



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES



APRIL 2019

Gifted by Radical Hospitality *by Sister Raeleen Sweeney*

In early February, I had the opportunity to spend several days with Golden Apple Founders, Pat and Mike Koldyke in Florida. While there, a headline in the newspaper caught Mike's eye. It read, "From North Palm Beach to the Mexican Border WITH LOVE" by Maricela Torres, legal assistant, an immigrant herself, who aids asylum seekers.

Typical of Mike, he said, "Sister, let's contact Maricela and invite her to dinner." That Friday, nine of us met for dinner with Maricela and her husband, Pat. Listening to her story and being deeply moved by her own journey 30 years ago with her mother, traveling 2900 miles from South America to Tijuana, Mike said more people needed to hear her story.

Again, I assisted with contacts and arrangements, and two weeks later, Mike provided a reception for 26 guests to hear Maricela's story. In his wisdom as a visionary and networker, Mike encouraged her to apply to become a not-for-profit, and to inquire with the mayor regarding a vacant building.

Continued ...



Sister Raeleen Sweeney, Maricela Torres, Mike Koldyke



Left to right: Back row: Pat Torres; Maricela Torres; Mike Koldyke and Sister Raeleen Sweeney. Front row: Two friends of Koldyke's; Presentation associate, Sister Virgie Lichsinger; and Pat Koldyke.

My latest email contact from Maricela shared her recent good news:

“Sister Raeleen, I wanted to let you know that I have put together a small committee of women who care about migrant issues locally. I filed the paperwork with the IRS, and we now have an official name for our organization, it is called Esperanza Community Center. I have been looking around for a building to rent, and can’t wait to get started.

My vision is to open a community center where the migrant men, day laborers, can come and wait for jobs in a safe environment. We will offer adult literacy classes, citizenship classes, English as a Second Language, literacy in Spanish, health and wellness education and much more. One of the ladies in the committee is a retired attorney, and she will be filing for the 501(c)3 status soon.

Please keep our project in your prayers, and if there are any suggestions that you may have, don’t hesitate to let me know.” Maricela

I continue to keep in contact with Maricela.

On March 27, 2019, Pat Koldyke died peacefully surrounded by her loving family.

In the late 1970s, I had the privilege to do volunteer service at Handicap Village in Clear Lake, Iowa, where I met a wonderful young man in a wheelchair named Carl. In 1988, I won the Golden Apple Award and met Pat and Mike Koldyke for the first time, discovering Carl was their son. Pat and I worked together with the Golden Apple Scholars from 1989 -2013. We continued to stay “connected” professionally and spiritually. Pat and Mike Koldyke modeled to me how to live radical hospitality by providing for those less fortunate students and teachers in schools of need and for finding ways to assist more than 1600 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois to attend a university/college of education and eventually teach in an Illinois school of need with a retention rate (after five years of teaching) of 82 percent, the highest in the nation, and more.



The legacy of radical hospitality is carried on by Pat, Mike and their children:

Son, Laird, besides being a venture capitalist, has opened a school for at risk students in Chicago providing one-on-one tutoring and saving lives. Laird also initiated and supports at least five baseball teams in some of the poorest neighborhoods of Chicago.

Daughter, Elizabeth, has gone to Rwanda for a number of years with her four children assisting with building schools and water systems. Four years ago, she initiated PEHT, Partners Ending Human Trafficking, working a great deal with truckers and truck stops. As a realtor, Elizabeth purchases single family homes, rehabs them and provides them for human traffic victims.

Daughter-in-law, Dede, in 2014, initiated EarthHeart for mothers who have lost children to guns. “Everything we do at EarthHeart Foundation is designed around at least one of our four pillars of peace: health, education, economic empowerment and safety. Each of these pillars represents an area of gigantic impact in the community and each program at EarthHeart gives mothers the tools they need to be a voice for positive change – house by house, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood.”

Radical hospitality, changing lives for the better!

¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

The Natural Reserve Crisis in Chiquiaca

We are deeply saddened by the threat to this community in our province, which is one of many communities within the Tariquia Preserve. The area of Tariquia was declared a National Reserve in 1989. On March 1, the oil company, with permission from the government, entered Chiquiaca by force to begin exploration in this area that is considered sacred and protected. This was by supreme decree of President Evo Morales who previously spoke at the UN defending Madre Tierra (Mother Earth). It would seem quite a contradiction as such noble words spoken at the UN are completely erased by his action.

