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Program restores released prisoners - p. 12



Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest

online at www.thefigtree.org

Engaging with neighbors draws people

By Mary Stamp

The Rev. Deb Conklin is helping two small churches discern their passions for ministry in their neighborhoods, East and West Central Spokane, which are among the poorest in the state.

She has served Liberty Park United Methodist Church (UMC) since 2007, half time along with Deer Park UMC. In July, she was shifted from Deer Park to serve St. Paul's UMC, which recently sold its building at 1620 N. Monroe.

Two years after she came to Liberty Park, Deb was aware that the 15 people over 60 who worship in the 200-seat Liberty Park sanctuary had "a sense of being the last remnant."

So she shifted from efforts to grow the Sunday morning congregation.

Last year, knowing young people are drawn by other young people and not by worship in a traditional setting with older people, she started "Faith Conversations," a discussion group for people in their 20s and 30s, offering another time and experience for connecting with church.

Thursday evenings, they meet for conversations on how faith affects their involvement in the com-



The Rev. Deb Conklin guides two small congregations along paths of ministry that communicate to people in the 21st century, still employing traditions of her church.

munity and world. They recently explored what is happening to labor in Washington when the governor of Wisconsin was trying to drive out unions.

"Young adults wonder why churches aren't speaking out as they did in the 1960s, leading the civil rights and anti-war movements," she said. "They ask: Why aren't churches taking leadership on living wages? Why do people accept blaming unions, when unions won the 40-hour workweek and health care, and protect us from the power of multinational corporations.

"With small groups we can have conversations on controversial issues and our values," Deb said.

In contrast to sermons that nudge people's thinking, small groups push each other harder, she said.

The idea for the group came from her 26-year-old son, Chris, when she asked what it would take for him to be part of a church, given that he believes in God and still holds values he grew up with.

After St. Paul's UMC's previous pastors helped members, who were unable to maintain their building, discuss its future, mission and core values, the church sold its build-

Continued on page 4

Second Harvest remodels to facilitate volunteers ability to pack more produce

Rod Wieber, development director at Second Harvest of Spokane, said that renovations underway at the warehouse at 1234 E. Front will give the food distribution service a new resource center where volunteers can sort produce.

"It will mean we can accept millions of pounds more in produce, because volunteers will no longer have to bend over to sort and package produce," he said. "Pears, potatoes, apples and other such fruits and vegetables will be emptied into a bin and will run by the volunteers on a waist-high

conveyor belt.

Volunteers will be able to do the work in two to four hours, rather than one to four days, he said.

Last year, Second Harvest processed 7 million pounds of produce. He said Second Harvest hopes to do 15 million pounds of produce when the system is in place.

While in the past three years Second Harvest has increased its distribution of food by 60 percent, Rod said that the increase has "barely kept pace with the need." Now about one in five clients is new because of unemployment

and family situations.

Along with remodeling to add this feature, there will be modification of the front facade, including removal of the awning that had become a bird habitat.

Rod expects the renovations will be completed by the end of 2011. The project received \$1.2 million in capital funding from the Washington state budget and Second Harvest is raising \$1.8 million.

"We have \$1 million of that left to raise from business leadership givers, private donors and our wider donor base," he said. "We have just launched the public phase of fund raising in our Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope Campaign."

Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest is in its 40th year, starting as a food bank and developing into a network of 250 neighborhood food banks and meal centers in Eastern Washington and North Idaho, providing 1.7 million pounds of donated food each month to feed hungry people.

For information, call 534-6678 or visit 2-harvest.org.

Community radio station goes to full-power signal

The KYRS Thin Air Community Radio station expects to go live with its new full power signal on 88.1 FM for its fall on-air fund drive from Oct. 6 to 12. The nonprofit, non-commercial, listener-supported radio station started in 2003, will go from being a low-power station at 100 watts to a 6,800-watt signal from a new tower on a mountain 40 miles south of Spokane. It move from 89.9 FM to 88.1 FM

With donated labor, KYRS excavated and erected a 70-foot tower in late August, set up a transmitter in September and put in an electricity line, said Lupito Flores, KYRS station manager. By Oct. 6, he expects to make final connections.

