

# House of Peace

*"Serving Christ's Poor"*

*A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph*

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## Teen Leaders Celebrate Graduation

### Youth Program Helps Teens Achieve Their Goals and Serve the Community

"Br. Mark and Lisa helped me mature over the last 4 years to become a man for others," Reggie Bell said. Reggie was explaining how the teen leadership program at the House of Peace (HOP) had helped him to achieve his goal of graduation from Marquette University High School. Reggie continued, "I plan to attend Cardinal Stritch University this fall and major in Elementary Education. I realized I liked to teach when I had the opportunity to lead some of the conflict resolution seminars at the HOP."

Reggie also received the David Chang Scholarship award from the HOP. This award recognizes teen leaders who demonstrate significant academic achievement and leadership skills. In Atlanta, Georgia, Tianna McCullough prepared to graduate from Spelman College. Tianna is a former David Chang Scholarship award winner. "The HOP's teen leadership program forced me to become a leader. I led classes and when I got to college I discovered I wasn't intimidated by speaking in front of classes or my dorm," Tianna said.

"The HOP is a community center so I guess I shouldn't be surprised I learned a sense of community there," Tianna added. "Spelman also values community. I saw some of my peers struggle initially with the idea that we

had a responsibility to others. I didn't go through that learning curve as I had already learned that lesson at the HOP." When asked what she intended to do next Tianna said, "I have made a two year commitment to Teach for America to serve as a special ed teacher here in Milwaukee. Later I'd like to go back for a doctorate to teach in a college."



**Above left to right:** Reggie's mom, Diane Bell; Reggie Jr; Lisa Calderone-Stewart (Director, Tomorrow's Present); Gerri Sheets-Howard (HOP Assistant Director) and Reggie's Dad, Reggie Bell, Sr.

Br. Mark said, "I see many parallels between Reggie's and Tianna's experience. They both were good students but even more importantly, they learned how to become leaders here at the HOP."

Dr. Lisa Calderone-Stewart, director of Tomorrow's Present, the HOP's teen leadership program

(operated in partnership with Cardinal Stritch University) added, "Tomorrow's Present empowers young people to transform their community by: Service, Learning, Prayer & Leadership."

She added, "When our donors provide dollars they not only affect our teens but another thousand teens who attend our seminars on nonviolent conflict resolution and see the teen leaders model this behavior in high school and college. Not to mention all of the lives people like Tianna and Reggie can affect as educators themselves."

# Dove Notes



## House of Peace Ministry Council

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### Executive Director:

Br. Mark Carrico,  
O.F.M., Capuchin

*P.S. Are you, or do you know of, a man aged 18 - 50 who you think would make a good Capuchin Friar? If so, please contact our Capuchin Vocation Director, Fr. John Holly, at (773) 475-6206. He's waiting for your call.*

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

Wishes of Peace from us to you!

James Dent said, "A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken." I agree with him, but I would agree with him even more if he had included a fishing pole and a brat straight off the charcoal grill somewhere in his definition. I am so glad it is finally summer!! And I hope you are enjoying it, too.

Naturally we first enjoyed the arrival of Easter and its promise of spring and green grass. Again this year with the help of Father Gene's Help Center, Balistreri Trucking, Badger Hams of Wisconsin, Letterhead Press, Inc., you and a few others, the House of Peace (HOP) distributed over 150 traditional Easter dinners to poverty-stricken households to be prepared in the home. And another private donor made hundreds of Easter Baskets/Bags for kids filled with treats and gifts. Needless to say, Easter was made a much more joyful time for the families and kids who were on the receiving end of all that kindness.

Graduations follow the Easter bunny's cotton tail, and then summer follows! The first summer after I graduated high school I worked a dirty, hot factory job back home where we made all things rubber: spatulas, crutch tips, sink stoppers, etc. The best thing that ever happened to me may have been getting laid off because that led to getting a job playing my guitar, which I then did for years. Back then,

college was not in my post-graduation plans.

We had four kids graduate from our HOP Teen Program on May 9. When I look at them I feel good about tomorrow. Kayla, Reggie, Kara and Bryan are all heading for college in the fall along with millions of other kids. And all those other kids have someone who knows how gifted and special they are just as we know it about our four graduates. Contemplating all the seemingly insurmountable problems

our world faces can be so dadgum depressing. But in considering who is going to be dealing with those problems in the future - Bryan, Kara, Kayla, Reggie and others like them - I can see the hand of God is very much at work. We're going to miss them next fall even though I know the nest will still be filled with our

returning teens and four new faces.

