



THE Father Fred Foundation

Fall 2010 Issue

Father Fred



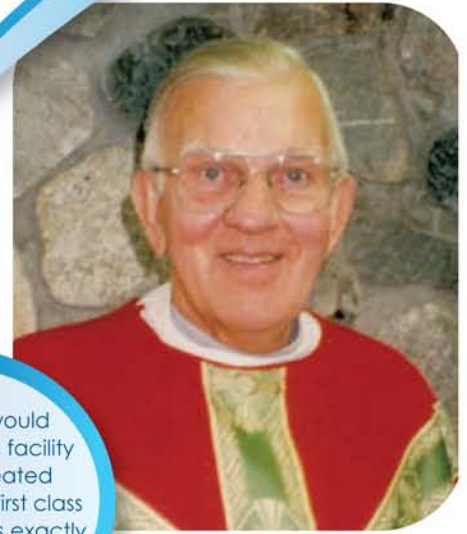
A Tribute to Father Edwin Frederick

By Carl Madion, Founding Member

This issue is a tribute to our founder, Father Edwin Frederick who died in the year 2000 but left behind a vibrant legacy: a Foundation dedicated to his mission of listening, caring and sharing with those in need. From its humble beginnings in 1989 in a garage, we've grown to 150 volunteers and a 13,000 square foot facility. This year, \$1.5 million in food, clothing, and household goods and \$600,000 in financial aid will be given to over 4,000 families. And, most importantly, we give this help in a way that continues Father's deep conviction that **every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.**

Father Fred was an exceptional person; a priest with an unconventional ministry. When the State Hospital closed, we provided an office for Father to continue his work with former patients. Pretty soon, volunteers started bringing in donations. There were bags of clothes; then cans of food! During the next 5 years we moved twice as space always seemed crowded from the moment we moved in! When our current building was donated to us it was a big step forward. It's renovation completed in 2008 was a big accomplishment.

In the early years, Father often made cash gifts out of his own pocket. When he passed away, we wanted to create something with permanence to continue his work, so we invested the principle from his estate. Now, I think of the annual interest we receive from that gift as Father's continuing personal contribution. It's what he would have wanted. I'm happy his mission is being carried forward the way he intended.



Father Fred 1925-2000

"I think Father Fred would be proud of this facility today. He treated everyone like a first class citizen and that's exactly what these renovated spaces let us do."

Donate Online During Our Fall Food Drive And Double Your Donation!



Father Fred will add a virtual component to its upcoming Fall Food Drive, September 17 – October 17. Donors can participate from the convenience of their office or home simply by visiting FatherFred.org. Best of all, online donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to a grant from the Oleson Foundation!

**Log on and donate between
September 17 and October 17!**

I Am Father Fred ...

By Father Iakovos

One would be mystified as to how we could speak of Puccini, the great Italian operatic composer, in the same sentence with Father Fred. Puccini composed such greats as: La Boheme, Tosca, and Madame Butterfly. Turandot, his final opera, was in process at the time of his death and the balance was completed by his students. At the premiere of Turandot, the conductor stopped the orchestra, turned to the audience, and said, "Here the opera finishes, because at this point, the Maestro died." Then, he announced, "but his disciples finished his work!" The opera closed to thunderous applause.

The resolve to carry-on in the face of adversity is one of the marks of greatness. Ultimately, Puccini was honored by the ability of his students to complete his final opera. Like him, Fr. Fred becomes truly great when his vision and dream of serving the poor lives on in the work of hundreds of volunteers, donors and staff.

While we extol the memory of Fr. Fred and speak of imitating him, he himself was merely imitating Christ. Join with me in manifesting the love, compassion and graciousness of our Master who has called us to listen, care and share. Truly, when we love and care for those in crisis, "we are Father Fred."

*Be blessed and be a blessing,
Fr. Iakovos*

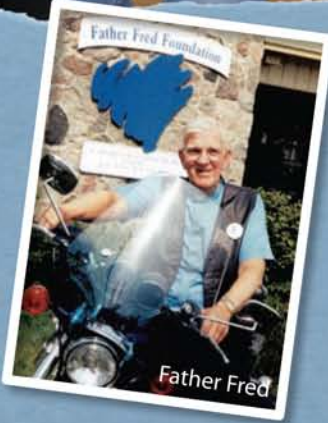


5934
workers in
our 5 county
region still on
unemployment

Summer Boost: 800 families supporting 1200 school-aged kids received extra bags of high-protein food, fruits and veggies this summer.



HOG Ride: The tradition continues raising over \$16,000 in 2010!