"It has been a long, difficult, but rewarding journey," he said. "We have overcome restrictions on Low Power FM, encroachment of a full power commercial station and competition to gain full power status."

With the new frequency, 230,000 people will receive a strong signal, and 24,000 will receive non-commercial radio for the first time northwest of Spokane—from Nespelem to Newport to Kettle Falls. People can still tune in 92.3 FM. With both frequencies, more than 300,000 people should be able to hear KYRS," Lupito said.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the anniversary and launch party will be held at the Masonic Center, 1108 W. Riverside.

Lupito said KYRS "fills needs other media do not, programming to diverse, unserved or underserved groups. We provide a forum for neglected perspectives on local, national and global issues, reflecting values of peace, social, economic and environmental justice, human rights, democracy, multiculturalism, freedom of expression and social change."

For information, call 747-3012 or visit kyrs.org.

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

National Council of Churches - 475 Riverside Dr. Suite 800
New York NY 10115
Philip Jenks 212-870-2228 • nccusa.org

NCC web videos focus on quality, equal education

Equal and quality education for all children is the focus of four brief web videos released recently by the National Council of Churches.

The videos are embedded with a study guide on the council's website at nccusa.org/elmc/publiceducationwebsites.html.

The four films, each six or seven minutes long, feature Diane Ravitch, education historian at New York University and author of the best selling book, *The Life and Death of the Great American School System*, and John Jackson, president and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education.

The videos discuss foundational values that have historically defined society's commitment to public education but which have become controversial. The films are on:

- Educational opportunity for all
- Public schools and the common good
- Public schools as part of the community or marketplace
- Supporting teachers

Created by the NCC's Committee on Public Education and Literacy, the films were designed to stimulate conversation about issues raised in a pastoral letter from the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches in May 2010. The letter was sent to the President, Congress and the Secretary of Education.

In the letter, the council's board declared, "At a moment when childhood poverty is shamefully widespread, when many families are under constant stress and when schools are often limited by lack of funds or resources, we know that public schools cannot be improved by concentrating on public schools alone. In this context, we must address with prayerful determination the issues of race and class, which threaten both public education and democracy in America."

The board questions test-based accountability as the philosophy that dominates today's media conversation around public education: "We worry that our society has come to view what is good as what can be measured and compared. As people of faith we do not view our children as products to be tested and managed but instead as unique human beings, created in the image of God, to be nurtured and educated."

In the short clip that introduces each video, the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, NCC general secretary, endorses public school justice reform as a priority for the churches.

"Each child has special, sacred gifts that need to be nurtured, and all children are special and precious in God's eyes, which means that a system in which some children have access to excellent instruction while others don't is simply unacceptable," he declared.

Jan Resseger of the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, chair of the council's Committee on Public Education and Literacy, said she "looks to the four short films as a comfortable context for church study groups to confront what have become heated issues and to read and reconsider last year's NCC pastoral letter in the context of the values the videos explore."

For information, call 212-870-2297 or visit nccusa.org/elmc/contactelmc.htm.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Group to show support for the DREAM Act

Concerned Community Members of Spokane on Human Rights plans a demonstration to support the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors) Act at noon, Friday, Oct. 7, at the Thomas Foley Federal Courthouse plaza at 921 W. Riverside Ave.

That act would provide a path to lawful immigrant status for millions of undocumented im-

migrants who were brought to the United States as minor children by their parents and who have been educated in this country. First introduced in Congress in 2001, it was defeated. It was reintroduced, in May.

The demonstration will raise awareness of what the DREAM Act could do for tens of thousands of young people. Testimonies of some of them will be read. This

event coincides with the effort of Justice for Immigrants, a national organization. The Concerned Community Members of Spokane on Human Rights is coordinating with this nationwide endeavor to promote and publicize the DREAM Act, said Greg Cunningham, director of Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services.

For information, call 455-4960.

North Idaho Family Promise holds Cardboard Box City

Family Promise of North Idaho announces its third annual Cardboard Box City benefit from 5 p.m., Friday to 8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 14 and 15, at Community United Methodist Church, Hanley and Ramsey Rd., Coeur d'Alene.