"Next fall," I just said! "Why would he be thinking about next fall this early in the summer?" you may ask. Well, because we've got to start getting ready for it. There's going to be a lot of kids needing help with back-to-school supplies come fall, and even though it may seem early we have officially started our Back-To-School Supplies Drive. We will be accepting donations of supplies all summer long and if you'd like to help out with this we would sure appreciate it. The kids will appreciate it even more! We'll need everything from #2 pencils to book bags for the kids. And the book bags are always our greatest need.



**Above:** Br. Mark (second from right) assisted by volunteers, Letterhead Press, Inc. and HOP staff work to unload boxes of Easter dinners. LPI, of New Berlin, donated the food items.

Back in my schoolboy days the best thing about returning to school in the fall was that I'd see Darlene again. Darlene was the cutest girl in the 4th grade and was, I believed, created by God for the sole purpose of being my wife one day. I remember a brand new green shirt I wore to school the first day of 4th grade. Green, because Darlene was Irish. So I figured she would like it. As I recall, I don't think she even noticed. It is to God's credit and Darlene's good fortune that the shirt didn't work its magic and Darlene eventually married someone else. And to be perfectly honest, I like my life the way it is anyway.

***"...I can see the hand of God is very much at work."***

Back-To-School days are exciting for kids. And here at the HOP we're convinced that sending underprivileged kids back to school with the supplies they need is imperative to making school an enjoyable exercise for them and thus helps them learn. Any help you can give us in providing for them will be most appreciated. But please, no green shirts!! Sadly, they don't work anyhow.

With the economy the way it is we all know people who are hurting; people who have lost their jobs, their homes, had to pull kids out of college. And people who haven't endured major losses have had to tighten their belts, make sacrifices and examine their budgets for ways to cut back. It is scary and it is real. In the face of all that, I am so impressed and grateful for the way you, our HOP friends, have continued to support this ministry. To me, it is a sign that you really are walking by faith and not by sight.



**Above:** Dr. Lisa Calderone-Stewart presents a class on "HOW TO PARTNER WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL SO THEY HAVE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR." Families receiving new school supplies were asked to attend an empowerment class prior to receiving the donated items.

For in spite of all we can see around us that legitimately proclaims doom and gloom concerning the economy, your donations to help the poor just as legitimately proclaims the love of God present in our midst. And it is God's love that will see us through these hard times. "Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?" they asked. You know what the answer was and you have shown with your

financial support and prayers that you have taken it to heart even in tough economic times. I am truly humbled to be the HOP director and to be ministering with such generous benefactors as you. Thank you.

I like my brats on a soft bun with yellow mustard and onions. I thoroughly enjoy reeling a bass in from the lake and releasing it. And I love the smell of a new mown lawn. I hope you get to enjoy all the things you like about summer this year and that you will keep us in your prayers. You are in ours.

Your Capuchin brother,

**Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin  
Executive Director**



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The House of Peace is a  
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All donations are tax deductible  
as allowable by law.

## Easter marked by gifts of new underwear and ham dinners!



**Left:** Br. Mark accepted donations of food for Easter dinners from Letterhead Press and Badger Boiled Hams with the help of Fr. Gene's Help Center & Balistreri Trucking.



**Right:** Choua Vang, Clothes Closet Manager, folds new donated underwear from Jockey International. St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Milwaukee held an "Undie Sunday" when a collection was taken to pay for new underwear for the poor. Jockey pledged to make a matching gift at their discount store in Kenosha at 4200 39th Ave. The store is open to the public and, after matching St. Charles Borromeo's gift, Jockey donated 13 additional boxes of clothing.



## Back to School Drive

Our annual school supplies drive runs through August 31, 2009. The need is always significant so please consider making a donation. New school supplies can be dropped off Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. There is a special need for book bags and backpacks.



***Any of these items would help!***

book bag or backpack  
package of #2 pencils  
pink eraser  
ball point pens  
pencil sharpener  
crayons  
glue sticks

Elmer's glue  
child safety scissors  
colored markers  
index cards  
ruler  
pocket folders  
Kleenex  
hi-lighters

notebooks  
3 ring binder  
loose leaf paper  
construction paper  
Scotch tape  
Combination lock  
calculator

*Please consider including the House of Peace in your will. To discuss other giving options, call Jim Van Hoven, Development Director, (414) 374-8841, ext. 26.*