

GOMOC NEWS

Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern

“Agency of Last Resort”

Assist... Enhance... Empower...

Winter 2011

GOMOC

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The Season of Change

Marian Gerhardy, President of the Board of Directors

As I look out the window and see the frost on the early day, I realize that another season is dwindling away. Change is the one thing that is a certainty. The Ministry of Concern has experienced many changes lately. If you do not know, our Executive Director, Lisa Ireland, has moved on to the United Way of Orleans County. She will be able to assist us in a different manner in her role at a sister organization. Two of our long time employees, Carol Claus and Jori Griffin, have also left. We wish them all the best and appreciate their time with us. The landscape has certainly changed. However, just as the seasons change, we too will be refreshed with some new faces and ideas.

If you stop in to visit us, you will find Jeffrey Post, a recently retired and long time resident of Albion, at the helm as our interim Executive Director, and our Just Friends Program Coordinator is about to come on board. Never fear though, our trusty advocate, Liz Reeson, is still meeting the needs of our clients, which is why we are here.

As we experience change, though, we sometimes wonder if it is all worth it. Are we accomplishing our goal? Are we really helping people in our hurting climate? Are we making a difference? God dropped a gem in our hands to reaffirm and remind us as to why the agency exists. In a letter received this past week, the author related how we had helped her father who had worked hard all his life and had fallen on hard times when he took in his grandchildren. “I do remember your agency helped and he was able to rest a little easier.” She continued to share how the agency had later helped her when she became disabled, despite her working hard all her life. In her own words, “I was not used to being on the need for assistance end — but I was. As I sat in your office, I was no longer ashamed but encouraged and thankful for help. I left with hope.” This letter was sent to ask if she could volunteer. What a blessing! She concluded with these words: “the peace in my dad’s heart, the hope I left your office with, could never be repaid but it can be used as an example of what the Ministry of Concern is all about.”

Yes, that is what we are all about. Look around. I think we are all aware of the need in our community today. As in many areas, we are being asked to do more with less. We have received several notices that our funding will be reduced for the coming year, yet our need is increasing in these trying times. We are working hard to continue our programs with less and less. Our mission is important. As we enter the season of giving thanks and sharing, I ask if you can help. If you are fortunate enough to be able to count your blessings this Thanksgiving, please help by sharing with those who are not so fortunate. Our employment transitions and funding cuts have made it a difficult period. If you believe that we are God’s hands and feet, please help. Those whom we assist will be grateful.

They say the devil is in the details, but God has a plan. I hope you are part of God’s plan so we can kick the devil out of the details. We, at the agency, wish you and yours a blessed holiday season and hope that you are among the blessed who can share with those who are struggling.

God bless.

Marian

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The Blessing and Joy of Being a Just Friends Mentor

By Joan Buell

I never thought when I started mentoring two little girls over five years ago, that I would receive so much self-satisfaction. I knew my goal was to influence their lives and make them realize that there was life beyond their present situation.

I have no words to describe what it has meant for this 71 year old woman to feel so needed and appreciated for just spending time with these girls. No matter what activity we engage in, being baking, hiking or card playing, the result is JOY! Joy at knowing that these moments could be the building blocks of the future values in life and the hope that they can accomplish their dreams.

I have been blessed!



Emergency Needs on the Rise

In my role as advocate at the Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern I see people in crisis every day. The greatest needs that I am encountering are assistance with utility bills, rent and security deposits, prescriptions, furniture, and personal care items. People fall behind for a variety of reasons. Some have had their hours cut at work. Others have lost their jobs due to downsizing. An illness may keep some people from working a few days, or for an extended period of time. Even a small reduction in pay can cause severe hardship for those who are barely surviving from paycheck to paycheck.

Many people in our community worry about basic needs all the time. Will our lights be turned off this month? Where will we go if we can't pay the rent? How will I obtain a bed so that my child doesn't have to sleep on the floor? Will I be able to feed my children tonight? We listen with a compassionate ear and attempt to fill those needs. We may pay what is needed for a client to get back on their payment agreement with the utility company, thus preventing termination of service. Some individuals and families are given donated furniture that we pick up and deliver. Those with no health insurance or a co-pay they cannot afford may be offered assistance to obtain their needed medication. A bag of personal care items may be given if that is the need. We also make referrals to other agencies when appropriate.

