



Dominican Center Newsletter

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

From the Director: Ann Halloran, OP

Spring is finally here, and we welcome it heartily. Signs of new life are becoming apparent everywhere, including here at the Center. Let me describe a few:

In the Fall, Professional Dimensions (PD), an association of Wisconsin business women began a two year commitment of working cooperatively with the Dominican Center in five areas: fundraising, housing rehab assistance, tutoring, homeownership education and assistance to Dominican Center women eager to write their life stories. Activity in all five areas is abounding. We are finding that the partnership is encouraging growth in both the Dominican Center's mission and also in Professional Dimension's. The next year and a half promises to be a win-win collaborative experience for all involved. The four leaders from Professional Dimensions, are Margaret Henningsen, Anne Curley, Diane Hamman and Susan Cerletty. Thank you PD.

The first meeting of Dominican Center Seniors who own homes in the neighborhood was held in October. The purpose of the gathering was twofold: to assist senior homeowners to maintain their code compliance and to create a space for the voices of some of the most important members of the neighborhood community. Both purposes are progressing nicely. To date we are working with 14 senior families, making their homes safe and comfortable. We are also holding monthly meetings where the unique ideas and needs of seniors are addressed. Through our PD partnership, four senior homes will receive the services of members of the ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL CONTRACTORS.(AGC) Two homes will have new porches and two homes will have their second floor reconfigured. Special thanks to Mike Habishak, CEO and Craig Jorgenson and Tim Johnson chairmen of the executive committee of AGC.

As always, the heartbeat of the Center resides in the activities going on in the educational program. We are proud of the DC community of learners where they are as proud of each other's accomplishments as they are of their own. We are grateful to Sister Sue, our corps of volunteers and the students who work the program. S. Joann Daley's creative bookmaking workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all. One of our loyal, longstanding tutors, Mary Ann Wilkes, invited the group to attend "The Night Is A Child" performed at the Milwaukee repertory Theatre. It was a remarkable experience for all of us. Thank you Mary Ann!

Finally, the 'I don't know what they are called generation', but the 18 – 23 year olds- are giving us great hope for the future. Nicole Kreuger, a Mensa scholar from Marquette University has been serving part of her internship at the Center. We have been blessed not only with the tutoring work she has performed, but also with her great concern with global and local justice issues. Another inspiring group of young adults were the Creighton University students who came to the Dominican Center and other Milwaukee sites to give service during their Spring break. They worked hard on one of our houses; they worked even harder teaching Wes Landry and Tom Beres, DC rehab specialists, the "Penguin Dance". Quite a feat. We are grateful for Dominican High School's and Nicolet High School's continual involvement with the Center. Lots more news; no more space. Enjoy the second set of profiles.

My name is Doris Gant. I am a student at the DC and at MATC. I am the mother of 6 and grandmother of 12. Because of the DC I have gone on to higher education so that eventually I will be able to share my knowledge with the world as a teacher. Besides going to school, I am the outreach minister at Hephatha Church. I work with



the ill, seniors and young parents, visiting with them and helping them out with their needs. My advice to anyone who has a dream is DON'T LET ANYTHING STAND IN THE WAY OF YOUR MOVING FORWARD.



S. Sue Felice, OSF: I have been in the field of education for 38 years as a teacher, associate principal, counselor, and principal. I feel that every thing I have done professionally has led me to the Dominican Center. As a staff member, I am the coordinator of the education program, administrative assistant and do outreach. I love my ministry here at the Dominican Center! One of my favorite scripture verses is from Micah 6: "To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with God." The Center helps me to live out that message.

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***** MARK YOUR CALENDAR *****



Neighborhood Spring Clean-ups	April 12 & May 3
Jewelry Making with S. Edna Lonergan, OSF	April 18
Body/Soul Work with S. Stella DeVenuta, OSF S. Joan Penzenstadler, SSND	May 23
Job Readiness Classes with Kimberley Noon	April 25, May 9 & 16
Catholic Heart Workcamp	July 7-10
Community & Family Day Lead Fest with Nicole Lester & Stephanie Ortiz	July 19
Professional Dimensions Fund Raiser for DC	Late Summer/Early Fall
Harvest Festival Block Party	September

Monthly Meetings:

Home Action Group	Every 1st Saturday
Amani Home Club Members	Every 4th Saturday
Senior Homeowners	Every 2nd Thursday



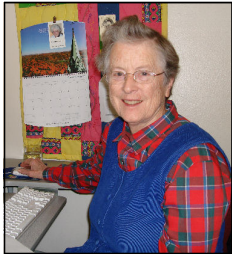
My name is Stephanie Sow. What's interesting about me is I am involved in a lot of activities. I like to explore all my gifts and challenges. What I have

found out about myself is that I am an artist and a singer. I am also a caretaker. One of my greatest challenges --- and at the same time my satisfaction, is caring for Sam, an autistic 11 year old boy. Right now I would like to get into my painting, basically for the peace and tranquility that it brings. At the Center I also am developing my writing skills. In the end, I would like to have written a children's book.



Let me introduce myself. My name is Mary Lou Garth. I have had a very interesting life. Four years ago I came to the Center. During that time I improved my reading and writing. I have had my house remodeled through help from the Center. Now I am on my second book. The name of my

first was "This is My Story from My Heart. I have not chosen the title for my second book yet. Right now I am facing troubles in my life: my son is dying of cancer and my goddaughter is on dialysis. I am an usher and a deacon at Christ Presbyterian Church. I also was director of the Angel Choir there for 38 years.



I'm Mary Catherine Dundon, SSND, and loving the holy and homey spirit that abounds in the Dominican Center in every eager participant and in each of our dedicated staff.

In my work as development director I am privileged to convey the way we extend our mission to nearly 1,000 individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations, and parishes. I do this through proposals, letters of appeal, and thank-you letters. I am often privy to your notes of appreciation which accompany your gifts, showing that you, too, believe in our marvelous ministry and inspiring leader. Getting to know you vicariously is an added bonus for me.

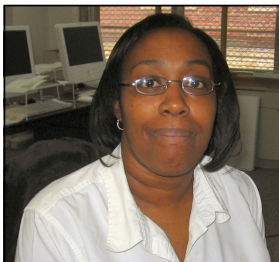
My Dream

I dream of getting my G.E.D. I work hard on my math and reading. I try to come to the Center as often as I can.

I keep on going when things try to stumble me.
And I pray about it.

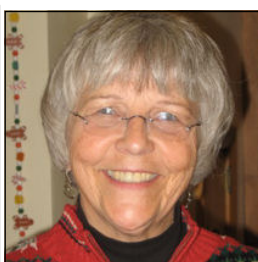
I do it for my kids and myself.
I am someone who loves people.

Gwen Coates



My name is Karen Stamps and I am a student at MATC in the Human Service Program. I am also a volunteer worker at the Dominican Center for Women, Inc. As a mem-

ber of the community, I would like to see more churches getting involved in the community. If we could get churches in the community to come together and show what each church is trying to offer to the community maybe they could help make this a better community.



Hi, I'm Carolyn -I joined the Dominican Center staff in March or so of 2007. I met Sister Stella and Sister Sue after Mass one Saturday and was asked to help with a computer network problem. The rest, as they say, is history. I helped with the computer network problem and from

there started working on the 2007 Fund Raiser Booklet, followed by the End of Year Report and now, the Newsletters. Ultimately, I will be updating the website for the Dominican Center. I have met some absolutely wonderful people here and I am so impressed with all of their accomplishments.

Serving at the Guest House

For three and a half years my husband and I have been cooking hot meals for the men at the Guest House homeless shelter. We service between 100 and 130 men every first Sunday of the month. I thank God we never missed a meal. Thanks to the many volunteer helpers including Sister Ann and Sister Sue from the Dominican Center. The Center pays for the meat for the monthly meals. My husband Archie's co-workers and a group of 18 women have cooked desserts for every meal for about two years now. Pastor Hermon, his wife, our young men, women, and teens have raised money every month and also volunteer by serving the men. Thanks to my co-workers, Debbie and Ruth, and my dear friends, the seniors from the weekly Senior Bible Study class, Mary Bernard and Sister Sharon Howard.

In addition to preparing and serving the first Sunday meal, during the months of October through December, my husband and I gathered enough sheets, pillows, blankets for 75 beds. In November the bitter cold was so bad that, for the first time since we began serving hot meals to the men, we found ourselves short of help and overly tired.

