

DID YOU KNOW?

- **150 immigrants have passed their US citizenship examinations as a result of OFFM classes.**
- **Our first dinner dance raised \$15,000 for The Hope CommUnity Center! Thank you!**
- **Over 20,000 farmworkers and their families are served by OFFM.**
- **35,000 children die everyday of hunger.**

And they said, "It couldn't be done!" The Office for Farmworker Ministry breaks ground June 23, 2006

For many years, we, the staff and volunteers of the Office for Farmworker Ministry, have been called dreamers and doers. Yet when people heard about the dream of having our own center, there were those who thought it out of our reach. To the surprise of many, Friday June 23, 2006, we break ground for Hope CommUnity Center which will be the new home for the Office For Farmworker Ministry and will replace the outgrown small storefront rental space currently located at 815 South Park Avenue, Apopka.

At times it may have seemed like "the impossible dream." For more than twenty years the Ministry has been raising funds through bake sales, walks, plant sales, raffles,

fiestas, dances, garage sales and private donors. With the additional help of The Catholic Diocese of Orlando, the Federal government, and the immigrant community, nearly \$1.2 million dollars has been raised. In order to complete the \$1.7 million dollar project and to meet our goal of opening debt free, we still need a half a million dollars!

With the effort and hard work of Mark Whitman, architect and owner of Florida Design Professionals, the building will be ecologically sensitive and aesthetically beautiful.

The new 8,120 square foot building will house our present programs and allow for new ones. For years the Farmworker Ministry has begged and borrowed space from area

churches and community centers. The new center will enable OFFM to more efficiently serve the community by providing space for some of our offerings such as parenting classes, counseling and after school tutoring.



The Hope CommUnity Center
1016 North Park Avenue
Apopka, Florida 32703

Future home of the
Office for Farmworker Ministry

(see more page 3)

Is it Doctor Sister or Sister Doctor?



On Mother's Day, May 14, Sisters Ann Kendrick, Cathy Gorman and Gail Grimes of OFFM and Teresa McElwee of the Apopka Family Learning Center were pronounced Honorary Doctors in Humane Letters before an

audience of 2900 at Rollins College during their graduation ceremony. Sister Ann Kendrick, commencement speaker, addressed the audience saying, "For 35 years, we've lived in a community together, working at loving, supporting and challenging each other. We have a network of friends, colleagues, and community leaders and coworkers whose inspiration, work, and financial support has made these accomplishments possible." Mirroring her religious colleagues, Ann said, "I've been blessed with working in low-income communities of marginalized people of color. I love them. I love how I am when I am with them. I love what we've been able to create together to make life more abundant. We've built credit unions, community centers, educational programs, and grassroots community organizations." Sister Teresa adds, "And we never could have done it without the help of so many others."

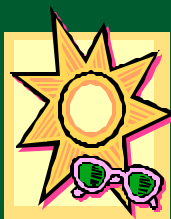
Gracias!



Maribel Vasquez is one of the many happy graduates from Apopka High School !

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi



Summer Fun Begins!

Call Sheila or Nilka at 407.886.5151 to find out about elementary and high school camps, art and drama activities, field trips, computer training, English classes and Peace Camp!

OFFMCommUnity is proud and honored to celebrate with AHS graduates and families



"We must!" A message from Sister Cathy

I recently attended Apopka High School graduation with others from staff and community who came to celebrate the accomplishments of many of our young people. A number of these graduates have benefited directly from the Ministry's tutoring and youth leadership programs. Some graduated with 4.0 averages. These young people are giving hope to the younger generation and modeling the importance of staying in school.

Some of these students lack valid social security numbers and therefore cannot go on to experience success in college. **We must keep working for the passage of laws that will enable them to change their immigration status. Call your Senators in Washington and urge them to support comprehensive immigration reform.**

from Sister Cathy Gorman

The best sound in the world "I PASSED"

Those are the words that inspire all of us, that make us laugh and hug one another, that evoke such feelings of pride in students who are studying for their U.S. Citizenship. Tuesday and Thursday nights, and Saturday mornings, adults from a variety of countries, including Nicaragua, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, meet with NDA Americorps volunteers who provide instruction in U.S. civics, English speaking and writing, and understanding the interview process that is required for naturalization.

