



Dominican Center Newsletter

FALL, 2005 2470 W. LOCUST STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53206 (414) 444-9930

FROM THE DIRECTOR

ANN HALLORAN, OP

With pride and encouragement we bring you up to date on Center happenings since our May newsletter. In July, we welcomed Catholic Heart Work Camp for the fourth consecutive year. They came, as they always do, full of energy, good will, and considerable skill. At the end of their time here the Dominican Center neighborhood clearly showed the result of their hard work. We are looking forward to their return next July.

- During June and July, the Center partnered with Hephatha Church's Work Ministry Program. Sister Sue and her young workers planted flowers in 10 homes, aided the block cleanup efforts on 24th, 25th, and 26th Streets, and helped remove weeds from the 26th Street Community Garden. The response from both the workers and the neighbors was most positive. Next summer we intend to expand this collaborative effort.
- In July ten Center members accepted invitations to the Women and Public Policy Forum. U.S. Representative Gwen Moore was the keynote speaker and we were fortunate to meet, share greetings and have our picture taken with her.
- In August we obtained a Paint & Fix Up Grant from WHEDA, which assisted Dominican Center Members. We are hoping for the same opportunity next summer. Each grantee was offered up to \$800 to improve the exterior of their home.
- In September, Dominican Center members were invited by John Schwantes, S.J. to come to the Jesuit Retreat House for a day of prayer. Jackie Williams led the group and brought the message of scripture to us. It was a beautiful, soul stretching day.

The second annual Parade of Homes on September 10th was a community success- homeowners, neighborhood residents, donors, staff, and friends all enjoyed the trolley rides with stops at five of our homes. The owner of each home took the group on an interior tour of the home. At the end of the tour, we gathered at the 26th Street Community Garden for grilled hot dogs and brats with all the trimmings and celebrated another year of true progress in the neighborhood. It was an amazing event for all who were present.

On October 21st, Carl Quindel, Shonia Zollicoffer, and I attended the Regional Conference hosted by the White House

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives held at the Midwest Express Center. I was a member of a panel that included state and local officials who shared their insights about existing programs, funding opportunities, and the need for collaboration among all.



Dominican Center friends file into Shonia Zollicoffer's Home during the Parade of Homes

Congratulations to Mary Garth, who on October 15th, was named as a Woman of Distinction by the National Presbyterian Church for the service and work she has done for her Church, Christ Presbyterian in Milwaukee.

A special **Thank You** to Mary McCabe, Miriam Brown, OP, Mary Ann Wilkes and Dorothy Daniel, who each week give generously and enthusiastically of their time and talent to help tutor at the Center.



Sister Sue, Doris Grant and Hephatha Church Kids get ready for another day of cleaning up the neighborhood and planting flowers.

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR LOCAL RESIDENT

Wes Landry, Jim Shankle, Dwayne Johnson, Carl Quindel, Mark Wagner and six student volunteers from Nicolet High School, along with volunteers from The Word is God Worship Center all participated in a major rehabilitation effort at the home of Dominican Center member, Nicole Lestor. The day after Adrian & Nicole Lestor's family moved into their home, nine volunteers came by to facilitate the demolition of her old porch, the construction of a new porch, the installation of drywall, and the unpacking of her belongings throughout the home. At the end of the day, everyone felt good about their accomplishments.



Nicolet High School German Honor Society Volunteers pose for a picture after a long hard day of work



Dwayne Johnson creates a mental image of how the porch will be after his handywork



Nicole Lestor's porch is nearly completed after the volunteer crew finishes their work.

INTERVIEW WITH DOROTHY DANIEL

Interview by Carl Quindel of the Dominican Center

In an interview with long time staff member and volunteer Dorothy Daniel, Ms. Daniel elaborated on why she has been coming in to the Center for roughly six hours a week for over six years.

When asked the question "Why do you come here every week?" the woman of many words quickly responded, "Because I like to." After a twenty-minute chat, it became quite clear that there is something very special about the relationship Ms. Daniel has with the people who are influenced by the Dominican Center. Ms. Daniel helps with administrative tasks, serves as a receptionist, tutors participants in the education program, and acts as a confidant by lending her listening ear to anyone who needs to talk. The following is an overview of her thoughts and reflections about her "second family", the Dominican Center.

Ms. Daniel's favorite thing about tutoring is helping people with diction and communication skills. She also enjoys her role as a confidant to many members of the Center. On many occasions, she ends up guiding them through their tough times with stories of her own life. Participants of the Center often mention her invaluable listening skills.

Ms. Daniel enjoys the environment which the Center offers because, she says, it is a truly genuine place of love, warmth, and joy. "It forces people to show their teeth as soon as they walk in the door," she adds, "Everyone is treated like they're special. And they really are. The question is 'Who wouldn't want to come here every week?'"

Talking of Sister Ann and the effect she has had on her life, Ms. Daniel's happy demeanor brightens even further. "I learn a lot from Sister Ann about what it means to be a Christian. Before coming to the Dominican Center she knew few people who actually practiced unconditional love. Sister Ann loves like God: loving her neighbor as she would herself. Someday, I hope to pass Love 101 and move on to this state of unconditional love," noted the now visibly emotional Ms. Daniel. As the Center's mission continues and the loving environment remains constant, Ms. Daniel finds comfort that the ability to love unconditionally "has been rubbing off on [her]."

