

# SO *the* JOURNER

N E W S L E T T E R

## Dear Friends of Sojourner House,

It doesn't seem possible, but it has been six months since Sojourner House affiliated with PathStone Corporation. Both organizations have been leaders in their respective fields: PathStone develops and manages affordable housing units, while Sojourner House provides intensive case management and support services for its residents. Both have learned through their individual and combined experience that while the creation of safe and affordable housing is the first step in community revitalization, housing alone cannot change a neighborhood. So the two organizations came together to bring the Sojourner House model of intensive resident services to PathStone's affordable housing projects. This affiliation will provide families with safe, decent, and affordable housing as well as the support services they need to transition to economic self-sufficiency.

As a first step, Sojourner House at PathStone has begun to support residents of Temprow Development Company's transitional housing located near the City of Rochester Public Market. These services include case management and life skills training. We also now manage 11 Temprow emergency housing units in the same neighborhood.

As we develop the Sojourner House at PathStone presence in Rochester, we expect to become partners with City government in its effort to make neighborhoods safer, more desirable places in which to live, work and go to school.

**Yet our capacity to expand the much-needed services depends on our ability to raise private funds,** since government at all levels are operating in a deficit situation. Furthermore, the affiliation with PathStone does not in any way diminish our need for financial support for our programs. In fact, as we increase our programs to meet the need, our resources must grow as well.

In other words, **your committed support, as always, is what makes it possible** for Sojourner House to make a positive difference in the lives of every family we touch.

In turn, we pledge to continue our commitment to serve individuals and families in a responsible, caring way so that they, in turn, are able to lead more productive and meaningful lives.

Sincerely,



Germaine G. Knapp  
 President & CEO  
 Senior VP for Community Services, PathStone



*“... we expect to become partners with City government in its effort to make neighborhoods safer, more desirable places in which to live, work and go to school.”*

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# Nancy Watson Dean

In response to an increasing community need for transitional housing for women, Nancy Watson Dean and her daughter-in-law, Virginia Fairchild, organized a group of their activist friends. The group raised money, leased and refurbished a former funeral home on East Main Street and Sojourner House opened its doors in 1982.

In May 2009, the founder of Sojourner House, Nancy Watson Dean, left this world. As she said a couple days before she died, "Why is it taking so long to die? I want to see what's on the other side." This question and statement completely characterize Nancy's fearless curiosity and optimism.

Friends gathered in her backyard off Sibley Place on a sunny afternoon to celebrate her life by sharing fond and fun memories of Nancy. Nancy had a unique, special relationship with each person, so all the memories were different. Nevertheless, the themes that ran through all the recollections were of spunk, kindness, intelligence and unflagging commitment to improving life on earth.

*We will always remember and miss Nancy Watson Dean.*

## A Legacy: Nancy Watson Dean Place

Nancy would be happy to know that her legacy lives on through the successes of tenants at the supportive living complex named in her honor. The three women below "graduated" out of the need for supportive living in the past year and now rent or own:



After completing a home ownership program through the Rochester Housing Authority, Mildred Santos (top) became a homeowner! During her stay at Nancy Watson Dean, Mildred worked part-time at Sojourner House as a resident aide. She also completed classroom studies with the Parkridge Chemical Dependency Program, C.A.S.H. (Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope) Rochester Works, and SUNY Brockport. Mildred is now employed full-time with the Epilepsy Foundation. She received a grant from the Urban League to help with closing costs for her new house.



Yvette Smith (center) is working full-time at Liberty Manor through Catholic Family Center, and volunteers at a 12-step program for hospitals and jails. She is pursuing a liberal arts degree at Monroe Community College. Yvette chose to give up her rent subsidy, stating she thought someone more in need could use it.



Sharon Loving (bottom - whose son won our Youth of Excellence Award in 2008) now working full-time at a bindery and part-time at Wal-Mart, plans to go back to school in the near future. She also gave up her rent subsidy, feeling it could benefit others who need it more.

