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RESPONSE TO A CALL

Many of the people being released from the jail don't have warm clothes to wear. The La Crosse Jail Ministry would like to provide them with something warm to wear. We see this as especially important for those who are being released to homelessness.

We are in need of clean and gently used men's coats, boots, shoes, sweat pants and T-shirts. We are going to have a clothing drive this October at Onalaska United Methodist Church at 212 4th Ave N. Drop your donations off on these nights from 5:00 to 6:00:

- Wednesday, October 13
- Wednesday, October 20
- Wednesday, October 27



CLOTHING
DRIVE



Looking for an easier way to donate funds?

Donations to support the La Crosse Jail Ministry can be made online at Lacrossejailministry.org (Support & Donate).

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RESPONSE TO A CALL

The reality of people being “held” in any kind of captivity has always touched our hearts. People under arrest, accused of various crimes against their fellow human beings, awaken various sentiments. We detest the crimes they may have committed, and the people they hurt, but the prisoners are real people who awaken compassion.

Reflecting on the Sunday scripture readings is an opportunity to help them see God, not as someone wrathful and judgmental, but rather the loving Creator who holds and cherishes us, and walks with us through everything – all they have gone through in their lives, what they may have done and now regret, and now this incarceration. After the Scripture sessions, we have “one-on-ones” where each can speak freely. This seems very meaningful to them. It is an opportunity to provide non-judgmental feedback and encouragement on an individual basis. Chaplain Skemp used to say that the inmates knew what they needed to do, we didn’t have to tell them that. What we could do is listen, and affirm their good desires. Our years in the La Crosse County jail have been challenging, but always rewarding.

**Sister Nina Shephard, *FSPA*
& Pat Ruda**



CIRCLES OF SUPPORT & JAIL MINISTRY

I have been involved with a program called Circles of Support for almost five years now. It’s a program that offers support for men and women who find themselves caught up in the judicial system.

We are products of our environments, good or bad. The human relationships we have can inspire us and push us to reach our potential or just pull us away from becoming who we are meant to be. Circles of Support tries to be a positive nonjudgmental group of friends/mentors to a person who was formerly incarcerated. The Circle of people offer advice, help the person set and keep goals, celebrate triumphs and brainstorm to overcome obstacles. It’s a program that I love and has added to my life in many positive ways.

The La Crosse Jail Ministry has decided to oversee the program going forward. So when I was asked to apply to the board of the jail ministry, I couldn’t have been happier. These are a group of people that truly love all people that God created and believe that every human being deserves to live in dignity. The desire is to offer Circles of Support as another way to help people to help them reach their potential.

I feel so proud that I can work alongside the people in my Circles of Support group and now with the board. All of them are truly everyday heroes. In this journey I hope that I am able to inspire and enrich people’s lives the way that some have done for me.

Sally Kelsall

*(Watch for more information
in our next newsletter of how
you could get involved with
Circles of Support!)*



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

THANKFULNESS



I believe that many of you reading this could give a list of things to be thankful for in your life. Could be employment, home, family, insurance, abilities, hobbies, friends, physical health, mental health, sobriety, pets, nature, freedom, faith

community, nature, neighbors, parks, peace officers, fire fighters, mail carriers, teachers, heat, air conditioning, music, books, appliances, phones, etc. The list could go on and on.

Some of you are missing some of these and for some of you the list is just as long but very different. Whatever your list, there is much in your life to be grateful for every day.

Well I want to share with you that the people I work with every day don't have a long list. They don't find much to be grateful for in their lives. They have experienced a lot of trauma in their lives. They have made some terrible choices, and have created a lot of harm to themselves and to others.

I believe though, they have been created for a plan and a purpose. I know with great effort on their part and with the help of jail ministry, our volunteers, and their faith communities they can find that plan and that purpose. They will then have a long grateful list as they experience the restoration or recreation of their lives.

I would like to close by saying how grateful I and the board are for all of you. Thank you all for whatever part you are playing in keeping our ministry going. Whether you donate your time, funds, prayers, books, magazines, decks of cards,



puzzles, clothes, you all play an important part and we are very grateful. I am especially grateful to God and to all of you as I so appreciate the opportunity to serve as Chaplain in the jail. It is my honor and for sure is on my grateful list.

Thankfully,
Ann Wales,
Chaplain

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE BACK

We have started Sunday Evening Services again. We are very grateful for all of the volunteers that have come forward to serve the men and women. Services are now taking place at 6:00 p.m. for men and 6:30 p.m. for women. Faith Baptist Church and Living Word Christian Church performed the first services. We are looking forward to working with all of the volunteers from all of the different churches.

In addition, starting this November, we will be having services for the inmates from additional faith communities at 6:15 p.m. Watch for more information in our next newsletter.

MAGAZINES: We are in need of Men's Health, Hunting, Car, Truck and People magazines. If you subscribe to any of these and would be interested in donating to the jail, please call Chaplain Ann at 608-785-9772.

LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY

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