

The Cathedral Outreach Center, *formerly Emmaus Center*

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30am

Phone: 456-1454

History

Over 40 years ago, some Dominican sisters saw a need for a ministry that would provide clothing for folks in the inner city of Grand Rapids. Their connection with St. Andrews Cathedral and the Cathedral's location made it a logical place for this ministry to take place. The Cathedral parish has generously hosted the center and provided heat, light and maintenance ever since.

They called it Emmaus Center after the story of the disciples recognizing Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Their focus was recognizing Jesus in the folks in need who lived marginalized lives on the street and in the inner city neighborhoods.

Today,

Staffed by lay volunteers, this ministry is visited by upwards of 120 individuals and heads of families each week. Tuesday and Thursday mornings find a line of folks outside the door, waiting for a chance to receive clean new socks and underwear, clothing appropriate for the weather of the season, toiletries to help maintain personal health and cleanliness, and in the winter, blankets.

Who comes for help?

- ✱ Men and women of all ages
- ✱ The mentally, emotionally and physically challenged;
- ✱ U.S. service veterans
- ✱ Immigrants, speaking English or Spanish;
- ✱ Many people fighting the battles of addiction.

All are equal in God's eyes and deserve a smile, a sincere welcome and a share in the gifts given us on their behalf. Most thank us with a heartfelt "God bless".

Providing clean used clothing, no longer needed by those of us blessed with enough and more, recognizes the basic right of all God's people to personal dignity and respect.

What do we need most?

We always are grateful for donations of clean clothing in good repair. We never have enough men's clothing, especially jeans and khaki style pants.

Most wanted by our patrons

- ✱ Toiletry and hygiene items
- ✱ New underwear and socks (all sizes: many of our folks are single men, but we also have mothers, fathers and grandparents needing to provide for children of all ages)

Did you know soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, razors and lotion can't be purchased with food stamps or WIC coupons?

Monetary gifts are a great way to help. One of our volunteers acts as buyer for us and knows how to stretch every dollar to get the best bargains on these most wanted items!