

Dominican Center Newsletter

2470 W Locust Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206 414.444.9930

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.

FUNDER THANK YOU

Helen Bader Foundation
Green Bay Packers Foundation
Mother Caroline Mandate Fund
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
Sinsinawa Ministry Fund
St. Eugene's Parish
St. Monica's Congregation
WE Energies

Thank you for your confidence in the Dominican Center as we work together to address the problems affecting education, housing, health and safety in our community!



DCW staff, volunteers and students just before boarding the bus to Ohio.

DCW TOURS THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

After months of studying, 18 students and teachers boarded a bus to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Home in Cincinnati, Ohio. The three day trip took place May 15-17, 2012. The Underground Railroad project included the Ohio trip, American and African American History and Geography classes, journal writing and individual presentations at the end of the trip. Professor William Dahlk of the Cardinal Stritch University History Department visited DCW to teach students and lead group discussions on slavery, the Civil War, Wisconsin's role in the Underground Railroad and the impact of the Civil War 150 years later. This educational experience was underwritten by a \$4,500 matching grant from The Wisconsin Humanities Council.

Continued on page 2 (DCW Tours)

***From the Director: S. Patricia Rogers, OP***

The Dominican Center is blessed with good partners, great friends, generous donors and volunteers, dedicated students, active Amani residents and a faithful staff. All these relationships share in and contribute to the vision, mission and great reputation of the Dominican Center. Thank you all for the solid foundation on which we stand today.

All organizations periodically review their vision and mission to articulate course of direction for the next 3-5 years. The Dominican Center for Women will begin a strategic planning process to refine its direction and make decision for the allocation of resources.

The process will begin with the Board of Directors, June 21, 2012, and also include input from staff, volunteers, partners, donors and friends. Strategic plans are built on values that are shared by an organization's stakeholders, like all of you. We look forward to hearing our hopes for the future of the Center in future conversations and responses to questionnaires.

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) held its annual conference in Milwaukee, April 22, 2012. Sr. Kathleen Brady, OP, a member of NACC recommended the Dominican Center for Women to the NACC as the local organization worthy of recognition when they gathered in Milwaukee. Sr. Ann Halloran, OP and Mrs. Kathleen Brady, Dominican Center's Development Director, represented DCW at the conference.

The presentation included a three minute video clip and brief DCW history by Sr. Ann. The response of the members to DCW's mission and the stories and accomplishments captured in the video was phenomenal. The members gave individual donations totaling \$3,183.75. We are grateful for the invitation extended by NACC to present at the April conference, for their generous donation and to donors and friends, like Sr. Kathleen, who help spread the DCW story.

Hopes for the future:

- Expand the GED program in partnership with COA Goldin Center
- Include a community organizer position with a graduate student in the UWM Milwaukee Idea Economic Development (MIED) Fellow program
- Participate in the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program Grant for the Amani Community

(DCW Tours– continued from page 1)

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center captured the struggle to freedom in film, art, poetry, quilts, poetry, songs, artifacts and storytelling. The students and teachers returned to Milwaukee with stories, quotes, pictures and bonded in friendship because of their shared experience and new insights. According to Sister Barbara Becker OP, "Everyone shares a deep sense of gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives, slaves and abolitionists. Students and teachers are eager to share what they learned on our trip." Please visit our website at <http://www.dominican-center.org> for photos, poems and reflections written by the students.

World Book Night & DCW Book Club



With a book donation made possible by Milwaukee's Boswell Book Company, DCW celebrated World Book Night April 23, 2012. World Book Night is an annual celebration designed to spread a love of reading and books. This was the first time that this event was celebrated in the United States and DCW is proud to be a first year participant. World Book Night was launched in the U. K. in 2011 and April 23rd was

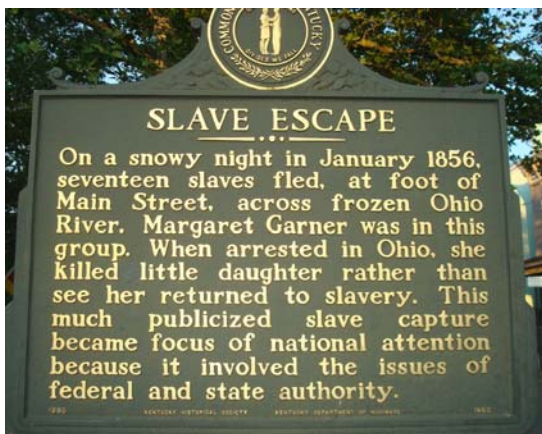
chosen since it is the date of William Shakespeare's birth and death. DCW students formed their first book club and the World Book Night Selection, "Because of Winn-Dixie" is the club's first book selection. Thank you Boswell Book Company and World Book Night!

