



St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker

SPRING 2013

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Karl, a devoted husband and father, was the House Manager at the St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker House, where he dedicated his life to helping homeless men get off the streets and rebuild their lives. He passed away peacefully on January 4th, 2013 at the age of 57. He is survived by his wife Nissi, and five children, Kienan, Courtney, P.J., Katrice and Karl III.

The family requests that any charitable donations be mailed to: St. Francis St.
Joseph
Catholic Worker House

In Loving Memory of Karl Fields

Dear Readers,

Karl Fields will be missed. As I write this, I can't help but to reflect on his absence. From the papers littered across my desk, written in his terrible handwriting, to the yellow stress ball that I can't bring myself to get rid of, the reminders are everywhere. He was our leader, our mentor and our friend; and now he is gone.

When I first took over as House Manager, the thought of his passing ran parallel with another; Karl is a tough act to follow. He gave his all to the Catholic Worker House and it showed. He put his heart and soul into everything he did here. He loved this House. And now it is up to me to carry the torch and continue God's work as my predecessor did, like Father Mark before him. I pray to God every day that I may do it well.

Fortunately, I am not alone. Thanks to the board, my staff and all of you for your generous contributions. We couldn't do this without you. Karl worked diligently to carry on Father Mark's vision, and with your help I will do the same. I, too, believe in what we do here.

On an inspirational reading Karl had taped to the wall, the last paragraph reads:
"Start each day with hope, and then get busy working. Let your hope inspire you, rather than console you. Hope for the best, and do whatever it takes. Hope depends on you." Thank you and God bless.

..... John Clark

GUEST STORIES

BENNY MOYERS

Forty nine year old Norwood native, Benny Moyers, had lost everything. He had a good marriage, good job, two children and an alcohol addiction. After 18



months in prison, he stayed with his sister, but she could no longer tolerate the drinking and Benny was on the street.

Benny landed at the Catholic Worker House in November and stayed for the maxi-

mum two months. "Ron Brown (senior House staffer) gave me a warm welcome and I immediately felt at ease. At first, the rules were cumbersome, but that's what we got to do." Staying in a sober environment is essential to Benny's recovery and success. Benny credits House Manager John Clark and new House staffer John Monhollen for reinforcing his reformation: "They convinced me not to go back and to stay in a sober environment."

In fact, Benny now lives at sober house, Charlie's $\frac{3}{4}$ House on Vine. Manager John Clark has expanded the Catholic Worker House relationship with Charlie's as a safe and sober place of continuing recovery. Benny works as a handyman and cares for an Alzheimer's patient to pay his rent at Charlie's and save some money. To give back and enhance his own spirituality, Benny also plays guitar at Community Baptist Church. He is restoring relations with his 16 year old daughter and 22 year old son.

"I wouldn't trade anything for where I am now," says Benny, "if it weren't for the Catholic Worker House, I'd be under a bridge."

All of us associated with the House wish Benny all the best in his recovery!

DEMARCO SINGLETARY

Demarco is soft spoken, confident and affable. He arrived at the Catholic Worker House directly from prison, where he resided the past 15 years. Yes, Demarco spent his prime, from age 26 to 43 incarcerated. Astonishingly, he is cheerful and grateful, entirely void of bitterness. "I have always taken care of myself," says Demarco, "I stayed away from the antics in prison. Now, I pray, read, medi-

tate and exercise."

Demarco graduated from Trotwood High School near Dayton and joined the Army. He later was married and fathered a daughter and a son. His daughter, Alyssa, now attends Miami University and son Branden goes to high school in Alabama.

Demarco seems to handle the transition

from prison with remarkable ease. He works at a regional bank and at a Banks restaurant. His goal is to land one full time job and enroll part



time to study IT or business by this autumn. How does he maintain such a positive and self assured attitude? It appears to be grounded in Demarco's gratitude for life and his strong spirituality. His mind is open regarding spiritual avenues and he attends both the Beth Messiah Synagogue and Kings House Christian Center. He now resides in a small apartment at Tender Mercies. Besides a full time job and school, his goals are more permanent housing and transportation.