More than 100 families, singles, youth and college groups, Family Promise volunteers, civic groups, businesses and nonprofits will raise funds by spending the night in cardboard boxes.

Each participant has a minimum goal of gathering five sponsors and raising \$100, with the

overall goal set at \$60,000.

Family Promise of North Idaho, after a temporary hiatus, seeks funding to continue, said Cindy Wood, executive director, who was introduced to Family Promise as a volunteer from her church in Bozeman, Mont.

Her family found "living hospitality as a mission" was a way her children, then two and four, could "minister to others just by loving them." As graduates of the University of Idaho, she and her husband were glad to return, after working in four other states, to

work to help others find a home.

Family Promise of North Idaho has helped provide a safe haven for more than 50 families with 141 individuals since it opened three years ago.

With 16 congregations partnering and four more inquiring, more than 500 volunteers help provide overnight hospitality, meals, van transportation, a day center, advocacy, and employment, financial and educational information.

For information, call 208-777-4190 or visit www.familypromiseni.org.

Moscow group forming human rights coalition

Moscow-based human rights groups are building a new regional coalition to connect human rights advocates through the Northwest Coalition for Human Rights.

The coalition is hosting a meeting from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at the University of Idaho Student Union Building, 709 Deakin Ave., to gather people for input into the organization's mission statement and action plan.

"We don't walk alone on the path of human rights awareness and advocacy, said Kristin Carlson, coordinator. "The coalition will evolve as community members participate."

The vision is for it to be a venue

to share information, develop linked strategies, share tools and support communities.

Organizers hope to connect individuals and groups engaged in activities that generate community change in human rights, including freedom of speech and belief, freedom from fear and want, equitable access, a healthy environment, personal safety, affordable housing, potable water, education and medical care—as well as standing against bias incidents and hate crimes.

It seeks students, educators, human rights workers, community leaders and members, faith community leaders and members,

law enforcement and government officials, nonprofits, educational institutions and service providers.

On Nov. 5, representatives of groups may give 10-minute presentations on their activities and their hopes for a regional coalition.

The idea for a coalition emerged in planning "Finding the Center" human rights conferences, held at the University of Idaho five times since 2005 and most recently in April 2011. It has been organized by the UI's Office of Human Rights Access and Inclusion.

For information, call 208-885-4285 or visit www.nwchr.wordpress.com.

PLU professor speaks on unsettling times

Samuel Torvend, who teaches the history of Christianity at Pacific Lutheran University, will speak on "Splendor in Ordinary Lives: The Gospel of St. John for Unsettling Times" at a Spiritus workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

A priest associate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Seattle and

chair of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia's commission for liturgy and the arts, Samuel has taught at PLU since 1998. He received a doctorate in historical theology from St. Louis University.

His presentation will deal with questions for Christian leaders to ask in this time of social and economic anxiety, such as how ancient texts and the fourth Gospel

respond to current need and how realistic their images of hope are.

The event is for clergy and lay people, including church musicians. Spiritus is an ecumenical organization, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane to provide opportunities for people to grow spiritually.

For information, call 838-4277 or email cfkerry@earthlink.net

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Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies

Take Action Against Hate 3rd Annual Awards Banquet

2011 Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awardees
Mary Stamp - The Fig Tree Editor - Individual
Partners with Families and Children Spokane - Organization

Keynote Address: Kitara McClure
multicultural director at Spokane Community College

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Globe Room - Cataldo Hall - Gonzaga University
Doors Open: 5:45 p.m. Dinner Served: 6:30 p.m.
Program: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information: email hatestudies@gonzaga.edu
call 509-313-3665 or visit www.gonzaga.edu/hatestudies
\$50 per person • \$400 per table of 8 • \$500 Corporate Sponsor

With its 2011 awards, Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies recognizes role of abuse and media in hate

The Gonzaga University Institute for Hate Studies are present ing the 2011 Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awards to Partners with Families and Children: Spokane (PFCS) and Mary Stamp, editor of The Fig Tree, at its third annual Take Action Against Hate Banquet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The featured speaker for the program at 7 p.m. is Kitara McClure, multicultural director at Spokane Community College.