We thank both of these women for truly "giving back."



## Dates to Remember

**Friday, June 11** ..... Dreamseeds Tenth Anniversary Performance, 5:30 pm, Memorial Art Gallery

**Thursday, June 17** ..... Honors/Epiphany Award Ceremony, 5:00 pm, St. Monica's Church

**Tuesday, September 14** ..... Open House at Sojourner House, 3:00 pm

## Dreamseeds

The Dreamseeds program for Sojourner House children is traveling! Under the leadership of Dreamseeds Coordinator, Carlos Merriweather, the children have performed throughout the community, including: PathStone Corporation's holiday party, the "Oh Freedom" concert sponsored by the Bishop Kearney High School Multi-cultural Club, the Memorial Art Gallery's Black History Family Day, and several senior assisted-living homes. Everywhere they go, the children demonstrate that they have honed music and dancing skills along with a powerful stage presence.



This year Sojourner House will commemorate the **Tenth Anniversary of Dreamseeds**, bringing together the founders of the program, Lance and Hope Drummond, with graduates, current performers, parents and supporters at a special celebration on **Friday, June 11, 2010, in the auditorium of the Memorial Art Gallery, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Come one! Come all! This year's celebration is one you will want to remember.

## Epiphany Award Recipient

Each year, Sojourner House recognizes the achievements of one of our special graduates from the Transitional Housing Program. The 2009 recipient of the annual Epiphany Award, Lisa Przybylowicz, epitomizes the characteristics for which the honor is given, namely determination to reach her goals in a manner that inspires and guides others on the path to success. Lisa entered into transitional housing in November 2002, graduated into supportive housing at Monica Place, and in the years that followed maintained a healthy lifestyle and actively pursued her goals.



Lisa completed the Phlebotomy program at Rochester General Hospital and went on to the Isabella Graham Hart School of Practical Nursing. She is currently working as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Monroe Community Hospital and Rochester

General Hospital, as she takes classes in anticipation of becoming a Registered Nurse in 2011.

The Sojourner House staff members are very proud that Lisa chose our program in which to flourish, and were pleased that she cooked the meal for over 200 women and children at our holiday party. A woman of many talents, Lisa is a trained chef, having worked in restaurants for 15 years.

Lisa's dedication to raising her eight year old son Robert, and her commitment to living a productive life are undeniable. She has a positive attitude, has readily accepted life's challenges and overcome the obstacles that have stood in her way. We were pleased to honor her as the 2009 Epiphany Award winner.

## Program Outcomes

### Clients Served

	Adults	Children	Total
Transitional Housing	63	43	<b>106</b>
Permanent Supportive Housing	105	144	<b>249</b>
Outreach Services	94	105	<b>199</b>
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>544</b>

Of those who graduated from the Transitional Housing Program:

- 94% remained in permanent housing for at least one year
- 75% remained sober for at least one year
- 96% maintained family reunification and avoided new Child Protective Service referrals
- 59% completed or continued in an education or job training program
- 63% of those employable obtained employment after a long history of public assistance

Of those who entered the Permanent Supportive Housing Program:

- 100% remained for at least six months
- 60% remained for at least three years
- 100% consistently participated in mental health and/or substance abuse treatment or otherwise were involved in a program focused on enhancing self-sufficiency and self-esteem
- 100% of parents with school-age children participated in their children's education



# Volunteers are the giving hands and hearts of Sojourner House

Each and every one of our volunteers has touched us and has truly made a difference in the lives of our families. It would be impossible to single out just one person or just one group that has supported Sojourner House.

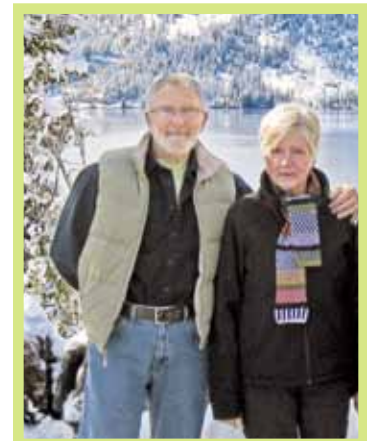
On behalf of Sojourner House staff and especially the families we serve, thank you for your generous hearts, your commitment, time, creativity and dedication. We are ever grateful and proud of our volunteers who continue to support our programs and impact our community in the most holistic way.