Unfortunately, this tragedy is not only taking place here but throughout the world in the name of money and power. We support those who are standing up against this atrocity and risking their lives to defend the Natural Reserve.

This past week 100 police were sent to protect the adversaries (government authorities and the oil company) against the innocent people who live in Chiquiaca and the other communities within the area of Tariquia that are demanding their rights and that the Natural Reserve be protected. One woman, who was born and lives there, spoke out against the environmental damage caused by the oil company saying: "All the gold in the world will not compensate for our health, clean water and tranquility."

The voice of the poor is being silenced once again. God have mercy on us all.

*Hermanas Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes,
Mery Cari Paz and Marge Healy*



Reynaldo, Mabel and her son, Santiago, with Pepe, protesting in Entre Ríos plaza.



We defend the Natural Reserve. Drinking water gives us life, showing consciousness will give us water.



Rally in the main plaza of Entre Ríos to defend the Natural Reserve.



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Life-changing Learning and Grand Garage Sales

The Presentation Lantern Center Staff

This month, we had the opportunity to celebrate with one of our students who is a new U.S. citizen! As many of you know, passing the U.S. citizenship test is quite an achievement – one that might stymie many native-born citizens – and some of our students study for years. Congratulations!

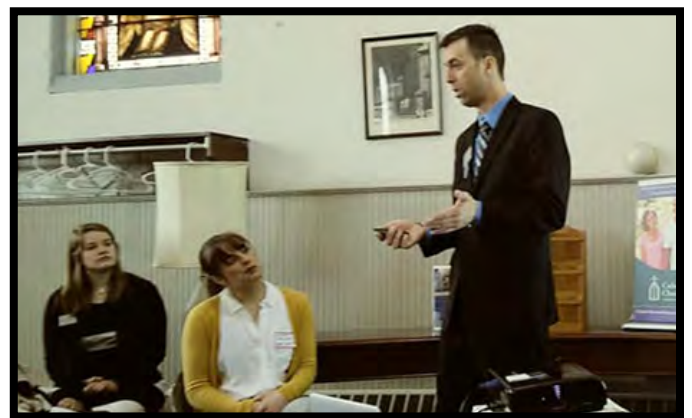
It's always wonderful to run unexpectedly into members of our Lantern Center community. At a recent health panel, our director, Megan Ruiz, found that three panelists had ties to the Lantern Center, either as former students or tutors. Never forget that your light reaches far beyond what you can see!

Another former student, Julia Quitian, shared her experience as a student at the Lantern Center, which she said changed her life. The warm, welcoming environment gave her confidence in her English skills, and she has now furthered her education as a lab technician. Most importantly, the tutor she was introduced to at the center became a lifelong friend.

This year, we are extremely honored to be a designee for a portion of the proceeds of the Sisters of the Presentation garage and bake sale. This is a tremendous opportunity for the Lantern Center, and we are very, very grateful! The gymnasium and garage on the Mount Loretto property are already filling up with donations of everything you can imagine (and a few things beyond your imagination!), from stylish furniture to knitting notions, homecoming dresses to rosaries. The



Student Nubia prepared a tasty treat to share, proudly shown by her nephew, Nikolas.



Ry Meyer of Catholic Charities Immigration and Legal Services speaks about "knowing your rights" to 27 attendees at the Immigration Resource Fair on April 5. The fair was a collaboration of several organizations, including the Presentation Lantern Center.

sisters will be taking donations throughout this month. Helping sort donations has already given us some good belly laughs!

The sale will be Thursday, April 25 and Friday, April 26, 8 a.m. to dusk; Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3, 8 a.m. to dusk; and Saturday, May 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can also pay an “early bird” fee for first choice, 7 to 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 25.

Items are available for a free-will donation. Donations will also benefit the Dubuque Archdiocese’ Catholic Charities, for immigration legal services and counseling.

Last but not least, two of our students recently shared that the Presentation Lantern Center gives them strength and joy that helps carry them through the rest of their week. We feel the same way. Blessings to you and yours in this season of rejuvenation!



Also at the Immigration Resource Fair, Dubuque teachers of English Language Learners shared information on the past, present and future of ELL education and held a Q&A for future educators.