Partners with Families and

Children is being recognized for its work with at-risk children and their parents to provide help, safety, justice and healing, starting nearly 25 years ago as the Regional Center for Child Abuse and Neglect at Deaconess Hospital. It became Casey Family Partners for seven years before becoming a nonprofit in 2005 as Partners with Families and Children.

"We have seen an increase in child abuse and neglect with the economic downturn," said Kari Gryteal, the new director.

Last year they served more than

2,000 children and families facing poverty, abuse, neglect, mental illness, barriers to health care and exposure to drugs, violence and hate. Its services are part of a continuum of care including medical care to address abuse, services for families, legal support for child victims and prevention, such as through the community education initiative Our Kids: Our Business.

Gary Woods, clinical supervisor who works with families and children said staff have "Undoing Racism" training and training to understand power.

From 2001 to 2006, he worked with Partner's Safe Start program, going with police or a sheriff's officer to a home where there was violence, and children were at home. He saw how exposure to violence affected children, few of whom had been identified as at-risk by other agencies.

"Violence, anger and hatred are pervasive and rarely identified," he said. "Even parents in a home where there has been suicide, homicide or domestic violence think their children did not know."

"The children are hyper-vigilant, aggressive, anxious, withdrawn, have impaired empathy and lower social competence," Gary said. "Children exposed to hate act out and are confused."

Partners staff also seek to be sensitive to racial and cultural differences between service providers and victims, encouraging clients to invite non-offending family and friends to be there with them, and continually asking if

their response is helpful.

In her work with The Fig Tree, a nonprofit communications ministry, Mary seeks to overcome hatred by modeling peace and justice journalism that focuses on solutions to conflicts.

A 1967 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism, she founded The Fig Tree in 1984 through the former Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries, initially to report on religion.

"Having known of Eva Lassman's relentless, tireless efforts to educate people to overcome tendencies to hate, I believe we each need to find our niche to take action against hate," Mary said. "So I will receive the award as a call to continue to pursue peace, justice, human rights and respect that fosters human dignity, equality and caring."

"For me, it means to continue to educate people on ways media, political systems and individuals incite hate to divide people so that they maintain their power and profits," Mary explained. "Many media tend to accentuate how people and institutions polarize thinking as a short-cut."

"Our role with The Fig Tree, beyond publishing each month, is to be an example of justice and peace journalism dealing with the realities of conflict by looking at multiple solutions, rather than applying the sports win-lose approach," she said.

"We need to hear stories, visions, hopes and humanity of people who believe, care and act to make a difference," she said.

For information, call 313-3665, email againsthate@gonzaga.edu or visit gonzaga.edu/against-hate.

Care of Creation workshop planned Oct. 8

Catholic Charities plans a "Care of Creation and Environmental Justice" workshop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, at St. Aloysius Parish, O'Malley Hall. Presenters are from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and Earth Ministry, organizations educating people on the call of faith to show reverence to the Creator by caring for creation. Participants will integrate care of creation with prayer, advocacy and justice, said Scott Cooper, director of Parish Social Ministries with Catholic Charities. For information, call 358-4273 or emailscoper@ccspokane.org.

Transitions benefit attendees will hear of successes

People attending Transitions' ninth annual People Who Care Benefit will learn of the agency's efforts to fight poverty and homelessness among women and children in Spokane.

The two-part benefit consists of breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and a lunch at noon, both held at the Red Lion Inn at the Park.

For information, call 328-6702 ext 107.

Hospice of Spokane adds a grief support group

Hospice of Spokane is adding a weekly bereavement support group for people who recently lost a loved one. A master's level counselor facilitates the group, beginning at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, at the East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone.

Other weekly support groups include for loss of a spouse/partner; general grief support in North Side, South Side and Spokane Valley, and groups for loss of a child, survivors of a loved one's suicide and child/parent connections. There is also a Bereavement Support Class at 1:30 p.m. first, second and third Thursdays at Hospice of Spokane, 121 S. Arthur. For information, call 456-0438 or visit www.hospiceofspokane.org.

