

  
**ANCILLA SYSTEMS**  
1419 S LAKE PARK AVE  
HOBART, IN 46342

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for Bethany Retreat House, Nazareth Home,  
and Sojourner Truth House.*

*Send all comments to above address  
or via email to*

***ksiuba@ancilla.org***

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*Rena Brantley; Editor*

*JR Rosenbaum & Kristen Siuba; Layout & Design*



*Ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*

## **Good Bye to a Friend!**

In late 2006, Tom Handy, Vice President, Ministry Services, left Ancilla Systems for the bright sunshine of Cape Coral, Florida. Sadly, Tom passed away on March 25, 2008 following a short illness.

Tom deeply cared for the ministries that were under his wing and his quick wit and effusive personality will be greatly missed. If you would like to make a contribution in Tom's memory, donations may be made to the ministry of your choice. In the memo area, please indicate: Tom Handy Memorial. Your calls, condolence messages and expressions of love are most appreciated.

*Please make your check payable to the  
ministry you wish to support. Mail check to  
Ancilla Systems Incorporated in the enclosed  
envelope.*

## **Calendar of Events**

### **June - December**

#### **June 7**

(STH) 9th Annual Walk-a-thon  
Gleason Park Golf Course, Gary

#### **August 2**

(NH) Reunion  
Riley Park, East Chicago

#### **September 15**

(NH) Deadline for Gala Sponsorships

#### **October 16**

(NH) Annual Gala 6:00 p.m.  
Federal Courthouse, Hammond

#### **November 29**

(STH) Thanksgiving Non-Event Gala

#### **December 19**

(BRH) Christmas Shopping Event

*Bethany Retreat House offers retreats on the dates that  
work for you. Please call to schedule your retreat.*



# News...

from Bethany Retreat House  
Nazareth Home  
Sojourner Truth House

## Donor Survey Update

Donor Surveys were distributed by Bethany Retreat House, Nazareth Home, and Sojourner Truth House over the past several months. 239 donors and volunteers graciously took the time to respond to questions about ministry fundraising activities. The feedback received from the Donor Surveys provided the ministries with very helpful information.

Your comments will assist us with planning the content of our newsletters, as well as, planning for the long-term financial sustainability of our ministries. All of your suggestions regarding our fundraising activities are being carefully reviewed by the ministry leaders and PHJC leadership. We value your support and continued commitment.

Several of you asked for clarification of the role of Ancilla Systems in relationship to Bethany, Nazareth and Sojourner. Ancilla Systems provides administrative, management and consultative services to or for the benefit of the Ancilla Domini Sisters, Inc. and the PHJC ministries.

**100% of the gifts directed to a specific PHJC ministry are used for the operating needs of that ministry.**

The following donors were inadvertently omitted from the Honor Roll of Donors, published in the Winter 2008 newsletter. Please accept our sincere apologies for the oversight.

Naomi (Nehi) Baker - Joann Braman - Carla Cohen - Ada Gross - Sue Ireland  
Howard & Diane Ludwig - Mary McShane - Judith Mervine - Diana Skiba

## Bethany Retreat House

### A Place Away Close By

Nestled in the quiet Prairie Park neighborhood in the shadows of St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, Bethany Retreat House is one of Northwest Indiana's best-kept secrets. In a comfortable and homey setting, Bethany provides sacred space for adults who seek retreat space for prayer and reflection to deepen their connection with God in the sanctuary of their souls.

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www.bethanyretreathouse.org  
2202 Lituanica Avenue  
East Chicago, IN 46312  
(219) 398-5047

## Nazareth Home

### Anniversary Party

The kickoff event of Nazareth Home's 15th anniversary year was a delightful celebration luncheon to honor its volunteers. On Tuesday, April 22, more than 40 volunteers joined the staff for a Volunteer Recognition Celebration luncheon at Miller Bakery Café. The highlight of the afternoon was the presence of the babies!

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www.nazarethhome.com  
c/o St. Catherine Convent  
4325 Elm Street  
East Chicago, IN 46312

## Sojourner Truth House

### Volunteer Recognition!

More than 60 volunteers attended the Volunteer Recognition dinner hosted by the staff and held on Thursday, April 10 in the hall. A wide variety of spectacular dishes made especially for the evening were prepared by staff. Guests viewed the new video about Sojourner Truth House and were treated to the vocal ministry of Sharla Williams.

