



Common Place...where love works!

GOODNEWS

August 2009

Connie Voss
Managing Editor

Stephanie Marchand
Editor

Our Mission is to strive to eliminate the root causes of poverty, racism, and other social injustices by recognizing the dignity and self-worth inherent in each person.

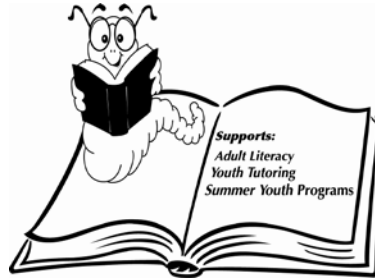
Common Place Board Chair
Roberta Koscielski

Board Officers
Stan Ogden
Karen Scott
Johanne Grewell



Heart of Illinois United Way

Common Place Walk for Reading: Supporting Literacy



Every year Common Place serves more than 150 children with after school homework help and enrichment programs, and more than 160 adults with one-on-one tutoring and small group classes to help them achieve their literacy goals. Funds from our annual *Walk for Reading* help to support these programs.

It's that time of year again when all of our friends put on their sneakers and come to Common Place to help us in our mission to fight the root causes of poverty and injustice in Peoria.



Please join us on Saturday, September 12, for Common Place's 23rd annual Walk for Reading to support adult and youth literacy programs! Bring your sponsor sheets, your families, and bring your friends for a successful and fun event.

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m., with the walk starting at 8:30 a.m. at Common Place. Registration fee is \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Team

and group registrations are encouraged. If you can not participate in the event, you can still help us achieve our goal. Please forward your sponsorship in the enclosed envelope. Following the walk will be a free brunch for the walkers and volunteers, as well as prizes for top sponsorship. **Your sponsorships and your attendance will help us reach our goal of \$35,000 to help support our youth and adult literacy programs.**

Two shady and residential routes are available: the 5K "Novel" route, and the one-mile "Short Story" route. Come walk the streets of literature and support literacy! **Registration and sponsor sheets are available by visiting our website, www.commonplacepeoria.org, or by calling Stephanie at 309-674-3315.**

Introducing

The Business Walk for Reading! Would you like to get your co-workers excited about supporting literacy? Tell them about the Common Place programs for children and adults and introduce them to the Walk for Reading. This year we are offering employees at businesses the option of doing a “Business Walk for Reading.” Gather a group from your workplace to walk anytime during International Literacy Week (September 7 – 11). Do a lunch-time walk as a group, individually, or choose your time and place outside of your workday—it’s your choice how you want to do it.

“Business walkers” can access our normal Walk for Reading registration form on our website at www.commonplacepeoria.org. Just print and complete the form, solicit some sponsors if possible, and send the form, registration fee, and any sponsor donations collected to Common Place the week of the Walk or by Friday, September 18. Raise awareness for literacy through your efforts to support our Common Place programs.

For questions or additional information, contact Stephanie at 674-3315. Let us know if you would like information about Common Place to share with your co-workers.

Email Addresses Wanted

Your email address is wanted! Common Place is collecting email addresses in order to send our Good News newsletter electronically, and possibly periodic messages of interest. Please send your email address to commonplace@sbcglobal.net.

Pennies! Pennies! Pennies!

Remember to save your pennies to help support the youth programs. Pennies can be dropped off at Common Place anytime.

Calendar of Events

Mon., September 7	Labor Day: Common Place Closed
Sat., September 12	<i>Walk for Reading</i> 8:00 a.m. – Registration 8:30 a.m. – Walk: starts & ends at Common Place
Wed., September 30	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 1 at Common Place 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sat., October 3	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 2 at Common Place 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sat., October 10	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3 at Common Place 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thurs., November 26	Common Place Closed for Thanksgiving
Fri., November 27	Common Place Closed

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 30, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Cost is \$15 for materials. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call Delvera Collins at 674-3315.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS from February 26, 2009 through July 20, 2009

