

Sally Ley, CEO
Founder

The Late Jean Kelly, SFO
Co-Founder

Jim Christie
Executive Director

Board President
John Tippmann, Jr.
The Tippmann Group

Board Vice-President
Brien Blackburn
Innovative Packaging

Secretary
Ms. Renee' Riecke, Esq.
Barrett & McNaghy

Treasurer
Rudi Siela
Financial Focus

Suzy Beard
Matthew 25

Jean Reifenberg

Jim Reifenberg
JR, Inc.

Father Ron Rieder
OFM, C.A.P.
Sis. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Jan Scher, SFO

Mary Lou Sohn, SFO

Steve Tippmann
The Tippmann Group

Arlene Torgersen, SFO

Joe Wharton
Tippmann Properties

Matt Willson
The Tippmann Construction

York Young
Our Sunday Visitor



September, 2009

Sally Ley, Founder & CEO Big Changes at TFC

As you probably saw in the *Today's Catholic* or the *News Sentinel*, Jim Christie started work as the new Executive Director on June 15th at The Franciscan Center (TFC). Jim had a successful career with GE Healthcare for 22 years. However, in the last two years, his heart was moving in the direction of serving God through serving His people. Jim has volunteered for sack lunch program where he felt like is delivering lunches to those who are about coming on board and doing is also excited that Sally is going to Founder on a part-time basis. This wisdom and years of experience to time position will allow Sally to take SFO, (Co-Founder) as the prayer for the staff, volunteers, community comes through the doors of TFC.



Sally & Jim discussing his new role at The Franciscan Center.

TFC for about 6 years in the he was "in his element" when he need it most. Jim is excited what he believes is God's will. He continue her work as CEO and will allow her to pass along her Jim. More importantly, this part the role of the late Jean Kelly, warrior not only for Jim, but also we serve, and anyone else who

When asked about Sally's involvement, Jim said, "her input and guidance is invaluable as it relates to making decisions in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi." As most everyone knows, this organization was set up to follow the St. Francis example. Sally and Jean (Deceased), Founders, both are part of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) and have lived a life trying to both follow and lead by his example. Sally's mentoring of Jim will allow TFC to live on in the spirit of St. Francis.

Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.
-- St. Francis of Assisi quote for 2009

Special People Doing Special Things

Staff & Volunteer Spotlight



Nancy Henry

As many of you may know, Nancy Henry has been serving at The Franciscan Center for several years as a loyal volunteer. More recently, Nancy joined our staff as the Office Manager and as the Volunteer Coordinator. Some of her responsibilities include paying the bills, coordinating our Interns, organizing our meetings, assigning jobs to our volunteers, and on and on and on. She is a tireless employee. More importantly, Nancy is an inspiring example and lives in the example of St. Francis.

Speaking about living in the example of St. Francis, one of our most dedicated and loyal volunteers is Betty Burns.

Betty has been serving at TFC for more than 10 years. She has rarely, if ever, missed being at TFC on Tuesday and Thursday morning where she checks-in those we serve at our Food Pantry. She is often the last volunteer to leave on those days. She is extremely dedicated and portrays the heart of Jesus to everyone who comes into contact with her.



Betty Burns

Thanks, Nancy & Betty, you are valued!

Below are some ways that The Franciscan Center has grown over the past year:

Program	1st Half '08	1st Half '09
Food Pantry	4,125 Families	4,878 Families
Medicine Cabinet	1,562 Families	2,486 Families
Sack Lunch	19,284 Individuals	24,763 Individuals



As you can see, the numbers we are serving reflect the challenging times we are facing. Our lines are getting longer and longer, straining our finances. As always, we have been continually blessed with recent food drives that have allowed us to maintain our current supplies. As we grow we know we can count on your continued financial support. Thanks for everything you do!



Food & Item Drives

- Pack the Pantry with WLDE: over 1,500 personal/healthcare items.
- Bishop Dwenger High School: hundreds of food, healthcare & personal items.
- Bishop Luers High School: hundreds of food and other items.
- St. Aloysius School: dozens of bags of food and other items.
- Sally Ley Garage Sale: \$1,500+ donated to Medicine Cabinet.
- Arlington Park Neighborhood Association: 875 items collected.
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: over 500 full grocery bags (*see below!*)



Witness Corner

Taking the Next Step



New Sack Lunch "convert", Rudi Siela

Early on Saturday morning, August 1, 2009, Rudi Siela, The Franciscan Center Board Treasurer, filled his SUV with sack lunches and headed with Jim Christie down to the Eden Green apartment complex and handed out over 300 lunches. Even though Rudi has been a dedicated volunteer on the board for the last 6 years, this was his first chance to hand out sack lunches to our neighbor's via the St. Peter's Sack Lunch Program. As he thought about his experience over the weekend, it became clear to him that he benefited more from the experience than those he served. When asked, Rudi commented, "I was touched by the whole experience. It has affected my prayer life and my mass experience. I certainly need to spend more time with the poor and needy. Your [Jim's] responses and interactions with the people were very meaningful and helpful. I have been thinking about how I will communicate Christ in a more meaningful way."

