



## Winter 2017

### Providence Ministries Programs

**Kate's Kitchen  
foodWorks @ Kate's Kitchen**

**Loreto House**  
51 Hamilton Street, Holyoke

**Margaret's Pantry  
St. Jude's Clothing Center**

**Broderick House SRO**  
56 Cabot Street, Holyoke

**McCleary Manor SRO**  
40 Brightside Drive, Holyoke

### Providence Ministries



Established by the  
Sisters of Providence  
in 1980.



*Why not pay tribute to a  
friend or loved one by  
dedicating a gift  
in their name to  
Providence Ministries?*

# Providence Ministries for the Needy, Inc.

40 Brightside Drive - P.O. Box 6269, Holyoke MA 01041  
Phone: 413-536-9109 Fax: 413-536-1137  
PMNAdmin@ProvMinistries.org - www.provministries.org

## *Dear Friends of the Ministries,*

*The winter season seemed to be ending earlier than usual. Time to get the winter newsletter out before spring arrives. This season has been busier than normal at the Ministries, with changes taking place and disasters striking within our community.*

*Effective the end of November, Karen Blanchard, our Executive Director separated from Providence Ministries after 28 years of dedicated service. As Director, she established new programs, oversaw capital improvements, established new partnerships within the community, and managed great expansion of the services provided. The Ministries are grateful for her contributions and commitment, and wish her well. A search is underway for a new Executive Director.*

*The Holiday Season is always stressful with planning, gift giving, and finally the celebration of Christmas. This year was no different with greater than ever demands from 198 families serving 431 children with gifts of clothing and toys. Your generosity allowed Providence Ministries to meet the requests and then some. Staff and volunteers performed their elf duties over many days sorting, cleaning and checking their lists until midnight on many a night. Then, just before Christmas, the lines formed on cold dreary days, with kids in strollers waiting in anticipation for the doors to open. A most gratifying and heart felt moment for the children, their parents and us as well. We thank you for your generosity and share with you the pure joy that was realized by the recipients.*

*It would be wonderful to end on that happy note, but the New Year brought us devastating fires and the need continued to grow. I am therefore asking you to send a donation during this difficult time frame. This newsletter highlights all that we do to assist those in need within the community. Our expenses this winter substantially exceeded our revenues. Please send a donation at this time to Providence Ministries for the Needy, 40 Brightside Drive, Holyoke MA 01040. Thank you and may the blessings of Easter and spring warmth be with you.*

## **CAREER CLOSET CHANGES**

The Providence Ministries Holyoke Career Closet operations at Holyoke Community College are being transferred. The Career Closet was established to assist students with clothing needs in their daily life and for job interviews. We are pleased to report that through the efforts of Jeff Hayden, Vice-President at Holyoke Community College, the Senior Community Service Employment Program will be managing the Career Closet, 413-552-2564. Providence Ministries, specifically our St. Jude's Clothing Center at 56 Cabot Street in Holyoke, will continue to work with the Career Closet to provide and exchange suitable clothing. This has been a great year where your generosity of donating slightly used clothing has met the demand we had for gloves, hats, and winter coats. Thank you and please continue to think of us in the future.

## PROVIDENCE MINISTRIES FOCUS ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Providence Ministries has been sustained by volunteer work and donations from the community since its 1980 founding by the Sisters of Providence. Unlike many organizations, we do not advertise or market our services. Like the old saying goes, “focus on our actions, so they speak louder than words.” Please note the following that distinguishes us in how your generosity and donations are used.

Our limited staff all resides within the community in which we serve, we recognize where the need is and work diligently to address it. We cannot praise the staff and volunteers enough, for their hard work and devotion. It is motivating and gratifying to work by their side. Your donations are used within the local community to address local needs: food, clothing, shelter, and job training. We operate under an open door policy at Kate’s Kitchen; a hot meal is available every day of the year. We could write countless stories about our observations of this program, but we would urge you and your group to volunteer during the week or on a weekend to have the personal gratifying experience of this program. Food does bring us together. Thank you to all that have designated a donation to be used for this Kate’s Kitchen program.

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

See us in your church and in the media. Your donations and our ability to transform those gifts into services to the community has resulted in some public recognition. It’s very gratifying to have others in the community broadcast information about the good work that your gifts support. We were pleased to attend services at St. Mary’s and Our Lady of Guadalupe churches to review the need as well as the impact your donations have within the community. Real to Reel interviewed the Providence Ministries’ staff on the assistance provided to the Holyoke fire victims and work performed by the Ministries. If you missed the WWLP 22 Saturday 7:00 PM broadcast, go to [www.diospringfield.org/real-to-reel](http://www.diospringfield.org/real-to-reel) for additional broadcast options including clicking on to the YouTube link “View segments and full episodes of Real to Reel.” We have also been interviewed by the Holyoke Sun for an article and by WACE AM 730 Radio for a radio broadcast. We are grateful to all the churches, social organizations, businesses, clubs, stores, and restaurants for their help and donations, and would be pleased to meet with your organization to discuss our mission and the we work do. We live in a diverse community that is still struggling to regain the economic vibrancy it had decades ago. We also live in a caring community that comes together and is generous in assisting those in need. Seeing that spirit and faith in helping others in the community is ever so bright!



**Our Lady of Guadalupe  
“Souper Bowl” presentation  
to John Wesolowski**

Margaret’s Pantry works with families to assure that they have food in stock, offering bulk food to feed their families. Your food drives and donations are supplemented by purchases from the Western Mass Foodbank and donations from the likes of Stop and Shop, Target, Atkins Fruit Farm, Sapowsky Farms, etc. which provide much needed fruit and produce. Margaret’s Pantry, largely staffed by volunteers, works with families that qualify for program participation due to their difficult economic status.