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www.sojournertruthhouse.com  
410 West 13th Ave.  
Gary, IN 46407  
(219) 885-2282

# A PLACE AWAY CLOSE BY

by Debbie Bosak and Mary Wysock

*continued from front page*

"We offer a place of quiet in which to listen to one's inner stirrings and to the movement of God in one's life experience," said Sister Joyce Diltz, director of Bethany Retreat House.

Retreats are personally scheduled on the days that "work" for each guest, and a variety of formats are available: a daytime retreat, an overnight, or several nights. Guests may choose to meet with a spiritual director each day (individually directed retreat) or not (private retreat). Each person has a private room for solitude.

Retreat guests spend their time in a variety of ways as they seek God in the silent environment. They may reflect in the comfort of their private room, journey out into the meditation garden, pray in the Blessed Sacrament chapel, or take advantage of Bethany's spirituality library to find a book, CD, or video to feed their minds and hearts. At other times they may choose to journal or spend time in meditation. The time is unstructured so that each guest is able to move with the Spirit's guidance to what will be most helpful during retreat.

For those who find it difficult to spend time away from family and work, the Retreat In Daily Life is an at-home prayer experience based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Participants commit to daily prayer and meet weekly or bi-weekly with the spiritual director for a period of about nine months.

In addition to space and resources for retreat, Bethany Retreat House offers ongoing spiritual direction. Sister Joyce Diltz, PHJC has extensive training and experience as a spiritual director and welcomes individuals who want to reflect together on their life experience in an effort to discover God in their life and grow closer to God.

Bethany also convenes ongoing monthly reflection groups: a ministry reflection group for people engaged in ministry, a peer supervision group for spiritual directors, a women's spirituality group and a dream group. The groups accept new members in the fall and continue monthly through the school year.

The retreat house is open year round and is eager to accommodate guests in the time they have available. Set apart from life's noise and clatter, Bethany provides a retreat from the sharp edges of life, a chance to let go of stress and weariness and rediscover the peace of God who lives within.

Take a video tour on Bethany's web site, [www.bethanyretreathouse.org](http://www.bethanyretreathouse.org). Please call the office at 219-398-5047 to explore possibilities for your own retreat. Take time out to deepen your spiritual experience of life today.

# BRH BOOKSHELF



*Reviewed by Deb Szrom Steppe*

## *A Friendship Like No Other: Experiencing God's Amazing Embrace*

by William A. Barry, SJ

Loyola Press, 2008, 203 pages, paper, \$14.95

As I set out to write this review, I spoke with a friend who knew William Barry, SJ from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. She had not read this book, but said, "With Bill Barry, you can't go wrong." After reading and praying through *A Friendship Like No Other*, it was very clear to me that her assessment was correct.

The central theme put forward is the author's belief that "God...desires humans into existence for the sake of friendship." Friendship with God is explained in similar terms as earthly friendships. Entering into the many reflections set out in the book allows for the opportunity to experience the unparalleled intimacy of friendship with God.

The author breaks the book into three parts. The first introduces the concept of friendship with God. The second leads the reader through the objections one may have to such a concept, and the third guides the reader into reflections on experiencing and discerning the presence of God. Barry grounds his work with references in Scripture, poetry, and his own experiences. Ignatian Spirituality, especially the use of contemplation, is a steady tool used throughout the book.

This book is written with a richness and depth that reflects the author's many years of spiritual direction experience. While it is not a "light" read that one could take to the beach on a summer afternoon, it is an incredible resource to use to get to know God in deeply intimate ways.

*This and many other fine books are available from Bethany Retreat House bookstore. Please call 219-398-5047 to arrange a visit to the bookstore or for mail order shipment.*

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

by Sister Joyce Diltz, PHJC



Welcome to this new space for this familiar column from our *Homecoming* newsletter! Welcome both to long-time Bethany readers and to Nazareth Home and Sojourner Truth House readers who join us here for the first time. Welcome to each of you as we find a home in this combined newsletter. In this column I regularly bring you "insider" thoughts and reflections as the director of Bethany Retreat House.

