

## Three Young People - How the House of Peace Helped Collaborative Teen Program Helps Neighborhood Youth Reach Potential

The Teen Scholarship Program was originally started by Capuchin Br. Booker Ashe. Before the Milwaukee School Choice program, Br. Booker recognized there were young people living in the House of Peace (HOP) neighborhood who would benefit from an education at one of the area's Catholic high schools. He was able to provide partial scholarships with the support of donors.

Dr. Lisa Calderone created a leadership development program for urban teens called Tomorrow's Present. When she brought the program to the HOP all the teens who received scholarships were also required to participate in Tomorrow's Present. Her program taught children from inner city communities' public speaking, leadership development and conflict resolution skills. The program is now operated as a collaborative effort of the HOP and the Leadership Center at Cardinal Stritch University. The HOP still provides a physical home for the program and raises funds to provide partial scholarships for the teens.

Current HOP scholarship recipients come from families of the working poor who make too much to qualify for the School Choice program but can't afford Catholic high school tuition. Hundreds of inner-city youth have benefitted from the education they

received in the program and at area Catholic high schools. The HOP has also provided internship opportunities for college students. Here are the stories of three young people:

### Teen Scholarship Program/ Tomorrow's Present grad to attend Harvard:

Fernando Espino was in the 8th grade at Bruce Guadalupe Middle School when a guidance counselor suggested he apply for the HOP scholarship. "I was very interested but initially concerned about the amount of time involved to be a part of Tomorrow's Present," Fernando said. A shy and serious person, Fernando found that all of the time required did pay off. "We attended Saturday morning meetings every month, participated in Leadership Training and helped put on Conflict Resolution Workshops," he said.

Fernando smiled as he added "Lisa taught us to have passion for whatever you do. You want to emulate her passion in what you do and I found I actually enjoyed school more."

"One immediate benefit was I learned to feel comfortable with myself and that helped me at Marquette University High School (MUHS)," Fernando said. He added, "The HOP scholarship paid



**Above** ▲ Fernando leads an activity at the end of the year program for the Teen Scholarship Program and Tomorrow's Present.

about 45% of my tuition at MUHS for which I am very grateful." Fernando graduated this month with a 4.02 GPA and was accepted on a need-based scholarship to Harvard University this fall.

*CONTINUED: Go to page 3 to read about other young people who have been helped by the House of Peace to reach their goals.*



# Prayer Notes

by Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.A.  
Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character-- that is the goal of true education.” As the Tomorrow’s Present Teen Scholarship Program has concluded another year of leadership training and peace making skills, I believe that our students have learned to be intensive and critical thinkers. I am certain that they are young people who value their education and the sacrifices made by both parents and donors to provide them with a quality Catholic high school education.

Our students who have graduated from high school this past May, will enter into college this fall fully equip to successfully navigate through campus life and a challenging academic environment. The peace making skills that they have acquired in the Tomorrow’s Present program through Cardinal Stritch’s –The Leadership Center will empower them to make the appropriate decision when facing conflicts. Our students have received true education, because they are intelligent and they are people of character. We are so very proud of them all, and we are thankful for all those who support our Teen Scholarship Program.

► Gerri Sheets-Howard, far right, leads a tour of the Emergency Food Pantry for Helen Bader Foundation staff members Daniel Bader, center and Maria Lopez Vento, far left with Fr. Perry McDonald. The Helen Bader Foundation announced a \$20,000 grant to help keep the food pantry stocked over the summer when food donations often do not keep up with the need. Many children receive one or two meals per day at school. Each summer families living in poverty are challenged to provide more food and many seek help at the House of Peace.



◀ Fr. Perry McDonald acknowledges the applause of students and faculty at the Waukesha Catholic School System’s St. Joseph Middle School campus. Fr. Perry led stations of the cross on Holy Thursday and then received hundreds of pounds of donated food and hygiene products. Earlier that day he also stopped at St. Mary’s Visitation Parish School in Elm Grove to receive additional donations.

## House of Peace Ministry Council

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*The House of Peace is a 501(c)(3) ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.*



## House of Peace Services

- Emergency Food Pantry
- Clothing Center
- Spiritual Care
- Nursing Clinic
- Legal Clinic
- Social Worker
- Meeting Space
- Teen Scholarship Program
- American Cancer Society  
Loaning Closet
- Chapel

# More Young Adult Success Stories from House of Peace

## Page 1 Story Continued:

### College Intern graduates:

Keyona Amos graduates this month from Cardinal Stritch University with a Religious Studies degree. “I attended Messmer High School through the Milwaukee School Choice program. At Cardinal Stritch I had an internship and was assigned to the HOP,” she explained. A quiet young woman with a disarming smile, Keyona was able to relate to the high school students as a role model.



▲ Keyona Amos studies for a final exam in the library at Cardinal Stritch University.

Keyona did not attend Tomorrow’s Present as a high school student but did often interact with those who did. “I wanted the students to see that they could reach college as I had done and they could make something of themselves. I think they were very receptive to that message because I am near their age,” she said.

Keyona added, “I also oriented volunteer groups, showed them what tasks needed to be done and worked along side them.” She added, “I have sorted clothing, stocked food pantry shelves, distributed items to guests and received gifts from the donors who drive up to the drop off doors.” Keyona is now searching for a job but plans to continue to volunteer at the HOP.

### Teen Scholarship Program/Tomorrow’s Present Grad now employed with college degree:

Deidre Steward has completed Tomorrow’s Present at the HOP, graduated from Messmer High School on a House of Peace scholarship and then attended and graduated from UW-Milwaukee. She is now employed full time as the Human

Resources Assistant at Messmer Catholic Schools.

