

*As we continue to explore the various charitable organizations assisted by the members of Ss. Peter and Paul parish, we present today a summary of one of Aurora's major organizations assisting the poor and homeless, which benefits from the donated resources of SSPP's parishioners. Those donations, overseen by the **SSPP Christian Service Commission**, assist **Hesed House of Aurora** and many other needy organizations, which will be discussed in future CSC articles. Thank you sincerely for your continued generosity in the Sunday Offertory collections.*

Hesed House is the second largest homeless shelter in the state of Illinois, caring for roughly 400 men, women and children each and every day. (A newly homeless person walks through the Hesed House front door every 8 1/2 hours.) Hesed house is one of only five shelters in the entire nation to offer a Comprehensive Resource Center (CRC) on its campus. This unique feature allows Hesed House to partner with dozens of local agencies to meet the basic needs of their guests and to help those guests overcome the barriers that led them into homelessness in the first place. The CRC case workers work one-to-one with our needy clients along with an instructor from Waubensee College who teaches an employment skills class.

Additional services available are addiction counseling, homeless prevention programs, aid in finding permanent housing, and Veterans' assistance as 11% of Hesed house guests are veterans. Dental and vision assistance, outreach medical and health centers and private children's counseling are significant services provided by Hesed House along with legal assistance from lawyers of the Northern Illinois University School of Law and the Prairie State Legal services.

Hesed House partners with local school districts and other area business groups who want to help their community. Hesed House facilities include after school programs, a computer lab, a bicycle repair shop, a fitness center and much more to encourage its clients to meet their current challenges.

The mission of Hesed House is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and create an atmosphere of Hope for its needy clients. Hesed House is proud that it has over 6,000 volunteers from over 90 different organizations helping to further that mission. Tours are available, volunteers are welcome, and further information may be obtained at www.hesedhouse.org. We extend a sincere thank you to the Ss. Peter and Paul parishioners for your past and continuing support in helping to end homelessness in the Fox Valley area.

*-- Submitted by: Mr. Tom Zimmerman, Asst. Development Director,
Hesed House*

