



A Ministry of the
Capuchin Province of
St. Joseph

House of Peace

House of Peace Newsletter

"Serving Christ's Poor"

Issue 2, Volume 2 • July, 2006

Teen Program Produces Leaders & Scholars

Teens Credit Leadership Training and Scholarships to Catholic Schools for Success

Kelvin Calloway is a soft spoken young man. When asked what the House of Peace had done for him he said, "Without the scholarship to a Catholic High School, I would not know as much about God and Jesus. I could have just been a follower in the neighborhood." Because our donors cared, Kelvin graduated this June from Dominican High School and will attend the University of Missouri at Kansas City this September!

Since the days of Br. Booker, the House of Peace has offered scholarships to Catholic High Schools for deserving teens. Lisa Calderone-Stewart, Ed. D., explained "We teach conflict resolution skills to young people. They in turn then lead peer training programs at area schools."

Lisa continued, "With many people's help, we are able to provide partial scholarships to Catholic High Schools. Our students must apply for the scholarships and, if selected, maintain a 2.7 GPA or better. We are only able to offer scholarships to 10 students each

year and we have another 10 who attend just the leadership training part of the program."

Tianna McCullough graduated from St. Joan Antida last year and now attends Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. "I am still benefiting from everything I learned at the House of Peace," said Tianna. "I shared my dorm room with 3 other girls in Atlanta. We were having increasing conflicts so I used the lessons I learned at the House of Peace. In fact, I posted the House of Peace's ground rules on the back of our door so we could remember how we wanted to treat each other."

Lisa said, "Since many inner city students are eligible for School Choice support, our program focuses on the children of the working poor, people who just make a small amount over the poverty guidelines." When asked how the House of Peace's supporters can help Lisa answered, "Financial support is important as this is one of our most expensive programs. I also need people who relate well to teens who'd be willing to help us with our teen meetings. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should call me at the House of Peace."



Tianna McCullough & Kelvin Calloway plan for successful futures with the help of the House of Peace and its supporters. Kelvin and Tianna each won the David Chang Memorial Award the year they graduated from the program. They received a grant of \$500 to help with college expenses as students with superior leadership skills. Pictured with them is program director, Dr. Lisa Caldeone-Stewart.

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The House of Peace is a 501 (c) (3) ministry. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

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Donations accepted
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Dove Notes

Summer, 2006



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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 (920) 915-4400. He's waiting for your call.

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

Peace to you! I hope you've been well and are enjoying summertime. It seems to me that Wisconsin has some of the most beautiful summer days that can be found. When the sky is clear it is so blue, and a ride through the country can be so relaxing and good for the soul with everything so green. Summer is a wonderful time, one of God's best ideas!!

Enjoy it.

Much like I imagine your house has been, the House of Peace (HOP) has

been busy. We had one senior graduate this past spring from our Teen Leadership Program:

Kelvin. Being the only senior and therefore the oldest in the group,

he had earned the nickname "Grandpa" from all the other

kids. It was funny to me because I

remember how shy and quiet he was three years ago when he was

new to the program. It has been

so rewarding to see him mature and grow into a leadership role in

the program, and into a fine, mature and confident young man.

We will miss him next fall when

we gather again, and we wish him well as he begins college. We look for greatness from Kelvin. We will not be disappointed.

With Kelvin being the only graduate, that meant we had only one opening for a scholarship position in the program. We interviewed kids all day long for that one slot and had to make a terrifically hard decision. I know we made a good choice because every applicant was worthy. We just had to pray and trust that our choice was in accordance with God's will.

