



The Helping Hand

Father Gene's Help Center Newsletter

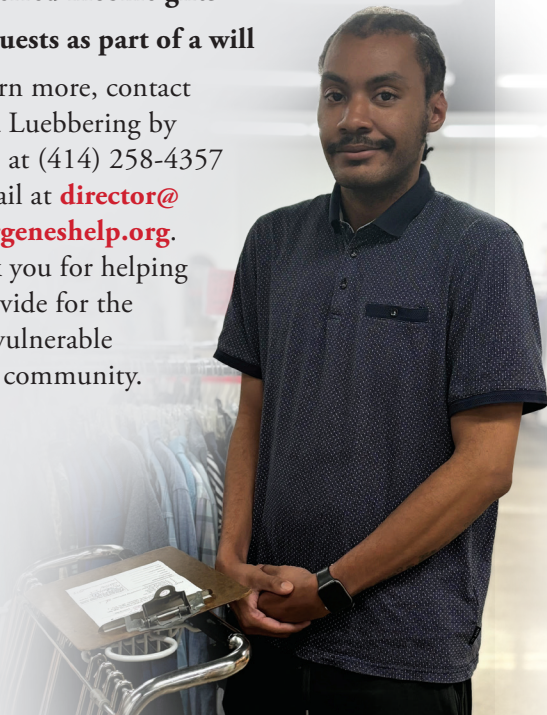
FALL 2024

Support Our Mission

We rely on your support to provide clothing for those in need. There are a number of ways to give, including the following:

- Gifts of cash
- One-time or recurring (monthly) donations
- In-kind gifts such as clothing and shoes
- Employer matching programs
- Gifts of stock, mutual funds, or securities
- Deferred income gifts
- Bequests as part of a will

To learn more, contact Jessica Luebbering by phone at (414) 258-4357 or email at director@fathergeneshelp.org. Thank you for helping us provide for the most vulnerable in the community.



Gerry Griesemer Remembers Father Gene



Client shopper Gerry Griesemer came to know Fr. Gene Jakubek, FGHC founder, through the TV show, "The Answer is Love." Fr. Gene hosted the popular show in the 1960s.

"I watched Fr. Gene every Sunday morning on TV when I was little," he said.

Gerry said what Fr. Gene talked about on the show resonated with him.

"I watched Fr. Gene every Sunday morning on TV when I was little."

"He talked about doing for others."

Gerry grew up in West Allis, the youngest of five children. He had a Catholic upbringing; his family belonged to Queen of Apostle parish in West Allis (now Mother of Perpetual Help). His brother, Fr. Edward Griesemer, is a priest with the Priests of Sacred Heart in Hales Corners.

As a young man, Gerry served in the Vietnam War as a parachutist. When he came home from the war, his father, a carpenter, offered him an apprenticeship. Gerry remained a carpenter throughout his life.

With money tight, he is grateful for the clothing he has received from FGHC. Recently, he was in dire need of clothing and came to the center.

"Even though it had been less than 90 days since the last time I shopped, the staff allowed me to pick up underwear, socks, and trousers," Gerry said. "Jessica, Paul, and the rest of the staff and volunteers are so nice and very efficient."

Connect with us:

Website: FatherGenesHelp.org

Facebook: [@fathergeneshelpcenter](https://www.facebook.com/fathergeneshelpcenter)

Instagram: [@fathergeneshelp](https://www.instagram.com/fathergeneshelp)

Twitter: [@fathergenes](https://twitter.com/fathergenes)

Camp Caring Volunteers at FGHC

Recently, a group of students from Camp Caring learned about giving back through volunteering at Father Gene's Help Center. Camp Caring, a program offered through the Wauwatosa Recreation Department, gives students in grades six through eight the opportunity to volunteer at area nonprofits.

"For many of the students, Camp Caring is an introduction to giving back," said Kristin Martin, Camp Caring organizer.

One such student is Bennett, a sixth grader at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic School in Wauwatosa. Camp Caring marked the first time Bennett volunteered at an organization. While he liked the tasks of folding and organizing clothes, he really enjoyed being able to help others.

"It felt good inside to help people," he said, adding, "It's important to share my blessings with other people so they can be blessed too."

During their time at FGHC, the group learned about the clients we serve. The students sorted donations of children's clothing and created bonus bags for our clients.



Bennett Kearns

"It felt good inside to help people. It's important to share my blessings with other people so they can be blessed too."

"The students were able to 'connect the dots' and see how what they were doing impacts the community." Kristin said.

In addition to FGHC, the campers volunteered at the Kinship Community Urban Farm, Next Door, and the Street Angels.

We offer service experiences for groups from schools, churches, corporations, and other organizations. For more information, contact Jessica Luebbering by email at director@fathergeneshelp.org or by phone at (414) 258-4357, ext. 101.



Critical Needs



- Winter coats
- Men's clothing
- Plus-sized clothing
- Athletic & casual shoes
- Winter boots
- Pajamas & thermals

How to Donate

Donations can be dropped off at: **Father Gene's Help Center** | 5919 W. National Ave., West Allis, WI 53214

Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | First Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please call the center at (414) 258-4357 with any questions regarding donations.