

From Our Director



Most of us have heard Buffalo referred to as "the City of Good Neighbors." As I await my own neighbor coming by with his snow-plow to help dig me out of Snowvember 2.0, I feel a personal connection to the nickname!

Why are we the City of Good Neighbors? Is it because Buffalo has a long history of welcoming immigrant and migrant communities? Is it because of human service agencies like Catholic Charities that consistently meet the needs of the most vulnerable among us? Is it because of the rich generosity of philanthropic organizations like the Community Foundation?

Or is it simply that we're just really nice people, and we always come to each other's side to offer support in a time of need or to rejoice together when we have something to celebrate? It's the sense of community, family and friendship that Western New Yorkers experience day in and day out that gives us a sense of purpose and pride to call Buffalo home.

When I prepare the winter newsletter each year and gather the names of our donors from the past twelve months, I know why we are called the City of Good Neighbors. Your concern for our community and your desire to do your part to eliminate violence in our neighborhoods and in our world never ceases to inspire me!

May the generous and loving spirit in which you give of your resources to the Sister Karen Center return to you in abundance this holiday season. Your faithful support is a rich blessing to all those we serve in Sister Karen's name!

Your neighbor,

Vivian

Vivian Ruth Waltz, Director



**SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak
Center for Nonviolence**

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Our Advisory Board

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(SSJ Leadership Team liaison)
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*In loving memory of James Mang
(Member 2007-2021)*



We are so grateful to you, our generous donors:

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Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates of Buffalo

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The Joseph S. and Mary Ann Testa Philanthropic Fund

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and in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John H. Wall*



SISTER KAREN'S WHITE DOVES (\$500—\$999)



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*~in honor of and love for Vivian Waltz
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*~in honor of Vivian Waltz and in
memory of Sister Karen Klimczak*

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Charles and Ann Marie Bowman
Catherine Brady
Mary Joyce Breen
~in memory of Sr. Delores Lavin
Joseph Brem
Loreen Briggs
Maureen Brown
Shontae and Nate Cannon-Buckley
Janice Burke*



*Alta Burnett
~in honor of Audrey Mang and in memory
of Jim Mang
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Judith Capodicasa
Tom Casey
Eileen Cassidy
~in memory of Sr. Linda Glaeser, SSJ
Dennis and Kathleen Castillo
Eileen Charleton
Rosemarie Cherpak
Matthew C. Collard
Carmela Colucci
Barbara Comens
~in memory of Nancy Orsini*

SAVE THE DATE!

**Nanette Massey:
"Moving BEYOND White Fragility"**

**Author on navigating conversations about race
"with confidence, humor, and humility
from nothing but an authentic place of
desiring to do your part for a better world."**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 3 PM
sisterkarencenter.org for more info**

SISTER KAREN'S PEACEPRINTS™ (\$1-\$499)

Catherine F. Conway
~in memory of Sister Karen (friend IA 1961)
Mary Ann Corsoro
~in memory of Catalano/Corsoro Families
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~in honor of Jim and Audrey Mang
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Clifford and Donna Emminger
~in memory of Sister Karen
Maureen Estin
~in memory of Peachy
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~in memory of Mary Mulvey Miles
Joan D. Faltyn
Phyllis Fasanello
~in memory of Foglia and Fasanello Families

James and Deborah Finamore
~in memory of Sister Karen Klimczak
Loretta Fitzpatrick
~in memory of Sister Karen Klimczak
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~in memory of Ann and William Hochul
Keith and Nan Hoffman
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~in memory of Rev. Robert Beiter
Arthur Klein
Edwin and Loretta Klimczak
~in memory of Sister Karen Klimczak
Sr. Jean Klimczak, OSF
Sr. Mary Ann Kolb, SSJ
~in memory of Kolb Family
Kathleen Kreis
~in memory of Carol Pasiecznik



SISTER KAREN'S PEACEPRINTS™ (\$1-\$499)

