COME FROM

The Catholic Worker was started by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin during the great depression. Many political groups and parties were trying to respond to the poverty at the time, and Dorothy and Peter felt the Church as people of faith should respond. They published a newspaper to inform folks about the Social Justice teachings of the Church and started their first Soup Kitchen in an empty barber shop.

Catholic Workers believe we are called to take personal responsibility to care for those in need, rather than abdicate to a government agency. We are called to be gentle personalists rather than rugged individualists. Catholic Workers believe we must carry out the Corporeal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. It is a duty and privilege to care for and to walk with our brothers and sisters in need.

As Dorothy and Peter did their work, others joined them, and similar communities sprung up, opening Houses of Hospitality across the country.

There are now over one hundred in the US. We are among many committed to the movement and way of life begun by Peter and Dorothy many years ago.

St Jude Catholic Worker was founded in 1980 on University Avenue in Champaign, in a house that was on loan. The house was originally intended for refugee families from Vietnam, but when visas did not come through, St Jude opened as a daily soup kitchen and house for women and families. In 1990, we moved to our current location on Randolph Street, which would not have been possible without generous donations. In 1990, the house directly behind the Randolph House was purchased and dubbed "The Annex". Again thanks to the amazing generosity of our supporters, it was paid off within a year. Today, the Main House is the center of our hospitality, while the Annex is used as a home of prayer, solitude, and respite.

In 2009, the Soup Kitchen transitioned to New Covenant Church to accommodate

the growing need for our undernourished brothers and sisters. The House now focuses fully on hospitality for women and children.

The focus of our work is to provide a stable home for unhoused women and children. We are also active in community organizing and support, activism, resistance, sustainability and environmental issues. We strive to practice daily the Works of Mercy through the personalism taught by Peter and Dorothy, and to live the spirit of the movement, remembering always that true peace for the human family is not possible without justice, and that every person's voice and actions are vital in crying out against injustice in all of its guises.

St Jude Catholic Worker House is supported by donations from individuals, churches, and organizations. We do not seek city, state or federal funding. There are no salaries; we are all volunteers. All funds go to caring for our guests and house expenses.

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Doug & Amy Bauer - Bombay Indian Grill - Richard & Louise Connell - Columbia Street Roastery - Common Ground Food Co Op - Paul & Christine Delany-McCudden - Donald & Theresa Deschene - Dixon Graphics - Paul & Patricia Doebel - Sharon Dorsey & Jack Paxton - Leigh & Carl Estabrook - Lyle & Patricia Fetting - First Mennonite Church - George & Bettina Francis - Andi Gelsthrope - Paul Gehrke - Clare Good - Lippold & Beth Haken - Greg & Kathy Hatch - Herriott's - Elaine & Max Hershberger - Kenda & Arthur Hess - Mary & Charles Hippler - Barbara Horne - Robert & Reba King - Sean Knoll - Jan & Durl Kruse - James & Jeanine Laroe - Stuart Levy - Wayne & Lorraine Logue - David Madden - Paul & Lola Mayes - Mary McGreevy - John & Maureen McCord - Allison McGillvary & Sam Yergler - Peggy Miller - Frances & John Newman - Randall & Marcia Nelson - Nitaya Thai - Panera - Lisa Pierce & Nagi Kadr - Harry & Cheryl Rakers - Jeff Reeder - Rick & Kim Rice - Fr. Tom Royer - Robert Rybak - St. Mary's Catholic Church - St Patrick's Catholic Church of Urbana - Strawberry Fields - Paul & Gabriela Sefranek - Joe Sloan - Chris Stohr - Helen & Eugene Stoner - Bobbi Trist - United Way - Carol Wadleigh - Mary Walsh - Marge & Pete Wetmore - Martyne & Conrad Wetzel - Peggy Wheelan - Doug & Catherine Wolfersberger - Bernadette Zehr

THANK YOU!

HOUSE UPDATES



As always, we want to send a comprehensive house update to let our supporters and community know what we are doing. We would like our extended community to feel connected to the house and wish to maintain relationships with those who have made the works of the house possible.

Our house, as always, is changing to meet the needs of those who come to us. Right now, we are working hard to solidify a community model or structure to better absorb the ebb and flow of life.

Our goal is to create a stable and loving home environment for all to receive healing and humanity in an otherwise dehumanizing world. The struggle in creating a structure is to strike a balance, finding something flexible enough to accommodate the unique individual needs of the people in and out of the house.

It is an ongoing struggle to meet the needs of the physical space (repairs, organizing, cleaning, etc...), as well as the physical, mental, and emotional need of our guests and community members. We strive to restore dignity and humanity and make order in the chaos of life.