St. Jude’s Clothing Center redistributes your clothing, household items, toys, and books by charging a minimal price of \$2 or \$3 dollars per item. We do not resell to make a profit; we provide the goods to satisfy the local need.

Our housing operations (Loreto, Broderick, and McCleary Manor) continue to provide recovering men with a rigid program to break their addictive lifestyle by providing counseling and continual oversight over their lifestyles. Again, there are many stories that could be relayed, none more important than these men making a commitment and seeking help to break their addictive lifestyles.

In summary, all these undertakings are supported through your generosity. They all help and improve the quality of life of individuals in your community.



**Brenda Lamagdeleine at Margaret’s Pantry  
and the Real to Reel Crew**



**Fr. C.J. of St. Mary’s Parish, Longmeadow  
John Wesolowski, Interim Executive Director**

### Volunteers Needed !

**Kate’s Kitchen:** set-up, serve, clean-up etc.  
**Margaret’s Pantry:** sort clothing and food.

If you can volunteer, please contact Brenda at 413-538-8026 for more information.

## WORKING WITH COMMUNITY EMERGENCIES

The New Year's Day fire tragedy, with three deaths and many hospitalized, and a subsequent fire the following week left over forty (40) families homeless. The sobering events drastically impacted these Holyoke families. Providence Ministries was there with first responders at both sites providing blankets, clothing and food, for those who escaped the fires. Toys were given to the children who lost their Christmas gifts. Providence Ministries, the service agency serving this community since 1980, knows the community and was prepared to work with the families, the Mayor's office and other agencies to assist those in need. That effort is continuing to this day as the effects on the individuals impacted by the fires is still not fully resolved.



So many of you donated to assist us in helping the victims: The Marcotte Ford family with transportation, food drives, and volunteers; Homewood Suites with furniture for new apartments, St. Mary's Church in Longmeadow with tableware, small appliances, and cookware; the Holyoke Stop & Shop raised funds and contributed food. goods. Individuals, families, businesses, churches, and the list goes on providing food, clothing, furniture, and financial funding.



The ongoing assistance includes coordinating furniture donations to newly found apartments, which are difficult to find, as well as processing, sorting, storing and matching the goods donated with family needs. Our Margaret's Food Panty and Kate's Kitchen provided the food, a daily hot meal, and food bags to take home. St. Jude's provided the clothing. The January experiences left the organization drained of energy and funds. As one employee recently stated "I have not had the time to enjoy my Christmas gift slippers."

The community response, your generosity, and devotion have motivated us to be one of the most responsive entities to the needs of the victims. The gratification we received from passing on your gifts to those in need continues to sustain us as a community and we here at the Ministries pass that wonderful feeling of sharing and helping on to you.

## IMPROVING OUR TECHNOLOGY

Providence Ministries Website (ProvMinistries.org) is receiving an upgrade in its functionality to post activities, volunteer opportunities, and information about our operations. We are focusing on creating a low cost online donation process. Thank you to all who remembered us at year end and donated. An increased level of attention is being focused on our Facebook account, to be in touch with you, highlighting what your donations are being used for, recognizing your involvement and contributions. Behind the scenes we are nearing a major upgrade of our IT equipment, software, and security that in some cases is a decade beyond its vendor support date. There is a lot more that needs to be done as we continue to grow to meet the increased demands on our services. We are changing our processes to help our staff and volunteers to communicate, coordinate, and deliver our services, without adding to overhead expenses. We ask for your patience as we change systems. If we missed recognizing your donation or did not respond, we apologize, please contact us to us at our general mailbox, [PMNAdmin@ProvMinistries.org](mailto:PMNAdmin@ProvMinistries.org), or call us 413-536-9109 to rectify any errors. We retained the land line phone and have real people answering it.



On Saturday, April 8 at 1:00 pm, students from the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet and members of MABETA (Massachusetts Academy of Ballet Educational Training Association) will give a benefit performance to raise money for Kate's Kitchen.

The "Dance to Stop Hunger" event at the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet studio, 4 Open Square Way, Studio 403, Holyoke is free and open to the public. A reception will follow at the end of the performance. Checks and cash donations accepted at the door. For more information about the 2017 Dance to Stop Hunger event: [massacademyofballet.com](http://massacademyofballet.com) or call 536-6200.

### General Wish List:

#### Loreto House

Twin Sheets, Blankets, Towels, Wash Cloths, Heavy Duty Tub & Stall Shower Curtains, Privacy Drapes/Curtains

#### Margaret's Pantry

Turkeys, Canned Soups, Tuna Fish, Meals-in-a-Can, Canned Vegetables, Hamburger Helper, Ramon Noodles, Cookies and Cake Mixes etc.



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## **DONOR RECOGNITION DINNER INVITATION**

Providence Ministries has been sustained by your donations, volunteering, and ongoing support within the community. The annual recognition dinner is scheduled to be held at The Log Cabin, May 18, 2017. This is our annual event to inform you about our programs and recognize you for your contributions. It is being held at such a noteworthy site because of the generous underwriting of the event by The Log Cabin. It gives us a direct opportunity to meet you and recognize you, the donors, volunteers, founders and supporters. Graduates and students of our foodorks@KatesKitchen program will be preparing and serving.



foodWorks Graduates with  
Chef Ralph Webb and Dalton Clarke

### **Providence Ministries Recognition Dinner**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017 – 5:30 pm.**

**The Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke, MA 01040**

Please join us. Think of it as *A Night Out with a Purpose*. Invite your friends to join us!

Tickets are \$50.00 per person with a portion going to support our Ministries.

**Save the Date!**

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. - Elizabeth Andrew