Lyndsey Fryer teaches kids yoga.

Here is a quick look back over the past year! Please note, photos are not inclusive of all volunteers who contribute to our success, yet we are equally grateful for all of our volunteers!

Day of Caring, 2009:  
Harter Secrest and Emory, LLP



Suellen and Donald Neefe:  
"Jack and Jill of all trades"



Katie Hart: 3rd Floor Renovation –  
Girl Scout Gold Award project

Boy Scout Troop #53:  
Led by Tom Belknap



Melanie Wilson – First Niagara Bank – Every year  
coordinates back to school donation drive



University of Rochester Women's  
Caucus Spring Sweep

Our gratitude is also extended to our volunteer partners with the **Henrietta Hammond Institute for Life Skills Program (HHILS)** who have helped inspire and empower our women to reach their goals: Alternatives for Battered Women, Mary Charipar, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Greater Rochester Branch of the American Association of University Women, Home Depot, Jefferson Road, Pattie Kolomic, National Council of Jewish Women, Perinton Quilting Guild, Planned Parenthood, Rape Crisis Center, University of Rochester Medical Students, University of Rochester Women's Caucus.

Last year, all of our women who completed the Transitional Housing Program participated in HHILS. **Seventy-nine percent** of these successful women improved or maintained their life skills knowledge after participation – they all achieved their personal goal plans!

To all of our Dreamseeds volunteers who worked and played with our kids ... **Dreamseeds children's grade reports improved 72% last year!** Thank you for a great year of patience and commitment!

Our Santa



Sylvia Hassman prepares all year to supply gifts for the holidays

Once again the Rochester community hand-delivered hope and cheer for the holidays! Thank you for helping to bring joy to our families.



Genesee Valley golf lessons



Linda Hanna has a captive audience

## Volunteer Opportunities

### HHILS Elective Class Instructors:

We are always open to new ideas and welcome volunteers to teach an elective class! Please let us know your talents and availability! Classes are once a week, Monday – Friday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, and are typically one hour. The elective should last 4 – 6 weeks.

Some of our Sojourner House women have expressed interest in the following:

- Crafting – scrap booking, jewelry making
- Exercise/Fitness – strength training, pilates, power walking
- Creative Art – painting, drawing

**Receptionist:** We are looking for a dedicated volunteer available during business hours to answer phones and doors at least one day per week (orientation and training provided).

**Grant Research Assistant:** We are looking for a volunteer to assist the Senior Director of Community Advancement with researching new grant opportunities. Volunteer may work from home or at Sojourner House.

**Fund Raisers:** We welcome your creative fundraising efforts to help support Sojourner House! We are grateful for cash donations from proceeds of your book sales, bake sales, lemonade stands, car washes, etc.!

Please contact Portia Chiarella, Volunteer/Community Relations Administrator, at pchiarella@pathstone.org, or 585-436-7100, ext. 117.

*“ ... thank you for your generous hearts, your commitment, time, creativity and dedication.”*

## Changes in Guidelines for Donations of Used Goods

We are grateful for your donations of used goods, and we appreciate your consideration in following the guidelines below:

- New site: Monica Place, 837 Genesee Street, Rochester, NY 14619
- By Appointment only: call 527-0770
- Do not drop anything off without an appointment
- Only clothing and household items in good condition will be accepted
- No donations until May 1, 2010
- We cannot accept: appliances, computers, furniture