It is my great hope that through this combined newsletter our many new readers will discover and take advantage of the quiet space for prayer and reflection and other resources that Bethany offers. Readers from Nazareth Home may be surprised to know that Bethany is only two blocks away, so next time you volunteer, please consider calling ahead to visit the retreat house. Sojourner Truth House readers may be surprised to know that Bethany is just 20 minutes from STH down

4th Avenue, just into East Chicago. We would love to have you give us a call as well -- to arrange a tour, to visit our bookstore, or to spend some quiet moments in the meditation garden, and eventually to come for some retreat time to nourish and replenish your spirit.

Here at Bethany we are savoring the gifts of springtime and readying the garden for summer guests. Summer is "retreat season" here when more guests take advantage of warm weather and lighter schedules to make their annual retreat.

We can always use garden help over the growing season, and volunteers often find the quiet time in nature refreshing and prayerful. Let us know if you have some time to share.

Our bookstore is full of titles for summer reading! Gift yourself and those you love, either with a good book or a gift certificate for one. Please call before you come to Bethany to be sure we are here and free to welcome you. We look forward to your visit!

## DISCOVER BETHANY'S BOOKSTORE

by Debbie Bosak

Do you hunger for books that feed your soul? Are you interested in different perspectives on spirituality? Do the words of saints, past and present, pique your interest? Do you long for music that touches the heart? In the midst of hundreds of thousands of works written on religion and spirituality, are you worried about finding that which is wholesome and worth your time?

The Bethany Retreat House bookstore is a wonderful resource for the latest publications on prayer and spirituality. Book categories include prayer, spirituality, loss and grieving, church issues, bibles, women's issues, family, children's books, and more. According to Sister Joyce Diltz, director, the Bethany Retreat House bookstore is a place where people can "browse for wonderful treasures, both to feed themselves and others on their gift lists." Bethany staff is happy to accommodate special orders if a desired item is not in stock.

In addition to books that will appeal to all tastes and ages, if you're looking for a unique gift, consider the hand-quilted sweatshirts, eco-friendly totes and gift-wrap bags, and music CDs for meditation and prayer.

Bethany's bookstore is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Other times are possible by appointment. All are welcome.



Sister Joyce amidst bookstore offerings

### Mission Statement

Bethany Retreat House serves as a quiet place in the midst of demanding lives where people can find both space and resources for prayer and reflection. Rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ and the tradition of Blessed Catherine Kasper, Bethany is dedicated to help individuals nurture their inner life and respond to the God who dwells within.

IN MEMORY OF . . .

RICHARD "CUCO" ZUNIGA  
BONNIE HARRIS

FROM

R. LOUIE AND MARTHA GONZALEZ

# Back Porch Renovation

by Renae Brantley

It's hard to believe that 15 years have come and gone since our first baby – actually babies – arrived at Nazareth Home! When twins Anthony and Andrew arrived at Nazareth Home, they were just seven months old. They were also in dire need of care and attention to their special needs caused by being born to a drug-addicted mother. Soon, we had a “full house,” and since then a total of 115 babies have shared our home

If you've ever visited Nazareth Home, you know the hectic schedule of care, therapy, and interactive play required with the children. We need to expand the area available for activities with the children, to include the back porch. We have limited the use of the porch until it can be replaced. We need to construct a new, all-season porch that will make it possible for the children to have the needed exercise and play areas that will enhance their recovery through physical, spiritual, and emotional development.

Will you help us with this special project by making a contribution for the back porch renovation? You may also honor or pay tribute to a special loved one by designating your gift “In Special Memory” or “In Honor” of a loved one.

It won't be long before our 116th baby arrives, and many more will follow. Your contribution will make a lasting difference in the lives of young children in need in our community.

Thank you for caring about our children at Nazareth Home!

Please make your check payable to Nazareth Home and mail to Ancilla Systems Incorporated in the enclosed envelope.

## We're “Expecting...”



Are you looking for a fun way to select a gift for Nazareth Home? Check out the Baby Registries at the stores listed below. You'll find many great ideas from Sister Barbara and the staff for items that the children need, or that will help with their care. You may use these registries just as you would if you were selecting a gift for a baby or bridal shower. You can access the Registries at any of the stores listed by visiting a store location near you, or online. In most instances you only have to click on “Baby Registry” and type in “Nazareth” as the first name, and “Home” as the last name. And, as always, thank you for thinking of our babies!

