

Common Place...*where love works!*

GOODNEWS

April 2006

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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.

Member of

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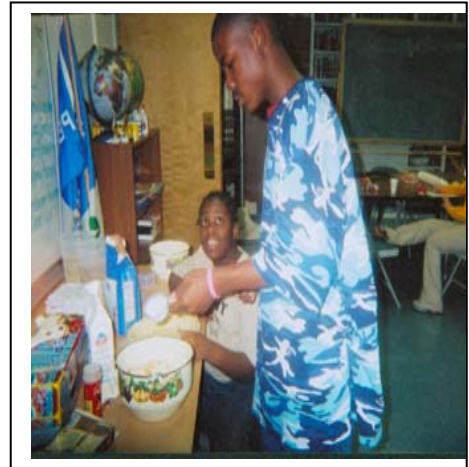
**Common Cents for Common
Place Kids and Your
Donations Will Provide**

Positive Activities for 95 Youth

A Penny Harvest? Raise a half million pennies? Yes, 500,000 pennies (that's \$5,000) will help 95 Common Place youth make positive choices and engage in productive activities this summer.

Common cents for Common Place Kids, a Common Place funding raising event, will take place in April and May to raise **part** of the money needed to provide study, chores, an allowance, and local field trips for our kids.

Each fall the children of our neighborhood begin asking if they can have a "job" next summer at Common Place. What they want is to be part of our summer youth program and receive an allowance... \$20 a week for older youth; \$15 for younger children. This money is important to the children for school clothes and other expenses. **You can help by making a donation for the children's allowances in the enclosed envelope.**



In 2006 this dynamic program will provide youth ages 8 – 15 the opportunity to learn about their heritage through American music and then attend local musical productions through donated tickets or attending dress rehearsals. Trips to the new Lincoln Museum and a musical museum will take place as funds allow.

The young people do chores in the neighborhood:

- picking up litter which alerts them to what accumulates and may change some habits
- tending their own garden with help from the U of IL Master Gardeners
- delivering fliers to benefit the neighborhood by publicizing programs.

Another way you can help is by saving your pennies (other coins are also accepted) and bringing them to:

Census of the cents at South Side Bank, 101 SW Adams in Peoria on Mondays: April 3, 10, 17, and 24 @ 10 am. Give us a call at 674-3315 if you want bottles and posters. Collection will continue during May.

In addition to churches, all South Side Bank branches, all MacDonald's Shell stations, and Java Jolt coffee will have collection bottles.

New Happenings For Adult Literacy

New and exciting things are happening in the Adult Literacy Program. In January Common Place held a very successful tutor training workshop series and gained 20 new tutors! Because Common Place accepts new students all year round, more tutors are needed. Tutor training workshops are held three to four times during the year. Attendance at all three sessions is necessary; cost is \$15 (cost of materials). For a one on one setting, tutors are asked to meet with an adult learner three hours each week. Small group or class setting is also available. If you have a special interest area or expertise you would like to share with others, please call Delvera Collins, 674-3315.

This spring the adult learners are busy reading and discussing books in conjunction with the Peoria Reads! program by reading *Nickel and Dime*, *Money Hungry*, and *Begging for Change*. Our tutors are also involved in Peoria Reads! by attending special events and discussion panels from this years book, and attending Common Place's in-service workshops, New Tools I & II.

Also new and exciting is the Health Literacy Library. This library is designed to help tutors incorporate health topics into lessons with their students. Materials range from easy reading to moderate reading. There are health topics geared for all ages, infants to teens to seniors. Common Place staff and tutors recently hosted some outside groups, young mothers and teenage girls, to attend a health lesson, and to introduce our available health materials.

Gifts that Make Our Work Possible All Year Long

Educational programs are the cornerstone of Common Place's work. Generous gifts from churches, individuals, corporations, United Way, and special grants help to make our work possible and help our brothers and sisters have new chances.

We want to say a special "thank you" to the following groups who have helped recently to underwrite our programs and projects:

- Caterpillar Foundation for a very generous gift to help our seventh grade through high school youth find school success, serve as interns to help younger children, and have college scholarships.
- City of Peoria 2006 Community Development Block grant funds from US Dept of Housing & Urban Development to help fund our Promising Futures and Future Quest youth programs and our Home Improvement program.
- Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation through Nu Chapter to provide dynamic reading experiences for our youth.
- Federal Home Loan Bank through CEFCU to help our Home Improvement program repair additional homes for low-income owners.
- Grace & Peace Lutheran Church Endowment to provide staff training that will strengthen Common Place
- For Peoria Reads! project- books & speakers:
 - Illinois Central College
 - Illinois Humanities Council
 - Illinois Reading Council
- Rotary Club of Peoria to help adult new readers through our literacy program.

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?
- ... help us update our display used at mission fairs and other events?
- ... do some spring yard clean up?

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

Calendar of Events

Whole Month of April & May	Common çents for Common Place Kids Penny Harvest
Wednesday, April 5 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Adult Literacy Tutor Training Workshop, Session 1.
Saturday, April 8 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 2.
Friday, April 14	Common Place Closed for Good Friday.
Saturday, April 29 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3.
Monday, May 29	Common Place Closed for Memorial Day.
Monday, June 5	Summer Youth Programs start.
July 3 & 4	Common Place Closed for Fourth of July.
Wednesday, August 2 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Sorting/Mailing Day for <i>Good News</i> - volunteers needed, lunch provided. Please RSVP by July 20 to reserve lunch.
Monday, September 4	Common Place Closed for Labor Day.
Saturday, September 9	Common Place 20 th Annual Walk/Fun Run Benefits education programs.

Program for Kindergarten - Second Grade Expanded

Because of a grant, response to our Annual Campaign, and the release of previously restricted funds, we are delighted to have been able to expand our after-school program for kindergarten through second grade at-risk children! Karin Johnson, a very creative retired teacher, is working very effectively with the children to help them increase their school success and life skills.

Executive Director, Nancy Rakoff Retires After 39 Years

It has been my great pleasure and honor to work at Common Place since 1967 with the past 23 years as its Executive Director. I have learned much, and it has given life much meaning for me to be able to "touch lives" with so many people from different walks of life.

Common Place was started by a prophetic group of people from an ecumenical array of churches when the civil rights struggle was at its peak.



I truly believe in Common Place's mission to help overcome the *causes* of poverty, racism, and discrimination while working to create human understanding between people of various backgrounds. I know we make a difference by creating our common place where all people can give and can receive. I also know that we have further work to do toward a more just and loving society.

At this point in my life, I want to have more time to spend with my family, enjoy the outdoors, and to pursue educational interests. In December our board began the process of searching for a new Executive Director.

I am delighted to tell you that my successor is Connie Voss! Connie has worked with us since 2004 as Director of Adult Programs and she brings many years experience in planning and managing effective educational programs for adults and youth. Connie is well respected in the community and at Common Place and does a great job of networking with other programs and organizations.

At this time Connie is serving as Associate Director while we spend training time together. Effective July 1, 2006 Connie will become Executive Director, and I will retire.

I am excited about this transition and know you will share my enthusiasm. Connie will benefit from your continued interest and support. Please join me in welcoming her to this new opportunity.

Thank you for all each of you has done to provide the resources...both volunteer and financial...and the moral support for this fine organization.

Nancy Rakoff

Yes! I want to help with the Summer Youth Programs

_____ **Please accept my tax deductible gift to help provide allowances for the Summer Youth Programs at Common Place.**

_____ **I can help by volunteering to tutor.**

_____ **Please contact me at _____ . I want to get my group involved in penny collection.**

MY NAME & ADDRESS _____

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