



410 West 13th Avenue, Gary, IN 46407

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

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SOJOURNER TRUTH HOUSE

Summer 2012

a ministry sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Munster's Westminster Presbyterian Church partners with STH to reinforce support.
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A room inside STH converted into a new Child Enrichment Center.
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The Phenomenal Women Sisterhood organized to honor commitment and dedication to women.
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Annual volunteer luncheon honors nearly 50 individuals for many hours of caring service.
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Sojourner Truth House is a ministry of hope and help for homeless and at-risk women and their children sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Through hospitality, advocacy, integrative services and collaboration, participants improve their quality of life and that of the community in a safe, trusting environment.

Our core values flow from joyful service to all, especially the needy and under-served. These values are Openness to the Spirit, Community, Simplicity, and Dignity and Respect for all. Sojourner Truth House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible.

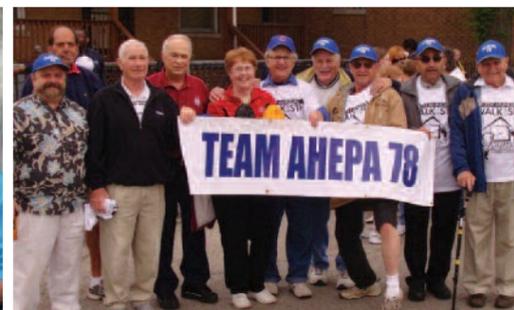
We're going "Green" with eNews

What is eNews? It is our brand new electronic newsletter, delivered every month. Inside each eNews are quick bite-sized features on things like current events, items of note, future happenings or occasions. It's easy to begin receiving our eNews...just head over to www.sojournertruthhouse.org and you'll see the sign-up form right on the home page. Going electronic saves the money that typically goes toward printing and mailing and allows us to put it toward programs for our clients.

Thank You Walkers!

The 13th Annual Sojourner Truth House WALK – taking steps to end homelessness

A chilly Saturday morning in May generated hundreds of warm-hearted people who gathered for the 13th Annual WALK for Sojourner Truth House. There to support the day center that serves 1,500 homeless and at-risk women and children each month were individuals and teams from civic, corporate, religious, educational, and community sectors. One by one, young and old alike energized the event as they danced in the street, created the "balloon stomp," and ultimately walked the course around the park across the street from Sojourner Truth House. "We want to thank all who participated by walking, raising funds and advocating for the homeless at our annual WALK Sojourner Truth House," said STH Special Events Coordinator, Lillian Beasley. "There could not have been any greater way to fulfill our mandate to help (serve) our neighbors. Making a difference in the lives of vulnerable people is our core mission."



www.sojournertruthhouse.org

The Grossbauer Group is proud to support Sojourner Truth House with an in-kind donation of newsletter design services.

Helping hands for the children

A room inside Sojourner Truth House has been converted into a new Child Enrichment Center. Opened in March, it is a beautifully decorated, child-friendly area for healthy interaction among homeless and at-risk mothers and their children who are clients of Sojourner Truth House. Furniture, carpeting, posters and educational materials were partially funded through a Child's Safety Program grant from Geminus Corporation in



Merrillville. "Moms on a Mission," of Highland, donated such items as gently used toys, diapers, and books. IUPUI art student Danielle Lawson created a wall design of fictional characters. Additional work from some Sojourner Truth House staff members was spearheaded by Program Services and Outreach Coordinator, Robin Beasley; Special Projects and Events Coordinator, Lillian Beasley; and Program Services and Outreach Administrative Assistant, Alice Dawson. The group squeezed in several weeks of work on the room's transformation when not tending to regular job responsibilities. "(Our) staff and volunteers...are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing and educational environment for our children so that parents, with a clear mind, can focus on improving their quality of life," Robin Beasley said. The commitment, she noted, is about building each child's self-esteem and personal pride, and encouraging and supporting self-discipline and social skills.



"Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing and educational environment for our children so that parents, with a clear mind, can focus on improving their quality of life."

left: The Child Enrichment Center underwent a major overhaul, thanks to the generosity of community leaders and Sojourner Truth House staff members. top: Little people enjoy their time in the new Child Enrichment Center.

Phenomenal Women

by Alice Dawson, Program Services and Outreach Administrative Assistant



Standing with Sojourner Truth House staff members are Phenomenal Women Sisterhood client inductees (l-r numerically): Donna Adams, third; Dierdra Griffin, fourth; Wanda Gail, sixth; and Sylvia Crisler, eighth.

The Phenomenal Women Sisterhood was organized March 30, 2012. It all started from a monthly group that I did August 2011 entitled "Phenomenal Women," based on a poem written by Maya Angelou. The Group was done as part of the Self Esteem program that Sojourner promotes daily to our women. It became a morning greeting from the women who attended Group that day, "Hey PW", "I'm a PW".

Sojourner, at the same time, was working on our five-year Strategic Plan. The Outreach Department suggested having a social outing for the TOPPS women every six months so they could stay connected with women who understood their plight.

I decided to ask my supervisor, Robin Beasley, about merging my idea with the original idea and she thought it was fantastic. We brought the idea to Sister Peg, the Executive Director of Sojourner, who was thrilled and excited about the new concept, "Phenomenal Women." She said the sisterhood would be a wonderful addition to Sojourner.

Since the ceremony, the Phenomenal Women have truly been leaders.

We then met with all the women and asked them what they thought the criteria should be to become a PW. The criteria needed to be in alignment with the values of STH and the PHJC Ministries. Collectively they came up with additional criteria that included being an active TOPPS client, drug and alcohol free and demonstrate characteristics of integrity and honesty. An application was given to all those interested. Clients who were not yet in the Outreach Program also wanted to participate. A vote was taken to include other STH clients who applied, completed the application, were in good standing, and provided a written

recommendation letter from their Case Manager. A meeting was scheduled with staff who were interested in becoming part of the Advisors Board. Four Staff members responded to the call -- Lillian Beasley, Robin Beasley, Alice Dawson and Pamela Key each bringing her own unique gifts and commitment to the table. Four women were selected out of the application process which proved to have met the criteria standards set before them. On April 25, 2012, we had our first Sojourner Inductee Ceremony for the Phenomenal Women Inductees: Donna Adams, Sylvia Crisler, Wanda Gail and Dierdra Griffin. Sister Peg was inducted as an Honorary Phenomenal Woman.

This ceremony was done to acknowledge our ladies and to publicly and individually hold them accountable for accepting this position as a Phenomenal Woman. The Advisors Board was charged in the same ceremony to acknowledge their commitment, dedication and responsibility to the women as Advisors.

Each Advisor was given a task to do. Alice Dawson and Lillian Beasley put the ceremony together, decorated, and came up with the bracelet idea which says, "Phenomenal Women Sisterhood...I am my Sister," so that the women and advisors would wear it daily to be a constant reminder of the purpose and mission of the PWs and to promote abstinence from ANY negative behaviors, Robin Beasley and Pamela Key created and designed our logo which is a Crown and Circle. The Crown represents Honor, Strength, Leadership and walking in the light of radiance with courage. The Circle has no beginning and no end; it represents nurturing, wholeness, completeness and unity, even in death. We decided on the color purple which symbolizes royalty, good judgment, connection with higher self, inspiration, magic and mystery.

The Ceremony was opened and closed with a Sisterhood Prayer, the Purpose and Criteria, PW Creed and Phenomenal Women Poem was read by advisors and inductees. Pamela Key