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Albers
Associated Anesthesiologists
AT&T Employee Giving
Mr. & Mrs. Don Axt
Sharron Baird
Peter & Jeanne Barclay
Bartonville United Methodist
Ken Baumgartner
Harold & Mary Berjohn
Wanda Black
Mrs. Dean Blomeyer
Born Paint Co.
Daniel & Tricia Bozung
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bragg
Kendra Brandes
Jim & Alice Bremner
Brewers Distributing Co.
Patricia Briggs
Brimfield United Methodist
Barbara Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Brown
Michael & Paula Bryant
David & Joan Buchanan
Ronald & Susanne Burkey
John & Letha Byrne
Maurice & Sandra Cain
Frank & Janice Carder
Joyce & Bill Carius
Margaret Carter
H.E. Castelo
Caterpillar Foundation
Christian Church in IL & WI
The Children's Home of IL
Patricia Chrosniak
City of Peoria
Phil & Noel Cline
Steve & Minta Colburn
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Foundation of Central IL
Kathleen Conver
Dick & Doreve Cridlebaugh
Arlene Davis
Cheryl Dawson
Bryant & Lynn DeFrance
Delavan United Methodist
Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter
Gean Dentino
Dollar General Foundation
Peter Donis
Mrs. Mary Dossey
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Doubet
Robert Durham
Lonnie & Cathy Edwards
Edwards United Methodist
Dan & Betty Ekstrand
James & Barbara Ekstrum
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Erickson
Eureka Christian Church
David & Karen Ewert
Farmington United Methodist
Deborah Favus
James & Irma Fawley
Sybil Feldman
John & Lu Anne Fendrich
Lisa Fendrich
Bonnie Fenton
Ida Ferree
First Baptist, Peoria
First Baptist, Afternoon Literature Circle
First Baptist, American Baptist Women
First Christian Church, Creve Coeur
First Christian Church, Henry
First Christian Church, Walnut
First Christian Church, Walnut CWF
First Federated Church, Peoria
First Un. Meth., Wesleyan/Elva Harper Cir
First United Methodist, Peoria
First United Methodist, UMW
Ted W. & Kerri Fleming
Adele Fleming
Barbara Fletcher
Frank & Twila Ford
William Frederick, Jr.
Mrs. Trenchard French
Mrs. Ralph Garrabrant
Glasford United Methodist Church
Glen Oak Christian Church
Glen Oak Christian, CWF
Terry & Carol Glynn
Dr. & Mrs. David Gorenz
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gove
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Gray
Mrs. Johanne Grewell
Robert & Mary Grigsby
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grimsley
Homer & Barb Gurtler
Charles Hamilton
Hanna City-Trivoli Un. Methodist Church
Esther Hannah
Hershel Hannah, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hanson
Dianne Happ
Miles C. Hauter
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Haynes
Hediger & Meyers Insurance
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hofford
Dr. & Mrs. James Hunt
Bea Huson
Illinois Central College
Leann Johnson
Marilyn Johnston
Journal Star
Michael & Julie Kamm
Mrs. Joseph Kelley
David Kendrick
Floride Kidder
Kingston Mines United Methodist Church
Thomas & Janice Kleppe
Bernadine Kluge
Roberta Koscielski
Kathryn Lambert & Griff Garmers
Rich & Sharon Lansdowne
Kenneth Legg
Kathleen Leonard
Lewistown United Methodist Church
Barbara & Doyle Long
Mrs. Robert Loveless
Robert & Gaye Lovett
Patricia Lowe
Mackinaw Christian Church, CWF
Donald & Marilyn Magiera
Diane Manning
David Manuel, Sr.
Marian Marshall
Carol & Roger May
Robert & Mary McAfee
Marge McGaughey
Janet McGrath
Dr. & Mrs. John McLean
Heather Minion
Kathryn Minion
John & Betty Minor
Mizpah Circle of the Kings
Daughters & Sons
Mossville United Methodist Church
Mr. & Mrs. James Mueller
Elliott Murray
Kathleen Murray
Donald & Irene Nafziger
National Organization for Research
National City Bank
Lindsay Nevitt
Nixon Insurance Agency
Trisha Noack
Charlotte Noe
Henry Noe
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Stan & Jean Ogden
Rosemary Oldenburg
Susan Oldfield
Optimist Club of Peoria
Mrs. Theodore Page
Robert & Ann Parrett
Ann Pastucha
Peoria Area Anti-Hunger Coalition
Peoria Coordinating Council of DKG
Peoria Housing Authority
Peoria Heights Congregational Church
Peoria Public Library
David Prindable
Pat Pritchard
Prospect United Methodist Church
PSA Dewberry Inc.
Donald & Laura Rager
Nancy & Henry Rakoff
Raman & Parimala Raman
William & Sandra Reese
Elizabeth Rickert
Ivan Rickey
Lester & Virginia Riley
Gerald Roggy
Brian & Deborah Ruddell
Haleh Sadat & David Schuh
John & Linda Sahn
Lois Sampson
Barbara Schefelbein
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schellenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schwebel
Allin & Betty Schweitzer
Donald & Meredith Seaton
Mr. & Mrs. John Sleevar
Veralee Smith
Paul Sommer
Dorothy Sours
South Side Trust & Saving

