

# News for Friends of Faith Hope Community Center, Inc.

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*Fostering healthy kids and families through anger management and youth development with the goal of keeping children and youth in school, off street corners, away from drugs and gangs, and safe from violence.*

**This is the eighth in a series of periodic newsletters intended to keep friends, supporters, volunteers and donors informed of happenings and progress at the Faith Hope Community Center.**

- Administrative Secretary, Vernita King, has provided tremendous help, not only at the desk, but also stepping in to enrich programming for the after-school kids. Several books arrived through her efforts with First Book Program. Individuals answered her call for winter clothing for Somalian attendees, as well as for others in need. Syracuse University donated clothes and sneakers, and Syracuse Police Department's Camp 415 (CNY Association for Minority Police) contributed hats and gloves.
- Kenyetta (Nicky) Harrison came on board January 1<sup>st</sup> to be the Center's Program Coordinator. Going by her nickname, "Nicky," she has been readily accepted by the children. Nicky previously worked for New Process Gear, volunteered in her sons' schools and was helpful with the Pop Warner football program. She is delighted to work with the kids, and already held a Valentine's Day spaghetti dinner for participants and parents, and took a group of eighteen to see the Syracuse Orange women play Georgetown (tickets provided by Ken Miles). She organizes each day into arts and crafts day, computer day, movie & popcorn day with movies they pick. She teaches hygiene to the girls and has plans to bring in males to work with the boys. Nicky looks forward to nice weather to roller skate, play kick ball, and to take walking field trips to the Everson Museum and the M.O.S.T. She hopes transportation can be arranged to go to beaches and other outings. Welcome, Nicky!
- The Center is very appreciative to the donors whose gifts allow Ed and Bob to purchase food weekly at the CNY Food Bank. Nicky prepares snacks with the kids; and neighborhood families find assistance with basic food needs. She was pleased to receive a thank-you note from one of the families. We also thank contributors for monetarily supporting our day-to-day operations. We're able to provide services on an annual budget of less than \$120,000.
- We reported a few issues ago that Leon Saddler, Jr. worked out at Faith Hope, was a 2007 C.B.A. graduate, was named to our area's High School Football All-Stars list, and went on to Milford Academy. After one semester there, he was accepted on an athletic scholarship to Long Island University's C.W. Post College, where he began in January. His dad, Leon, Sr.'s mantra for that is "It's a blessing, it's a blessing!"
- The go-cart project is building momentum with excited anticipation for good weather to permit a "go" at them. Someone is waiting in the wings to broaden this experience by teaching kids to do body work on real cars, including sanding, along with changing oil. The go-carts are extending the outreach of Faith Hope.
- When a dad who had heard about the boxing program inquired about sending his 8 and 11-year old sons, Bob invited him to participate with them so they could appreciate his involvement, along with theirs. Their real focus, they say is to build families. Ed says "the boxing bags love for you to hit on them to relieve frustrations, and sometimes they don't even move!"
- On a few occasions recently, Bob and Ed talked several youth and young adults out of killing each other or their threats to do so. Often this occurs after a person is stabbed or shot when friends rally to retaliate. These coaches/trainers/role models take it steps further, referring the situations to Richard Brooks, Faith Hope's vice president, who is a county probation officer. He then interfaces with the schools to come up with a plan to work with the individuals to help curb violent tendencies.

- Judy Fancher, Zen Center’s representative, meets with Faith Hope children on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5 p.m. Ed says, “Judy is doing a great job making differences in young kids’ lives. She teaches the art of patience, has a background in medicine, and is called, ‘Dr. Judy.’”

Take off your shoes outside the picturesque door painted with a lovely, peaceful, pink-flowering tree and sit in one of three rattan chairs or assume a meditative position on the reed mat, atop a special, black pillow-cushion ball. This allows for an upright posture, showing dignity and respect and prepares you for focusing deeply within yourself. You now have entered the space that Judy Fancher creates at Faith Hope. Reaching out to girls and boys, ages 4 to 12, Judy sees groups of 3 – 5 girls at one time and boys at another. She’s there to listen, not to impose anything upon them. She invites their expressions of anxieties or difficulties in getting along with others, including altercations that may have taken place moments before she arrives, when Bob lets her know that a particular child “really needs it today.”

Judy utilizes a variety of techniques, often asking the young ones to choose something they enjoy, such as sports or music and exploring how it feels to them to do well in their expressions of it. They focus on breath, as they use good, self-respectful posture, and the relaxed breathing transfers to their minds. Judy affirms the potential in each child. She likes to offer opportunities for creative expression through the arts, and although her room has “good energy” (feels warm and welcoming and peaceful), there hardly is enough space to do projects.

The kids reward Judy by expressing that they feel calmer, more relaxed, less inclined to punch their sister or to get into fights at school. She, in turn, loves the children and has an open heart, as she helps them feel her connection, care and concern. Yea for “Dr. Judy!”

- Thank you to Nancy Kronen for arranging for an architect to work with the Faith Hope board and staff on plans for expansion of the facility. The building is full to capacity much of the time.
- We extend our thanks to Catholic Charities finance department personnel Kevin Domanico and Denise Lazarski for taking over our accounting work. We thank Eileen Dillon, CPA for completing the 2006 audit. Because of the efficiency of the Catholic Charities accounting department, our 2007 audit is already in process. We are deeply indebted to Marilyn Martinez, Faith Hope Treasurer for faithfully managing payroll, paying bills and handling our day-to-day interface with the accountant.
- We express great gratitude to our newly created Advisory Board, who met January 28<sup>th</sup> and plans to meet about three times annually. Guided by the recently approved revised Vision and Mission Statements to be used in strategic planning, they brainstorm new ideas and ways to raise money for the Center. The First Advisory Board meeting attendees were Ed Beauford, Geraldine King Beauford, Janice Bishop, Richard E. Brooks, Hal Garman, Bob Harrison, Dana Hart, Sheila Hernandez-Donovan, Ralph Jones, Vernita King, Oscar McKenzie, Kenneth Miles, Judy Mower, Doris V. Rice, Eduardo Rodriguez, Washington Rogers, Jr., Leon A. Saddler, Sr., Ida Stewart, Stephanie Threatte, and Jim Wiggins. We heartily thank Stephanie Threatte for serving as volunteer consultant for the development and implementation of our program coordinator position. Janice Bishop is a new volunteer, tutoring reading and math.
- Thank you to the Gifford Foundation, CNY Community Foundation, Allyn Foundation, Community Development Block Grant, Onondaga County Department of Social Services, and private individuals for supporting this vital program to reduce violence and help persons to have faith in themselves and hope for their future. **We are enclosing an envelope for spring contributions. Please make checks out to Faith Hope Community Center, Inc. and send in the enclosed envelope to the above address.**

**The Center is a not-for-profit corporation and has 501-(c)-(3) status with the IRS. It has a board of directors that meets monthly and an advisory board that meets three times a year. A majority of board members are African American and many reside on the south side.**

**Board President and Coach/Trainer – Ed Beauford, 492-2245 (home), 477-9944 (Center)**  
**Vice President and Volunteer – Richard Brooks, 435-3580 (work), 876-7210 (cell)**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms and Coach/Trainer – Bob Harrison, 876-0928 (cell), 477-9944 (Center)**  
**Program Coordinator – Kenyetta (Nicky) Harrison, 477-9944 (Center)**  
**Treasurer and Statistician - Marilyn Martinez, 559-0047 (cell), 477-9945 (Center)**