



the Lantern

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A newsletter of the Presentation Lantern Center, Dubuque, Iowa
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa

Center Gets New Home, Blog

by Sr. Beth Kress, PBVM

"On cold days the warm sunshine filters through the beautiful glass in the front doors inviting people to come in and experience hospitality," remarks Presentation Lantern Center Executive Director Sr. Corine Murray.

During 2010 St. Mary's Parish closed and the Board of Trustees was involved in a search for a new location. With many helpers the move from 1501 Jackson Street to 1584 White Street took place in late December.

Moving Days

During the month of December tutors, visitors, Presentation sisters, associates, board members and friends sorted, packed and marked boxes to prepare for the move.

Board member Frank Reinert brought his truck and many volunteers joined in moving boxes across the alley and into the new space. Before the snow fell on December 20, a group of men with strong backs and willing hands from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center moved the large furniture items.

Volunteers spent much of the Christmas break unpacking and sorting all that had been moved. One group cleaned and organized the kitchen. One of the offices received a new coat of fresh paint. Books were placed on the shelves, tables and chairs were arranged and pictures were hung.

"We love our new Lantern Center. It's so spacious and has such beautiful old woodwork, tin ceilings and leaded-glass windows," exclaims tutor Elaine Hunt.

The center has two offices, two large rooms for individualized instruction, a room for a mother and child to be together during a tutoring session, a dining room for coffee breaks and a full kitchen with a dishwasher.

Warm Welcome

"The new place is very nice. I feel welcome," states Behira, a new U.S. citizen from Bosnia.

Hanging in the main entrance is a picture of Nano Nagle, foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation, and her lantern, a reminder of her life and work and a symbol of welcome to all who come.

Assistant Helen Cox greets each individual who comes to the door. "It feels as though we are welcoming the visitors and tutors into our home because it has a friendly, relaxing and warm feeling," she states.

The center opened at its new address on Monday, January 4. An open house is in the planning stages for early spring.

Presentation Lantern Blog Site

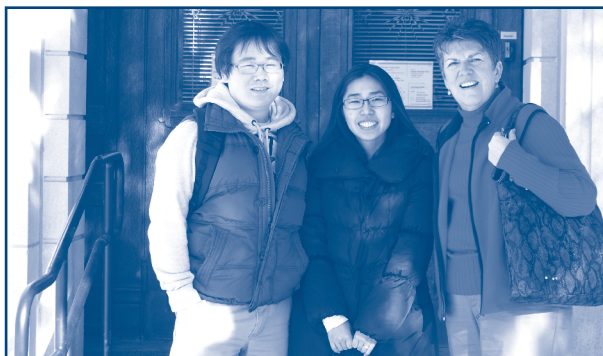
In November, while relocation plans were underway, the Board of Trustees officially launched a blog site.

"The Presentation Lantern Center is moving into cyberspace and using social media to advance the mission," comments Sr. Beth Kress, public relations committee chair.

For updated stories and photos, visit the center's blog at www.lanterncenterdbq.org

"The new place is very nice. I feel welcome," states Behira, a new U.S. citizen from Bosnia.

Left to right, KwangMin and SunYoung (South Korea) meet tutor Barb Featherston at the new Lantern Center.



LANTERN CENTER

Welcome

by Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM, Executive Director



"I lost my voice." For many of us, this statement is a short-lived reality connected with a bad cold. For those struggling to learn English as their second or perhaps

third language, losing one's voice is a frustrating experience that may last a long time. Overcoming the frustration is, as one woman said, "like growing a new soul."

Learning English is a process; the frustration and loneliness can be overwhelming. Day by day these English language learners reveal a quiet courage as they stay at the task. The hospitality of the tutors is indispensable and the friendships that develop between tutors and visitors are life-giving. A smile and a nod of the head that indicates a new understanding is always cause for rejoicing.

To all who support the mission of the center I express the appreciation of the Sisters of the Presentation, the Board of Trustees and those who come to the center. You make it possible for our visitors to grow new souls.

On the inside pages of this issue, please find a listing of friends and benefactors who have assisted us during the past year. Their generosity creates opportunities and touches lives in profound ways. Their support is indispensable in carrying out the mission to welcome the strangers among us.

Friends of the Presentation Lantern Center

Presentation Lantern Center is sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation. We are deeply grateful to all who partner with us in this ministry of hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to newcomers from across the street and across the globe. We appreciate your generosity and remember you in our daily prayers.

Monetary gifts up to \$24

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Seminary Group



Behira (Bosnia) and her tutor Elaine Hunt celebrate Behira's newly awarded U. S. citizenship.