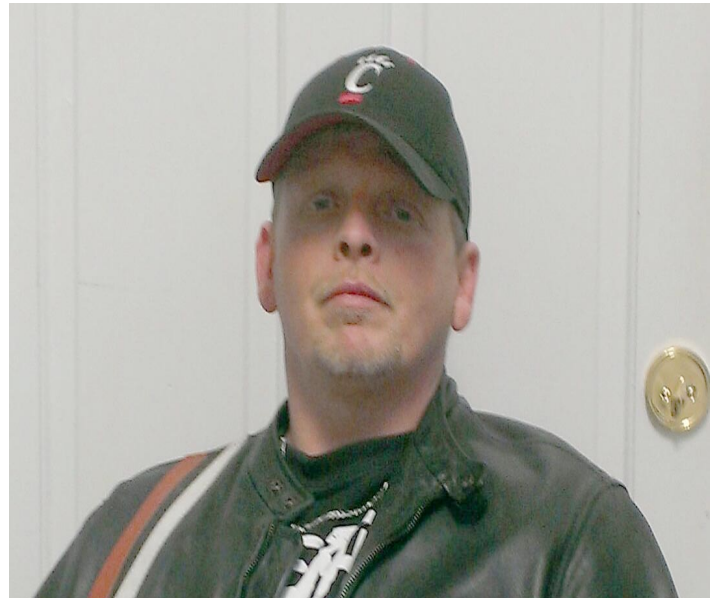
Demarco exclaims that entry to the Catholic Worker House helped him to "stay focused" and he is grateful to the entire staff, with special thanks to Danny, Ron and John C: "Everybody stepped up to help me."

Demarco shines as a special example of second chances and the immediate efficacy of and need for places like the Catholic Worker House. We hope and pray for Demarco's continuing success.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT JOHN MONHOLLEN

Please welcome our newest staff member, John Monhollen. John was born in Chicago, moved to Cincinnati, graduated from Norwood High School and attended Urbana University. He and his stepfather operated a successful remodeling business, he was married and had two children. Life was good. "But, I always had a problem with alcohol," admits John. "In 2003, everything fell apart."

John was divorced, lost his house and business partnership. Seven years of homelessness ensued. "I slept in parks, the Drop Inn Center and under the 8th Street viaduct," says John. "I served short jail terms for theft where I was



introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous; I started listening." But, after a prison release in 2010, John embarked on a six month drink and drug binge, finally realizing "it was either live or die." "I prayed."

John started his recovery at the Prospect

House, then more intensely at CCAT and now resides at Charlie's. He is fifteen months sober and happy being sober. In May of 2012, John worked on the CatHouse Catwalk, a fund raiser for CCAT: "I discovered that I was happiest when helping people."

So now, John works at the Catholic Worker House, volunteers at Charlie's and CCAT while also attending five AA meetings a

week. He wisely surrounds himself with sobriety and mutual helpfulness.

John embraces the Catholic Worker philosophy from his own experience: "I love the hand up, not handout mantra. God didn't bless me until I put a foot forward."

Please join us in congratulating John on his recovery and his imminent June marriage to the lovely and personable Lindsay. We wish you both the best!

Dorothy Day (1897-1980)

Dorothy Day is one of the Catholic Worker's House patrons. During the time of the Great Depression she founded soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless, similar to our own.

Like many of us, especially our guests, Dorothy experienced deep loneliness. In fact, she wrote a book about her life called *The Long Loneliness*. She points out the loneliness she experienced as a child walking the streets in Chicago slums; during college where she was a misfit; and living in New York where she worked as a reporter and hung out in bars. Later, she broke up with her lover and had to raise a daughter by herself. The time she spent in unpopular peace demonstrations and labor strikes were lonely. And the periods she spent in jail cells for protesting were times alone.