[www.burlingtoncoatfactory.com/Registry](http://www.burlingtoncoatfactory.com/Registry)  
[www.target.com](http://www.target.com)  
[www.walmart.com/giftregistry](http://www.walmart.com/giftregistry)  
[www.toysrus.com/](http://www.toysrus.com/) (Babies R Us)  
[www.kohls.com](http://www.kohls.com)

## Nazareth Home Wish List

*Diaper Genie, and Diaper Genie refills in blue & green, baby wipes, Aquaphor, Aveeno Baby Lotion & Baby Bath, Vick's Baby Rub, Bottled Water, Diapers sizes Newborn, 3, 4, and 5, Night Diapers sizes 4 and 5, Paper Towels, Puff Tissues, Mr. Clean, Photo Albums.*

*Please see the complete list at our website:  
[www.nazarethhome.com](http://www.nazarethhome.com)*

## Mission Statement

It is the mission of Nazareth Home, a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, to care for poor and powerless infants and children, those unable to speak for themselves, by providing them with a loving, caring and stable beginning. Nazareth Home is dedicated to meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of medically compromised infants and children who are faced with extraordinary challenges in life.

# Wine Tasting Event Benefits Nazareth Home

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Nick's Liquors for hosting an incredible Wine Tasting event on behalf of Nazareth Home last Fall. Liz Kikalos, and her daughter Angela Lukowski, planned and hosted the event to raise money for operations expenses. The event, held at the Dynasty Banquet Hall in Hammond, brought in a crowd of about 300 guests. Several wine and spirits companies partnered with Nick's Liquors to showcase their products. Guests were also treated to an array of hors d'oeuvres, as they sipped and tasted a wide variety of wine and spirit products. More than a dozen vendors participated in the event, and many vendors and local companies also donated numerous baskets filled with goodies, for the silent auction.



Proceeds from the event were placed in the Olga C. & William H. Brinkman Fund, where contributions during 2007 were matched, thereby bringing the total contribution from the event to \$24,000.

## 15th Anniversary Kick Off

The kickoff event of Nazareth Home's 15th anniversary year was a delightful celebration luncheon to honor its volunteers. On Tuesday, April 22, more than 40 volunteers joined the staff for a Volunteer Recognition Celebration luncheon at Miller Bakery Café. The highlight of the afternoon was the presence of the babies! They were the stars of the day, as everyone enjoyed some "cuddling time" with them.

The following volunteers were recognized for their dedicated service: Brother Bob Overland, Sister Magdalen Hellmann, Leroy Fassett, Tom Morgan, Lucille Rueth, Deb Ferguson, Eileen McKern, Liz Kikalos and Ellie Lukowski, Sue Blue, Peggy Guernsey and Judy Schlosser. All attendees received handmade cards (cross-stitched by the Otomi women at the PHJC mission in Mexico) with various photos of the babies. Congratulations to Sister Barbara and Nazareth Home on 15 years of service to children in our community!



Enjoying the 15th Anniversary Celebration!

# Partnership Provides Help for Clients

by Renae Brantley

Clients of Sojourner Truth House will benefit from a recent grant received by the Gary Community Health Center (GCHC) and the Northwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (NWI AHEC). The project's goals are to establish a medical home for the homeless; for women and children to receive annual examinations promoting and maintaining wellness; and, to identify health risks and provide appropriate interventions.



Lynn Miskovich-Riddle, R.N., M.S., C.S., A.N.P. and Tom Ledyard, M.D. confer on a client chart

Tom Ledyard, M.D. a Family Practitioner at GCHC, along with Purdue University Calumet Associate Professor of Nursing, Lynn Miskovich-Riddle, R.N, M.S., C.S, A.N.P., and a group of her senior nursing students, work collaboratively on site at Sojourner Truth House. Riddle and NWI AHEC Director, Lynn Olszewski, R.N., M.S.A. identified Sojourner in January 2007, as a Community Health Practicum site for Purdue nursing students.

Thirty Purdue senior nursing students have completed part of their Community Health Nursing Practicum under Riddle's supervision. They conduct health screenings which include

blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, body mass index, and a vision evaluation. A grant received from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Legacy Foundation provides the needed medical supplies and equipment to assist the students with their service learning practicum.