WOW! This is exactly why part of TFC's mission is to provide opportunities for those in our community to share their time, talent, and treasure. We truly do get more out of serving than being served! If you would like to volunteer, please call us at TFC.

Thanks, Rudi!

Three Cheers for Sally



(L - R): Rick & Sally, Father Tom Shoemaker, and Sister Kathleen Knueven, principal of St. Jude's

On March 27, 2009, Sally Ley was honored with the Distinguished Graduate Award from The Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Educational Association. The award noted that Sally was a graduate of St. Jude Catholic School and that she exemplifies the highest qualities of Catholic

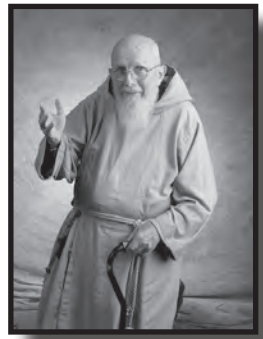
Education and has rendered distinguished service to the Catholic Church and the United States of America. This service is reflected through her work at The Franciscan Center.

We always knew you were special, Sally!

Father Benedict is Coming!

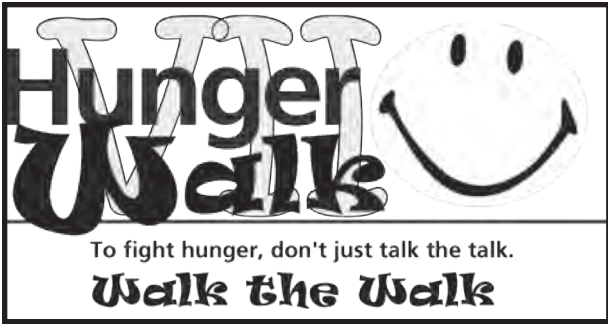
To celebrate our 20th Anniversary, Father Benedict Groeschel will be our guest at University of St. Francis on December 12, 2009. There will be a book signing from 2-3pm (and hors d'oeuvres!), a talk by Father Benedict from 3-4pm and Mass by Bishop D'Arcy from 4-5pm.

Come one, come all!



Calling All Volunteers

TFC has a goal of holding at least one food drive per church per year. We have some churches that hold two drives per year and bring in thousands of items for our ministries. We make it easy for you. We provide the bags to be handed out, as well as the truck to load the items in to. We just need your help in leading the drive. All that you need to do is simply get a group of volunteers from your church to hand out the bags at the end of each church service on a particular weekend. You simply tell those who take a bag to bring them back full the next weekend. When they bring the bags back, you simply have another group of volunteers load the truck that we provide. After services are over, you bring the truck back on Sunday or Monday and we help you and your group of volunteers unload the truck. We provide a "thank-you" pizza party after all items are unloaded. Please call us at TFC if you can help.



Hunger Walk 2009
Committee
Members:

Rev. Roger Reece
John Lassen
Associated Churches

Sally Ley
Jim Christie
The Franciscan Center

Maj. Harold Poff
The Salvation Army

Mary Osborn
Miss Virginia's House



***The Lutheran Foundation will
match all gifts to
Hunger Walk VII up to \$40,000!***

LUTHERAN
FOUNDATION

**Saturday, September 26, 2009
At
Lawton Park (just South of Science Central)**

**9:00 a.m. Sign In
9:45 a.m. Devotion
10:00 a.m. Walk begins**



Walker: Which organization would you like your pledges to go to:

- Associated Churches Miss Virginia House Salvation Army
 Franciscan Center Divide equally among all four

Walker's Name: _____

Donation

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Pledger's Name: _____

Donation

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Pledger's Name: _____

Donation

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Pledger's Name: _____

Donation

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Pledger's Name: _____

Donation

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Pledger's Name: _____

Donation

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

PAGE TOTAL



Forms and donations should be returned by September 20 in the enclosed envelope.

upcoming EVENTS



Our 7th Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 starting with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30pm at the Marriott Marquis Ballroom on Coldwater Road in Fort Wayne. As this is our 20th year celebration, we have many exciting events planned at this year's auction. Mayor Tom Henry will be there to show his support by saying a few words about our 20 years of service. Bishop D'Arcy has sent a letter with his support and blessing. We will have a slide show highlighting our past 20 years along with a presentation honoring our co-founders, Sally Ley, SFO, and the late Jean Kelly, SFO. There will also be a presentation by one of our neighbors whom we serve and how The Franciscan Center was a blessing in their time of need. We will also have fun events like the popular Head's and Tail's auction, raffle for a 42" wide screen TV, Cash, Live, and Silent Auctions. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm and the program starts at 7:15pm.