As I stood in the kitchen looking at all the Thanksgiving fixings for a great dinner, and looking at all the men that overfilled the small eating room, I wondered how were Archie and I going to serve them all. Then a few minutes later in walks a very tall, young white man and he said to me, "I am here to help. What do you need me to do?" I was in shock, because I had been used to women helping me in the kitchen. So I told him maybe he could help my husband direct the men in the eating room. He looked at me with a smile on his bright face and said, "I know my way around in the kitchen better than most women." Then it hit me — this is the help that I asked God for. He worked side by side with me in that kitchen and we fed every soul that was hungry. After the kitchen was clean, I found out he wasn't even from this city but he felt a pull in his heart to come to the men's shelter. I truly believe David was an angel sent by God to help us serve. Not only did he help Thanksgiving Day, but also in December when it was even colder, he would show up right on time. After December I never saw him again, but I thank God for him every time I think back to those cold winter days.

My husband and I firmly desire to continue to feed the homeless. For us this is love of God in action. However, we need the help of volunteers who don't mind giving their time, material help and prayers. Thanks to our current volunteers. We love them all.



Ministers Jackie Williams

Archie Williams





My name is Lucy Coleman. At the age of 55 the Lord Blessed me to be introduced to the Dominican Center. Oh, what a blessing to be in the company of Holy Women and strong willed positive women that are climbing up the ladder.

They are so gracious. It is an honor to be among these precious people. I thank God everyday that he sent me here because I know he did. They give me strength, courage and a lot of love and vegetables. I love it. Thank God for Sister Ann and all the precious sisters – this is a glorious learning place. I enjoy my class so much I try very hard not to miss it. Oh, I thank God for Sister Stella D. She is my very superstar teacher.



I am an artist, spiritual guide and art educator. Here at Dominican Center I “masquerade” as a computer teacher two days a week and offer a “soul circle” once a week! Working with Center students on basic computer skills, boosts self esteem and encourages creative use of the

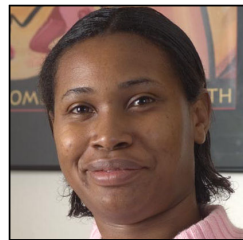
computer. It is rewarding for them and for me as well. We have learned how to navigate the new IMAC computers, use some of the basic programs, access the Internet, and use Internet search engines. E-mailing is the next new learning for the class. I also offer a soul circle session blending spirituality and creativity. We begin with music and a reading and then have quiet to do mandala drawings. I am more than blessed to be using my skills and creativity to journey with others seeking to the “Divine” presence of God at the Dominican Center.

Sr. Stella DeVenuta, OSF

I Dare to Dream

I Dare to Dream
Because in my sleep
I will drown in my own tears
If I do not rise up to praise Him.

Diana Massey



Hi, my name is Gwen Coates. In 2005 my cousin first told about the Center, and I decided to come here to get my GED. At first it was very difficult, but the people supported me and told me not to give up. Now I can read and do math easily. But most important I

am able to spend more time with my children. Church, also, has become an essential part of my life giving me the strength I need to achieve my goals. It's always a matter of small steps!



A second year staff member of the Dominican Center, my name is Sister Virginia (Ginny) Ripp, OP. I do a variety of work here at the Center; answer phones and doorbells at the front desk, do secretarial work for Sr. Ann, handle some computer jobs, and tutor and help as

needed. Truly it is a privilege to minister here and to experience the blessing of all who come, to hear their stories and struggles, to experience their determination to improve their lives, their faith in Jesus and belief that no matter what, they are blessed. Every day I see the Center's mission “to work with neighborhood residents to build and create a beautiful, safe, nonviolent community where homeowners and renters are educated, gainfully employed, and committed to the philosophy of community” in action.



I am a Sinsinawa Dominican and have ministered in Milwaukee in several different capacities: Pastoral Care (St Robert Parish) and Adult Education (STEPS). I have recently volunteered to tutor at the Dominican Center. Little did I know

when I offered to volunteer that I would become part of such a close knit family. The women respect, care for and support one another. There are hugs, laughs, tears and sharing of prayer and stories. It is a pleasure to be part of the Dominican Center Community.

Mary Mahony, OP

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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Dominican Center Christmas Party—12/21/07