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 ~in honor of the 125th anniversary of the
 Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph
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Ledgeview Elementary School
 ~in memory of all victims of violence
Sally Coakley Lennertz
 ~in honor of Sister Jean Klimczak
Lucille Lerczak
Betty L. Levin
 ~in honor of Sister Karen Klimczak
Mike and Mary Ann Logue
Patricia A. Lord
 ~in honor of Srs. Donna Lord & Sheila Stone
Lorraine Lucas
 ~in memory of Robert Lucas
Mary Lynch
 ~in honor of Sister Mary Ann Butler and
 in memory of Sister Karen Klimczak
Judith Ann Major
 ~in honor of Sr. Bea Manzella
Dan and Lisa Maloney
 ~in memory of Gary Maloney
Virginia Maloney
 ~in memory of Gary J. Maloney
Audrey Mang
Katherine Mang
 ~in memory of Jim Mang
Joseph Marx
 ~in honor of Bill Marx
William F. Marx
Linda Matthews
 ~in memory of Deacon Richard Matthews
Margaret McAloon, MD
Rev. M. Bruce & Phoebe A. McKay
Lillis McLean
 ~in honor of Mary Callahan—Peace House
Metropolitan United Methodist Women
Marian Meyers
 ~in honor of Brenda Meyers

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 ~in memory of William J. Middlebrooks, Jr.
Barbara D. Mierzwa
Romaine Migliore
Carol Moscati
 ~in honor of Maria (Moscati) Pember
Carol Mueller
Geraldine Neff
Niagara Frontier District United
Methodist Women
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Sr. Eleanor O'Brien, SSJ
 ~in honor of Sr. Monica Krupinski and in
 memory of O'Brien-Fratterigo Families
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Joseph and Alice Ohl
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Lynn V. Ortiz
 ~in memory of Jim Mang
Janice Panzica
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Marilyn Peterson
Rev. Eugene and Sharon Pierce
Richard and Barbara Pirson
 ~in memory of Robert Minemies
William and Marilyn Privett
Don and Lori Quigley
 ~in honor of Larry and Drew Quigley and in
 memory of our parents Andy and Peggy
Marianne Rathman
Kirsten and Reidun Reitan
 ~in memory of Paul Reitan
Juliana Ricci
 ~in honor of the brave people of Florida
 persevering and helping each other

SISTER KAREN'S PEACEPRINTS™ (\$1-\$499)

Elinor M. Rice
 Dianne Riordan
 ~in honor of Betsy Sanders and in memory
 of Gregory DeLong
 Riverside-Salem UCC/DC
 Rachelle Robinson
 Erik and Kayla Rogers
 Paris and Lisa Murray Roselli
 Kevin Russell
 ~in memory of Sister Mary Lou Schnitzer
 William and Mary Jane Russell
 ~in honor of Vivian Waltz
 Maureen Satchell
 ~in honor of Sr. Karen Klimczak and in
 memory of Sr. Philip Marie Cirincione
 Sr. Elizabeth Savage, SSJ
 Sr. Kristen Schmitz, SSJ
 Deacon Thomas Schultz
 ~in memory of my wife , Virginia Schultz
 Rev. Merle Showers
 Ben and Claudia Simasek
 Sisters Of Mercy - NyPPaW
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 ~in memory of Sister Karen
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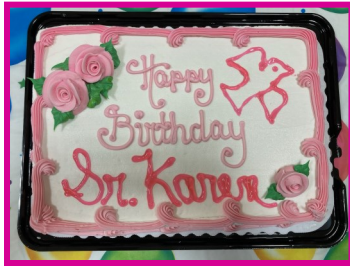
Randy and Nina Jean Stutzman
 ~in honor of Sr. Mary Jo Colucci, SSJ
 Richard and Kathy Swank
 Ann Marie Szpakowska
 Sally Tower
 Marcia Uebbing
 Lois Uhteg
 ~in memory of Beck Brown
 University Presbyterian Church
 June C. Van Remmen
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 ~in memory of Chuck Tobin
 Mary Walheim
 Mary Jane Waltz
 Ruth Waltz
 ~in honor of Vivian R. Waltz and in
 memory of Rev. Thomas Waltz
 Vivian Ruth Waltz
 ~in honor of Ruth Waltz and in memory of
 Rev. Thomas Waltz
 Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
 Alice Weppner
 Norline Wild
 ~in honor of Barbara Diebold
 Meg Wolinski
 Rev. Richard Zajac
 Arnold and Joanne Zdrojewski
 ~in honor of Audrey Mang
 Zonta Club Of Kenmore

