



Common Place...where love works!

GOODNEWS

August 2007

Connie Voss
Managing Editor

Stephanie Marchand
Editor

Common Place's mission is to help overcome the causes of poverty, racism, and social injustice while working to create human understanding between people of various backgrounds.

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Heart of Illinois
United Way

Walk for Reading

Lace up your walking shoes for Common Place's 21st annual *Walk for Reading* Saturday, September 8th to help raise funds for our youth after-school tutoring and adult literacy programs!

This year we will have two routes available – a 5K “Novel” walk and a 1 mile “Short Story” walk. Both routes are residential and shady, and will walk you through the streets of literature – Rhett Butler Blvd., *Curious George* Way, and many more!

Our goal and need in 2007 is \$37,000, and **you can help us meet our need!**



Walk for Reading 2006 - Peggy Carter accepts the traveling trophy on behalf of her team, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Join us on September 8th!
Registration - 8:00 a.m.
Walk - 8:30 a.m.

If you are unable to participate on the day of our *Walk for Reading*, you can pick your own route and walk at your own convenience.

Sponsorship is key to our event. Participants are encouraged to set a personal goal and seek sponsors for walking or volunteering.

Festivities will follow the walk with a free brunch for the participants and volunteers, a bake sale by our adult learners, and a silent auction with items appealing to all ages. Items on our silent auction include an autographed baseball and bat from Ben Zobrist of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays; autographed Harlem Globetrotters curly “Boo” Johnson basketball; hand-knitted baby afghans; and themed baskets.

Awarding of prizes to participants with the most sponsorship will also follow the walk. Teams and families are encouraged to participate. Every year we award the largest participating family with a prize, and the traveling trophy is awarded to the team with the most sponsorship.

To participate in the *Walk for Reading*, please fill out and mail the tear off sheet on the back of the newsletter, email us, or call Stephanie at 674-3315. Downloadable entry forms and sponsor sheets are also available on the events page of our website, www.commonplacepeoria.org.



Walk for Reading 2006 – Three of our Walk participants smiled with glee as they finished the 5K route.



Walk for Reading 2006 – Fruity Fritzie the clown walking the route with a mother and child.

Summer Family Reading Program 2007

Again this summer, the Common Place Adult Literacy Program benefited from the Penny Severns grant from the Secretary of State. This summer program is designed to encourage parents to read with their children. Roberta Koscielski of the Peoria Public Library, wrote the grant for the program with assistance from Kathryn Lambert. The theme for this summer is Once Upon a Time – and our adult learners and their children are reading classic stories.



The program is three-fold. Adult learners come to Common Place for our Reading Sampler class and read books in a small class

setting. While the adults are in class, their children are also in class with our Summer Family Reading Coordinator, Ashonta' Huddleston. The children meet at the same time in a separate classroom and read books and participate in craft projects that are related to the books they are reading. The adults meet on Tuesday and Thursday for their reading class. On Wednesdays, the parents and children meet together for PACT, or Parents And Children Together. The parents and their children met with Ashonta' and participated in crafts, in plays and even a Pirate Feast. Finally, on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-6:00 p.m., the parents and their children met with Ashonta' at the downtown branch of the Peoria Public Library.

On Tuesday, July 31, the children and their parents were invited to an evening party at the Peoria Zoo to celebrate a summer full of books. There were four books chosen for the adults to read: Tom Sawyer, Treasure Island, Little Women and King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The books chosen for the children echoed the same themes but were illustrated children's books. The funds from the Penny Severns grant covered the cost of the books so each family was given one book. The grant also covered the costs of having guest performers come to Common Place during the month of July.

On July 11, Loren Hecht, an English professor and actress, performed a one-woman show titled "Once Upon A Time" for both the adult literacy program and our youth program participants here at Common Place. The show is a one-hour tribute to the power of stories and includes both original as well as traditional stories in the performance. Everyone had a wonderful time! Loren Hecht was very generous with her time and spent the morning with our adult learners as they ended two weeks study of the book Treasure Island with a Pirate Feast – trying foods that pirates might have eaten such as bean soup, calamari, shrimp and beef jerky.

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The Summer Family Reading Program has provided a full and exciting program for our adult learners and their children this summer. The program concludes on Thursday, August 9!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS from April 2, 2007 to July 30, 2007

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Thank you to all donors. We apologize for any omissions or incorrect listings in the donor list. If you feel that an error has occurred, contact Common Place at 674-3315. Please be reminded that the list reflects contributions received between April 2, 2007 to July 30, 2007.

