

ST. ANTHONY SPIRITUALITY CENTER ANNUAL APPEAL 2017

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT BECAUSE OF YOU!

When St. Anthony's of Marathon, Inc. purchased the property from the Capuchins at the end of 2013, it was due to the efforts of people like you who love the Center so much, you couldn't imagine it not existing anymore.

The work of St. Anthony's is directed by the Holy Spirit, and I'm happy to say that the Center is thriving ... in large part to your generosity.

As you'll see on the back page, donors like you make up just over 26% of our annual income. Those funds go for the maintenance and repair of this beautiful building so we can continue providing hospitality. They also go to grounds improvements like safer walking trails, better driveway surfacing so that our guests can feel more secure about exploring these 40 acres. In the inside pages, you'll read more about how your money is used with wisdom and great care.

Financially, the Center is in a strong position going forward because of the continued monetary support of people like you who believe in our Franciscan ministry.

You share your gifts, and in turn, St. Anthony's is able to share ours, those of joyful service, compassion, hospitality and relationship. You are an integral part in the mission of St. Anthony's:

"Welcome all seeking healing, hope and transformation through deeper connection with God, Self, Others and Creation."

Thank you for considering a financial gift for our Annual Appeal. Together we will stride confidently into the future with the work of Jesus in our hands and the Holy Spirit to guide us.

In the Peace of Christ and Francis,

Deacon Bryan

**Deacon Bryan Hilts
Center Director**



Thank You!

YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Help continue the legacy of Franciscan spirituality and ministry in Central Wisconsin by considering a donation to the 2017 Annual Appeal.



YOU TRANSFORM LIVES AND TURN TURMOIL INTO TRIUMPH

Once you come through the stone entrance to the Center, the peace of Christ washes over you. Relationships are healed, serenity is achieved, souls renewed. Your financial gift changes lives on a daily basis. Read below to hear of one retreatant's story of healing and growth.

"St. Anthony's was my refuge during a very stormy time in my life. Coming here helped heal my relationship with God because whenever I came, I felt welcomed and accepted just as I was. I have attended a variety of retreats and programs over the years and always come away feeling loved and affirmed, yet challenged to continue growing spiritually. Because of all I have received from St. Anthony's, I volunteer and donate so that others may have the opportunity to experience this holy place, too." (M.L.)

*"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
(Proverbs 11:25)*

A SLIM WALLET AND A STRUGGLING SPIRIT: YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND ALLOWS US TO WELCOME ALL

"St. Anthony's holds a very special place in my heart. I am so grateful for your kind generosity. Through your giving I have been able to attend several retreats at St. Anthony's. I would not have been able to do so without your kindness. I have been very blessed with many wonderful experiences during my time there. I have grown so much in my spirituality and have found a profound sense of peace. My life has been so enriched, my faith strengthened and my heart softened by all the love that I have been afforded at St. Anthony's. Thank you again and please continue to give so that others like me are able to experience Marathon City's great treasure." (Tracy)

The Capuchins were well known for their generosity, but as a new non-profit starting operations in 2014, the Board of Directors of St. Anthony's of Marathon, Inc., wondered if they could continue that legacy.

Happily, your gifts have greatly aided the tradition of not turning anyone away. If the Holy Spirit calls a guest for retreat, we can joyfully serve.

Our scholarship funds have provided 67 people with retreats so far in 2017... over \$7,100 granted!

NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS, FRANCISCAN VALUES BECAUSE OF YOU

*Fr. Marty Pable, OFM Cap
Franciscan Living 2017*



"St. Anthony Spirituality Center holds a special place in my prayers. The programs are extra special with outstanding presenters. People like Fr. Marty, Sr. Dianne and many more ... presenters who we would not have access to here in Central Wisconsin. I am grateful the Franciscan atmosphere has been preserved, one of simplicity, hospitality and care for our common home.