## Ongoing NEW (not used) Needs

- Extra-Long Twin sized sheets
- Blankets - Comforters
- Pillows standard sized
- Bath Towels and Wash Cloths
- Underwear for women and children (unopened packages, all sizes)
- Socks (all sizes, women and children)
- First Aid Kits
- Powdered laundry detergents
- Cleaning Supplies
- Toilet Paper
- Disposable Razors
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Body/Bath Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Lotion
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Grocery Store or Discount Store Gift Card
- Baby Products:
  - Diapers (all sizes)
  - Baby Wipes
  - Baby Soap
  - Baby Lotion
  - Baby Shampoo/Conditioner
  - Infant Formula (all varieties)
- Group Tickets: Movies, Amusement Park, Museum, Sporting Events, Arts and Cultural Special Events

## Honor & Memorial Donations

### In memory of Betty Altier

Ms. Virginia R. Cornyn

### In memory of David Alekson

Ms. Marge Volpe

### In honor of Marilyn Aten, Ph.D.

Richard E. Kriepe, M.D.

### In memory of Lucille & William Bailey

Ms. Barbara E. Schickler

### In memory of Phillip Banks

Jessie Marvin Lazeroff & Richard Lazeroff

### In honor of Beth Becker

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Wasnock

### In honor of Brenda

Ms. Mattie Brinson

### In memory of Matthew Bufford

Mr. & Ms. Kevin J. Costello

### In memory of Edmund Case

Mrs. Betty Case

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy L. Mabb

### In memory of Dorothy Collier

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Collier

### In memory of Kitte, Michael Daly's sister

Ms. Marge Volpe

### In memory of Susan D'Amico

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Yawman

### In memory of Mary Dee & Betty Valinzo

Ms. Diana Moore & Mr. Thomas Hendry

### In honor of Lou Dengler

Ms. Rosemary L. Hahn

### In honor of Eleanor Dienstag

Mr. Thomas Hampson & Ms. Zena Collier

### In honor of Jennifer DiPonzio

Mr. & Mrs. Ron DiPonzio

### In memory of Lynedon S. Eaton

Ms. Carol Colombo

### In memory of Leola Strickand Evans

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Knapp

### In memory of Ginny Fairchild

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Pyle

### In honor of Allison Feasey

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Feasey

### In memory of Neil Floar

Mr. Thomas S. Morse

### In honor of Ann & Mike Francis

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Sullivan

### In memory of Vicki A.W. Geiger

Rick S. Geiger, Esq.

### In memory of Dr. G.H. Gilbert

Mary V. Fisher, Esq.

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Ms. Elizabeth Harlicker-Hills

Mr. & Mrs. R. Alan Lattime

Jessie Marvin Lazeroff & Richard Lazeroff

Ms. Eleanor Volpe

Ms. Donna Watkins

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jacobson

Mr. Don Quist

Ms. Linda S. Weinstein &

Dr. Sidney S. Weinstein

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Lindley

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Yawman

Mr. Robert Beck

Mr. Nick Nichols

Mr. & Mrs. Art Pansze

Mr. Peter Perlman

### In memory of Josephine Gilbert

Mr. James F. Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Yawman

### In memory of Patricia Hale

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hargrave

### In memory of Dr. Christian Haller

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Yawman

### In memory of Henrietta Hammond

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Herting

### In honor of Glenn Hermes

Ms. Gwen Merkel

### In memory of Colin Kennedy

Mr. Martin A. Kennedy

### In honor of Germaine & Tom Knapp

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Braun

### In honor of Germaine Knapp

Mr. & Mrs. George Angle

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour L. Merrill

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton H. Osborne

Ms. Lillian S. Price

Mr. & Mrs. John Rogers

### In memory of Robert Laurer

Mr. Michael E. Lynch

### In honor of Jessie Lazeroff

Ms. Hope Marinetti

### In honor of Jill Lehmann

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Heilbronner

### In honor of Chris & Bettie Lindley's Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. R. Alan Lattime

### In memory of Norma Lopa

Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Lopa

### In memory of A. Louise Lynd

Mr. & Mrs. John Lynd

### In memory of Peter Lynd

Mr. & Mrs. John Lynd

### In honor of Brian Lane's birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Graupman

Ms. Tracy Lane

Mr. Carl Martel Jr.