Tasty Treats for Waiting Room

Sandi McArthur, "Food Rescue" volunteer, serves tomato bruschetta and panzanella bread and tomato salad to a guest of the Father Fred Foundation. Food Rescue volunteers offer recipes and samples once per week in the Father Fred waiting room to show how rescued foods can be used. They encourage everyone to creatively add more fruits and vegetables to their diet.



Dan Dingeman,



Father Fred Marks Our Path Today

– By Dan Dingeman, Founding Member

What an honor it's been for me to serve on the Father Fred Foundation Board of Directors and see the work of our founder continue to grow and take shape 10 years after his passing. Every aspect of the Foundation has grown rapidly in the last decade, but all of those changes have been guided by his favorite motto: Listen, Care and Share.

Many changes have to do with new channels of communication and ways of reaching out to busy donors. This fall, for example, we'll be running our first ever Virtual Food Drive – promoting our Web site as a quick and easy way to donate to the food pantry. Others – like renovating our facilities -- have to do with providing privacy for clients so we're able to serve them in the most respectful and dignified

way possible. And, as our community population has expanded, collaboration with groups like the Fresh Food Partnership and Food Rescue has become a smart way to bring fresh food to our neighbors who need it most.

Through these changes, our core values remain the same:

- Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.
- We will focus our resources to better the lives of our clients.
- We will recruit and empower a strong core of volunteers and donors to facilitate our services.
- We will partner with other organizations to strengthen the strategies and services available to our clients.
- We will be open to all opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Book Sale:

The Father Fred Summer Book Sale, sponsored by the Bank of Northern Michigan, raised \$2500 and gave out 690 books to children.



4043 families
have been helped so far this year. **25%** of those had never been to Father Fred before.



FatherFred.org

Father Fred



THE
Father Fred
Foundation

P.O. Box 2260
Traverse City, MI 49685
Return Service Requested



Father Fred Biography
available Winter 2011

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Upcoming Events

September 10-12: *Father Fred Weekend
at Jacob's Corn Maze*

September 13: *Xango Golf Outing at Crown*

October 3-9: *Fall Food Drive*

September 18: *Fall Garage Sale*

Double Your Donation!

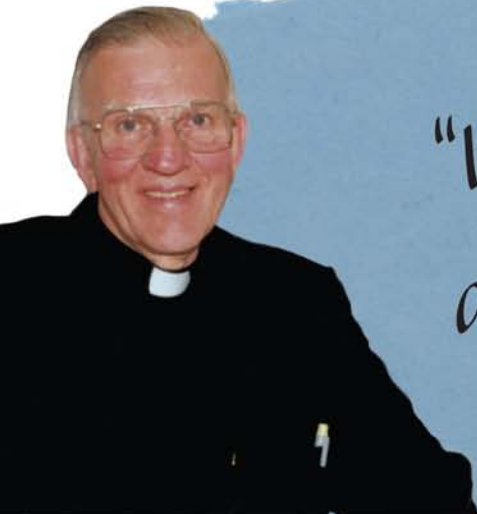
Look for the
Virtual Food Drive
fatherfred.org

September 17 -October 17



Please make a Gift to Help Others in Need.

Donate online at FatherFred.org



*"If I have it
and you need it, it's yours."*

-Father Edwin Frederick

"Happiness is not what you have, it's what you share." – Anonymous

Father Fred's Biography

A Journey of Discovery and Inspiration

Paul LaPorte, a local author, has volunteered to work with the Father Fred Foundation to publish a biography of Fr. Fred. The need to capture Fr. Fred's incredible story is urgent, since there are fewer and fewer people alive who remember the man behind the Father Fred Foundation. This book will preserve his story for those who did not get the opportunity to know him. There are sections about his family history; his priesthood; his service at the Traverse City State Hospital; and the Father Fred Foundation. Here's one story:

Success by a Whisker

Since 1993, the local chapter of the Harley Owners Group (HOG) has held a motorcycle rally to raise funds for the Father Fred Foundation. Father Fred loved the excitement of the motorcycles and the interaction with this interesting cross-section of people. The first year, he found riding in a sidecar to be frightening. After that, he rode, each year, on the back of a motorcycle driven by a friend, Garry Plane.



Each year, the amount raised rose and the organizers found ways to increase the contribution from the ride. In 1998, Frank Carter, a HOG member, declared that if people would contribute \$1,000, he would shave his beard. His beard was a distinguishing feature for Frank. In the fifteen years since he had been clean shaven, his beard once reached his belly button. There were contributions of only \$143, so he didn't do it.

1999 was Father Fred's last HOG ride, and because he was sick, he rode in a convertible, declaring: "I have to be here for 'my people.'" Frank extended the offer to shave and even gave the cause credit for last year's contributions. If the group raised \$857, he would cut off his beard. The group raised \$2,023.79, and contributors began snipping until Frank's beard was gone. Father Fred looked on with great pleasure.