Without support of program attendance, donations and numerous volunteer hours, none of this would be possible. I am grateful to all who help this valuable ministry to continue." (Sister Sharee, SSM)

So far through September, St. Anthony's provided hospitality for over 3200 guests through events, programs and facility usage in 2017.

YOUR HANDS, JESUS' WORK & YOUR GIFT, THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY

"Over the past 10 years my wife, Barb, and I have come to develop a very special association with St. Anthony's. Prior to a Wausau Deanery dinner for CCD instructors held at the Spirituality Center, we didn't know it existed. Soon after we attended our first retreat (Celtic Spirituality) and, as the saying goes, got hooked. Our involvement with St. Anthony's evolved into volunteering, hosting retreats, as well as donating financially. We consider St. Anthony's to be a "thin place" where heaven and earth seem to come together. Without your past and present support I doubt we would have ever been able to relate our testimonial." (Jim)

*Bette & Sis, Thursday
Kitchen Helpers*



Each month, volunteers give approximately 1,075 service hours to St. Anthony's.

That saves the Center nearly seven full-time staff members!

FORMER AND CURRENT STAFF IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU



We Capuchins might no longer be present at St. Anthony's, but St. Anthony's is always present in many of our hearts - certainly deep in mine! I'm filled with gratitude to God when I see how the Board, staff and volunteers are committed to keeping our Franciscan Gospel spirit alive and well." (Fr. Dan, OFM Cap.)

"Thank you for continuing to support St. Anthony's. I am glad that it has continued serving Central Wisconsin after we Capuchins had to leave. St. Anthony's has always been one of my favorite places on earth because of the good years I spent there. Thanks to good people like you, this good old building and grounds can continue to be a place of peace and prayer and rest for many more people." (Fr. Tom, OFM Cap.)



"Dear donors - my heart is full as I write of my gratitude for your continued support of St. Anthony's as a member of the staff. As I take reservations and greet guests as they arrive, I know firsthand how much this place means to people. Sometimes they arrive weary and beaten down by life. They never leave that way. Your generosity transforms them, and they leave renewed and refreshed. Your financial support helps accomplish that. Thank you." (Cheryl)

What Upcoming Projects will Your Generous Gift Fund?

- **Second Phase of Driveway & Parking Lot Paving**
- **Re-Install Windows in the New Wing for Energy Efficiency**
- **Repair or Replacement of the Conference Room Floor**
- **Technology Upgrades to Improve Security & Performance**
- **Landscaping Around and Beautifying the Solar Panel Array**
- **Three-Story, Four-Stops Elevator**

PROJECTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

- *Boiler Updates & Repair*
- *Enhanced WI-FI Coverage*
- *Replacement of Kitchen Cooler*
- *First Phase Driveway & Parking Lot Paving*
- *Installation of 68-Panel Solar Array*
- *Resurfacing of many trails*
- *And more!*



OUR COMMUNITY PRESENCE MEANS YOUR DONATION IMPACTS MORE!

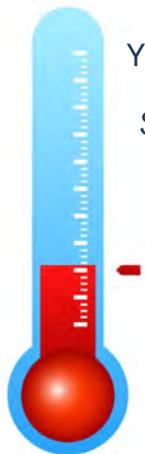
"Thank you, [St. Anthony's], for letting us use your property. We had fun picking non-living and once-living things. Walking and looking in the woods made us very happy and excited. Everyone had a fun time seeing nature." (Local Students)



"Thanks again for the lovely space for souls to heal. Thank you for the grace and peace and the partnership with us to do this. Looking forward to next year." (Amy K., with the Community Memorial Candlelight Walk and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice)

