

DID YOU KNOW?

- NDA has tutored 375 students
- Apopka High students tutored by NDA increased their GPA by over 9%
- OFFM recruited 200 volunteers who contributed over a 1,000 hours of service

SAVE THESE DATES

- October 12, 2007 Golf Scramble at Errol Estates
- HCC's Grand Opening October 25, 2007
- Jan. 12, 2007 Annual Dance at St. Mary Magdalen Church

Daughters Inspired at Work Sites

This past April, nearly 120 girls from Apopka Memorial Middle and Apopka High Schools participated in what has become an eight year tradition at OFFM - Take Our Daughters to Work Day.

On this day, girls—whose own mothers work at home or work in environments not suitable for visitors—were matched with professional women throughout Central Florida. Teachers, opticians, lawyers, judges, TV producers and anchor women, bankers, chiropractors, veterinarians, local and state politicians, models, actresses, pet

groomers, food bank directors, and biologists were just some of the women that participated.

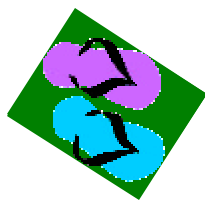
Girls spent the time experiencing “a day in the life” of career women. One student, Jimena Anaya, spent her day touring the biology department of Rollins College. She was able to witness a live animal dissection and sat in on a biology lecture. “This was a perfect place for me to go,” commented Jimena, “it is exactly what I’m interested in doing with my life.” We are immensely grateful to the approximately 50 women who spent a day to share

their professional life with these wonderful and inspiring girls!

If you are interested in hosting a young woman at your worksite next year, please contact Laura Firtel at the ministry.



Gabriela Zamora and 10 other girls were welcomed by the staff at WESH News 2/cw 18



Youth Focus on “Gratitude” at Retreat

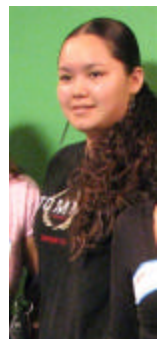
Following the close of the school year, seven NDA volunteers accompanied 18 Apopka High School students to Hampton, FL for a Memorial Day Weekend retreat. The group stayed at a teaching farm run by the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, and slept on the floor of a roomy-but-rustic lodge. The theme of

the weekend was “gratitude.” Thankfulness was the focus of the group’s many reflection periods.

“I most liked the morning meditation,” said Tania Franco, one of the high scholars. “It helped me see the good things about nature and start my day calmly.” Group excursions included a trip to the University of Florida campus, a hike to the bottom of

balmy Devil’s Mill hopper, and a haunted tour of the farm. The final night of the retreat was a big hit, featuring a talent show, ice cream sundaes, and a drum circle organized by local survivalists.

Leadership group member Thania Franco



Join the NDA 2007-08 Team And Make A Difference!



The 2006-07 team celebrating at a national retreat

Bored? Searching for a change? Looking for ways to give back but don't know how to start? Notre Dame (NDA) AmeriCorps needs you! Spend a year working with people from all places and backgrounds doing things such as helping others learn English or assisting someone on their journey to citizenship.

NDA is the domestic Peace Corps and there is a team of 21 volunteers here in Apopka, FL...tutoring in the schools,

teaching English to adults, helping people with disabilities become more self-sufficient, teaching pre-school classes, working in after-school programs and much more.

Recruitment is underway now! NDA members make an 11 month commitment to serve 1,700 hours from September 1 to July 31. They receive health insurance and a living allowance of \$11,100, which averages about \$200 per week after taxes. At the successful

completion of the 11 months, members receive an education scholarship worth \$4,725, which can be used to go back to school or pay off school loans. It's a great deal, great experience, and a chance to do great work that makes a difference!



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single minute before starting to improve the world.

—Anne Frank

Sr. Maureen White joins Hope Community



Sister Maureen White is pleased to be joining the staff at the Office For Farmworker Ministry.

White, who recently moved to Apopka from Washington, D.C., will be working to develop our learning lab and the programs OFFM offers students with learning challenges. Sr. Maureen is a trained educa-

tor and specializes in learning disabilities and will be a valuable asset to this community.

"I look forward to all the challenges and joys the Learning Lab will invite me to experience. I am happy to be in this relationship with the Hope community. I have always loved the dream of the ministry and am happy to contribute my skills and spirit to this project," remarked White.

During the month of August, Maureen's skills and spirit will be appreciated by Nigerians and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur with whom she will work as tutor, trainer, and mentor. This special program is sponsored by Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur every year during the month of August.

"Our hearts are as wide as the world." Julie Billiard de Namur

NDA Collaborates with Inner City Outings



Luz and Ruby Camacho and Isaac Hernandez enjoying a hay ride at Uncle Donald's Farm



This June, NDA members Rozanna Hernandez, Sarah Downs, and Ashley Salzmann organized a trip to a local petting farm, Uncle Donald's Farm, in Lady Lake. The team was able to take and transport several children through the help of The Sierra Club (Inner City Outings, ICO), an organization that encourages young people to experience nature.