Clients can be referred to the GCHC where they have access to further evaluation, treatment, and monitoring. GCHC was established with federal monies to ensure that low income residents have the same access to quality healthcare as insured or private pay patients. Dr. Ledyard provides assessment for those clients with significant abnormalities or health risks. Recently, a young mother was identified with untreated stage 3 invasive cervical cancer. As a result of this pilot collaborative effort, she is now a beneficiary of the Indiana Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Following a vision screening, another client was fitted for reading glasses, when she was identified as being legally blind. Purdue students Kim Gonzalez, Brittany Sharp, Tamara Tomaszewski and Melissa Yankovich are taking part in their Community Health rotation at Sojourner. Clients are counseled on the importance of following their prescribed medication orders, eating a healthy diet and participating in health screenings.



Purdue nursing student conducts health screening

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## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Congratulations to the following volunteers who were honored during the dinner celebration.

- St. Vincent de Paul Award (Given in the spirit of care, concern, the ability to encourage others to care from the heart, and to give hope to those in need of it.) -Bob Wehner
- Sojourner Truth Award (Given in the spirit of hard work, courage, honesty, power, challenging the status quo, and demonstrating leadership.) -Susan Cohen
- Catherine Kasper Award (Given in the spirit of dignity, simplicity, concern for the community, attentive listening to the Spirit of God, and joyful service.) -Cheryl Gojko
- Sister Joan Fisher Award (Given in the spirit of vision, fearlessness, risk-taking, and the ability to see the potential in every person or situation.) -Claudia Govert



# Reflections - May, 2008

by Sr. Peg Spindler, CSA

**Change** is in the air. Political candidates demand it. The promise of spring abides. New staff brings new wisdom to the mix. People's lives change as the economy destabilizes. Tom Handy used to say: "There are three things in life for certain: death, taxes and change." So, if change is a given, then let's be Champions for Change.

What kinds of change shall we champion? **Change** the fact that a person who only gets food stamps cannot buy toilet paper or soap. Donate these items monthly or donate to our 52 Weeks program to keep the shelves stocked. **Change** the fact that many women have no access to laundry or new clothes; donate clean, gently-used clothing. Donate working washers and dryers. **Change** the fact that many families go hungry when the food stamps run out. Donate food or again send a check to the 52 Weeks program. **Change** the fact that clients and their children moving into apartments have to sleep on the floor, with no dishes or pots. Donate furniture, bedding and household items. **Change** your understanding of those who rely on the services we provide by volunteering your time in the pantry, closet, kitchen, office, or as an interviewer. **Change** your perspective on addiction or mental illness as you meet wonderful women who struggle with these issues every day. **Change** the way we as a society treat these folks by learning to see the people underneath all the concerns – people just like you, just like me. **Change** the system by advocating for universal health care, for a more humane public aid system, for job training, for sufficient affordable housing, for global fair trade and labor laws so that there are decent jobs for people.

And save your **pocket change** for our 9th Annual Walk-A-Thon on June 7, 2008. It's how we raise the needed funds to champion the changes described above. Join us as an individual walker or gather a team with each member getting sponsors so that the team brings in a larger amount. Be a sponsor at the highest level you or your company can afford. Do both--be a sponsor AND organize a team! Help us advertise this event. Recruit new walkers, teams and sponsors. As someone once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Sojourner women and children are champions as they work to change their lives – let's join them as strong, involved **Champions for Change!**

## Walk-A-Thon

Saturday, June 7, 2008  
Gleason Park Golf Course  
3400 Jefferson, Gary, IN

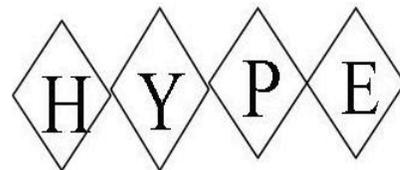
Registration: 8:00 a.m.  
Walk Starts: 9:00 a.m.  
Raffle: 10:15 a.m.  
Cost: \$15 per person

For More Information:  
Call Kristen at Ancilla Systems  
Incorporated: (219) 947-8542  
Email: [ksiuba@ancilla.org](mailto:ksiuba@ancilla.org)

### Mission Statement

*Sojourner Truth House is a ministry of hope for homeless and at-risk women and their children. Through advocacy, the hospitality of the day center and integrative services, participants can improve their quality of life and that of the community.*

*Sojourner Truth House is a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.*



*Presents:*

*Sojourner Truth House  
Family Fun Night*

A night of food, music, entertainment,  
and fun for the whole family

Saturday, June 7, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

Indiana University Northwest  
Savannah Gym  
Admission- \$3