




A Catholic Social Services Publication | Summer 2017

Faces of Hope

Ending homelessness one family at a time

Clare House Play Garden

CSS BUILDS SAFE SPACE FOR MOMS AND KIDS AT CLARE HOUSE

 At Clare House, women with children and expectant mothers experiencing homelessness have mounting worries on their shoulders. They must work to move beyond their current situation and take care of their children's needs at the same time.

On top of finding safe shelter, warm food and clean clothes, moms at Clare House need to provide a secure place for their children to grow and play—to fulfill this need, Clare House is building a new Play Garden.

“Clare House was a safe haven for me and my child,” says Karen, a mother with a young son who worked through Clare House to find a place of her own. “I didn’t really have a supportive family growing up, but Clare House helped me become self-sufficient.”


Karen struggled, like many people do, to work on every aspect of providing for herself and her child, but with enough persistence and support, she moved into her own home and is a successful personal care assistant. Karen says the play

garden would be perfect for the moms and kids at Clare House.

“Sometimes the park is too far away, and moms may not want to go out all the time when they are dealing with finances, childcare or even depression,” she says.

Contact with nature helps children develop emotional and behavioral connections, and is important for encouraging creativity, intellectual development and social relationships, according to a University of Washington study.

As kids play, moms can unwind. They will see tremendous physical and emotional gains with a space to decompress and recuperate surrounded by nature.

Thanks to your help, the Clare House Play Garden is moving beyond the drawing board. Your support will make it possible for us to build the play garden this fall. 



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A Toast of Generosity

PATTI MCGUIRE & GREG ROMACK DONATE \$25,000 TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN ANCHORAGE

A champagne reception is always a lovely way to begin the Wilma Carr Charity Ball. Longtime supporter Patti McGuire offered a beautiful toast, but she and husband-to-be Greg Romack of Davis Constructors had more than just words to give as tokens of support. Patti and Greg made a surprise donation of \$25,000 to kick-off the evening fundraiser.

The \$25,000 gift was made in honor of Fr. Steven Moore, who is currently battling cancer. It will go to Catholic Social Services’ strategic goal of ending homelessness one family at a time.

Patti McGuire has long been committed to serving the needs of the homeless. She has sponsored the Charity Ball champagne reception for over a decade and has always held a special place in her heart for Brother Francis Shelter. In 2005, she ran the Girl-friends Campaign to raise funds for a new Brother Francis Shelter facility.

“The gift affirms their commitment to Catholic Social Services and Brother Francis Shelter,” says Lisa Aquino, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services. “We’re humbled by their generosity and inspired by their belief in our mission.”



PICTURE ABOVE » Patti McGuire & Greg Romack (center) give a \$25,000 check to Catholic Social Services. Charity Ball MC Raquel Edelen (left) & CSS Executive Director Lisa Aquino (right).

Volunteer Gratitude

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE DEDICATION!

When planning an event the size of Charity Ball, one cannot overstate the value of volunteers. Between the committee work—including planning, auction solicitation and set up—and the event itself, more than 65 volunteers put in well over 600 hours of time for this year’s Charity Ball.

Volunteers come from all walks of life, from retired police officers and teachers, to attorneys and public officials.

Volunteers are essential to the success of Charity Ball and Catholic Social Services. Your dedication and service makes a difference in reaching our goal of building a play garden for moms and kids at Clare House. THANK YOU!!


Over 600 Hours
Provided by more than 65 volunteers



PICTURE ABOVE » Catholic Social Services Charity Ball Committee



Catholic Social Services recognizes our community supporters who have given a generous donation to the Clare House Play Garden and our agency:

Alaska Airlines
Alaska Premier Dental Group
Alexandra Lorian
Avalon Properties
Bill Gee
BP
Charity Ball Committee
Chris & Mary Ann Swalling
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Davis Constructors
Dr. Charles & Mary Jane Michael
Dr. John & Kathy Halligan
Dr. Matt & Stacey Heilala
GCI

Greg Romack & Patti McGuire
Jim Hasle
John Edwards & Nancy Pettit-Edwards
Katmailand
KTVA
Larry & Wendi Partusch
Phil & Anna Mink Family
Providence Health & Services Alaska
Specialty Imports
Steve Gordon
Stillpoint Lodge
The Hotel Captain Cook
Tom & Sheila Barrett
Wally Hickel, Jr.



Calling All Clare House Meal Teams!

We want to say “THANK YOU” for all that our Clare House Meal Teams do throughout the year. We are inviting meal teams to join us at **Clare House on Friday, August 11 at 4-6:30pm**—during the feast day of St. Clare. We are throwing a Lu’au in your honor!

These volunteer groups provide meals for about 430 Clare House moms and kids 365 days a year. They deserve a big “MAHALO” for their incredible service! Please RSVP to Laura Rice at Lrice@cssalaska.org by Tuesday, August 1. ☕

Smiles For Clare House

Fabulous Charity Ball Committee member Leanne Torrel and her equally fabulous husband, Dr. Brian Kruchoski of **Alaska Premier Dental Group** worked with Dr. Brian’s team of dentists through the Smiles for Life Foundation.

This year the dental group chose the Clare House Play Garden, and 50% of proceeds from its teeth whitening services went to benefit the women and children at Clare House. Thank you Leanne, Brian and **Alaska Premier Dental Group** for your generous gift! ☕



Photo Courtesy: Glenn Aronwits

Upcoming Events



Plein Air Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, July 29 & 30, 10AM to 6PM

Where: 5801 Barry Ave. 99507

Art show and fundraiser for Clare House.

Clare House Meal Team Lu’au

Friday, August 11, 4 to 6:30PM

Where: Clare House, 4110 Spenard Rd. 99517

Thank you event for Clare House Meal Team members!

HUGSS (Help Us Give School Supplies)

Tuesday, August 15, 9AM to 5PM

Where: East High School, 4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd. 99508

School supply giveaway for students in need

Run To End Homelessness

Saturday, September 23, 7:30AM

Where: 717 W. 3rd Ave. 99514

Anchorage Running Club’s annual charity fundraiser.

Spirit Of Denali

Wednesday, October 18, 11AM to 2:30PM

Where: Brother Francis Shelter, 1021 E. 3rd Ave. 99501

Celebration of Alaska Native culture & gathering

Get involved with Catholic Social Services! For more information on these events or to volunteer, contact Laura Rice at lrice@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7335.



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