- Suggested Donation Items**
- Hunting and fishing, especially bow hunting
 - Sports and Recreation
 - ATVs, Jet Skis, Golf Carts, etc.
 - Outdoor activity items
 - Christmas gifts
 - Technology-iPods, MP3, laptop, netbooks, HD TVs, Wii, Xbox, PS III, etc
 - Autographed items (college and pro sports, entertainers, anyone famous)
 - Stereo equipment including surround sound
 - Shuffle Board, Pool Table, Dart games, slot machines – Any indoor game
 - Furniture-Indoor and Outdoor

The Dinner and Auction is our biggest fund raiser of the year. The money we receive helps us to continue to grow our programs. The Cash Auction will be a big event for us because an anonymous donor will be matching \$1 for \$1 all donations raised during the Cash Auction. We would love it if you can either attend the event, donate cash to be matched in the Cash Auction, or donate an item that we can auction off. Feel free to do all three if you like!

The cost to attend is \$60 per seat or \$600 per table (10 seats per table). We are also offering table sponsors for \$1,000 who will be recognized at the event for their sponsorship. The table sponsors can either fill a table themselves or sponsor a table so that Priests, Volunteers, other non-profit organizations, schools, etc. can attend the event and show their support. Lastly, to the left are the items that we are asking our supporters to donate, or send us cash and we will do the leg work for you. Thanks, and we hope to see you on October 24th!

The Franciscan Center Raffle: 42 inch Wide-Screen HD Flat Panel TV

1 for \$10 ~ 3 for \$25 ~ 12 for \$100

Donated by Rudi Siela, Financial Focus

Yes! I am interested in purchasing Raffle Ticket(s) to benefit The Franciscan Center. I understand that federal regulations prohibit me from sending in money now. Please call me to arrange the details.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address, City, State, ZIP: _____

Winner to be chosen at the Annual Dinner, Saturday, October 24, 2009



9th Annual
 Help A Neighbor Drive
 (HAND) with Star 883
 is planned for
 October 10.

Bussick Orthodontics
"Winter Contest"
 Receive an entry for every can of food brought into Bussick Orthodontics between September and December. Winning entry will enjoy a "Smilin' Cool" personal tech device!

Join the New Franciscan Center Prayer Warriors



St. Anthony's Prayer Cell

Jim and Sally have recently started a new ministry called the St. Anthony Prayer Cell. Our Food Pantry Manager, Barry Tracy, initially put out a prayer request box for those who come through our Food Pantry line. One thing led to another and the prayer requests blossomed into a prayer cell. We now receive prayer requests not only from those we serve, but also from our donors, and those who work and volunteer at TFC. We then take the prayer requests to St. Henry's Catholic Church on Tuesdays from 9-11am during Eucharistic Adoration. We hand out these very

humbling prayer requests to anyone who is there. Our goal is to fill the church with anyone who is willing to help us pray for those who need it most. Everyone is welcome so please come by. Additionally, we are emailing the requests to our board members who are praying for the requests throughout the week. Won't it be amazing to see the miracles performed through our prayers? We are quickly realizing that this is our most important and enjoyable ministry.



*St. Henry's on Paulding & Hessen
Cassel*

Please send us any prayer requests you have and feel free to join us at St. Henry's!

Are you a good painter? Our Gaywood Street sign needs updating; give us a call!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS	
9/26/09	Hunger Walk VII
9:00am - 12:00pm	
10/10/09	9th Annual Help A Neighbor Day (HAND)
9:00am - 12:00pm	
10/24/09	20th Anniversary Dinner & Auction
5:30pm - 11:00pm	
11/24/09	Thanksgiving Tuesday
8:00am - 12:00pm	
12/12/09	20th Year Celebration with Father Groeschel
2:00am - 5:00pm	

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www.thefranciscancenter.org

The Newsletter of The Franciscan Center, Inc.

THE FRANCISCAN CENTER
Celebrating 20 Years



The Franciscan Spirit

September, 2009

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