“I remember Lisa (Calderone) and her training in how to become a leader, how to handle conflict and how to speak in front of large groups,” Deidre said. She continued, “Now that I work at Messmer I help our HR Director, Joe Halaiko serve over 200 staff at 4 schools. I have had to speak to all-staff meetings a number of times and am so grateful for all I learned at the HOP.”

“This is my first fulltime job out of college and I love it. I hope to someday become an HR director myself,” Deidre said. Just then her supervisor Joe Halaiko stopped in. Joe said, “Deidre’s leadership skills learned at the HOP’s Teen Program are very evident. She serves as a positive and hardworking role model for our students at Messmer.” He added, “Her focus on service continues to be shared and deepened working with students, faculty and staff.”



▲ Deidre Steward working at her desk at Messmer Catholic Schools.

Gerri Sheets-Howard, Executive Director has met and worked with each of the young people no matter how they come to the HOP. She said, “If the HOP is to be effective in breaking the cycle of poverty that is prevalent in our community; it will be through the educating and mentoring of our children. These young people confirm to us that we are on the right track.”

Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald has worked with the teens for the last two years since joining the HOP staff. He said, “One of the values that Capuchins try to promote in all of our ministries is that of empowerment which we describe as encouraging people to realize and respect their own dignity and potential. These three teens have been jump-started in finding their potential through the scholarship grants from the donors of the HOP and the Tomorrow’s Present program.”



# Dove Notes



by Fr. Matthew Gottschalk, OFM, Capuchin

*History, mathematics, literature, social studies, art, biology all seep through the human mind during the scholastic year. Then comes the exuberance of graduation! The residue of knowledge will remain behind along with a glimpse of wisdom.*

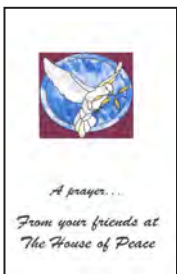
*New relationships have flourished. Memories of foolish behavior are hidden away. An altered personality walks across the stage. Tears of joy emerge spontaneously, and flashing cameras record the event for posterity.*

*The House of Peace too shares in the laughter and vigorously applauds the achievement. However, as the door to the future bursts open, it reveals spring flowers beginning to wither in the garden of hope. Storms of violence sweep across empty parking lots once filled with economic success. Poverty stills walks along every sidewalk. Bigotry still glares out of hostile eyes.*

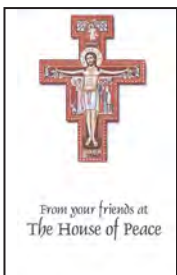
*The House of Peace must always radiate peace into a turbulent world. It must seek to reconcile family conflicts, heal persistent hurts, instruct the young, and console the discouraged. It may even teach the true meaning of love to those who have never learned it.*



◀ The complete text of Psalm 23 - "The Lord is my shepherd," is printed on the reverse of the St. Francis Of Assisi prayer card.



◀ The "Serenity Prayer" by Reinhold Niebuhr is printed on the back of the Holy Spirit card. It is often used at AA/NA meetings.



◀ The "Lord's Prayer" is printed on the other side of this card. The art is the San Damiano Cross. St. Francis of Assisi heard God's call while praying in front of this cross.

## Capuchin Fr. Perry McDonald Continues Capuchins' Spiritual Ministry At The House Of Peace

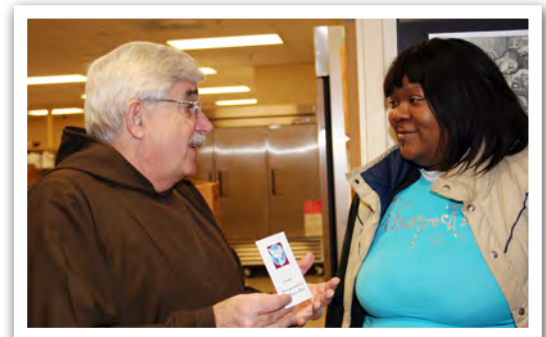
"Gerri (Sheets-Howard, Executive Director) and I were talking about the House of Peace (HOP) guests and their prayer lives," Fr. Perry said. "I wanted to help people who are often in desperate need know that God was really there for them."

Fr. Perry continued, "The mission statement of the HOP states that the HOP attempts to serve the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the community. I wondered how we could increase our service to the spiritual needs of our guests, and I came up with the prayer cards as part of the solution."

"The House of Peace is more than a social service agency," Fr. Perry added. He said with feeling, "We are a Catholic and Capuchin Franciscan ministry and I wanted to highlight our Capuchin values." Fr. Perry turned to Br. TL Auman for assistance. Br. TL is the Communications Director for the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph.

"Br. TL picked out Capuchin Franciscan and Catholic images for the front of the cards and I selected the prayers," Fr. Perry said. "My guide in selecting the prayers was my experience with the guests. I knew if I came to the House of Peace with a heavy heart that I'd want prayers that address those needs and offer a way I could pray to God about them." Fr. Perry and the House of Peace staff share prayer cards with their guests over 400 times each month. Here is a current selection of cards in use with the prayers chosen to address specific issues. Supporters of the House of Peace who would like a prayer card should email: [houseofpeace@thecapuchins.org](mailto:houseofpeace@thecapuchins.org) or call (414) 933-1300.

▶ Tysheka Frazier receives a prayer card from Fr. Perry McDonald. Tysheka is both a guest and volunteer. She said, "I use the prayer cards before I go to sleep each night."



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