Congresswoman speaks at Spokane City Forum

"Keeping the American Dream Alive: Creating Tomorrow's Jobs Today" is the topic Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) will discuss at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 19, for the Spokane City Forum at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar. She served as a state legislator before she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2004. For information, call 777-1555 or email info@spokanecityforum.org.

Join with the
United Nations Association - Spokane
in celebrating the 66th

United Nations Day

Sunday, Oct. 23

in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Buffet dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Program begins at 7 p.m.

'Engaging Students in the Model United Nations'

featuring

Gonzaga University Model UN Club

Kaitlin Sandin, Micah Rarick and Randy Head

share about their experiences in Gonzaga's club and in the April 2011 Gonzaga delegation to the national Model United Nations Conference in New York City. Stacy Taninchev is their faculty advisor

For information, contact:

Judy Gardner at 747-5252 or jkandjg2@comcast.net
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Reserve by Oct. 18

Adult dinner \$20 • Student dinner \$10

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Judy Gardner

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Spokane WA 99204

Veradale United Church of Christ 71st Annual

Harvest Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 15
5 to 7 p.m.



The mouth-watering meal features turkey and the trimmings, ham, Swedish meatballs and squash
We invite donations!

611 N. Progress Ave. • Spokane Valley • 926-7173
one block west of Sullivan and south of Broadway

Bazaars

Bake, Craft and Book Sales, Auctions & Meals

A Completely Bazaar Day in Cheney Saturday, Nov. 5

Loads of craft and baked goods
Come for breakfast, stay for lunch
Raffle prizes, White Elephant gifts
Visit all three churches!!!
Cheney United Methodist Church
4th & G St • 9 am - 3 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
639 Elm St • 9 am - 3 pm
Cheney United Church of Christ
423 N 6th St • 9 am - 2 pm

Come Visit Our Christmas Bazaar!!
Cheney United Methodist Church
crafts, baked goods and a gift
shop designed for children
Saturday, Nov. 5 • 9 am-3 pm
4th & G St. - Cheney WA

Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon
Saturday, Nov 5 • 9 am - 3 pm
Crafts, Baked Goods,
Holiday Decorating & White Elephant
Cheney Emmanuel Lutheran
639 Elm Street
Matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial

Cheney United Church
of Christ Bazaar
Saturday, Nov 5
9 am - 2 pm • 11 am - 1 pm lunch
Crafts, Silent Auction, Raffle
423 N. 6th - Cheney

The Fig Tree will run
another event section
in the Nov. issue
Cost: \$14/col. inch

Audubon Park United
Methodist Women's
Annual Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 5 - 9 am-3 pm
3908 N. Driscoll Blvd.
Wheelchair Friendly

Community
Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct. 22
9:30 am-3 pm

Crafts from local vendors
Food - home-made baked goods
Lunch - soup, salad bar, dessert,
coffee or tea \$5

Central United Methodist
Third & Howard in Spokane

Bazaar
& Bake Sale
St. Mark's Lutheran
316 E. 24th Ave.
Grand Blvd. & 24th
9 am - 2 pm
Saturday, Nov. 5
Coffee bar, bake sale,
quality seconds and crafts

SCANDINAVIAN
BAZAAR
Proceeds benefit local charities
Friday, Nov. 4
Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am
Bazaar 10 am - 1 pm
Central Lutheran Church
Corner of 5th & Bernard
CALL 624-9233 by Oct. 28 to pre-
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scandinavian cookies
meatballs & flatbread

Highland Park
United Methodist Church
Japanese
Bazaar
611 S. Garfield
11 am - 2 pm
Saturday, Oct. 15
Handcrafts, baked goods, senbei, sushi,
produce, tsukemono
Teriyaki Dinner - \$12.50
To reserve or buy ahead, call
535-2687 or 928-9459

FALL FESTIVAL
BAZAAR
Saturday, Oct. 29
9 am - 3 pm
lelse, bean soup mix, plants,
baked goods, crafts,
Grannie's Attic & more
Prince of Peace Lutheran
8441 N. Indian Trail Rd.
Spokane

St. John's
Cathedral
BAZAAR
at 12th & Grand
9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 12
Lunch
11:30 am to 1 pm
Vintage Style Show
Raffles
Food & Crafts

Small groups draw young adults for discussions on issues of the day

Continued from page 1
 ing in May to Christ Our Hope Bible Church. It began sharing space at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway, to stay in the neighborhood.