Loras College Service Group, left to right, Ty, Sara, Maggie and John are helping at the Lantern Center this semester.



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Congratulations, Sr. Corine

Left, Sr. Corine accepts the 2011 Matthew 25 Award from Divine Word College and \$500 for her ministry.

EPWORTH, IA – Divine Word College honors Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM, executive director of the Presentation Lantern Center in Dubuque, as the 2011 recipient of the Matthew 25 Award. The award was presented at a dinner held at DWC on Wednesday, March, 16.



Under her guidance, the Presentation Lantern Center has helped immigrants from 39 counties get acclimated to the Dubuque community. Averaging 80 visitors per year—focusing on women and their children — the center has connected its visitors with programs available to them, helped them learn the English language, understand the culture and find friends. In fact, the center has helped approximately 30 people study for and pass the test to become a citizen of the United States.

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TOTAL \$23,831.08

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Grayce Oneill-Carty
D. A. Pollitt
Wayne and Michelle Schnier
Tim and Lynn Steines
David and M.P. Tart

In Memory of Catherine Megel

Robert and Beverly Murray

In Memory of

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In Honor of Presentation 25th Jubilarian

Sr. Martha Donnelly, PBVM
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Flooring Employees

In Honor of Sr. Lynn Marie Fangman, PBVM

Sisters of the Presentation

In Honor of Sr. Corine Murray, PBVM

Notre Dame Club of Dubuque

In Honor of Sisters of the Presentation Feast Day

Sisters of St. Francis of the
Holy Family, Dubuque
Sisters of the Visitation, Dubuque

Dan Carroll,
left, completes the
new flooring in the
center's restroom,
compliments of
FloorShow Furniture
and Flooring.

Outstanding Service Awards

by Sr. Corine Murray

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or to improve the human quality of life. Many volunteers further the mission of the Presentation Lantern Center.

At the December 2010 Appreciation Dinner for volunteers and board members, two individuals were honored for their outstanding service at the center.

When presenting the award to Sr. James Marie Gross, PBVM, I recalled the familiar prayer phrase, "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be."

From the very beginning in 2002, Sr. James Marie volunteered as a tutor. She has tutored individuals from three continents and many different countries. As a tutor she brought well-honed skills from a teaching career that spanned over fifty years.

"The chance to tutor at the Lantern Center has been a blessing to me in many ways," states Sr. James Marie. "It allows me to continue to use my teaching skills. There is a sense of satisfaction in helping such highly motivated people who come to the center to improve their English skills. It stretches one's perspective to work with people of so many different cultures and to hear their stories. It also makes one realize how very difficult it is to learn English."

She adds with pride, "Many with whom I worked have become my very good friends."

Donald "D.J." Ruden was also honored with the Outstanding Service Award. As a retired high school government teacher, he was well suited to help visitor Gaby Nesler prepare for the citizenship test. For weeks, they worked on the list of one hundred questions. On the day of the test, ten questions were randomly chosen. Gaby passed with flying colors.

"I was educated by Presentation Sisters through 12 grades and I am familiar with the significance of the lantern and of

Nano Nagle, their foundress," comments DJ. "The friendships I make at Presentation Lantern Center enrich my life."

Since the fall of 2007, D.J. has helped others learn English and has laced his teaching with his delightful sense of humor. Reflecting on this award, he shares, "My hope is that every other volunteer I have met at the center be recognized because my own contributions are necessarily limited."

Volunteers take the time to make the world a better place.



Board president Mary Jean Gregory, left, and Sr. Corine Murray, right, congratulate Outstanding Service Award recipient Sr. James Marie Gross. Donald Ruden, also an awardee, was not available for a photo.



1584 White Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
563-557-7134
lanterncenter@aol.com

The Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to women and their children who are striving to better their lives. Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa, the center is a non-profit organization.

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Contact us at
563.557.7134
lanterncenter@aol.com

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We welcome your support and prayers. Your generosity touches many lives and hearts from around the world.

Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

Visit us at

www.presentationlanterndbq.org

PHOTO GALLERY

Life at the Center

Sharing stories and learning together, staff, visitors, families and volunteers make things tick every day at Presentation Lantern Center.

Left to Right: TOP LEFT, Sarah Kelley (Clarke University) and Russian tutor Olga Kazberouk appreciate the new Lantern Center facilities. TOP RIGHT, Diego and Julia join others in singing carols at the December 16 Posada. BOTTOM LEFT, Juan and his daughter Joanna show the Lantern Center welcome. BOTTOM RIGHT, Tutor Dianne Harris and Sedina (Bosnia) break from reviewing English vocabulary.