### In memory of Nancy Mangione

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Knapp

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Shank

### In honor of Lisa Marcello

Mr. & Mrs. Loren J. Ranaletta

Mr. Joseph C. Vater

### In honor of birthdays of Ann Marshall & Juliet Sullivan

Ms. Kathleen McGowan

### In honor of Gail Mazur

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Donaher

Ms. Donna R. Gates

Mr. & Mrs. Kelvin Harbun

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Mr. Thomas Mazur

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Rhoads

Ms. Carol Saum

Mr. & Mrs. John Stavisky

Mr. & Mrs. Roger W. Millard

### In memory of Kenneth McKeel

Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Schweikert

### In memory of Irwin Metzger

Mrs. Sidney Metzger

### In Honor of Stuart Mitchell's birthday

Mr. Colwyn W. Allen

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Mr. William Reigelman

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Mr. Radames A. Torruella

United Migrant Opportunity Services

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Mr. & Mrs. Steven J. Weiss

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Zhu

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph M. Zimmer

### In honor of Suellen Neefe

Ms. Joan B. Graham

### In honor of Martha Neubert's birthday

Mr. Stuart J. Mitchell

### In memory of Ann Nitze

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Knapp

### In memory of Grace Palumbo

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Knapp

Ms. Carla Palumbo

### In memory of Betsy Patsos

Ms. Margaret P. Evans

### In honor of David & Patti Patton

Mr. & Mrs. William R. Morse

### In memory of Theresa Principi

Ms. Anita Principi

### In honor of "people who help people"

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Braun

### In honor of Heather Rubenstein

Dr. Alice Rubenstein

## Grants Awarded 2009

We thank the following organizations for their generous support.

In memory of Bernard Schreiner  
Ms. Marge Volpe

In memory of Norman Schwartz  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Gordon

In honor of Vicki & Richard Schwartz  
Anniversary

Ms. Mary Jane Proschel

In memory of Sylvia Sim  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Gordon

In honor of Karen Singer &  
Frank LaMar's marriage

Ms. Beverly Gold

In memory of Joseph & Irene Skalny  
Mr. Frederic J. Skalny

In honor of Mary Staropoli  
Ms. Judy Anne Williams &  
Mr. Robert Shumsky

In memory of her mother  
Ms. June Stornelli

In memory of Elizabeth G. Taylor  
Susan Taylor-Brown, Ph.D.

In memory of Bruce Thornton  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Knapp

In memory of Elizabeth Valinzo  
Mr. Christopher Moore

In honor of the 50th anniversary of  
John & Elaine Vangellow  
Ms. Angeline N. George

In memory of Walter  
Ms. Marion Sieber

In memory of William Watson  
Mrs. Marlene Watson

In memory of Nancy Watson Dean

Ms. Virginia R. Cornyn  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Costello

Ms. Rosemary S. Hanley  
Mr. Charles Henningsen

Ms. Maria Henningsen  
Ms. Volena Howe

Ms. Sebby Jacobson  
Ms. Melinda P. Larrington

Mr. Michael E. Lynch  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Lyons

Mr. Daniel M. Meyers  
Mrs. Ellen G. Neisner

Mr. Peter A. Plummer  
Mrs. Charlton Prince

Ms. Judith B. Prince

Mr. & Mrs. William Reusch  
Ms. Mary E. Staropoli & Mr. Doug Ackley

Ms. Betty Strassenburgh

In honor of their wedding guests  
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Reimer

In honor of Leonore Wiltse  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wiltse