This summer and fall, we had to say goodbye to two vehicles: our trusty old van, the "green machine," and

traded in our house truck for our "Juder Cruiser."

It has become increasingly clearer the importance of our external community. We hope to continue developing sustainable solutions for the house.

As always, we search to find the best ways to use the resources at our disposal to serve those in our community in need. Currently, we pick up food from Common Group Food Co-op on a daily basis, and distribute the delicious organic fruits and vegetables between our house and other homeless service providers in the area.

In the future, we hope to step up our fundraising efforts to establish a Hospitality Assistance fund, to help with monetary needs, whether it be a hotel room, an annual bus pass, or the security deposit for a new apartment for one of our guests.

In the last few months, we have seen many come and go. We said goodbye to a woman who lived with us on and off for two years, who found a home for her and her three children. We transitioned a father and teenage daughter into their own home. After three years, Tyler moved out and in to the greater Champaign Urbana community. And once again, we said goodbye to Chris, who moved back to East Tennessee.

For about a year now the house has been blessed by a small family who is still with us—a mother with a thirteen year old boy and a two year old girl. Great kids!

This will be the second year that we have had the pleasure of living with another good friend, who will turn seventy-one this year! We try to support her in her independence and help her in her mental, spiritual, and emotional work.

In addition to being an amazing cook and making sure everyone is well fed, Dave has been active in our local Occupy Movement, helping to organize a demonstration on October

8th, preceded by a special edition of *Labor Hour*, to which Dave is a regular contributor. Dave also helped organize actions on December 12th in solidarity with the West Coast port shut-downs. When he's not at the house baking the best bread, he spends his time as an editor/graphic designer/and occasional contributor to the *Public I*, our local independent media source. He is also an IWW delegate and works with Jobs for Justice.

Together Paul and Dave have been regularly attending General Assembly meetings for our local Occupy movement.

Since moving back into the house Carly Guerriero has worked really hard to make the house cozy and warm. She has been spending her months babysitting a community member's adorable one year-old at the house. Our guest's toddler has been delighted to have a playmate. Babies playing in the house have brought great tenderness to our home. Juggling Open-Door hours while babysitting was a little tricky but definitely worth it.

Carly went on a grand 3 week vacation of the southwest. She got to hangout in beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona with a former worker Tim Richardson. Carly was also present at the marriage of Sam and Allison two LA Catholic Workers. Additionally, Carly went to the National Catholic Worker Gathering. There she spent her days in workshops and protesting against drones at the Nevada Air Force Base.

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: **CONGRATULATIONS** :
: **TO OUR NEWLYWED** :
: **FRIENDS:** :
: Sam Yergler and Allison McGillvary :
: Sharon Dorsey and Jack Paxton :
: Craig Kreutzer and Lauren Flowers :
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****HOUSE SCHEDULE
AND EVENTS****

++OPEN HOUSE HOURS—St. Jude currently has Open Door Hours every Mon–Fri from 12–3PM. All are welcome. We provide showers, fresh produce to take home for healthy meals, checking mail, using the phone, laundry, and a quiet place for the occasional nap. Volunteers and visitors are very much appreciated during these hours! Stop by M–F 12–3 to check out our radical library, help start dinner, volunteer, or just hangout.

++COMMUNITY DINNER—THURSDAYS AT 6:30PM—If you would like to join us on this day, please call RSVP so we can accommodate!

++SATURDAY SPIRITUAL WORSHIP—2PM Inclusive community soul searching open to all faiths and practices!!!

++FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH—MOVIE NIGHT!!!—2PM always free

++LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH POTLUCK ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & SKILLSHARE—2/26, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27, 6/24—potluck starts at 2PM, discussion/skillshare at 3PM, topics TBA

We Catholic workers are a tad slow when it comes to technology. We intentionally choose to use more personal means of communication, however, we are striving to update the community more regularly. The Facebook page will be updated on the first of every month and a newsletter is in the works. The best way of contacting us is: Come stop on by! Open Hours 12–3 M–F are best. Call us at 217.355.9774 and leave a detailed message. Write us, at 317 S. Randolph Champaign IL 61820 hooray for snail mail! Our NEW email:

stjudecatholicworker@gmail.com

In the event of an event, we will try to get the word out to you all!