Wish List for the Dominican Center

Education software	\$ 500
Educate a student	\$ 200
Paint a house	\$ 400
Repair a porch	\$ 300
Volunteer tutors	Priceless



Students recording the issues at the Underground Railroad Freedom Center.



Thanks to you, our donors, who make our programs possible!

2012 Fundraiser “One Voice” Sponsors & Donors

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Have a great summer! We thank God for all of you!

The 2012 Annual Spring Fundraiser “One Voice”

The 2012 Fundraiser “One Voice” was held April 14 on a beautiful spring evening at Boerner Botanical Gardens. DCW was delighted to honor Milwaukee Police officer Raymond Robakowski. Sr. Ann Halloran, OP and Captain T. Gordon paid tribute to Officer Ray’s dedicated service to the Amani residents and District 5. James Hall, Jr., President of the Wisconsin NAACP was our guest speaker. Guests were entertained by the Marquette University High School Jazz Trio during the silent auction and cocktail hour.

In addition to the annual auction, Funda was a new addition this year. Guests were given the opportunity to fund three DCW programs:

1. Match funds for the WI Humanities Council Grant for the Underground Railroad Education project
2. Purchase bundles of shingles to reroof a house.
3. Purchase security cameras for the Residents Investment Committee project.

We are thrilled to report that \$3,575 was raised for these three worthy projects.

Our most sincere thanks to our event chairs, Barbara and Maureen Tyler, and all of our sponsors, donors, table captains, staff and guests who attended. Please visit <http://www.dominican-center.org> for more photos of this wonderful event.



Raymond Robakowski



Ann Halloran, OP



Marquette University High School Group

“ONE VOICE” Raffle Winners

Grand Prize \$1,000

George Harris

Second Prize \$750

Tom Felice

Third Prize \$500

Algie Simond

Fourth-Sixth Prizes \$100 each: Joanne Meyer, OSF, Carol Ripp, Mary Louis Russley, OP

Recent Events

THOMSEN AND CARR COLLABORATE ON “HERE, MOTHERS ARE”

Temporary Public Art Piece in Milwaukee’s Amani Neighborhood

“here, mothers are” is a site-specific temporary public art collaboration between artist Sonja Thomsen and storyteller Adam Carr, launched on April 1st, in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood. In partnership with the Dominican Center for Women (DCW), with funding from the City of Milwaukee's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC), Thomsen and Carr have created a public installation with interactive components located at Locust & 24th Place, in conjunction with a digital extension (<http://heremothersare.wordpress.com/>).

“here, mothers are” gives personal spaces a place in the public domain. Over a period of three months, Thomsen and Carr conducted living room interviews with women and families from DCW, translating those experiences to mural photographs and text, populating a City pop-up gallery as well as the boards of a neighboring foreclosed home. The installation invites viewers to go beyond faces and facades, into interior spaces within the neighborhood.

“here, mothers are” engages the public to develop the project through interactive components. The website is launching a campaign of prompts to spur responses on motherhood from the public. Within the space itself, large chalkboard tent-signs will read: *“here, mothers are _____,”* inviting input from passing pedestrians. Also, an edition of 200 lawn signs will allow *“here, mothers are”* to extend into lawns citywide.

About the artist and storyteller:

- Sonja Thomsen is a conceptual artist working in photography and installation. She graduated with MFA in Photography from San Francisco Art Institute in 2004 and BA in Biology and Arts from Kenyon College in 2000.
- Adam Carr is a storyteller and media producer. He is a proud product of Milwaukee Public Schools and graduated with degrees in Mathematics and Philosophy from Carleton College in 2007.



Queenie

2012 Calendar

End of Classes (DCW)	6/8
Catholic Heart Workcamp	6/18 - 6/21
Senior Meeting (1 p.m.)	7/14
City Clean Up Day (10 a.m.—12 p.m.)	7/28
Walgreens Way to Well Health Tour with AARP (10a.m—2 p.m.)	7/28
Advisory Meeting (1 p.m.)	8/1
Home Action Meeting (8:30 a.m.)	8/6
Resource Fair (10 a.m.—2 p.m.)	8/11
Senior Meeting (1 p.m.)	8/11
Fall DCW Class Registration	8/28
Fall DCW Classes Resume	9/4

For more information about any of the events listed here, please give us a call at 414.444.9930, send us an email at dominicancenterforwomen@gmail.com, visit our website at www.dominican-center.org or check us out on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, you can log in, do a search for us & LIKE us.



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Table Captain, Sr. Virginia Ripp, OP and her guests at the “One Voice” Fundraiser April 14, 2012

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DCW students taking notes at The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center