In honor of the Wise Women  
Ms. Virginia R. Cornyn

In honor of Cheryl Yawman  
Mr. & Mrs. David Yawman

In memory of the USGS Plateau Project  
Mr. Alfred L. Bush

Ames-Amzelak Memorial Trust  
Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation  
Davenport-Hatch Foundation  
Glover-Crask Charitable Trust  
Guido and Ellen Palma Foundation  
Hubertus and Helmi Behrla Endowment Fund  
Joan and Harold Feinbloom Foundation  
M & T Charitable Foundation  
Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust  
Nancy and Joseph Briggs Fund  
Polisseni Foundation  
Quad A for Kids  
Rochester Area Community Foundation  
Women and Girls Funds

Rochester Female Charitable Society  
Rochester Women's Giving Circle  
Ronald McDonald House Charities  
St. Joseph's Church of Penfield  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Suzanne H. Lee Charitable Trust  
Target Stores  
The Net Fund  
Wal-Mart Fund  
Wease Cares Children's Fund  
Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation  
Women's Club of Pittsford  
Zonta Club of Rochester

## Mary Jemison Riverboat Ride

The Ruckus Juice Jug Stompers "jammed" on the Genesee River aboard the Mary Jemison Riverboat on August 6th, 2009 to benefit Sojourner House. Passengers were treated to an evening of foot-stompin' riverboat tunes, complete with a traditional BBQ dinner, delicious desserts from Wegmans, and raffle prizes donated by local vendors:

Clever Hands Creations  
Memorial Art Gallery  
Lowes  
Lakewood Vineyards  
Anthony Road Wine Company  
Rockcastle Florist  
Rocky's Restaurant  
Laura Johnson, Massage Therapist



Cheesy Eddies  
Rochester Museum and Science Center  
Wisteria Flowers and Gifts  
Scott's Photo  
Strathallan Hotel  
Bristol Harbor  
Hess Express

*Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer power-couple, Tom and Jane Walpole, the cruise raised over \$2,500 in just two short hours!*

## Have a Heart: Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation Challenge Match

Launched on Valentine's Day, Sojourner House invited the community to support the difference our programs make: "One Heart at a Time." The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation issued a challenge to supporters that it would match each gift 2:1, up to \$25,000 – that's **\$25,000** from donors and **\$50,000** from Daisy Marquis Jones!

It's not too late to make your gift! This campaign runs through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2010. We have received a very impressive number of gifts from the community, and we are grateful to all of those who have given. You are helping us change the future...one heart at a time, and as your gifts are multiplied, *hearts are filled!*

Thank  
You!



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## Our Mission

*Sojourner House at PathStone provides shelter, structure, strength, and inspiration to women and families in need so they are prepared to lead responsible and meaningful lives.*



## Our Vision

*Individuals and families achieve their full potential by embracing the Sojourner House experience. Sojourner House is the foremost provider of support services for individuals and families, and is widely recognized for its innovation, expertise, and belief in each person's capacity to grow.*

### Staff

#### Administrative

Germaine Knapp	President & CEO, Sojourner House.....	436.7100 x 102
	Senior VP for Community Services, PathStone	
Deborah McAuley	Senior Deputy for Community Services.....	436.7100 x 104
Portia Chiarella	Volunteer/Community Relations Admin.....	436.7100 x 117
Barbara Lacker-Ware	Sr. Director of Community Advancement...	436.7100 x 107
Victor Palumbos	Senior Accountant.....	436.7100 x 113
Arlisha Massey	Property Manager.....	436.7100 x 115

#### Program

Torsha Hawkins	Director of Client Services.....	527.0770
Brenna Gibson	Director of Transitional Housing.....	436.7100 x 110
Theresa Clemonds	Director of Tempro Housing.....	315.3151
Carlos Merriweather	Dreamseeds Coordinator.....	235.2644
Beth Becker	Family Services Case Manager.....	315.6924
Rita Rivera	Family Services Case Manager.....	436.3730
Nita Barback	Family Services Case Manager.....	235.2644
Liz Garcia	Intake Coordinator/Case Aide.....	436.7100 x 105
Wanda Tillmon	Activity Coordinator.....	436.7100 x 109
Sandra Miles	Evening Aide.....	436.7100 x 106



*This newsletter edition is sponsored by ...*

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