If you would like to receive an electronic version of "Workers and Friends", please send us an email at: stjudecatholicworker@gmail.com

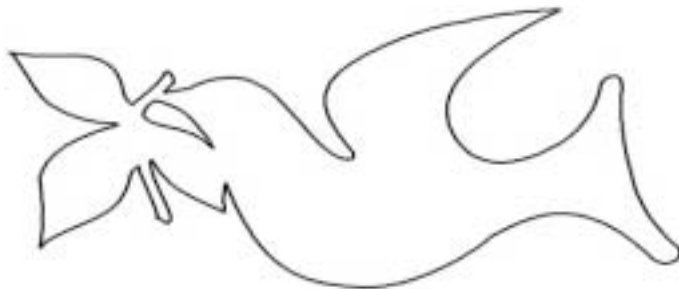
After a long summer of planting cabbage and squash, repainting the funky colored rooms of the big house, and trying to keep bored teenagers occupied, Paul and Laurel went with the Father Tom Royer and the St Mary's delegation to Calavera, El Salvador and spent about a week traveling and visiting with the Christian Base Communities of that region, hearing their stories, sharing in meals and mass, and providing limited medical treatment. After returning, Paul, Laurel, and the delegation organized a roundtable discussion to share their experiences and educate people in our community of present day issues for the Salvadorian people. The following day, Tyler, Chris and Laurel, along with local activist Bill Taylor and a group of traveling activists, organized a fundraiser/documentary screen for the Honduran Community Radio Project.

In October, Chris, Laurel, Paul, and Dave organized a house fundraiser to help offset the costs of the summer and winter months. It was highly successful, and many great and wonderful people contributed to its success —thank you!

With the help of external community input and support, Paul and Laurel have been focusing on providing the community with a space for spiritual reflection, growth, meditation, prayer and fellowship, using the annex space for these practices, as well as offering hospitality, solitude, and respite.

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC WORKER IS A HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY NEAR DOWNTOWN CHAMPAIGN. AS A COMMUNITY, WE STRIVE TO LIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE CATHOLIC WORKER TRADITION OF PERSONALISM, LABOR, NOVIOLENCE, RESISTANCE, VOLUNTARY POVERTY, PRAYER, AND SIMPLE LIVING. OUR HOME IS EXTENDED TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NEED, AND TOGETHER WE COOK, WORK, PLAY, LIVE, BREATHE, CONSOLE, ENCOURAGE, AND SHARE IN OUR EVERYDAY STRUGGLES. WE PROMOTE ACTS OF PEACE AND LOVE, WHILE DENOUNCING VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE.

WE ARE CARLETTE, JOSH, MICHAELA, GRACE, JULIA, PAUL, AIDEN, DAVE, CARLY, LAUREL, AND TIM S.



"It is a fact, confirmed and re-confirmed during two or three thousand years of religious history, that the ultimate Reality is not clearly and immediately apprehended, except by those who have made themselves loving, pure in heart, and poor in spirit"—ALDOUS HUXLEY

WE NEED HELP FIXING OUR HOUSE!!!

Since December, Tim, a former “live-in” and community member has been greatly involved in construction and repairs at the house. One such problem we have busied ourselves with is the Basement Mold Remediation Project. The purpose and goal of this project is to treat the mold and address all underlying issues leading to its formation. We have thus far removed all mold, mold spores, and rotten wood from laundry room & under the fire escape. We have worked to prevent mold and rot from forming in the future. We have replaced the rotted wood with lumber we craftily salvaged from a dumpster. Tim, Julia, and Tim Smith have worked incredibly hard to remedy the issues in the basement, completing as much of the labor they can. At this point in order to move forward we need expert help, materials, and funds.

Proposal: In addition to the basement project, similar problems exist in other areas of the house, such as the mold in attic ceiling tiles and insulation, the attic rodent problem, general weatherization, water leakage from the second floor bathroom into the kitchen, and repairing the front porch. These problems can be completed at minimal cost in the next few months with present volunteer labor. However, at this point, minimal cost is more than St. Jude’s can afford. In addition to the basement project St. Jude is hoping to raise upwards of \$7000 over the coming months to address all of our repair issues. This amount of money would allow St. Jude and its volunteers to make the most of its resources and maximize flexibility in terms of project planning and volunteer utilization.

St. Jude is on an increasingly tight budget and yet we have a great need to address house repairs before they grow into larger issues. We are reaching out to the community to help us remedy these problems.

We are requesting a donation in funds but additionally recognize that the community may be energized to help in other ways, this is a welcomed pursuit to lower overall costs. Most of our labor can be provided by volunteers. We are also requesting material donations as well as looking to borrow equipment and tools.

For a detailed plan of current repair projects and how you can best become involved please check our Facebook page or email us and we will respond with a project summary and materials list.

Thank you for your consideration.