You may or may not have heard that we recently went public with a Capital Campaign for the HOP. For a long time now we have been working to arrive at this point. It all started one Saturday morning when we had a number of different groups meeting here. One of the groups downstairs was a cancer support

group. Mrs. Franklin arrived in her wheelchair to attend that meeting. It embarrassed me and broke my heart to tell her that we didn't have an elevator and so I didn't see how she would be able to get downstairs and participate in that gathering. "Maybe you could carry me down," she said. After some discussion, another man helped us get her out of the wheelchair and into my arms. She then let out a groan unlike any I had ever heard, squeezed my neck so tight and began to cry from the pain. I sat her back down in the wheelchair. "This won't



Nurse Pang Vang, RN, BSN checks blood pressure for patient Jewell McGee in the UWM Nursing School Nursing Center at the House of Peace

work," I told her, "It hurts you too much." "No," she said, "I need to be there, let's try again." So we did. Again she groaned, squeezed, and began to cry. I carried her down those stairs at her insistence and could feel her quivering from the pain. By the time we reached the bottom of the stairs I had tears in my eyes, too. Not only from seeing her pain, but also from witnessing her courage and inner strength. We were both spent. An hour and a half later we had to repeat the process to get her back upstairs. I resolved that day to work toward getting an elevator installed in the HOP. But that wasn't our only need.

It is as vivid in my memory as if it happened just this morning. On a late Tuesday afternoon I was in my office when I

heard a voice at my open door. I turned around and saw a lady in a wheelchair who was asking me where the restroom was. I was again embarrassed. I had to tell her that we didn't have a restroom that would accommodate a wheelchair. "Well, I have to go!" she said, and away she went. I wasn't sure if she meant that she had to leave the HOP, or if she meant that she couldn't wait and was going

"By the time we reached the bottom of the stairs I had tears in my eyes, too."

to find a way to do what nature was demanding of her. Leaving my office I found her in the hallway by a small restroom. The only way I know of to delicately describe what happened next is to say that she had to compromise her dignity to get out of her wheelchair and prepare herself to struggle her way to the commode and sit. I was horrified. Not at what she was doing, but at the fact that she had to do that, especially at the HOP - a place where we work so hard to make everyone feel welcome and honored as children of

God. I'll end the story by saying I stood guard at the hallway entrance until she was back in her chair. A situation like that isn't right. We are called to do better. And we will.

As we got further into looking at the elevator and restroom issues we realized that there are many other serious needs related to our HOP facility and programs. I won't go into further details here, but I wanted you to know some basic reasons for why we're doing a Capital Campaign in case you had heard about it and had wondered.

Despite our challenges, though, we still get some good things done. We recently helped a young Mom and her two year-old daughter get in a safer apartment after her son had been killed on the block where they lived. Her family was helping, but together they still came up short. You helped with the rest. A fellow who had just been released from the hospital and was now staying in a shelter needed help getting a prescription filled. He thanks you. These sorts of things happen a lot here and it's sad. People with nowhere else to turn, turn to the HOP. Some even still come in asking for Brother Booker. (Personally, I have no doubt that he is still very much involved with the HOP.) But the sadness of people's situations is always offset by the ability to help them. And we have that ability because of you.

Sometimes the best we can do is to just be a friend to somebody. But that's not a bad thing and we always get a friend in return. I met Ricardo three years ago when I first came here. Ricardo was about my age, the kind of guy who never met a stranger and was certainly no stranger to hard knocks. He would limp in here leaning on a cane seeing if he could get help with this or that, but I think he mainly came here for the company. Ricardo suffered from hypertension, diabetes, cancer and more, but he suffered with a smile on his face and a good-natured conversation going with whoever he could find. I think that if Ricardo had just stopped coming to the HOP, then one day one of us would have said to another one of us, "What ever happened to Ricardo? Remember him?" But it didn't happen that way. What happened was that Ricardo died one recent evening and we were told about it the next morning. So now we miss him. He was a man who some might have been afraid of because of his looks. Others might have avoided him because of an odor or maybe because of his boisterousness. I don't know that it will be noted anywhere else that he lived and that he died. So we wanted to do that here. We miss him. He was a good guy, a friend to us at the HOP.