Dorothy writes that even her conversion to Christianity was a lonely experience because no one, even herself, understood what she was going through. She later learned that this loneliness was a "hunger for God," which was gradually filled by her love of nature and her dedication to helping others. Once she became "other-centered," a new happiness filled her lonely heart. Once she allowed her heart to be filled with compassion and love, she found God. She wrote: "We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and love comes from community."

..... Brennan Hill

Karl Fields

As Karl's beloved wife, Nissi, put it: "Karl has 'gone home.'" After years of bravely struggling with lung cancer and working at the Catholic Worker House until the end, Karl died peacefully on January 4.

After working faithfully on the staff, Karl became House Manager five years ago and did an exceptional job. When our founder, Fr. Mark, died three years ago, Karl stepped up and carried on Father's principles and traditions. He served our guests well and was an effective mentor to our staff members. He often told them "to put water on the fires of controversy, rather than gasoline". And he reminded all that we offer a "hand up, not a hand out." Karl was always a listener rather than a problem-solver and he was good at helping people solve their own problems.

After his religious conversion, Karl became a man of deep faith. He believed that we should "step aside and let God do his work". Karl was a devoted son, a loving brother, husband, father and grandfather. He fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, took in the stranger, clothed the naked, cared for the sick, and took in former prisoners. The kingdom has been prepared for him, and we will all miss him mightily.

.....Brennan Hill

Dear Karl,

.....December 25, 2012

A Christmas Gift to the World!

King of his palace.

A quiet man.

Rationalizations to help
get through any situation.

Love from deep
within his soul.

Friendship that is treasured
by everyone.

Intimate with those lives
he touches.

Evolving into a dignified man
of family and work ethics.

Letting God be
in charge of everything!

Doing what is asked by God.

Staying clean and sober
through it all.

We love you
man of character.
You will always be with us
as Fr. Mark is.

Ida & Kevin

FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are deeply saddened by the death of our good friend and excellent House Manager, Karl Fields. We share and express our condolences and sympathies to Karl's family and many friends.

We know that our late founder, Father Mark Schmieder, and Karl want us to continue helping homeless men with more fervor and determination than ever. We have hired John Clark as House Manager going forward. While Karl managed effectively with intuitive passion, John brings a strong sense of organizational detail and take charge leadership that has been working quite well. For the first quarter of 2013, ninety men have stayed at the House. Of the 75 who stayed for more than a day or two, 23 have succeeded in procuring employment and more permanent housing. Most nights, all sixteen beds are occupied.

The annual Board meeting and elections occurred in late January. Please welcome new Board Chairman Brennan Hill, Vice Chair Sister Kay Tardiff, Treasurer Bob Bertsch and Secretary Mary Repaske. Other Trustees elected include Joyce Kiernan, Mike Harmon, Carolyn West, Kevin Staigl and Michael Dufek. Our only job is to help the staff help our homeless guests. We are confident that our loyal supporters and volunteers will continue their generosity to that end.

Thanks to everyone for giving a hand up. Please read the stories of John, Demarco and Benny to affirm the reality that a second chance can make all the difference.

We appreciate your prayers and support.

..... St Francis-St Joseph Catholic Worker
House Board of Trustees

The St. Francis-St. Joseph Catholic Worker House vigilantly protects its independence and freedom from politics or distracting influences in order to focus on the mission of helping the homeless and poor.

The House receives no government or diocesan funding and operates with simplicity and frugality.

If you wish to help us continue the good work, please send your tax deductible donation to: SFSJ, PO Box 14274, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0274.

SFSJ STAFF

John Clark (House Manager)
Keith Waller
Richard Johnson
Danny Jackson
Ron Brown

SFSJ BOARD of TRUSTEES

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Joyce Kiernan
Mike Harmon
Kevin Staigl
Michael Dufek
Bob Bertsch
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Carolyn West

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