



Dominican Center Newsletter

2470 West Locust Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206 (414) 444-9930
www.dominican-center.org July, 2008—December, 2008

From the Director: Ann Halloran, OP

While we have good reason to wonder and worry about the social and economic challenges facing us, there are also so many things indicating newness:

- new US president
- new advances in technology daily
- new impetus for peace, new voices being heard
- new awareness that the future of everything is our responsibility

Here at the Center we are feeling that newness. We have added some new staff: Treasa Bryant, Kelly Lemens and Tamika Glenn, volunteer. We have benefitted from our new partnerships, Public Allies, Connecting Caring Communities and Professional Dimensions with all their new life. And, finally, our new 5 year strategic planning is taking us into new directions—journeying to hope.

While we rejoice and relish in the excitement of the new, we hold tight to the deeply held principles and philosophy that have brought us here namely: that justice based on love, that generosity based on integrity, that leadership based on the power of the people, that action based on vision and that success measured by the betterment of all are touchstones of any healthy viable community initiative.

We are most grateful for the dedication and hard work of the DC staff: Sister Elise, Sister Mary Catherine, Nicole, Sister Ginny, Sister Sue, Sister Stella, Wes Landry, Tom Beres, Treasa Bryant, Kelly Lemens, Tom Doyle, and Carolyn Boehmer. Also we are grateful for all the students and volunteers who come through our doors each month. They make up the heart of the program.

May the peace God intended for the world somehow come quickly and completely.

Blessings on you during this Christmas Season.

Ann Halloran, OP

Journeying to Hope

On October 11, the Dominican Center for Women held a successful retreat to begin the process of structuring a five year vision for the Center's mission. The goal of the retreat was to share ideas, dreams and suggestions for the next five years of life at the Dominican Center. The theme is "Journeying to Hope." Maureen Gallagher from Reid Associates was the planning facilitator for the gathering at HeartLove Place.

Each participant was asked to complete a survey which consisted of 5 questions related to major accomplishments in the past 5 years, values (core beliefs) reflected in the work of the Center, how the future for the Center is envisioned by the participants, challenges facing the Center, and open comments by the participants.

The surveys were collected, compiled and reviewed and the first planning document was drafted. The planning document was then revised by our team to produce the second planning document on December 2, 2008.

Goals outlined in the second draft of the Journeying to Hope planning document are:

- Find and/or develop a facility within the immediate neighborhood where the Dominican Center for Women programs and philosophy can grow and thrive
- Develop a model for sustainable neighborhood Development based on the Dominican Center for Women
- Continue to create educational opportunities in a personalized goal directed, loving, supportive and non-threatening environment
- Provide safe, healthy, affordable, efficient housing for the neighborhood by gathering adequate resources to support the housing needs

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*We apologize if we missed your name.
We DO appreciate your donations!*

Dominican Center Newsletter

***** SAVE THIS DATE! *****

March 21, 2009

3rd Dominican Center Auction & Dinner

Cardinal Stritch College

Premier Showing of Dominican Center DVD: "Many Voices on Vision"

This and That...

Tamika Glenn is helping with asthma abatement services for the neighborhood...March 21 Fundraiser will be a dinner event...Art Museum trip is being sponsored by Professional Dimensions...13 participants received credit class certificates with Margaret Henningsen...Habitat Housing applications will be available in January...Home Action Group Meeting set for January 3, 2009...Wes & Tom have repaired the heating problem in the Center—thanks to the Milwaukee Archdiocese for footing the bill...thanks to the Word is God Worship Center for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets...**there will be no classes at the Dominican Center from December 19th at noon until Monday, January 5, 2009.**

Journeying. Goals ..continued from page 1

- Develop a Succession Plan for Leadership of the Dominican Center for Women
- Develop a 5 year Fiscally Sound Sustainable Financial Plan for the Dominican Center for Women
- Be advocates for economic and systemic change for the betterment of the Amani Community and beyond

A second planning retreat was held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at HeartLove Place. The goal is to have the "Journeying to Hope" document completed by mid-January 2009.