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## A Healing Conversation

The Sister Karen Center sponsored a Healing Conversation that took place between members of the Buffalo community and people of faith from Conklin and Broome County, NY, the home of the Tops shooter. Family members of the victims, neighbors who shop at Tops as well as employees who work there met with visitors from Children of Abraham Southern Tier, an interfaith group that promotes dialogue. Goals of the conversation were: to allow all involved to feel heard, to increase our understanding of each other, to increase awareness of racism present among us, and to promote an attitude of love to enhance the healing process. Folks from Broome County have invited our community to Conklin to continue the conversation.





## Prayer for Peace Sister Karen's Birthday October 27, 2022

Deacon Jerry Hodson shared the gospel with the faithful gathered at Ss. Columba-Brigid Church to remember Sister Karen Klimczak on her birthday and to pray together. " ... Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' ... Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' " (John 20:19-21)

Friends, family and others inspired by Sister Karen passed a microphone around and shared what she taught them through her life and ministry. Among many praises were her boundless energy personified as Bounce the Clown, her unfailing commitment to formerly incarcerated men, how she modeled forgiveness without conditions, and her way of overcoming boundaries to bring people together. We gave thanks to God for her life as we prayed to follow in her Peaceprints. Birthday cake was enjoyed by all!



Sister Jean Klimczak,  
Mary Lynch, Vivian  
Waltz & Teresa Evans

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Three members of our community who have suffered injustice—Cariol Horne, John Walker, Jr., and Darryl Boyd—hosted a celebration for their supporters. Cariol is a former Buffalo Police Officer who was fired for protecting a man from police brutality. John and Darryl each served more than two decades in state prison after being convicted as 16-year-olds for a 1976 robbery and murder. They maintain that they were falsely accused, wrongly arrested, indicted, convicted, incarcerated, and subjected to parole conditions. Although a State Supreme Court justice vacated their convictions in 2021, they are still fighting to receive financial rep- aration.



John Walker, Jr., Cariol
Horne and Darryl Boyd



Cariol and Vivian

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### Let's Face It.

a 5-part discussion  
presented by Empowerment Ministry



#### Part 4: Race and the Prison System

facilitated by Rev. Vivian Ruth Waltz  
& John Smith

Sister Karen Center Director Vivian Waltz facilitated a discussion on Race and the Prison System sponsored by Empowerment Ministry in October. Vivian was joined by John Smith, a friend who was incarcerated for 27 years. John brought Christian Williams, a youth he is mentoring in the HEAT (Health, Empowerment, Attitude and Teamwork) program who talked about how caring adults in his life have kept him from getting involved in criminal activity. It was a time of thoughtful sharing and learning from each other.



Christian Williams, Vivian,  
and John Smith



# CAMP PEACEPRINTS 2022

## "Justice for All"

July 18-29, 2022



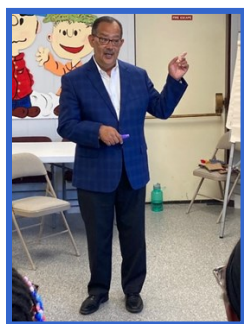
This year we were excited to have camp in a space that honored Sister Karen Klimzcak! Thanks to the generosity of Ss. Columba-Brigid Church - where Sister Karen was parish assistant and whose presence is still felt today - Camp Peaceprints found its 2022 home at 75 Hickory Street in Buffalo. Having access to the parish center, extra teen room, and green space around the church, including the Sister Karen Peace Garden, made camp a fun and safe experience. It was very convenient to be across the street from the park, playground, and basketball courts. We would have made good use of the city swimming pool had it been open!

Diversity is always a goal and a strength of Camp Peaceprints. Campers learned from each other's cultures through daily interaction with participants of different physical abilities, faith communities, racial and ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic groups and geographic locales. Our success was due to the collaboration of staff and volunteers from the Sister Karen Center, the Western NY Peace Center, The Prevention Council of Erie County, and the Foster Grandparent Program of Catholic Charities.