Barbara Blackwell, House of Peace Food Pantry Manager provides nutrition counseling to guest Mary Chambliss. Mary also volunteers to welcome people.

And the HOP was a friend to him. He knew we liked him and we know he liked us. I'm happy about that.

It was three years ago on May 1st that I came to the HOP from Detroit. One of the things that I recall the most from my first days here is how amazed I was when I began opening the mail. I was utterly flabbergasted at the generosity of you, the HOP supporters. Three years later my breath still gets taken away by the very same thing. I have yet to get over that, and I have yet to find the words that adequately describe my

gratitude. Either the words fall short or I do, and I prefer to think it is the words. I have never and will never forget your kindness and generosity. In spite of our Capital Campaign, please know that it is your ongoing support that is most imperative to us and is what we rely on to continue this ministry. I don't even have to ask you to help us because I know you will. You have proven that. May God bless you all with a safe summer and an abundance of faith!

Your Brother in Christ,

Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin
Executive Director

CHARITY AUCTION SUPPORTS HOUSE OF PEACE

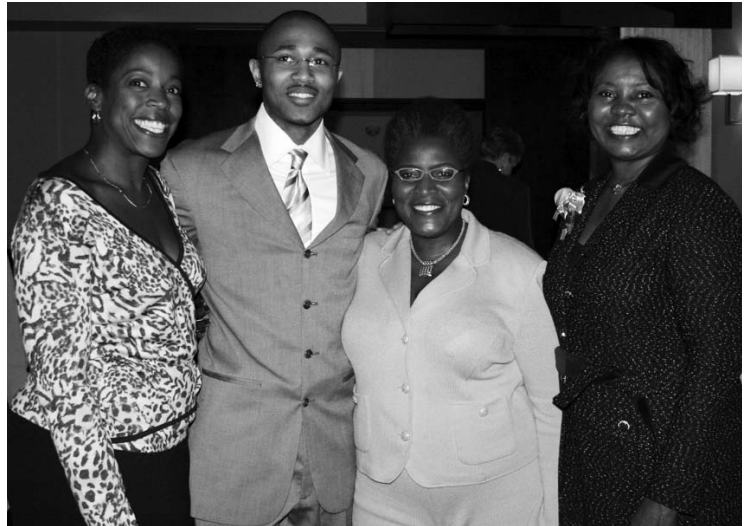
Milwaukee Buck player Michael Redd hosted a benefit including a silent auction and a voice auction. Michael chose the House of Peace as one of the two charities to share the proceeds. Michael's interest in the House of Peace began last year when he donated food to feed the poor at Thanksgiving with his team mate Bobby Simmons.



Above: Br. Mark thanks Buck player Michael Redd for his generous support.

Maurice Williams was one of the many Buck's players, coaches and staff including owner Senator Herb Kohl and Coach Terry Stotts who attended Michael Redd's fundraiser and supported the House of Peace.

Below: Cecelia Gore, (Program Officer, Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation), Buck player Maurice "Mo" Williams, Thelma Sias, (WE Energies VP) and House of Peace Ministry Council Chairperson Judge Maxine White share a moment in front of the silent auction tables.



Donors & Business Friends help feed people at Easter

Easter Hams complete Holiday Meals for poor households. The House of Peace provided Easter dinner to the needy with the help of RBC Dain Rauscher, Letterhead Press, Inc. and our donors!



Left to right: Craig Lockridge, (LPI, Delivery Driver), David Demler, (LPI, Plant Manager), Br. Mark, Jim Wozniak, (First Vice President, RBC Dain Rauscher) and Mike Graf, (LPI, President).

Back to School Drive



Summer has just started but the House of Peace is already preparing for the start of school. Our annual school supplies drive runs through August 25, 2006. The picture below is of last year's gifts stacked for packing into school supply bags by grade level.

Thank you to all of the people from companies, civic groups, churches and households who donated gifts last year. 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 5:00 PM. There is a special need for book bags and backpacks.