

Dominican Center Newsletter

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www.dominican-center.org

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OUR MISSION

The Dominican Center for Women partners with the community to maintain and enhance a beautiful, stable, healthy and safe neighborhood consisting of residents who are community-minded and are striving to be meaningfully educated and employed.

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 14, 2012

Annual Fundraiser

A Community United in
"ONE VOICE"

Boerner Botanical Gardens

Honoree:

Officer Raymond Robakowski

Guest Speaker:

Attorney James Hall, Jr.

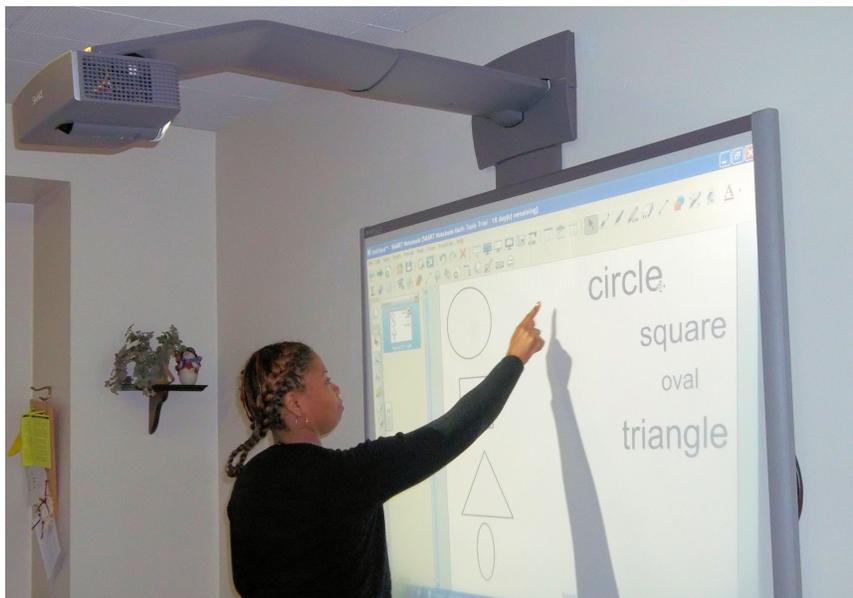
Invitations coming to your
mailbox soon

Welcome Back Sr. Ann !



Sr. Ann Halloran, OP, one of the co-founders of the Dominican Center for Women, accepted the invitation to direct the Dominican Center's Adult Education program. Sr. Ann comes to the Center bright and early Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to work with the Education staff, tutors and students. We are grateful for her yes and her presence.

The New Addition to the Adult Education Program



Sinsinawa Dominican Ministry Fund Grant

The Smart Board is a digital whiteboard that allows the use of touch-screen capabilities to manipulate information as it is connected to a computer. It has many practical uses for the classroom since it can share data and large amounts of information with a room of students. It invites active collaboration between teacher and students and is especially useful in teaching math, geography, computer and writing skills at DCW. This addition to the education program is the result of the Sinsinawa Dominicans Ministry Fund Grant.



Dear Friends and Partners,

As I look back on 2011, I have five wonderful reminders of the year: one of the Adult Education students, Tammy's remark about the patience of the teachers and their ability to use teaching methods to meet her learning style; the gratitude of the homeowner Martha for a safe healthy home for her disabled son; DCW's ability to help a sick neighbor, Ida, with the rehabbing of her unsafe and unhealthy home; the residents' leadership and determination to find a solution to the violence in the neighborhood and the excitement of the students and teachers as they prepare for their trip to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 2011 the Amani community participated in three meetings to determine the needs of the community and eleven concerns were articulated. The recent DCW First Saturday Residents' meeting continued to explore these concerns by asking the residents to identify their highest priorities. They named unemployment, safety and youth involvement as their concerns and selected the engagement of youth in positive activities as their number one priority. DCW will act as a community resource to help the Amani residents implement and achieve goals set to address the above concerns through activities and work that support the DCW Mission.