The campers explored the ideas surrounding "Justice for All" including the concepts of justice, citizenship, civic duty, equality vs. equity, oppression, and more. We discussed the democratic process, how laws are created, and law enforcement. We explored things we can do when we believe that laws are unjust and want to change them, including the meaning and examples of "nonviolent direct action."

Stations and Community Partners included:

- U.S. Department of Justice Western District of NY
- Vive Shelter (refugee housing) of Jericho Road Community Health Center
- Buffalo Common Councilmember David Rivera
- National Lawyers Guild at UB
- Cariol Horne, former Buffalo Police Officer
- Jen Mecozzi, West District Buffalo Public Schools Board of Education representative
- John Smith, formerly incarcerated activist and youth worker
- Ayana Coles, Food Justice activist



~continued on next page~



## CAMP PEACEPRINTS 2022 (continued)

As always, the less "academic" activities were vital to the whole camp experience. We practiced mindful movement, had a rousing drumming circle, enjoyed stories, music and dance from many cultures and created art that spoke to the "self" as a citizen and as an expression of campers' unique identity. Presenters included:



- Jan Burns, our faithful art director year after year from The Prevention Council of Erie County: Realizing your Personhood through art
- Karima Amin: lively Storyteller of African fables about fairness and equity
- Solomon Joseph: Dance and music around the world, how music influences our choices



Our field trips were planned to be a learning extension of our "Justice for All" theme:



*Ganondagan (gah-non'-deh-gon) State Historic Site and Seneca Art & Culture Center* was an education in local indigenous people's ways and history, and the injustices they have endured in our nation. *The Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center* revealed authentic stories of freedom seekers and abolitionists and helped us think about modern injustices that stem from slavery and how we can take action toward an equitable society. *Maid of the Mist Sightseeing Boat Tour* was a fun way to end our trip to Niagara Falls! Most, if not all, our campers had never seen the Falls up close. What a thrill!

Swimming is always a highlight of Camp Peaceprints for our campers, We enjoyed the pool at the Koessler Athletic Center at Canisius College, the splash pad at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and Woodlawn Beach State Park.

For all the learning and fun, we are exceedingly grateful to the Riefler Ministry Enablement Fund of the Network of Religious Communities, the Children's Foundation of Erie County and donors to the Jim and Audrey Mang Camp Peaceprints Scholarship Fund. The Sisters of St. Joseph are a continual source of support, both financial and spiritual, for which we are ever grateful.



"Justice for All" is a vision we are confident entrusting to all who had the privilege of participating in Camp Peaceprints this past summer. We continue to affirm Gandhi's conviction, *"If we are to teach real peace in this world ... we shall have to begin with the children."*



# **Alternatives to Violence Project News**

The mission of the Alternatives to Violence Project is to empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, cooperation, and trust. Founded in and developed from the real-life experiences of prisoners and others, and building on a spiritual base, AVP encourages every person's innate power to positively transform themselves and the world.

## **Interview with John Smith, a.k.a. "Wandering Wadud"**

In anticipation of our post-pandemic return to the AVP program at Wende Correctional Facility in December, Vivian Waltz ("Valuable Vivian") interviewed John Smith, a graduate of the program who was released in late 2019.

*When and where were you introduced to AVP?*

I was introduced to AVP in 1999 at Attica [Correctional Facility]. But I really gravitated to it more in 2003 at Wende [Correctional Facility] when I was invited to a workshop by Kali Williams who was a team leader. I wasn't too excited to go, but once I was there it was like I was meant to be there. It truly changed my life.

*How did AVP help you while you were incarcerated?*

It taught me the essence of nonviolence and to recognize that there are other ways to deal with people besides violently or aggressively. That was a totally new outlook for me.

That's really what transforming power is. Understanding that your life is actually important and that there are alternatives to violence in every situation. That's not something you come across a lot in prison. So it was overall peace with myself, a great sense of peace that resonated on the inside and outside.

*Do you mean on the inside and outside of prison or on the inside and outside of yourself?*

Both! Because of AVP I now look at people as a community. From the start respect has to be given to each and every person, not because it is earned but it has to be automatically given. Once I realized my life is important I knew I had to respect every single person I came across. Inside and outside of those walls.