Thank you so much for your contributions. Without them we would not be able to continue helping those who need our assistance.

Liz Reeson, Advocate



**Help! We Want Your Used
Furniture and Appliances**

**Redecorating?
Remodeling the kitchen?
Downsizing the family nest?**

Don't throw away that old bed or couch!

Almost every day we receive requests for furniture from families in need — **especially beds for children**. The GOMOC Furniture Program will pick up your previously enjoyed clean furniture and appliances that are in good working condition and deliver them to families in need. Items that we are most in need of are:

- Beds
- Dressers
- Couches, chairs and living room tables
- Electric stoves (sorry, we cannot accept gas stoves)
- Refrigerators
- Kitchen tables and chairs
- Washers and electric dryers

Call the GOMOC Office at 589-9210 to schedule a pick up.

A Note from Sister Marian Adrian

Dear Friends,

On the weekend of August 13-14, I was privileged to be invited by Father Ivan Trujillo to Resurrection Parish in Batavia to speak at both parish worship sites — St. Joseph’s and St. Mary’s. The people were most welcoming. It had been many years since I last spoke at these churches.

I know you are aware of the financial cuts the Gene-see Orleans Ministry of Concern (like all not-for-profit organizations) has experienced. As less funding is received, the more people are in need. Resurrection Parish helped to fill the gap.

The GOMOC Just Friends Program is a favorite of mine. Children who do not have a positive role model in their lives are matched with caring adults who meet with them, encouraging them, mentor them. I am most grateful to the Resurrection Parishioners who volunteered to be mentors. It is this program that received the greatest funding cut.

GOMOC staff and board members are working hard to find ways to provide for the people who come to us for basic needs — medicine, food, shelter and essential furniture. I would be grateful for the opportunity to visit and speak at your parish, church or organization. You can contact me by phone at (585) 589-7013 or by e-mail at madrian1@rochester.rr.com.

Thank you for all you do for those who are in such great need.

Introducing Jeffrey Post Interim Executive Director

The GOMOC Board of Directors has appointed Jeffrey Post as the interim Executive Director. Jeff retired after a 30 year career at the College at Brockport, the last 25 years as Director of Budgeting, in December 2010. He brings with him an array of knowledge in the areas of finance and administration. He will be taking over many of the responsibilities formerly held by Lisa Ireland and Carol Claus including supervising the Albion office, managing the furniture program, writing the newsletter, and overseeing the agency’s finances. Jeff will be available in the Albion office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

MEMORIALS



Evelyn Lewis

by John & Carole Wasnock

Connie Mikels

by Sr. Marian Adrian

Bruce Sartwell

by Kenneth & Elizabeth Rush

Kevin G. Smith

by Patrick & Constance Goonan
by Greece Athena Sunshine Club
by Tania Ring

Janine Torba

by Alfred & Rose Czarnecki

Marlene Yofredo

by Theresa Cady
by Brian & Kathleen Fox
by Louise Henderson
by Esther Nenni
by Lilly Roman

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Sr. Marian Adrian — 60th Jubilee

by Francis & Evana Daniel
by Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
by Joanne Hess
by Susan Locke
by Kevin & Jeanne Scherf
by Donald & Dolores Sparacio

Sr. Dolores O’Dowd — 50th Jubilee

by Francis & Evana Daniels
by Joanne Hess
by Donald & Dolores Sparacio
by Theresa Sparacio

Sr. Presentia Stawicki

by Kay VanNostrand

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help in the office with mailings, answering phones and greeting visitors.

If you would like to contribute your time and talents, please call the GOMOC office.

DONORS

We are most grateful for donations to the Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern. The following organizations, groups, churches and individuals have made contributions between February 29, 2011 –September 30, 2011. Thank you for your generosity!

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Barre Center True Blue Mission	Christopher, Betty	Falkowski, Stacey & Hank	Holy Family Parish, Ladies of
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**GENESEE-ORLEANS
MINISTRY OF CONCERN, INC.**
“Agency of Last Resort”

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WWW.MINISTRYOFCONCERN.ORG

E-mail us at : gomoc@ministryofconcern.org



The Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern provides emergency services for the economically poor and assists and encourages members of the poverty community to become independent, self-sufficient contributing members of society.