Your support of our Mission is evidenced in your contributions, prayers and volunteer hours. The above memories would not have been possible without your support. Thank you. Please pray with us as we continue a ministry of building relationships and partnerships with the Amani residents, nonprofits and religious organizations to revitalize the Amani community and end the cycle of poverty in Milwaukee County. Peace

The Wisconsin Humanities Council Matching Grant

The Wisconsin Humanities Council recently awarded \$4,500 to the Dominican Center for its class, "The African American Struggle for Freedom" and field trip to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. In preparation for the May trip, Professor William Dahlk from the Cardinal Stritch University History Department meets weekly with students to teach and lead class discussions on Wisconsin's role in the underground railroad and the impact of the Civil War 150 years later. This is a capstone opportunity for our students and center needs to raise an additional \$2,500 to cover remaining expenses.

A total of 20 students and teachers will participate in this three day field trip. In addition to visiting the Freedom Center, the group will tour Harriet Beecher Stowe' Home and the birthplace of President Ulysses S. Grant. Upon their return to Milwaukee, each student will research, write and present a paper for class. This paper is also designed to improve and enhance writing and technology skills. According to Sister Sue Felice, "We are so thankful for the Wisconsin Humanities Council."

If you would like to contribute to this education opportunity, please contact
Kathleen Brady at kbrady1@dominican-center.org.

DOMINICAN CENTER FOR WOMEN TO BE HONORED

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains has advised that the Dominican Center for Women will be the recipient of a special honor when it meets in Milwaukee this spring. Each year the NACC selects a nonprofit agency in the city where it meets to receive a special donation from conference participants.

The NACC will hold their national conference at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee in May 2012. Executive Director Sister Patricia Rogers is invited to give a presentation to conference participants on Sunday, May 20, 2012.

Meet Three Students of the Adult Education Program



Bernard:

Meet Bernard, a dedicated DCW Adult Education student. Bernard leaves Wal-Mart after working third shift and comes to the Dominican Center every weekday afternoon. He scored very high on his Social Studies and Science GED tests. He plans to take his Math GED test at the end of February and to complete his final GED test in Writing by the end of April.

Donna:

Donna is a true success story. One year ago, Donna entered the DCW Adult Education program with basic skills in arithmetic and reading skills at a 5th grade level. Due to her excellent attendance, persistence and hard work, Donna recently completed an Algebra course and reads at a 10th grade level. Donna's goal is to become a phlebotomist and her determination and hard work makes that goal possible.



Carolyn:

Carolyn originally came to the Dominican Center to take a computer class. However, her trouble with helping her grandson pronounce a word motivated her to join the DCW Adult Education program. As a result, Carolyn increased her vocabulary by one grade level and advanced her math skills by three grade levels. Carolyn is dedicated to her studies and is determined to get her GED.

Community Programs DCW Offers

Adult Education: Basic education, GED, college entrance preparation and educational enrichment. The education program allows DCW to assist 25 students each year in working to achieve their educational goals.

Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP): The City of Milwaukee's NIP assists eligible owner occupants in repairing their homes. All repairs are based upon municipal building code violations, lead hazard reduction, health and safety concerns. The repairs are authorized by the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) and funded by the Community Development Grants Administration (CDGA). The NIP allows DCW to rehab 3-5 homes each year in the Amani community.

The Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund (MHTF): MHTF provides grants and loans for the construction, rehabilitation and accessibility modification of affordable housing for low to moderate income households. MHTF allows DCW to address safety and health issues in the Amani community through roof and porch replacements and correction of city code violations.

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Community Programs DCW Offers (continued)

The Targeted Investment Neighborhood Program (TIN): The City of Milwaukee uses the TIN program to encourage owner occupancy and responsible landlords and to improve the safety and appearance of the neighborhood. TIN allows DCW to assist homeowners in making common household repairs and updates.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wish List

Educate a student	\$ 100
Class Field Trips	\$ 150
Repair a porch	\$ 300
Paint a house	\$ 400
Rehab Materials	\$1,000
QuickBooks	\$ 600
Software Upgrades	\$2,500
<i>Volunteer Tutors</i>	<i>Priceless</i>

*For additional wish list items, please visit:
www.dominican-center.org*