AVP showed me that inside prison is actually your mind and with the help of others to aid you, your mind can go to the highest you can even imagine and that is true inner peace. The AVP model of Level 1,2, and 3 means you are affirming yourself constantly and it becomes habitual and it becomes a part of you.

Affirmation is something that people don't get often. To me it is proof that punishment doesn't work. AVP affirmed the good in me so I can see good in my own situation. It was a transformation. AVP built comradery in prison that will live on. Friendships and relationships developed and there was always something to talk about. Learning "I Messages" —a way to express the way you feel. As black men we don't tell you how we feel. AVP slows the action down, so you can see and hear before you react. We learn to work together.

*How has AVP helped you since you've been released from Wende?*

AVP is family - once we are out AVP is still a nucleus. We're living proof that it's working in there and it's working out here. You have to stick with the community.

AVP is the driving force—without tools in my belt I couldn't keep my attention on understanding the world and how to help others. Now I am working with parents and children and you can see how they don't communicate but AVP opens me up to relate to people in a different way. There is a quietness and a peace and I owe it all to AVP.



## Working in Coalition ...

One of the four primary goals of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence is to *Build Relationships by Working in Coalition with Community Groups which Promote Nonviolence*.



U.S. Attorney Trini Ross  
and Vivian Waltz

In response to the Tops supermarket shooting that killed 10 Black people in a racially-motivated massacre, the Sister Karen Center was invited by **Trini Ross, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of NY**, to the September 29th launch of a new initiative aimed at combating hate crimes in our community and in our country. The **United Against Hate** program, recently announced by Attorney General Merrick Garland and the United States Department of Justice, brings together community groups, community leaders, and law enforcement at every level to build trust and strengthen coordination to combat acts of hate.

The Tops murders are part of the reason the DOJ choose Buffalo to kick off its United Against Hate program. Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, who oversees the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division told participants it will be in every U.S. attorney district, working to forge a partnership between marginalized communities and law enforcement at the federal, state, and local level.

Hypothetical scenarios and video clips depicting real-life hate crime cases and stories were used to educate participants. After the forum, AAG Clarke reflected, "Folks walked out of this room today knowing who they need to have on speed dial to report hate crimes or hate incidents in their community. They walked away with a better understanding of what a hate crime or what a hate incident is. We are partnering today to get United Against Hate off the ground to ensure that folks across the Buffalo area are able to stand up to hate going forward."

To report a hate crime, or for more information:

- U.S. Attorney for the Western District of NY Trini Ross: Call 716.843.5700.
- Buffalo Police Department: Report a tip by phone using the confidential Tip Line at 716.847.2255, or by texting the same number.
- Andrew Abramowitz, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI Buffalo: Call 716.856.7800 or submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).

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Our Partnership with Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program

Catholic Charities of Buffalo has provided Foster Grandparents for Camp Peaceprints for the past seven years. Working primarily in schools from September to June, Foster Grandparents draw from personal wisdom and experience to help children meet social, academic and developmental goals under the supervision of teachers and center directors.

On November 2nd, Camp Peaceprints co-directors Deidra EmEl and Vivian Waltz attended the Catholic Charities Centennial Kickoff Luncheon at Pearl at the Webb. They were pleased to visit with CC senior director Ryan Undercoffer (who supervises the Foster Grandparent Program) and express their gratitude for the past seven years of our partnership and their hope for continued collaboration. Our campers love the foster grandparents, our staff relies on their help, the grandparents always express their joy to be a part of camp, and Catholic Charities is grateful for a summer site to place the grandparents.



Vivian Waltz,
Ryan Undercoffer and
Deidra EmEl at
Catholic Charities
Centennial Luncheon

A Win-Win-Win-Win all around!

Sisters of St. Joseph
Sister Karen Klimczak
Center for Nonviolence
80 Durham Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215

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Our Mission Statement



To carry on Sister Karen's vision of a world without violence, the **SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence** is committed to eliminate violence in ourselves, in our society, and in our world. We work to create a nonviolent community in our thinking, our acting, and our relationships.

The SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence is a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates of Buffalo.