Father Fred and Frank, post shave.

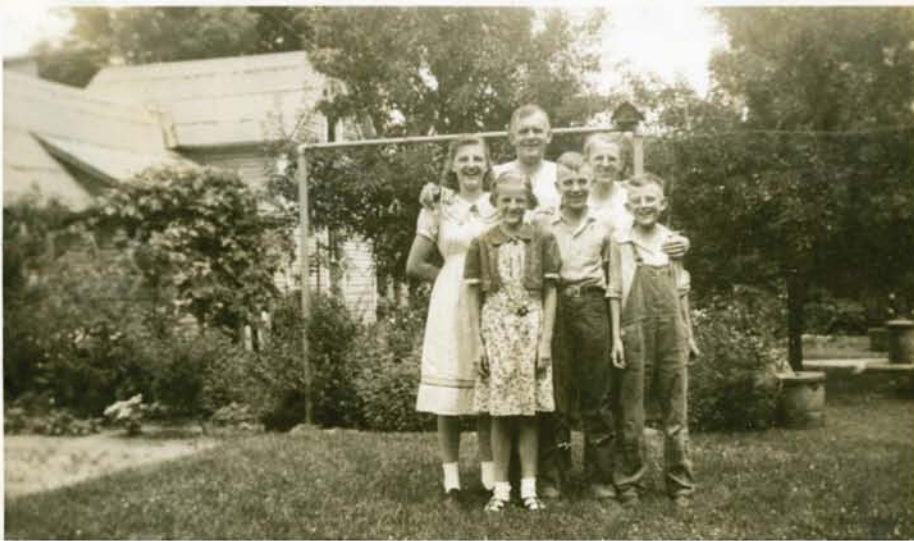
*When a reporter from the **Traverse City Record-Eagle** asked Father Fred about the excitement of the hundreds of motorcycles and the ride, he replied: "This is just wonderful. I hope they have something like this in Heaven."*

It was only a few months later when he got his answer. Father Fred died January 4, 2000.

LaPorte started the project with several months of basic research to establish a chronology of Father Fred's life. Then, he began interviewing people who remembered him. All of Fr. Fred's siblings are gone and he thought he would not be able to include much family information. In March, he heard from a first cousin in Saginaw, who just turned 99 and had heard about the book project. This opened the door for lots of family stories and photos. Now, he has many more than can be included in the book.

LaPorte has travelled around the state visiting family members, cemeteries, historical societies, libraries, newspapers, and parishes. He has heard from people who knew him in the early 1950's, and their memories are just as sharp and immediate as if they saw him last week.

Father Fred touched the lives of so many people so deeply and LaPorte tells of the emotional interviews he has done. There are also many humorous stories, since Father Fred had a wonderful, impish sense of humor. LaPorte has talked with family, friends, clergy, and those who worked with him. "Doing this project has changed me," he said. "It has been a journey of discovery and inspiration." The stories he is collecting are happy, sad, emotional, amusing, and inspirational.



Young Edwin (his dad called him "Buddy") with his family in the backyard of their home in Grand Rapids, in the mid- 1930's. Left to right: Dorothy; Theresa; his dad, Joe; Bud; his mom, Anna; brother, Joe.



First Communion, 1933

Please Help Us

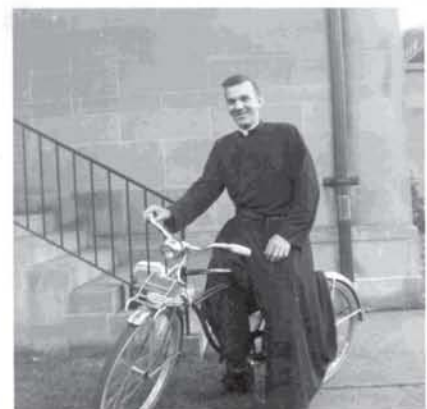
The book is a fundraiser for The Father Fred Foundation. In order to ensure that 100% of the proceeds of the book go to help feed, clothe, and serve the needy people of the region, we are raising money to help offset the cost of publication. A special fund has been set up at Father Fred. We are accepting donations from individuals, organizations, and companies. ***All donors will be recognized in the book.***

If you are interested in making a contribution to the book project, simply send a tax-deductible donation to:

The Father Fred Foundation,
PO Box 2260, Traverse City, MI 49685
or visit FatherFred.org and donate online.

Please note that your check or online gift be directed to the book project.

If you have questions or want to contact the author with a special story about Father Fred, email: FrFredBioProject@gmail.com.



Muskegon, 1958