La Luz Hispana turned six years old on Wednesday, March 27! It started as an idea and a need and then it turned into reality. Now six years later La Luz Hispana, a Latino organization, is still going strong. As a cultural community center, many people have come to love and admire La Luz Hispana. We, as an agency, advocate for people and go out to the community to face the issues surrounding diversity and ask the hard questions about the problems we face in our community. We also connect the community to the different cultures around us by bringing people together. People remember when La Luz Hispana first opened their doors and even before opening the new office space everyone was already coming together to help. People gave their help with joy because they knew this would be a community center and a place for them. La Luz Hispana has become a place where you can come and have sewing classes, learn how to cook, learn English, learn how to use a computer or just use the computer for fun, but most importantly, this has also become a place of empowerment for the Latino community. The Latino community of Franklin County and the surrounding areas through La Luz Hispana have been given a loud voice.

When people come to our office, what we hear is “We don’t know what to do or where to go.” It’s the sound of despair in their voices that gives us the motivation to help. “Let’s see what we can help you with” is our response, and we start from the beginning and learn to navigate together.

La Luz Hispana has become a place of hope for many who can’t find a way through the system and a light for those who need guidance. We have learned a lot through the years and we hope to be here for even more years to come and continue to be this bridge for the community.

Spring is finally here and with spring comes all the plans to do activities for the families who visit La Luz Hispana and to invite the new families that are just discovering the springs of Iowa. We are discovering that nowadays parents are more concerned about keeping their children active and outdoors. We help by informing parents and children on healthy lifestyles and events to keep kids active. We are now in the stages of planning our activities for the summer because we need to get our kids outside and moving. In the past, we created programming for kids to meet at the park and play games then walk back to our center for snacks and activities. This program was well received not just by the kids but by the parents as well. We are hoping to have a more engaging summer this year and would love ideas and, of course, we love volunteers.

Claudia Rivera and Aimee Hanson



Volunteer finds joy and renewed spirit in serving



Heading south by RV in February to escape the Minnesota winter, Cathie Logan, niece of the late Sr. Laurayne Mahoney, stopped in New Orleans and reconnected with Presentation Sisters by offering service at **Hotel Hope**. “What I intended as a service project renewed my spirit,” says Cathie. “I became the recipient of completely unexpected special relationships and was able to bring a whole new community into my life. Most of all I rekindled the feeling that even a little giving is part of a greater gift.” Cathie did many jobs during her stay but spent much of her time organizing the many donations we receive, which is no small task!

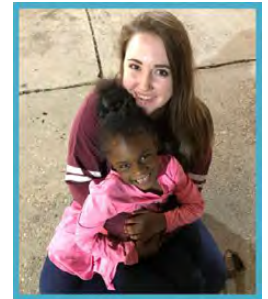
Cathie continues, “The offering of my time resulted in an organized closet for the contributions of others. My time there made me the recipient of greater gifts than I gave or expected. The commitment of so many to the mission of **Hotel Hope** is evident. Volunteers

are grateful. I am so happy to have shared this time with such enthusiastic and caring people. Everyone made me feel a welcomed member of a growing family.” We are so grateful for Cathie’s willingness to serve our mission.

– Mary Lou Specha, PBVM

Presentation service groups come from New York and Iowa

Presentation Sisters Jessi Beck and Mary Catherine Redmond journeyed to New Orleans during spring break with college students from Iowa and New York. At **Hotel Hope** they helped by babysitting, organizing a storage room, setting up a playroom and moving furniture. “Getting to know our sisters and brothers experiencing homelessness and meeting the need of the day was the purpose of the service trip,” states Sister Jessi.



Above left, UNI student enjoys playing games with her new companions. Above right, Fordham student finds a new friend.

Hotel Hope hires development director

We are happy to welcome Maggie Bruns Connick to the **Hotel Hope** team as the Director of Development. Maggie learned about **Hotel Hope’s** mission and began as a volunteer at the front desk. Her passion to serve women and children and her experience as a fund raiser nudged her to serve full time. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Orleans in Business and Management and brings several years of experience in development with non-profits.



To become involved

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Call us: 504-821-7773

Visit us www.hotelhope.org

Like us www.facebook.com/hotelhope.nola

HOTEL HOPE UPDATE: Sharing news about HOTEL HOPE with Dubuque PBVM Sisters and Associates. **Communications Team:** Sisters Mary Lou Specha, Julie Marsh and Beth Kress.

Mark your calendar
 for May 7, 2019

**GIVE
 NOLA
 DAY**

GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION

TUESDAY MAY 7TH
GIVENOLA.ORG