"As I gain a sense of where they are in their faith journeys and build a pastoral relationship with them, I will give leadership to help them sort out their call to ministry free from the yoke of caring for an old building," she said.

Now the congregation is joining Salem Lutheran and Holy Trinity Episcopal in beginning steps to form The Oak Tree, as a new ministry in West Central Spokane seeking alternative ways for unchurched people in their 20s to 40s to enter denominational churches.

Organizers envision small groups to discuss contemporary issues, coffee-house conversations, door-to-door relationship building led by a community organizer, using internet tools, offering community events and involving people in social justice and community service.

Deb believes churches in the 21st century need to offer more than attractive buildings and quality Sunday worship to draw people. Today, what church members are doing in the community and world is more likely to draw people to come alongside people who are doing the work of Jesus, Deb said.

She welcomes the Worldwide United Methodists' recent decision to include "transformation" in the mission for congregations, who are now called "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

"Our future is to reclaim our United Methodist traditions of small covenant-discipleship groups and of social justice ministries," she said.

"The covenant-discipleship group tradition involves commitment to join in acts of worship, devotion, mercy and justice to make a difference in the world," she explained. "Ministry is caring about, leading and challenging people, and holding them accountable in love.

"A church that takes ministry seriously is integrated into its neighborhood, is involved in social justice issues and spends time with people who are struggling with issues of the day," she said. "The church's role is to nurture members so they go out to nurture others."

Deb, who earned a degree in philosophy at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1977 and a law degree there in 1981, clerked at a firm in Colorado, and was deputy prosecutor for Clallam County from 1983 to 1987.

Although she burned out on sexual assault and child abuse cases, she liked standing in front of people—a jury—to talk about values and liked listening to victims and helping them deal with the trauma of their experiences.

"I grew up Methodist and left for college tired of the hypocrisy of church people focused solely on piety. In the 1960s, however, I found many courageous church people serving people and trying to change the world," she said, drawn back by the United Methodist commitment to justice, helping at an inner-city Philadelphia church's shelter in college.

She was attending an Episcopal church in Port Angeles when she said yes to her call to ministry in 1987. Deb returned to the United Methodist Church, which has ordained women since the 1930s. In 1994, she entered Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia.

She was drawn by Methodist founder John Wesley's theology of social justice, aware Methodists in England were key to ending abuses of the Industrial Revolution—child labor, sweatshops and dawn-to-dusk workdays.

Wesley started small covenant groups to help people experience personal piety and do something about the poor, prisoners, and oppressed and powerless people.

After earning her master of divinity degree in 1997, Deb was ordained and served in Rosalia for three years, at Ocean Shores three years, and then Davenport Edwall until 2007.

Deb described Liberty Park and St. Paul as having been healthy, successful churches for more than 100 years, and both becoming victims of an inability to adapt to cultural changes after the 1950s. The ethos for many, she said, became maintaining the institution.

"As long as the cultural norm was to go to church on Sunday, we did well with a church in nearly every town and neighborhood," she said, "but we forgot how to do evangelism. People died and were not replaced. Older people had less to give. Budget problems led many churches to focus inward rather than asking where God was calling them to serve the

world," she said.

Deb said Liberty Park is a "true" neighborhood church, because there is no parking lot. People walked to church.

Its long-term rental agreements with a Montessori preschool and the Spokane Alliance—which helps congregations serve their neighborhoods—gave it partners to help support the building.

More than two years ago, the church replaced its furnace through Sustainable Works, a program of the alliance, setting up four heating zones, so unused areas can be closed off.

That cut the heating bill from nearly \$2,000 a month to less than \$800 a month, she said.

St. Paul's UMC, which started the Women's and Children's Free Restaurant, spun it off as a separate nonprofit, Deb said. They also prepare a monthly dinner for Crosswalk, a downtown drop-in center and shelter for teens on the streets. Both churches rented a plot in the Grant Park Community Garden for the Crosswalk teens.