INTERVIEW WITH DWAYNE JOHNSON

Interview by Carl Quindel of the Dominican Center

Dominican Center Student and Volunteer, Dwayne Johnson is preparing to embark on a journey to New Orleans to learn carpentry skills and help reconstruct the homes that have been destroyed due to hurricane activity. The 20-year-old currently is employed through a Temporary Employment Agency. Often, he finds himself analyzing his employment status and that of others on the job.

"I don't want to be 35 years-old and working here as other people do, not knowing if the company will hire them as an employee directly, having my paycheck cut from the costs of the temp agency and costs of rising gas prices (each employee pays \$7 a day for the ride to work)," says the soft-spoken 20-year-old. "There's a woman in her 60s who works along side me, doing heavy lifting and constantly being on her feet." He adds, "She has to work to pay her rent and this is her only option now. I can't see myself doing that. I want to have the ability to go on vacations, see other places, and not have to work each day just for the money I need that particular day."

DWAYNE CONTINUED....

Wisdom continues to pour out of Dwayne's mouth as he adds what he feels is a major problem in his own neighborhood. "You see that gas station right there? It probably takes a whole lot of dollars each month out of a neighborhood. This ends up creating an attitude between people. Each day, they see that some people have things and are doing okay while others have to struggle daily. It seems that all the money we earn goes into other peoples' pockets."

For these reasons, Dwayne decided he wanted to be a carpenter

and learn a skill he feels would always be valuable. One way he hopes to master his craft is on this eight-week trip to New Orleans. He will spend four hours a day in class and seven hours a day working for five days a week. He will be given room and board, food, and nine dollars per hour for both the class and the work. We all wish the best for Dwayne as he continues his quest for greatness.

VOICES FROM THE CENTER

HELLO LIFE

by Dwayne Johnson

Hello Life:

I have been doing good.

I like the new things life is teaching me:

To grow as a person and,

To be smarter than I used to be.

Now I stop and think about what I do to people.

I try to understand when people try to help me do better.

This has opened my eyes to help my people to wake up

And start trusting in each other.

I dream of one day stopping the existence of racism.

I look for me to help my children to be greater than me:

To become lawyers, police officers, mayors, business men.

I want my children to never forget who helped them think positive.

I want them to remember everything I teach them.

I am trying to become a carpenter to have a career.

I want to help my family and other people to own their homes

And other stores.

I want people to stop killing over nothing and start loving each other

The way God loves us.

I tell people that I am afraid of my talent:

I see things other people never see.

I see lost dreams come true.

God gave me a gift to give to the world.

I don't really get WHY ME,

But I love the gift.

LEARNING IN COMFORT

by Kim Harris

I feel safe and comfortable coming to school here. The Dominican Center makes me feel at ease. The teachers are very good. They give you the tools that you need to get ahead in life. I am learning math, reading, and writing. I get more out of it than where I was before. It is because it is quieter. I get the one on one care with the teachers that I need.

The students who we have here now are very nice and friendly. We share our ideas on homework and how we can help each other. I think that if people are trying to go back to school and are having a hard time, this would be the place to start.

FEAR

by Vessye Williams

I have been hunted for years

By a reality named FEAR.

Fear comes in many ways:

Fear of death,

Fear of being alone,

Fear of my car being hit from behind,

Fear that the earth will swallow me up.

Fear of communicating with others

Fear of darkness

Today, I can say I am

Free. The Lord delivered me.

God has freed me.

PROGRESS

by Denise Scott

When I started going to school, I felt like a little child in first grade. My reading was very low, and my math was very low too. However, now I am reading very well and I do math easily: subtraction, multiplication, and division. I feel proud. I have come a long way.

RIGHT ONE

by Mary Garth

Tuesday was my son Tillmon's birthday. He turned fifty-six. I thank God for his coming to my house to get a hug. I was so glad to see him. We talked for a while and he went back home. While he was here his daughter called me so he had a chance to say hello to her. I love my son very much. I enjoy talking with him. May God continue to bless him.

DOMINICAN CENTER FOR WOMEN, INC.
2470 WEST LOCUST STREET
MILWAUKEE, WI 53206-1134



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BENEFACTORS, JUN. 1ST - NOV. 1ST, 2005

Parishes

*Corpus Christi Congregation
St. Bernard Wauwatosa
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. John Vianney
St. Mary's Hales Corners
St. Robert
St. Sebastian*

Foundations & Organizations

*AMS
Chase Bank Community Foundation
Christian Stewardship
Elizabeth Brinn Foundation
GESU Ministry Fund
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Hilton Fund for Sisters
Milwaukee Archdiocese
North Shore Office Services
Park Bank Foundation
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Sinsinawa Dominican
Alternative Investment Fund*

*Sisters of Charity,
BVM Ministry Fund
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United Way*

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An upcoming fundraising event is in the works for April, 2006. More information is coming soon.

If you are interested in ordering *Dare to Dream Dream Cards™*, we have several options. For order inquiries, please contact Carl Quindel of the Dominican Center at 414-444-9930
