

Common Place...where love works!

GOODNEWS

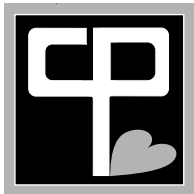
August 2006

"Celebrating 39 years of love in action"

**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



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

Get In Step With The Walk for Reading

On Saturday, September 9th Common Place will hold it's 20th annual **Walk for Reading** to help raise funds for our youth after-school tutoring and adult literacy programs.

Our goal and need in 2006 is \$40,000. **You can help us meet our need!** We need you to join us on September 9th with registration at 8:00 a.m. and the walk at 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.



Participants walking to give children and adults opportunities to learn.

Sponsorship is key to our event.

Participants are encouraged to set a

personal goal and seek sponsors for walking or volunteering. Thanks to Caterpillar, American Airlines, and a number of restaurants and businesses, participants will receive prizes for the amount of sponsorship they obtain. The individual with the highest sponsorship will receive two free roundtrip airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States.

Festivities will follow the 5K residential, shady route with free brunch for the participants and volunteers, and a silent auction with items appealing to all ages. To participate in the **Walk for Reading**, please fill out and mail the tear off sheet on the back, email us, visit our website, or call Stephanie at 674-3315.

From The Director

A quote from Sally Koch states, "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily." Looking around Common Place, one can see staff members and others taking advantage of "small opportunities" to help others throughout every day. It's in the soft words of encouragement to an upset child, or in meaningful words of praise for accomplishing a goal, large or small. It's seen when an adult has gathered the courage to enroll in school; when a neighborhood person gratefully receives emergency food; or when a homeowner receives help with their leaking roof. It's also seen as each and every person coming in the door is treated with respect and dignity.

At Common Place, while we do celebrate large accomplishments of programs or individuals, those are built by the accumulation of the many small steps that are celebrated daily by our Common Place "family" – staff, volunteers, adults, children, and families – and made possible by our extended family of many supporters. Thank you all for being a part of our Common Place family.

Connie Voss

Great Graduates!

You can imagine the pride and joy Common Place staff members felt recently when we attended the eighth grade graduation for Blaine Sumner School. The top two graduates, Athenia Wells and Tierra Branch, were "Common Place kids"!

Many of the young people graduating had been in Common Place after-school and summer programs for many years. Our hearts are with the young people with whom we have a strong attachment.

Common Place Youth graduate from Blaine Sumner Middle School.

Not only did our young people take top academic honors, but they also were awarded many prizes for citizenship and outstanding accomplishments.

This was the last graduation for Blaine Sumner...a school with which Common Place has worked for 19 years. In that regard it was a somewhat sad occasion for the dedicated school staff and the young people.

The youth who haven't graduated yet will be going to other south side schools. Our dedicated youth staff has been asked to help in this transition; and we will continue to provide after-school and summer tutoring, life skills, and enrichment for the children wherever they attend school. Our Focus program for high school youth will also be available to the graduates.

These accomplishments by the eighth grade graduates are a testimony that, with your support of our youth programs, great lives can be achieved!

Meet Our New Staff Members

Kathryn Lambert joined Common Place in May 2006 as the Director of Adult Programs after ten years working for the Peoria Journal Star's Newspaper In Education program. Kathryn grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, attended high school at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan, and graduated from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts with a major in Theater Education and a minor in English. She



Kathryn Lambert, Director of Adult Programs, "I'm very grateful for this opportunity and I'm so happy to be here. Everyone at Common Place has made me feel welcome."

also has her teacher certification for grades 5 – 12. Kathryn is married to Griff Garmers and has a seven-year-old son, Seth.

Zelena Winters is our Assistant Turning Point/Teen REACH Coordinator. She grew up in Peoria, attended Peoria Central High School, Illinois Central College, and finished her degree in primary and special education at Robert Morris College, Carthage campus in the Chicago area. She previously worked at the local chapter of the American Red Cross as a CPR/Health Instructor, and as a Youth Health and Safety Instructor. Zelena is married to Michael and has five children.