Volunteers John Bonnewitz-Coffey, Nilka Melendez, Sheila Zahn, Newton Bell, Natasha Perez, Deanna Lavery and others, develop a personal interest in these hard working men and women, and when they pass, everyone feels a special pride in 'their' students. This rewarding ministry has an excellent success rate, which is celebrated with Saturday morning donuts! We need volunteers! Call Sheila at 407.886.5151 if you want to help.

Join our Citizenship class at 815 South Park Avenue

Rollins offers "Dream Saturdays"

This summer Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, is hosting a career counseling program, "Dream Saturdays", for our high school and late middle school students. This program will help students identify personal strengths, talents, and social skills, with the goal of developing a dream for their future. Students will be better able to select courses of study that will facilitate the 'come true' part of their dream. Americorps volunteers will be assisted by 25 Rollins students who are in the Masters program in counseling.

Consider this idea!

The world in which you were born is just one model of reality.

OTHER CULTURES ARE NOT FAILED ATTEMPTS AT BEING YOU:

they are unique manifestations of the human spirit.

Wade Davis

Dream big dreams but beware of the dream killers!



On March 17, 2006 thirty middle and high school girls from the Migrant Advocate Program came together at Camp Thunderbird for an all day Girls Retreat! During the opening ritual girls honored the strong women in

their lives who had never given up on their dreams and who served as inspiration to the young girls. The girls, Americorps volunteers and OFFM's supporting staff had a wonderful time role playing, dancing, singing, hiking, and sharing their own dreams.

Counselor, Mary Carroll and Sister Ann Kendrick guided the group towards an understanding of what can kill our dreams with storytelling, and a skit called "The

Dream Killers."

Daisy Rios, Melissa Esquia and Sister Cathy Gorman shared personal stories about struggles and lessons learned. The day finished with a barbeque, smores, and songs around the campfire.



Maribel Ferrer and Thania Franco

OFFM

Our Vision:

We build

community...

where needs

are met and

lives Are

changed

We could not have done it without you! Thanks from OFFMstaff!



Groundbreaking Ceremony June 23

The Hope CommUnity Board of Directors and the fundraising committee are invaluable resources who continue to make this dream a reality. Their support and ongoing effort are greatly appreciated by OFFM staff and the community they serve. They will continue to offer creative ideas for OFFM's new home and for programs which give life to the center.

Please call and be a part of the dream. You can participate by joining the fundraising committee. We always need help. Come to the groundbreaking and see what the committee is offering as ways to purchase "pieces of the dream" such as trees, benches, walk-way pavers, a gazebo, rooms, and landscaping. Learn more about OFFM through the website, www.offm.org or contact OFFM at 407.886.5151. Keep this dream in your heart, prayers and actions!



OFFICE FOR FARMWORKER MINISTRY

815 South Park Avenue
Apopka, Florida 32703
Phone 407.886.5151
Fax 407.884.6644
Website www.offm.org

OUR MISSION

To strengthen farmworker and low-income families through faith, advocacy, education and economic development

Groundbreaking Ceremony June 23, 2006

9:30-11 am

For information call 407.886.5151

We're on the web!

Exciting opportunities to serve

OFFM is host to a team of Americorps members. Recruitment for the 2006-2007 service year has begun. Notre Dame Americorps (the domestic Peace Corps) has full time service placements in Apopka, Florida beginning 9/1/06 to 8/1/07. Apply now. Help your community. Earn money for school. Use your creativity. Make a difference in the world.

Americorps members serve in educational settings: tutoring/mentoring K-12 in Apopka public schools, teaching English as a Second Language to adults and pre-schoolers, coordinating after-school programs, working with persons with developmental disabilities and facilitating a Youth Credit Union. Members serve a minimum of 1,700 hours (about 40 hours/week), receive a living allowance of \$10,900/year (about \$775/month), have emergency health insurance, and may be eligible for a childcare benefit. They also receive an education award of \$4,725 for school or to pay off school loans. It is a great opportunity to get some valuable experience, meet some inspiring people and provide a much needed service.

For more information, call Laura at 407 484-7736, Minerva or Sister Ann at 407 886-5151 at the Office for Farmworker Ministry or to apply go to www.ndmva.org. Click on JOIN NOW.

God only asks of us three things: to act justly; to love tenderly and to walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8



Americorps team 2005-06



Lucero Raya (aka Sister Ann) and Sheila Zahn (aka Laura) have fun leading the team at mid-year retreat!