

## Together † Embracing the Corporal Works of Mercy

Christ the King's Corporal Works of Mercy initiative benefits two organizations – Habitat for Humanity and Mur-Ci Homes, which aid and comfort some of the weakest and most vulnerable members of our community. Our Peace Through Justice Ministry and our Knights of Columbus continue to take the lead in organizing manpower and financial support for these projects. Learn more about Mur-Ci Homes below.

The Murfreesboro Road Civitan Club, from which Mur-Ci is derived, founded Mur-Ci Homes in 1960 as a private non-profit 501(c)(3) residential agency. Mur-Ci Homes' mission from the start has been to offer parents of children suffering from severe and profound intellectual disabilities an alternative to having their children institutionalized in state facilities. Mur-Ci Homes today, a cluster of nine group homes located on four acres in Antioch, has the capacity to support 72 persons – whose ages currently vary from 8 to 84, some of whom have lived there for more than 30 years. Almost three-quarters of the residents are classified as non-ambulatory, meaning they must have assistance in virtually everything they do, and more than 30 persons supported require tube feeding for their daily sustenance.

Christ the King's ties to Mur-Ci Homes run deep. Our annual Christmas party, held this past December 10, for the residents and staff of Mur-Ci Homes has spanned more years than most can remember. The festive occasion, complete with Christmas-inspired table decorations, is set against the backdrop of live Christmas music by volunteer musicians, and the Knights prepare and serve almost 200 meals for our guests. The highlight comes when Santa arrives to distribute presents to every resident, made possible through your donations. Because of your generous financial support, we are also able to provide gifts for MCH caregivers at their annual staff Christmas party to express gratitude for their dedication in nursing those dependent on others for all their needs.



Building on this tradition and through your generosity, the Knights have added a summer festival for Mur-Ci Homes, feeding and entertaining a large crowd of residents, family members and staff. On Saturday, June 17, the Knights of Columbus once again brought the party to the Mur-Ci Homes' campus for the annual MCH Summer Festival on the grounds. The day kicked off early with stuffed animals (elephants) delivered to each of nine group homes for the 72 persons supported by MCH. The weather was great, and everyone enjoyed the morning's entertainment, which included a wandering Dixieland band, a stilt-walking juggler, face

painters, a petting zoo, a balloon twister, rescued therapy dogs, along with a visit by Donald and Daisy Duck. The festival concluded with lunch for the residents and staff, cooked and served by the Knights, along with desserts prepared by our own Women's Council. The Knights are deeply grateful to the parish for its generous support of the Corporal Works of Mercy campaign that makes possible the Summer Festival and Christmas Party for MCH each year, which together cost about \$13,000 annually.