Mark & Renee Spenny
 Judith Stalling
 State of Illinois
 Russell & Laura Stokes
 George Stout
 Sunnyland Christian Church
 Lisa Sutherland
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Swager
 Linda Symmonds
 Edward Szynaka
 Brent Teubel
 Teubel Excavating L.L.C.
 Texas United Methodist Church
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Thomas
 Nancy & Terry Thompson
 Robert & Pamela Tomka
 Traders Realty
 Stephen Trainor
 Mr. & Mrs. Guy Treadway
 Tremont United Methodist Church
 Mr. & Mrs. Field Triebel
 Trivoli United Methodist Church
 Steve & Carol Turbett
 Dorothy Turchi
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Turcot
 Norma Turner
 Robin Turner
 Tyco Matching Gifts Program
 United Disciples Christian Church
 Heart of Illinois United Way
 Dottie Vanier
 Nancy & Harvey Varness
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Volz
 Connie & Tim Voss
 Dale Voss
 Gene & Margaret Voss
 Carol Walker
 Ms. Freddie Walker
 Washburn Christian Church
 Washington Presbyterian Church
 David Watkins
 Warren Webber
 Web Tech Services, Inc.
 Mrs. Ernest West
 Randy & Mary Jane West
 White Chapel United Methodist Church
 William & Beverly White
 Martha Willi
 Claude Williams
 Willow Hill United Methodist Church
 Mary Therese Wood
 David & Carol Youngman
 Dr. & Mrs. Mike Zichterman
 Marcia Ziegler

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 February 26, 2009 to July 20, 2009.

Although still waiting to hear about some of our state grant applications, we are pleased to have received the following grants to support our dedication to the welfare of the children and families of our community.

Youth United for Central Illinois provided funding for a summer youth field trip to the Chicago DuSable Museum.

Two grants from United Way support our K-4 and grade 5-12 youth programming.

Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation and International Foundation provide grants for “Cultural Tales” activities for grades K-4.

Grant from Community Foundation of Central IL will provide Operation:Education—support activities for the parents of our youth participants.

The Adult Literacy Program has received grant funding from United Way and the Dollar General Foundation for our adult literacy activities, as well as Secretary of State Penny Severns grant for Summer Family Reading.

FEMA has provided 2 grants this year for much-needed support for our Emergency Food Pantry. We are also thankful for all the generous

donations of food from the community that help meet increasing demands for assistance.

Peoria Reads!, the community one city/one book project lead by Common Place and the Peoria Public Library will enter its 9th year thanks to a grant for The Big Read from the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



This is your chance to get a beautiful, weed-free lawn and support Common Place at the same time. Community Lawn Care is locally owned by Don Schumacher, who has over 30 years of golf and lawn turf experience. Community Lawn Care provides fertilization as well as weed, insect, and disease control services for the turf grasses of central Illinois. **The good news is that 10% of every dollar you spend goes to support Common Place.** All Community Lawn Care services are competitively priced and guaranteed. Call 309-369-2378 for a free lawn analysis and estimate.

Volunteer Corner

This summer, President Obama asked all Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by serving in our communities. This is a challenge to all Americans to engage in sustained, meaningful service because ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things.

There are many ways to volunteer. At Common Place we offer one-time, on-going, and seasonal volunteer opportunities. We handle small and large groups of volunteers, and individuals as well. Just recently we hosted a group of 43 volunteers, mostly youth who were traveling from Minnesota to Louisiana for a church youth conference. These youth were a pleasure to work with. In three hours they trimmed trees and shrubs, weeded, scrubbed kitchens and restrooms, painted murals, cleaned and fixed bookcases, cleaned stairwells, washed walls, cleaned the inside and outside of a van, and changed a flat tire.

Other volunteer opportunities are not as physical but may require some special skills, such as electrical work, basic carpentry, organizational & administrative skills, and use of a van or truck with topper. Below are some of the opportunities we offer at Common Place.