In addition to our generous donors, many grants are supporting learning and enrichment for our adults and children. Thank you to the following recent grants that help change lives ---

--for adults and families

- Heart of Illinois United Way to help support adult one-on-one tutoring and small group learning for reading, lifeskills and literacy activities

--for children in kindergarten through grade 12:

- HOI United Way, for K-12 after-school and summer learning activities
- Youth United for Central Illinois for summer enrichment
- Community Foundation of Central Illinois for youth learning through visual literacy
- Illinois Conference UCC to supplement our 3rd and 4th grade learning activities
- Peoria Garden Club for a youth project designing and building a memorial garden

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 3	Common Place closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, September 4	Common Place after school youth programs start: 5 th – 8 th grades
Saturday, September 8 8:00 a.m. - Registration 8:30 a.m. - Walk	Common Place 21 st annual <i>Walk for Reading</i>
Monday, September 10	Common Place after school youth programs start: K – 4 th grades
Monday, September 17	Common Place after school youth program start: high school
Thursday, September 20 5:30 p.m.	Read for the Record – reading <u>Ferdinand the Bull</u>
Wednesday, September 26 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Tutor Training Session 1 of 3
Saturday, September 29 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Session 2 of 3
Saturday, October 6 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Session 3 of 3
Thursday, November 22	Common Place closed for Thanksgiving
Friday, November 23	Common Place closed for Thanksgiving

Teach An Adult To Read

The Adult Literacy staff at Common Place is offering a Tutor Orientation and Training Workshop series at Common Place on

- Wednesday, September 26, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 29, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost is \$15 for materials. Registration is required.
Call Delvera Collins at 674-3315

Notes from Connie ----

Our Common Place adults and families are expanding minds through such exciting and fun activities this summer! They not only read stories—they live them!—from building carnival games to eating a pirate meal! Lives can be changed forever through the joy of a meaningful book or the security of a nurturing atmosphere. All of this could not be possible without dedicated staff and families, along with great community support!

Life today brings many challenges, from rising living costs to unstable environments. There are so many hard-working, wonderful families on the South Side, and elsewhere, who need your continued support. Support takes many forms: from major bequests to saving pennies for the Common Cents campaign; from donations of school supplies to providing a meal for the food pantry; from donating time as a tutor for an adult or child, to offering warm thoughts or prayers. My sincere thanks for all you do.

Common Cents Campaign

Thank you to...

- everyone who collected pennies, donated their time and money, and helped with this year's Common Cents Campaign for Common Place Kids;
- all the businesses who allowed us to place our penny bottles at their location; and,
- a special thank you to South Side Bank for counting a total of 140,214 pennies!

Don't forget to start saving again for next year's campaign!



L to R: Common Place Adult Literacy Tutor Veronica Huck, and Common Place Board of Governors Secretary Barbara Brown help prepare the bottles of coins and dollars for counting at South Side Bank.

After hearing of our penny campaign, a Peorian donated her pennies (large container in photo) – a total of 21,709 pennies!



Common Place's 40th Anniversary

During its 40th anniversary celebration on June 12, Common Place recognized Nancy Rakoff with the first Love In Action Award in recognition of her 39 years of commitment to the people of Common Place and the community. In further recognition of Nancy, the honor was named the "Nancy Rakoff Love In Action Award." It was established to be given annually to recognize the efforts of a person or persons working in our community and beyond to eliminate the root causes of poverty and social injustice, as exemplified by the work and commitment of Nancy Rakoff.



Nancy Rakoff is the first recipient of the Nancy Rakoff Love In Action Award. Congratulations!



Mark & Renee Spenny



Bob Gilmore & Harriet Horton



Common Place staff member Shundell Broomfield & Dorothy Murray



Common Place participants Maryanna & David Jones



Barbara Drake & Sally Page



Nancy Rakoff & Common Place Founder and Board of Governors member Marge McGaughey



Common Place Board of Governors President Kath Conner, Senator Dave Koehler, and Renee Spenny



L to R: Common Place high school intern Brandis Broomfield & Common Place staff member Lola Patton



Common Place youth participant, Martarius Haywood & his father



Lu Anne Fendrich (left) and Common Place Board of Governors member Carolyn Weinstein & husband, Herb

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Parents and children working together on a story for their family fairytale books.

