



# Dominican Center Newsletter

2470 West Locust Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206 (414) 444-9930

www.dominican-center.org

July 1, 2007—November 30, 2007

## From the Director: Ann Halloran, OP

There are many new directions developing at the Center, which I trust you would like to hear about. As we become more and more identified as a neighborhood center, we become more and more committed to attending to grassroots neighborhood development. One of the new developments for us is housing rehab assistance for the Dominican Center senior homeowners. The seniors provide a stabilizing neighborhood spirit by eagerness to create a strong, beautiful and secure community. Thus we see that attention to their needs can only produce positive results. Presently we are working with 14 senior families with the goal of assisting them to bring their home up to code within the year. It is a program whereby the Center will provide some matching funds, labor and professional expertise.

Next, we are pleased and excited with our increasing partnership with Habitat for Humanity. During the next three years, Habitat will construct 25 new homes in the Dominican Center area. Already five are nearly finished. Since we have such similar philosophies, our organizations work together well, reinforcing each other's mission. Habitat provides new homes. The Dominican Center provides a strong neighborhood organization. We are planning that the 10 homes constructed in 2009 will house Dominican Center members. At the same time, we are inviting families in homes built in 2007 and 2008 to become an integral part of the Dominican Center's program, which provides education, resources, community organization and ongoing homeownership education.

Finally and happily, we have been privileged to be chosen by Professional Dimensions, the largest organization of professional business women in Wisconsin, as their Charitable Fund Project. The Dominican Center was nominated by Anne Curley of Curley Communication and Margaret Henningsen of Legacy Bank. Professional Dimensions' support will enable the Center to increase the ratio of homeowners to renters in the neighborhood. By helping motivated women and their families to become qualified homebuyers, Professional Dimensions can play a key role in helping them rise from poverty to economic stability. According to Charitable Fund Board Chair Terry Peterson:

"This represents an opportunity for PD to make a real difference, not only with our dollars but with our advocacy and expertise."



My name is Georniana Bond. I was born in Mississippi on January 11, 1938. I went through life, couldn't read, couldn't write. I just followed my instincts and relied on God. By coming to the Dominican Center I learned to read and write. The

sisters and teachers put their arms around me and showed me that it could be done. I am very grateful. By coming to the Dominican Center, I was able to have a lot of things repaired on my home. Again, I am grateful.



Tom Beres: a man of retirement age but not retired. At the Center, I work, hands on at repair of homes, review progress of projects, set priorities, and work with clients, contractors, supply sources and staff.



I'm Minnie Dyson. I have been coming to the Dominican Center for nine years. I learn a lot coming here. I have learned to read, write and do math. I have written a book about my life. I have four grown children. Two of my children have died. Seven of

my grandchildren live with me. I own my home and I get help from the Center to fix it up and make it nice and comfortable for my family. I put God first in my life and in everything I do. I couldn't have made it through life without God's help. I am happy with myself, thanks to God and the Dominican Center.

# Donors

## May 2007—December 2007

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Rose Marie Conway, OP

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#### In Memory of the Deceased Members of my Halloran & Sinsinawa Families

Ann Halloran, OP

#### In Memory of Sukey Hart, OP

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St Sebastian Human Concerns  
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Word is God Worship Center

My name is Kimberly Harris. I have been a part of DC for four years. Hephatha Lutheran Church, through Pastor Mary Martha introduced me to the Center. Since I have been studying here, my love of learning has grown sky high. We have such wonderful teachers here. They make your days happy. My husband joined me in September. Each morning, we can't wait to get up and come here. This is the place for you to begin your education if you are scared. The DC will take the fear out of you and give you the tools you need.



We hope you have enjoyed reading the profiles. More will be included in upcoming issues of the newsletter. So many of you have said how much you enjoyed the newsletter writings, so we thought you might like a thumbnail sketch of the people behind them.



All at the Center send you our best wishes with the deep hope that peace will come soon and the rough ways will be smoothed. Always, we are grateful for your support!

Ann Halloran, OP

**Happy New Year!**

# 2007 Vatican II Archdiocesan Awards Ceremony & Reception

Sister Ann Halloran, OP  
receives the  
"Service to Society" award  
November 20, 2007





My name is Nicole Lester, I've been on staff at DC since June 2006. I work as the Healthy Housing Community Organizer. I have a very interesting job being that I work with both DC and the Milwaukee Health Department. I promote the Lead Prevention Program

through education, testing and one-on-one interviews with residents in our area. I am a product of DC. I started out a client, became a homeowner and now I'm a staff member.



Mary Ann Wilkes—About eight years ago I looked through a newsletter and saw an article about the Dominican Center and a former college classmate, Sister Ann Halloran. I decided to come and see what it was all about and I

have been coming back ever since. I tutor wonderful women and men who are so eager to learn. It is wonderfully gratifying to see the progress they make. Although I have been a teacher my entire adult life, I consider this to be some of the most important work of my life.



My name is Ronald Harris, I am a student of the Dominican Center. I was introduced to the DC by Pastor Mary Martha of Hephatha Lutheran Church. I am here to catch up on my 3R's – Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. The teachers at the Center are caring and patient. I did not

have that at MPS. I am legally blind, so had a tough time in school, although I did graduate with a high school diploma. Education means everything to me and I found that the DC was a good place to further mine.



May 21, 2007: An important day in my life...the day I became a member of the Dominican Center family. Who would have thought that my life's journey would have taken me to this loving place of opportunity! For many women, this center has been a place of opportunity for changing their

lives toward self-fulfillment. For me, it has been an opportunity for getting to know beautiful women of faith who teach me everyday how to find God in everything. I hear their joyful greeting, "I am blessed", so often. It reminds me that our loving God is with us in whatever comes our way.

S. Mary Elise Zettel, SSND



My name is Wesley Landry and I am on staff at the Dominican Center as the Rehab Specialist. I have 45 years of experience. My goal is to service the community. I want to help make safe and secure neighborhoods, build strong neighbors, produce decent and affordable

housing, be an advisor and teacher to the trade. I like being a rehab teacher and instructor.



Felicia Davis—I have been living in the area for about 6 years. I have known about the Center for 4 years. When I first came to the door I felt welcomed by the smile on Sister Sue's face when she greeted me. She then introduced me to Sister Ann and she also greeted me with

a smile that spoke "I am here for you." At the time I was going through things family wise, problems with finding a job and a school where I felt comfortable and welcome. I didn't know what I was going to do. I had to let jobs go, because I wasn't able to produce a GED or diploma. I was very stressed. But the sisters didn't let me leave without still keeping the faith and now 4 years later I have my High School diploma—and a new job.

*To Be Continued.....*

Dominican Center for Women, Inc.  
2470 West Locust Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53206



Our Mission is to help create a beautiful and safe neighborhood consisting primarily of homeowners who are well educated and well employed.

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Organization  
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*D.C. Block Party 2007—Were you There?*