On-going Projects:

- Tutoring children grades K – 12 after school or summer, one or more days a week
- Tutoring adults one-on-one or in small group class
- Pick up food from food banks once a month (requires a pick-up truck with topper or van), and help put food away
- Weeding around main building and program houses

One-time Projects:

- Purchase and lay carpet in youth program houses
- Landscaping: purchase and plant flowers and shrubs, and/or mulch around main building and program houses

- Purchase and/or install fence around program house
- Install new floor in restroom
- Paint exterior of Common Place owned houses
- Replace screen door handle & kitchen sink sprayer at program house
- Prep work for "Look Books": cutting out pictures of animals, insects, etc., and labeling the animals

Projects requiring special skills:

- Experienced person to strip and wax tile floors of main building and two program houses twice per year
- Experienced person to steam clean carpet in main building and/or program houses
- Electrical, plumbing, & basic carpentry needs
- Uninstall programs on donated computers & install learning programs

Seasonal Projects:

- Mow Common Place's lots weekly, or when needed, from early May to mid-October
- Shovel/snow blower (must provide own) – remove snow when needed from sidewalks around Common Place: main building, parking lot, program houses
- Help with holiday planning and crafts for youth programs



Youth volunteers from Minnesota trimmed trees around the Common Place parking lot.

Summer Youth Activities

There are many activities children could do during the summer: attend camp, play sports, enroll in a library reading program, and swim. The children enrolled in Common Place's summer youth programs enjoyed their summer studying and working.



These children are learning how to grow and harvest vegetables. These vegetables will be shown at the U of I Cooperative Extension's Harvest Festival.

The children, ages ranging from 8 – 15 years, studied agriculture, nutrition, cooking, science, and African-American inventors. Thanks to a grant from Youth United for Central Illinois, the youth were able to attend a field trip to Chicago to tour the DuSable Museum of African-American History. Children also participated in chores, such as litter pick-up in the Common Place neighborhood. Stipends were given based on attendance, behavior, timeliness, and participation.

Thank you to our donors who helped to provide a wonderful experience for 100 youth!



Volcanoes were built for a science experiment: Which produces a better eruption, baking soda & vinegar or Mentos candy & diet soda?



After completing a week long course offered by the Hult Health Education Center, these pre-teens were certified as babysitters.

Get Wild About Reading! Africa!

This summer parents and their children are learning together thanks to a grant from the Secretary of State Literacy Office. The theme is "Get Wild About Reading! Africa!" The families are reading books about the people, traditions, folk tales and history of the African continent and its many cultures.

Adult learners and their children have classes both separately and together where they read books and participate in craft projects and related activities about African cultures. It is a vital part of this program to have children and their parents reading, learning and playing together. The families also visit the Lincoln Library weekly where head librarian, Cynthia Smith, always has interesting books and projects planned.

Guest speakers have also enriched the program. The Peoria Zoomobile visited and the children loved meeting the Australian sugar glider, South American armadillo, and the "Hissing Cockroaches!"—their parents weren't so sure! Storyteller Gwen Hilary and musician Enoch Williamson shared African folktales and music. Next, Bradley professor Cecile Arquette will visit to share her experiences from when she lived in Cameroon, including African clothing, musical instruments and a traditional African dish.

Volunteers for the children's group, Paula, Constance and Mary, along with adult tutor John and Common Place staff have made an exciting summer of learning for our families!



Participants in the Summer Family Reading program learning about the South American Armadillo

**Common Place Love In Action Award Dinner
June 9, 2009**



*Dr. & Mrs. Richard Albers and
Common Place adult learner
Burnice Blair*



*Common Place adult
learner Claude Williams*



*Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Wuttke and
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Frederick*



*2009 Love In Action
Award Recipient
Aurthur Mae Perkins*



*Mr. & Mrs. Mark Spenny
and Nancy Rakoff*



Mr. & Mrs. Don



Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gilmore



Ketrina Johnson and Veralee Smith

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_____

COMMON PLACE
514 S. Shelley Street
Peoria, IL 61605-1837
Phone: 309-674-3315
Fax: 309-674-0627
Email: commonplace@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.commonplacepeoria.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Peoria, Illinois
Permit No. 664

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please call or
email us if you
would like to be
removed from
our mailing list.