

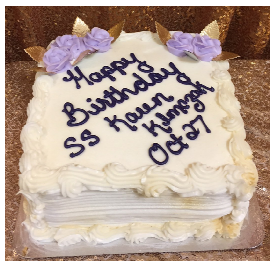


From Our Director

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago October 27th marked what would have been Sister Karen's 75th birthday. A commemoration of her birthday was part of the 15th anniversary celebration of the P.E.A.C.E. organization (Parents Encouraging Accountability and Closure for Everyone) which Sister Karen helped found. P.E.A.C.E. exists to provide support and assistance to families who have lost a loved one to homicide. Sister Karen ministered to these families through prayer vigils, visitation, and holiday parties.

Thanks to you, our faithful supporters, the ministry of compassion that defined Sister Karen's life continues on through the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence. In the pages that follow, you can see how wide our support for this work is, and if you find your name among the multitude of generous donors, we want to express our special appreciation. Your partnering with us makes everything we do to eliminate violence in our world possible!



Mark your calendars for our 2019 annual event which will take place at SS. Columba-Brigid Church on **April 7th** at 3 pm. We will welcome **Sister Anita Price Baird, DHM**, the founder of the **Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Racial Justice**. Sister Anita, along with her vibrant and vital faith community, has worked extensively to combat the senseless neighborhood violence in Chicago. We who are working to spread nonviolence here in Buffalo have much to learn from her inspirational story. We hope to see you in the spring!

With thanksgiving,

Vivian
Vivian Ruth Waltz

**SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak
Center for Nonviolence
80 Durham Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215
716.362.9688
info@sisterkarencenter.org
www.sisterkarencenter.org**



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SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 3 PM

Sister Anita Price Baird, DHM

Founder of the Archdiocese of Chicago's

Office for Racial Justice and

Minister of The Faith Community of Saint Sabina

SS. Columba-Brigid Church, Buffalo

sisterkarencenter.org for more info



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Peace-Justice-Nonviolence Assembly

"The choice is not between violence and nonviolence but between nonviolence and nonexistence." ~Martin Luther King Jr.



On September 20th, the eve of the International Day of Peace, the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, along with dozens of peace-minded groups in Buffalo which comprise the WNY Coalition of Peace, Justice & Nonviolence Advocates, co-sponsored a Peace-Justice-Nonviolence Assembly in Niagara Square. It was a time to stand together for the world we want for our children and our grandchildren's children.

The Assembly was conceived to "unite the struggles" and create a "movement of movements" to stand for the moral principles of all our religions and the moral foundation of our country's founding. The Coalition sought to raise to a new level our ongoing work to end the violence of: poverty, racism, military spending and war, and to immigrants, to women, and to Mother Earth.



Sister Jean Klimczak was a featured speaker. Sister Jean shared Sister Karen's life story and about the ministry of nonviolence she spread throughout Buffalo, which continues today with the work of the SSJ Sister Karen Center. Director Vivian Waltz was recognized as instrumental to the founding of the Buffalo Peacemakers Gang Intervention and Outreach Program. Supervising Peacemaker Pastor James Giles addressed the crowd, and many of the Peacemakers were present as a witness to their ongoing commitment to reduce violence in the City.



The Peace-Justice-Nonviolence Assembly was built on The Poor Peoples Campaign, Campaign Nonviolence, the Women's March, World Refugee Day and the Peoples Climate Movement.



Inspiring Poetry

In many Basic Alternatives to Violence Project workshops, a closing exercise on the first day is for everyone to say one word about their experience in AVP thus far. Participants record each word and are encouraged to write a poem using all of the words to bring back to the workshop the next day. Following is a poem by a seminarian at Christ the King Seminary from his Basic workshop at St. Joseph University Parish.

Listen, listen, listen
we hopeful here today
There's strength in contemplation
beneficial unity
Curiosity is electric
when open minds can learn
Let's be grateful for the friendship
that prayer can help discern
So listen, listen, listen
as a community let's agree
to share the air between us
while we embrace our AVP.
~ Steve Czarnecki

CAMP PEACEPRINTS 2018

"The Language of Peace"

July 16-27, 2018 ~ St. Mary's School for the Deaf



Children and youth, all 56 of them – as well as adult volunteers – had an intensive experience of the Language of Peace over the two-week period of Camp Peaceprints at St. Mary's School for the Deaf in July. Sponsored by the Interfaith Peace Network, the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, and the WNY Peace Center, our campers aged 8-13, youth assistants aged 14 and up, and adults (including parent volunteers, community helpers, interns, adult leaders of the Young Neighbors in Action groups, staff of St. Mary's School for the Deaf and Foster Grandparents from the Catholic Charities program) all learned about the Language of Peace through education, inspiration, and action.