The program is three-fold. Adult learners come to Common Place for our Reading Sampler class and read books in a small class setting. While the adults are in class, their children are also in class with our Summer Family Reading Coordinator, Ashonta' Huddleston. The children meet at the same time in a separate classroom and read books and participate in craft projects that are related to the books they are reading. The adults meet on Tuesday and Thursday for their reading class. On Wednesday's, the parents and children meet together for PACT, or Parents And Children Together. The parents and their children met with Ashonta' and participated in crafts, in plays and even a Pirate Feast. Finally, on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-6:00 p.m., the parents and their children met with Ashonta' at the downtown branch of the Peoria Public Library. Once there, they read books together and went on a backstage tour of the library. They worked with the Children's librarians at the library each week and the children and their parents were enrolled in the Summer Reading program at the library. On Tuesday, July 31, the children and their parents were

invited to an evening party at the Peoria Zoo to celebrate a summer full of books. There were four books chosen for the adults to read: Tom Sawyer, Treasure Island, Little Women and King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The books chosen for the children echoed the same themes but were illustrated children's books. The funds from the Penny Severns grant covered the cost of the books so each family was given one book. The grant also covered the costs of having guest performers come to Common Place during the month of July.

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As you can see, the Summer Family Reading Program has provided a full and exciting program for our adult learners and their children this summer. The program concludes on Thursday, August 9.

Summer Youth Programs – Children Having Fun While Learning

Every summer our talented youth staff finds ways to make learning fun for 95 youth ages 8 – 15 years. This year the children studied different life styles through time, such as a knight’s life; chef’s life; midway life; 1890’s life; Amish life; and, Hispanic life.

During the week of a knight’s life, the children made shields, studied the life style, and took a field trip to the Olde English Faire.

Chef school was the activity for chef’s week. The children learned how to create a healthy menu, read recipes, prepare foods, and eat the food they make. For some children they tried new foods, such as white fish and greens.

The carnival was the highlight of the midway life week. During the week the children made their own carnival games:



Summer youth participants learning how to accurately measure with a tape measure, use a miter box, and hand saw to cut pieces of PVC piping to make a carnival game.



Program coordinator, Mrs. Helen, getting soaked by a water balloon that burst when a youth participant hit the target with a baseball.

Clown Toss; Cold Cash Grab; Knock the Blocks Off; Ring Toss; Balloon Burst; Basketball Bonanza; Reverse Dunk Tank; and,

the Midway Spinner. The carnival also consisted of a Fortune Teller, a

volunteer making balloon animals, face painting, prizes, and carnival treats of popcorn, cotton candy, candy, soda, and water. The biggest treat of the carnival seemed to be a chance to get program coordinator, Mrs. Helen, wet at the Reverse Dunk Tank.

The youth learned about life of the 1890’s by participating in games played during that time period, learned and sang songs, and had an old fashion picnic at Bradley Park.

During the week of Amish life, the children learned about the Amish way of life, watched a movie about

their life style, baked goodies using Amish recipes, and took a field trip to Arcola. While at Arcola, the youth visited the interpretive center, watched a lady quilt, and went to Rockome Gardens. The children toured the school house and listened to the school marm about what it was like to go to an Amish school.

Hispanic week consisted of Latin music; castanets, which each child will get to keep; making necklaces and key chains with beads; and a fiesta with food and a piñata.

The youth also participated in neighborhood chores, such as litter pick up and weeding, to earn a weekly



allowance. The allowances are based on participation, attitude, timeliness, and attendance.

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make our summer youth programs a success. The volunteers and donations helped to make this summer a fun learning experience for many at-risk youth.

Borders Book Drive to Benefit Common Place Adult Learners

During the month of August, every Borders Bookstore in Illinois will have a book drive to benefit local adult literacy programs. This book drive is sponsored by the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois and Borders Bookstore, and Common Place is thrilled to be a part of this generous book drive.

Kathryn Lambert, Director of Adult Literacy, and Carol Turbett, Academic Advisor, were invited to the local Borders store and asked to select new books that are in-stock for the book drive. A total of 106 books were chosen. All of these books will be on display in the store and behind the cash registers. During August, each customer will be asked if they wish to buy a book to donate to Common Place. There are over 100 books to choose from and the prices range from \$2.99 to \$39.99.

We are very hopeful that this book drive will provide many new books for our adult learners. We have everything from biographies to I Can Read Books to Dictionary’s and Pre-Algebra Test preparation books. There is something for everyone and every price range.

Yes! I want to help with the *Walk for Reading*

_____ Please send me a registration form and sponsor sheet.

_____ Sorry I can't be there, but enclosed is my sponsorship of someone else to help with Common Place's education programs.

MY NAME & ADDRESS _____

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