



Founded on Agape

Thea's Notes

A Newsletter of Thea Bowman House

Fall 2022

Calling all deSales Alumni and Community Friends

Our pre-kindergarten program, after-school program and toddler program are currently housed on the first and second floors of the deSales Center (entrance on the Park Avenue side of the building at 309 Genesee Street). The building is also home to Academics First Child Care and a host of other groups use the auditorium space for special events, including the Levitt Concert Series and the Karen-Burmese community. The building is centrally located and is filled with the sounds of children at school and play.

The center was awarded \$650,000 as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. This money is for an elevator that would allow us to better serve handicapped children and adults. The cost of the project has increased because of the cost of materials. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please make the check out to Thea Bowman House and clearly mark it for deSales elevator on the check.

I am sending a contribution to the deSales elevator project in the amount of \$ _____

in honor/or memory of _____

Alumni/alumna of deSales? Yes No

Memories by Jane Domingue

I hadn't seen Yolanda K. in several years. I ran into her just a few weeks ago. She was working at Walgreen's Pharmacy at the check-out counter and remembered me. Thea Bowman House will be 36 years old on October 6, 2022, and Yolanda was one of the first kids to come through our doors. I was honored with the gift of her recollections of time spent with us. She asked if we still had the little carpenter shop program at our Lafayette Street center. Don Beha, deceased for many years now, had created a little space where he taught children in our latchkey program how to build simple things like birdhouses. A flood of memories reminded me of so many people like Don Beha who touched the young lives.

At last count, 4,505 children have been enrolled in one of our programs. Many of them now bring their own children and remember fondly the camp-outs, the birthday parties, trips to the apple orchard, Halloweens at Hamilton College and the list goes on. All of this is made possible by our benefactors and volunteers. We are starting a memory box as part of our anniversary celebration.

If you have something you would like to share, or a volunteer you would like to honor, please send it to us at 731 Lafayette Street, Utica NY 13502. You can also mail it to jane@theabowmanhouse.org.

Find us on the web: www.theabowmanhouse.org or facebook.com/theabowmanhouse

International Peace Day

Our world is far from the peace that was envisioned when September 21 was set aside each year to celebrate the never-ending hope for world peace. Each year the children at Thea Bowman House put their dreams for peace on poster board and hold a short procession led by a few drummers. A painted stone with a peace message is laid down in the nearby park as a symbol of the need to be peacemakers. For young children, the message is Peace begins with Me. Last summer, the children in Ms. Lucy's class learned the words to a song that comes from an old spiritual. The sounds of their song brings healing and hope in a very divided world.

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean in my soul.
I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean in my soul.

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.



In Memoriam

Our beloved bus driver Deb Allen died on September 27. She was a person who devoted her entire life to helping children as a mother, foster mother to countless children and a bus driver who helped hundreds of little ones get an education. May her dear soul Rest In Peace.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Linda Spratt. Linda was one of the first employees at Thea Bowman House. She was a classroom assistant and worked in the business office for a time. Linda will always be known for her wonderful sense of humor and her love for the children. We are grateful to her for her service to the children and to the mission of Thea Bowman House.

Back to School in Style

Special thanks to our friends at the Bank of America, the New York State Tool employees and Janet Carzo and the Utica Kiwanis Club for outfitting the children of Thea Bowman House of all ages with book bags, school supplies, diapers, wipes, pants and shirts. On a late summer day, some very lucky kids got to choose stocked backpacks with every “cool” theme ranging from Spiderman to Disney Princesses. And what joy it brought to toddler and pre-school teachers to have a change of clothing for those all too frequent emergency clothing needs. The enthusiasm of the volunteers from each group was contagious as we prepared to say goodbye to summer and to welcome a new school year.



Oneida County Youth Bureau again offered one of its signature events with the annual sidewalk art contest. A great time was had by all the TBH kids that participated.



If you have interest in becoming a board member or committee member for Thea Bowman House or the DeSales Center, please contact jane@theabowmanhouse for more information.

Thea Bowman House

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Mission Statement

The mission of Thea Bowman House, Inc. is to provide a safe, nurturing environment to enable culturally diverse children and families achieve their full potential.

The foundation on which Thea Bowman House is built is *agape*, "unconditional love."

Jane Domingue
Executive Director
Sandy Wright
Program Director

Board of Directors

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Darby O'Brien, President
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Julius Blackshear, Jr.



United Way of
the Valley and
Greater Utica Area



NEEDS LIST

Bus driver with CDL B license (full time)
Food Pantry volunteers
Ongoing need for children's sweat pants and tops sizes 2-8
Diaper genie re-fills and wipes
Adult size surgical masks
Children's art smocks
Canned meats and food for the pantry
Volunteers in childcare program
Website designers and maintainers

Items may be dropped off at either the Lafayette or DeSales sites.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please send your name and email address to

laura@theabowmanhouse.org