Our education, inspiration, and action in the Language of Peace included:

- * Four sessions of instruction in American Sign Language. Instructors included both students and faculty of St. Mary's School for the Deaf, as well as the Superintendent of the entire establishment, Timothy M. Kelly. We learned and connected to both the beautifully expressive language and the wonderful St. Mary's community as never before!
- * Study of the peace quilts with symbols and images used by enslaved people and fugitives to communicate information about how to escape to freedom via the Underground Railroad, and creating our own quilt through an exceptional art project designed and facilitated by our faithful art director Janice Burns, MSED, CPP, artist and art instructor. The project prepared us for our visit to the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, an experiential museum that reveals authentic stories of freedom seekers and abolitionists in Niagara Falls. Their mission is to "inspire visitors to recognize modern injustices that stem from slavery and to take action toward an equitable society." We were inspired!
- * Four small-group sessions facilitated by UB School of Social Work intern at the WNY Peace Center, Stacey L. Smith, on communication techniques that included role plays, discussion, fun worksheets, games and home replays of concepts explored, including I-statements and other nonviolent communication techniques;

~continued on next page~

CAMP PEACEPRINTS 2018 (continued)

- * Understanding the language of our own bodies through yoga, deep slow breathing, and other ways to communicate with and calm ourselves through mindfulness and self-awareness (facilitated by Camp Co-Director Victoria Ross);
- * Communication through art by creating Artists Cards delivered to Mayor Byron Brown on our trip to City Hall, with campers expressing their thoughts, feelings and ideas for improvements in the City, painting campers' interpretations of the language of peace on canvasses and jewelry creations (all facilitated by Jan Burns), likewise through thank-you cards for donors, helpers, and each other (facilitated by Co-Director Vivian Waltz), and by creating hats and modeling them in a fashion show organized by Unite By Night volunteers;
- * Working on our group and interpersonal communication skills all during Camp, through
 - ~ upholding the Peace Agreement (composed and affirmed by the whole Camp);
 - ~ recreation and activities organized by the Young Neighbors in Action, brought to us the first week from Chicago and the second week from New Hampshire by Dennis Mahaney of the Buffalo Diocese and the Catholic Center for Ministry Development, whose mission is to help youth encounter Christ through a week-long experience of service, community, and prayer;
 - ~ swimming in the sunshine in Buffalo Public Pools, with campers and youth facing fears, working together, learning, and moving forward both literally and metaphorically;
- * Communing with nature through walking the paths of Tiffts Nature Preserve, lunching by Lake Erie, and experiencing one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Niagara Falls, up close on the Maid of the Mist, compliments of James and Mary Glynn, longtime supporters of the SSJ Sister Karen Center. Even the camper whose mother said she would never ride on a boat did not want to miss out – she faced her fears and joined us, with the courage of community to back her up.

Campers were inspired by all our experiences together as evidenced by their enthusiasm for Camp and for each other. Goodbyes were tearful, as usual, and buttressed by plans to keep in touch and return to Camp next year. Expressions of the Language of Peace were being communicated throughout in tangible and heartfelt ways, as Camp Peaceprints once again created Beloved – and diverse – Community and a Culture of Peace.

The Interfaith Peace Network, the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, and the WNY Peace Center couldn't be more grateful to Camp Peaceprints' funders, supporters, transporters (including NFTA for both field trips!), volunteers, participants, and well-wishers. The Camp Peaceprints community is sure to be practicing the Language of Peace in the future – may the expressions and actions create real change by speaking peace to our world!



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.

Transformative AVP Program Reaches Area Youth



Teaching and Restoring Youth

We are excited to announce the first Alternatives to Violence Project workshop at **TRY (Teaching and Restoring Youth)** on Brinkman Avenue in Buffalo. The TRY residence is a place for young women to find hope. Their mission is to enable young women who have suffered from abuse, violence and victimization to rebuild their lives through supportive companionship, counseling, education and the development of independent living skills. We know that AVP will provide residents with conflict resolution skills that will be a vital tool in their success at TRY, and empower them to lead nonviolent lives as their future unfolds.

Our Alternatives to Violence Project program at **Compass House Resource Center** on Main Street in Buffalo will continue with Basic and Advanced workshops beginning in January 2019. We are looking forward to reaching a new group of runaway, homeless, and street youth with the transforming power of AVP!



compass house

A new direction for a better life.

AVP at Wende Correctional Facility

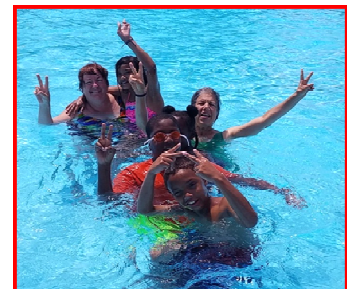


While keeping with our pledge to the inspiration provided to us by Sister Karen Klimczak and her life and death of nonviolence, we continue to provide AVP in the prison setting. Facilitators Bill Marx, Lynn Rudnicki, and Vivian Waltz meet with Inmate Facilitators at Wende Correctional Facility twice a month. Our meetings are designed to strengthen our ability to choose a peaceful resolution, as Sister Karen would always do, to any and all conflicts. Each year we conduct two- or three-day workshops on six separate occasions. At the present time, we have 30 trained inmates and an additional 19 signed up for the Advanced workshop scheduled in December. It is a joy to see lives transformed through the power of AVP!

A Challenging AVP Workshop

Because participants come from all walks of life, it is not always easy to find common ground in AVP workshops. A community Basic workshop was held in July at St. Joseph's University Parish with an unusually homogeneous group—mostly seminarians and lay leaders from Christ the King Seminary. With a large majority of men and only a few women participating, one woman struggled with what she referred to as “the high degree of patriarchal religiosity.” It was a challenge for the group to find a broad and shared perspective on diversity and violence. Still everyone participated with respect and professionalism and received insight from each other. A positive outcome was a commitment by the facilitators to be clear at the onset of each workshop that AVP is “distinctly and intentionally not religious, transcending belief systems.”

More Camp Peaceprints 2018 Photos



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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.