Also through ICO, Sarah Downs was able to organize two weeks of swimming lessons for 13 Apopka High School students. A certified aquatic instructor taught the kids everything from blowing bubbles to the butterfly!



OFFMs Future Home Looks to July 2007 Completion Date



1016 North Park Avenue

Drive by the Hope Community Center on North Park Ave, and you will soon see signage for OFFM's new home! Signage will be up soon in the archway on both sides of the building. According to Joe Calabrese, project coordinator for OFFM,

"Hope Community Center is progressing to an exciting July completion date." If you happen by OFFM's current rental space on South Park Ave., you will see "the move is on." Staff, NDA members and volunteers are busy packing and taking inventory. The Sisters are actively training new staff and volunteers in preparation for the move to the new facility in late July. Board members are working at a fast pace to raise money and prepare for opening events at the Center. In the Sister's spare time (just

kidding), they are busy selecting phone systems, data providers, computers, furniture and appliances while trying to stay within HCC's budget. Don't forget to look for the beautiful gazebo connected to the HCC by a brick pathway which is soon to be completed by the installation of personalized bricks. Contact us now to dedicate a brick to a family member, friend, or loved one by inscribing their name on an individual stone—a great way to make a lasting mark.

The Office For Farmworker Ministry is extremely grateful to the Diocese of Orlando for approving a loan enabling the completion of the construction of Hope Community Center.

- Joe Calabrese

La Loteria Raises \$2,000 for The Hope Community Center



Minerva Colon

Late in April, the Office For Farmworker Ministry hosted a community event at St. Francis of Assisi in Apopka. Minerva Colon successfully organized the first La Loteria for the ministry.

Families had fun learning and playing traditional Hispanic games such as La Loteria (bingo) and Spanish Dominos. Everyone enjoyed authentic foods and music.

Over 300 members of the community came out to support The Hope Community Center and to welcome

Sr. Cathy Gorman. Fitted with her new prosthetic foot Sister Cathy called out bingo numbers and welcomed the community to many future gatherings to be held at OFFM's new center.



Sr. Cathy Gorman is thrilled to be at her first community event since her near fatal auto accident.

The NDA AmeriCorps team were integral assistants as they helped entertain the children outside while others performed duties inside.

The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.

—Ghandi



House Party Raises \$6000



NDA member Ingrid DeSanctis is greeted by host, Andrea Eliscu

Andrea Eliscu graciously opened her new penthouse home, at the Wellesley, in College Park to the Farmworker Ministry for its first

house party. Guests were touched by the personal stories, art work, and photography projects presented by Apopka High School students, Reyna Trinidad and Ramon Flores. Sisters Ann, Cathy, and Gail spoke to the more than twenty generous guests that attended the event. Guests enjoyed the hospitality of Andrea and the wonderful array of food and wine.

The Office For Farmworker Ministry will host its first annual Golf Scramble at Errol Estate Country Club in Apopka, Florida. Friday October 12, 2007

Cost : \$90.00 per player: Shotgun start at 1:00 PM
18 hole scramble: Range balls and cart included
Mulligan's 5/ \$20.00.

Join us at 5:30 for hors d'oeuvres, prizes, and raffles. Entry forms available at OFFM. Phone: 407.886.5151





The Hope CommUnity Center
Office For Farmworker Ministry
1016 North Park Avenue
Apopka, Florida 32712

***Phone: 407.886.5151**
Fax: 407.884.6644
***After July 407.880.4673**

OUR MISSION

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

REMEMBER THE DATES:
OCTOBER 12, 2007: GOLF TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 25, 2007: OPENING OF HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER
JANUARY 12, 2008: DINNER/DANCE



We accept Visa/
 Master Cards

Keep up to date on events!

Visit OFFM's website: www.offm.org

Recent Donations help lower HCC debt

Good news! The Hope CommUnity Center is now officially its own 501 (c) (3) organization. OFFM's grant writers are particularly pleased since this will make their difficult task easier.

OFFM is also extremely happy and grateful for the most recent generous donations to HCC's capital campaign drive. During the first six months of 2007, OFFM has received nearly \$125,000 from private donations which will help reduce OFFM's building debt. We are very proud and thankful to the children at Church of the Annunciation for working so hard at their Bake Sale which made \$2000. The children chose to donate the entire amount to the ministry.

OFFM appreciates every donation regardless of the amount as each dollar helps the ministry.



An image of the Hope CommUnity Center's gazebo

New office for The Office For Farmworker Ministry

1016 North Park Avenue

Apopka, FI 32703

Our new phone number will be 407-880-HOPE (4673)

***(after July)**

We are also happy to report monies received from grants for program support and development:

- \$40,000 Disney Helping Kids Shine
- \$25,000 Center for Women's Philanthropy
- \$20,000 The Holliday Foundation
- \$1,500 The Track Shack

Many thanks to the faithful contributors of the newsletter. Our newsletter is sent to over 500 hundred people. The previous two newsletters generated \$2000.00 in donations.

**As editor of the newsletter I would like to recognize NDA member, Ashley Salzmann for her talent and willingness to help with the newsletter.