Zelena Winters, Assistant Turning Point/Teen REACH Coordinator, "Working with pre-teens is challenging, but I love a challenge and I love what I do."



Renell Gamble, the Family Summer Reading Coordinator, recently graduated from Illinois Central College with a major in secondary education. Renell tutors privately and tutors at ICC for the New World Academic Support Program and the Help Lab. She has received a full tuition scholarship for Bradley University, and will attend there this fall with a major in math for secondary education and a minor in chemistry. Renell has a three-year-old daughter, Kamilah.

Renell Gamble, Family Summer Reading Coordinator, "Working for Common Place is a very eye opening experience, and it is a lot of fun."

On Our Wish List

We need some help on three "one-time" projects. Do you know of someone who can

help?

- Build a trophy case for the awards our youth have won
- Do some yard work (weeding, trimming, edging, mowing)
- Paint some walls and ceilings in our youth program houses.

Please call Stephanie, 674-3315, if you can help. Thank you!

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 4	Common Place Closed for Labor Day.
Saturday, September 9	Common Place 20 th Annual <i>Walk for Reading</i> . Benefits educational programs.
Wednesday, September 27	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 1
Saturday, September 30	Tutor Training Workshop Session 2
Saturday, October 14	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3
Thursday, November 23	Common Place Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday, November 24	Common Place Closed for Thanksgiving
Wednesday, November 29	Sorting and mailing of the <i>GoodNews</i>

Summer Youth Programs A Hit

With Children And Parents If you asked the youth who have participated in Common Place's summer programs this summer and their parents, you would get a consensus that our programs offer a fun way of learning.

This summer the youth learned about their heritage through music. The youth participated in studying the history and lyrics of African-American songs through the century; war and peace songs from the Vietnam War era, they visited the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, toured the Wheels of Time Museum and saw many antique instruments; they also attended dress rehearsals of *Godspell* and *The Wiz*, and even made their own dulcimer!



Two youth participants make their own dulcimer to take home and keep.

The highlight of the summer programs was a fantastic musical program by the Summer Youth Work Study youth, "I See The Rhythm...America's Favorite Songs". Mrs. Helen & Mr. Tom, with the help of Libby Taylor, put together this musical and dance production of African-American



"Cab Calloway" serenades the crowd.



She was an American legend.

music, ranging from slave songs to dance styles of modern Hip Hop and Krumping.

Performances included "Cab Calloway", "Ella Fitzgerald", and "James Brown". The musical song and dance of James Brown was a real showstopper! The role of James Brown was played by a young nine year old who took his acting very seriously. He learned how to dance just like James Brown and wore a wig and adult size white patten dress shoes. The young boy told Mrs. Helen minutes before the show started that he couldn't

perform until his shoes were polished. With no polish available, the youngster sat down and worked on the shows until they shined! The room was packed with participants from the Turning Point/Teen REACH and Summer Teen Employment Program youth, staff members, parents, siblings, and grandparents.

Thank you Mrs. Helen, Mr. Tom, Mrs. Libby, and the very talented actresses and actors for a Tony award caliber performance!



"James Brown" entertains the crowd with his dancing.

Summer Family Reading

Many individuals think of summer as swimming, golfing, baseball, family reunions, vacations, and picnics. At Common Place summer means reading.

Renell Gamble, the Summer Family Reading Coordinator, planned a summer around the theme of African Entertainers and Artists with reading books, family activities, listening to different styles of songs, and field trips.

Some of the literary works read were, Brothers and Hope, Giant Steps, African fables, fables about the Nazi Anansi Spider, and cinquain poems to go with the book Joyful Noise. The families made self-collages, family trees, and African masks, and listened to the song Abiyoyo, Jazz-style music, and watched and listened to Garry Moore talk about and perform African culture dance and music. Field trip destinations included the Contemporary Art Center, the African-American Museum, Lakeview Planetarium, the Foster Art Center, and the DuSable Museum in Chicago.

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



Heart of Illinois
United Way

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