Carolyn Boehmer

Comments from those closely involved in the planning process:

"This is my first time working on a planning process. I am excited to work with all of the wonderful people that make the Dominican Center run so smoothly. The Dominican Center thrives because it values the opinions of the people it serves and works with. (They have a voice) I have gathered from the last meeting that Dominican Center is expanding to better meet the needs of the

community through education, credit counseling and housing rehab. I look forward to the next five years because it will truly be a "Journey to Hope".

Nicole Lester

"What happens when energetic, creative, committed people come together? Ideas spark, hope rises, and new horizons appear. The Strategic Planning for the Dominican Center confirms my belief in the power that grows out of the exchange of ideas and purposeful thinking--blessing what is and imagining an even stronger future for the Center. It is a privilege to be part of the "Journey to Hope."

Suzanne Lorentz, OP

The DCW strategic planning session last fall was a day filled with stimulating conversation and exciting community building. Since I have only been involved with the Center since June, the strategic planning process has been a wonderful opportunity to learn more of its rich history, to get to know the incredible people involved and to contribute to the exciting future of the DCW. I am looking forward to the next five years in the community as this plan unfolds.

Kelly Lemens

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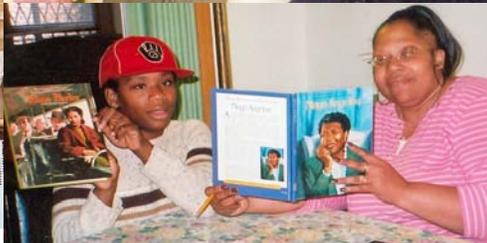
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Hi—I am Kelly Lemens. I began volunteering at the Center because I was told what a wonderful community this is...what an understatement! I had an opportunity to join this extraordinary staff and jumped at the chance. I feel very blessed to be part of the Dominican Center helping in any way that I can.



*Dear God,
So far today I'm doing alright.
I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy,
Grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent.*

*However, I'm going to get out of bed in a few minutes,
And I will need a lot of help after that,*

AMEN



I am Denise Scott. I am 49 years old and have four children and 10 grandchildren. I work as a home care worker. I attend school at the Dominican Center so I can get my G.E.D. Sister

Ann and Sister Sue are helping me to reach this goal. I like going to school at the Dominican Center because I learn a lot and I like the people.



I am a person who grew up in a loving family on a 120 acre dairy farm fifty miles north of Milwaukee. I felt secure as a child because of the community we formed with our neighbors. All the families helped each other in times of need and we enjoyed each other in playful times.

When I came to live in the city as a young woman, circles of friends formed new communities for me. Again, I felt secure in the mutual love of a community.

I married John, a teacher, and we had three sons and a daughter. Now I am a widow and I have eight grandchildren. In January I expect to become a great-grandmother! My family is another little community.

My profile is interesting because I've been touched by all the people in my life...in the communities, including the DC community, where my profile has been formed.

Mary McCabe



Hi, my name is Treasa Bryant and I am working with an organization called Public Allies of Milwaukee, which gives young adults the opportunity to become a leader in their community. Many people ask me "how did you get

involved in such a great organization?" Well, my answer to that is simply by the will and grace of God. I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be where I am now. Many doors are being opened for me and, right now, I'm at the stage of deciding which door to go in next. Public Allies opened the door to the Dominican Center for Women where I found optimism, hope, love and encouragement. I look forward to seeing what else the Lord has for me, but whatever it is I know that it will be great!

My name is Loretta Martin. The reason I came to the Dominican Center is because I wanted to learn very, very badly. So I did come to the Center and here I am. I enjoy math, reading, spelling and writing. I hope to continue my learning here at the Dominican Center.



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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As we begin the final quarter of our official relationship with **Professional Dimensions**, we pause to reflect upon and to be grateful for the many gifts Professional Dimensions members have brought to the Center. Perhaps their greatest gift has been spirit. With Spirit and gusto they have partnered with us in so many ways—as tutors, workshop leaders, scribes for 13 women telling their stories, donators to the DC Resale Shop, assistance in our rehab services and also as generous and interested donors. We are deeply touched by their friendship and believe our connections will last beyond the official relationship. Thank you Professional Dimensions—Thank you Anne Curley, Margaret Henningsen, Diane Hamman, Fran Bauer and Kimberly Noon for your leadership in this project.

Ann Halloran, OP

Professional Dimensions—Dominican Center Connections