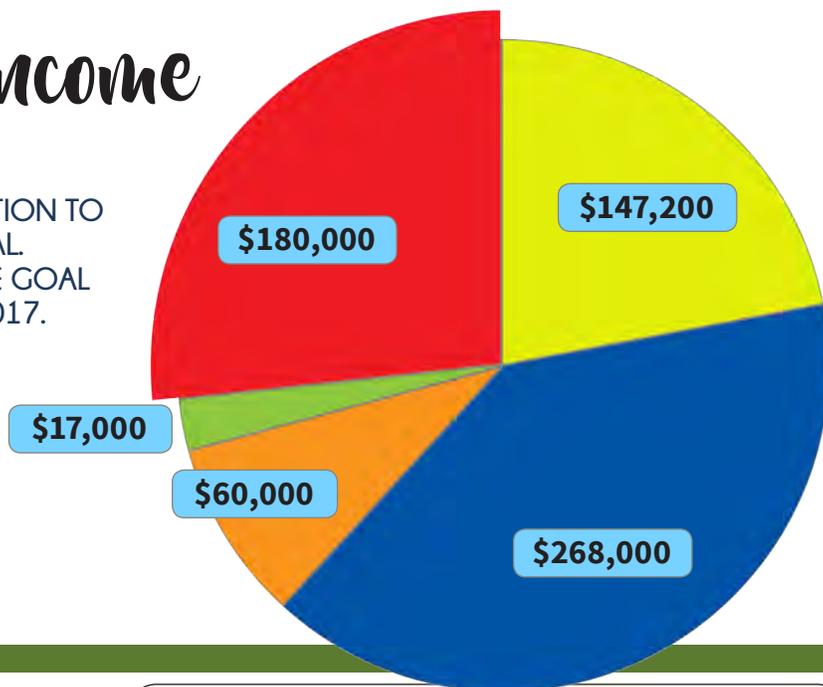


2017 Budgeted Income



YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL DONATION TO THE ANNUAL APPEAL IS CRUCIAL. ST. ANTHONY'S IS ONLY 30% TO THE GOAL FOR REGULAR DONATIONS IN 2017.

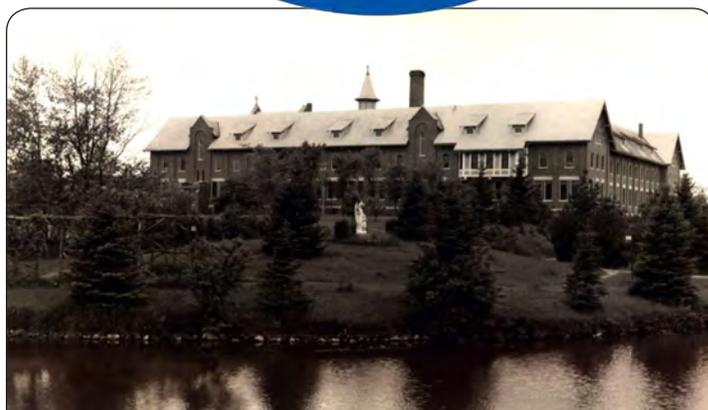
- REGULAR DONATIONS
- HOSTED EVENTS
- SPONSORED PROGRAMS
- SPECIAL PROJECTS
- BOOK STORE



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

On October 1, many of you joined the community as we celebrated the initial land purchase by the Capuchins back in 1917. Many volunteers served as guides or docents for walking tours of the grounds, complete with live reenactments. Over 250 people came!

St. Anthony's hopes you'll join us for future Centennial celebrations. Mark your calendars for June 10, 2018 and August 16-18, 2019.



YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Planned, or deferred, gifts can provide you and your loved ones with important benefits now and in the future. Popular planned giving options include the following:

- Will bequests
- Gifts of retirement assets
- Gifts of life insurance
- Gifts of real estate
- Charitable gift annuities
- Deferred gift annuities
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Charitable remainder unitrusts

For additional information about leaving a Legacy Gift to St. Anthony Spirituality Center, please contact your personal financial representative. If you already have included St. Anthony Spirituality Center in your estate plan, please let Deacon Bryan know.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

O gracious God, who generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its thanksgiving that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the pattern of our existence.

Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of our greatest need.

May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth and unconditional love.

Amen.

