



Peace Offering

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With Jesus at its heart, the Peace Center strives to “build peace, preach peace, and be peace” with the residents of the area surrounding the Center.

Peace Center Stars

Job Readiness

Michael Daniel is a Peace Center participant, who has benefited in a very real way from our programs. He was referred by Hope House to our Peace Center to take computer classes in 2015. He then chose to participate in our Job Readiness III Program offered in collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Learning Center.

After receiving assistance to prepare his resume and practice his job interview skills, Michael began his pursuit of full-time employment. Kyle Waters mentored Michael and helped him to refine his resume.

Michael applied for employment at St. Mary’s Dominican High School (DHS) and met all of the requirements for employment.

Today, Michael says, “Now I am happily employed at the school where I am learning a lot from my fellow employees. It is a blessing for me.” He is grateful to have a full-time job that also includes benefits and paid vacation.

President of the DHS, Dr. Cynthia Thomas, OPA, told us, “We are happy to have him and pleased that our Dominican Ministries could collaborate in this way.”



After School Program Scholar



Kayla Nora is a charming nine-year-old, who attends fourth grade at the Lafayette Academy Charter School in New Orleans. Her favorite subjects are math and reading. In her free time, she likes to play Hide and Go Seek with her friends.

Monday through Friday, Kayla comes to the Peace Center for the After School Program. She joins other students from the neighborhood for snacks, to finish homework or to study for tests, and to share free time to play on computers, with board games, or outside if the weather is good. Kayla says she enjoys coming to the Center because she knows she will get help with her homework if she needs it. She also enjoys helping the younger students with their homework, too.

At one point she told us she wanted to be a teacher, but she learned recently that teachers do not make very much money. She knows that people who are teachers care a lot about their students and want to give them hope for their futures so they can get jobs. But now, instead of teaching, she hopes to go into banking.

After School Program Volunteer

Larry Tierney, known as Mr. Larry by the kids at the Peace Center, is a faithful volunteer for the After School Homework Assistance Program. He has been coming to the Center daily for over a year, and in that time, kids have truly come to love and respect him. Reflecting on his experience as a volunteer, Larry said, “The Peace Center After School Program gives me the opportunity to interact with young students in the neighborhood as we work through daily homework assignments. To see these children move forward in their studies as their personalities mature is truly an amazing and fulfilling experience. For me personally, these kids give me every bit as much as I give them.”



Neighborhood Networking



Gloria’s Restaurant has been on the corner of Broadway and Colapissa, Gert Town for a very long time. Miss Gloria died in 2013, and the restaurant was left to her children. Today, her son **Korey Fernandez** handles the day-to-day running of the business.

Famous for its \$2 breakfast of eggs, breakfast meat, grits and a biscuit, the restaurant serves folks seven days a week from 6:30am to 7:00pm. There are always people coming in and out, talking about life and hard times, or having some laughs about life and hard times. Korey and his fellow cook, Bob Hogan, serve up some mighty fine food at a reasonable price.

Korey remembers how his mother tried to give back to the neighborhood when she was alive, and he wants to be able to do that again. Korey began working with Paul Bonitatibus, one of our Peace Center Advisory Council members with strong professional connections in the New Orleans area.

Paul connected Korey with the Urban League, where he was able to take courses for small businesses and create a business plan. Korey shared his plan with Councilwoman LaToya Cantrell to make his hopes and goal are more public. The downturn in the economy means that some ideas for big changes have to be put on hold, but in the meantime, small efforts have been made. Walls and floors have been scrubbed down; a new, more open counter space has been created.

Korey hopes to repair the outside of the restaurant, which is still damaged from Katrina. He is also planning to have a new sign painted on the door, and, once street repairs are completed, to create more parking in front of the restaurant.

Did You Know?

The Peace Center Sisters are in partnership with Isaiah 43, a program sponsored by Catholic Charities. Although Isaiah 43 has several programs, we focus our efforts on the Parenting Workshops held at St. Rita's school. These weekly workshops are designed to increase parents' skills as they interact with their children on a daily basis. The Sisters assist by coordinating meals for the parents and children and providing child care while the parent/s attend the workshops. If you are interested in participating in these workshops, please call the Peace Center (504-267-3342) for more information.

Upcoming Events

Summer Camp

June 5-9, Boys' Week
June 19-23, Girls' Week

Senior Citizens' Bingo

March 22 Lunch/Bingo; April 5 Bingo; April 19 Lunch/Bingo; May 10 Bingo; May 31 Lunch/Bingo

Computer Classes

Intro to Computer Basics begins March 21

Saturday Kids' Movies

March 18, April 22 & May 20 - movies begin at 2pm



Senior Bingo Group



Lighthouse Museum Trip



First Aid Kit Give-Away



Swamp Tour



Halloween Party Mummy Contest



Seniors' Christmas Bingo Party



Children's Christmas Party



Time out at the Aquarium Trip for Senior Citizens

Peace Prayer

Ever Creating God, source of eternal peace, you have the dream that all may be one human family. Give us the love, compassion and wisdom we need to overcome the violence, racism and lack of respect for all forms of human and created life. Help us to be instruments of your peace. Amen.