

LET'S KEEP THE ACRES GOING STRONG

NOVEMBER 2016

Dear Friend of Unity Acres,

Thanks in giant measure to you and other caring souls, there is a wonderful, 48-year history here at Unity Acres of helping men who have turned to us and each other for support, camaraderie and sustenance.


This letter is our annual call for your continuing donations in the giving spirit of Father Ray McVey and a host of others who have selflessly devoted themselves to this mission.

“Lord, help us celebrate your presence among us each day—let no one be alone,” was Father Ray’s prayer when he established The Acres. “Christ is the Source of our Unity, and the emptying out of ourselves to respond to our brother and sister is our practical way to exercise this Unity.”

Overcoming early obstacles in his signature sweatshirt and work pants, Father Ray painted rooms, scrubbed floors, fixed boilers and exuded sensitivity and care to each resident. His works were prayers in action and voiced inner peace midst the turmoil.

Said one former resident: “You’d turn up here and Father Ray would find a place for you to sleep. He’d put a blanket over you. To me, it was a sanctuary.”

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”
(Matthew 25:35)*



Our – and Your -- Unity Acres is a place of daily miracles that simply would not exist without your constantly being there for us with open hearts and wallets, signaling kindness and our shared vision for a compassionate world. It takes significant resources to keep us going.

Over the next two years, we will be preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Fr. Ray's founding of a countryside haven to provide home, food and community to men who have become homeless. From its humble beginning in 1969, the Acres remains a place that many men call home. Our hope and our prayers are to keep it going strong for another 50 years.

A 1988 description from the Catholic Worker Houses publication says it well: "Unity Acres is many things: a good meal, a room of one's own, a breathing space in the midst of life's storms, a home. Here the poor become more than a burden, or a challenge, or object of service. Here each one who comes is a student in the school of love."

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON.

Yours in Christ,

Father Jones



Unity Acres P.O. Box 153, Orwell, NY 13426
315-298-6215, www.unityacres.org

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2016-17 Annual Campaign



Name _____

Address _____

Donation Amount _____

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