St. Paul's large building had one heating system, so when the Women's and Children's Free Restaurant was open, the whole building had to be heated. It cost

thousands of dollars a month.

She finds St. Paul's members, which include two families with children and some in their 90s, more optimistic now that they no longer are a few people sitting in front of a sanctuary that seats 350. They fit in the fireside room of Salem.

"They feel they are in a community with a future," she said, noting that they are open to The Oak Tree ministry proposal as they explore to discern their pas-

sion for ministry.

"Today Christians in post-Christian America are like the Jews in exile in Babylon," Deb said. "We need to heed the prophet Jeremiah's instruction to care for the communities where we live because our welfare is tied to the welfare of our communities. Young adults want to be involved."

For information, call 251-4332 or email gracewithjustice@yahoo.com.



Fall Folk Festival

Celebrating our area's cultural diversity
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Model United Nations draws college students into discussion, research

Three students in Gonzaga University's Model United Nations organization will speak at Spokane's United Nations Day Dinner on participating in the National Model United Nations (UN) Conference in April 2011 in New York City with more than 5,900 other students from about 400 colleges and universities, including more than 3,400 non-U.S. participants from five continents.

The dinner begins at 6 p.m., Sunday, October 23, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The student speakers are Kaitlin Sandin, who serves as secretary general for Gonzaga's Model UN; Micah Rarick, a sophomore in international relations and in ROTC, and Randy Head, a first year law student who was secretary general last year.

Model UN programs provide students and faculty a forum to address global concerns in a "real-world" context. Conferences address issues such as regional conflicts, peacekeeping, human rights, women and children, economic and social development, and the environment. They also provide student participants with a better understanding of the inner working of the UN as they build skills in diplomacy and compromise.

Gonzaga was assigned to the General Assembly's First, Second and Third Committees, the Security Council, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Economic and Social Council and the World Intellectual Property Organization. Gonzaga represented China in the Security Council and Malta in all other committees.

Stacy Taninchev, assistant professor of political science and faculty advisor for the student organization, said the group started at Gonzaga three years ago. She came two years ago.

The Spokane Chapter of the United Nations Association gave funds for the 2011 trip to New York in which 14 students participated. The GU students won an award for outstanding position papers on the issues.

"The students have to prepare and send in position papers on the three topics for their particular committees before the conference and these were deemed to be of outstanding quality in terms of actually representing the position of their assigned countries and being well written," said Stacy.

Preliminary sessions were held in a hotel, and on the final day, the student delegations met in the United Nations building. Each university's delegation was as-



Stacy Taninchev, Micah Rarick and Kaitlin Sandin stand by recruiting ad on GU's graffiti wall.

signed a country.

They spent much of the year researching issues for that country and how they might vote on resolutions developed by committees of Model UN participants.

"The real United Nations Assembly can vote on those resolutions if they choose to," said Stacy.

Currently seven carry-over members are recruiting and screening new members so they will have 14 to 18 members. Once the number of members is set, they will be assigned a country. They will spend the fall learning about what the United Nations is and what it does. Then they will be assigned a country to research for participation in the April 2012 Model UN Conference.

"They are also given three topics to discuss and research," said Stacy. "Every week they have a simulation, with some members representing their country—Gonzaga's was Malta in 2011—and others representing the perspectives of other countries.

Kaitlin, who joined to find other students with whom to discuss politics, said the issues her committee dealt with in 2010 were the security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, maritime piracy and nonproliferation, and the 2011 topics they discussed were human trafficking, energy security in Europe and the security situation in Kyrgyzstan.

As secretary general last year, Randy worked hard to raise funds, recruit participants and promote

the Model UN on campus to put the organization on solid footing under the political science department.

Even though he was always interested in international politics, he knew little about the United Nations, which he said is true of most people.

"I've learned how nations conduct diplomacy and work to develop common solutions to end poverty and provide health care," Randy said. "In the simulations, we learned about other countries. For example, a Chilean student might be representing Japan. It's important for people to be involved in politics. Too many are complacent."

Micah said research for the Model UN is closer to real-world issues than classes and takes high-end research and analytical skills.

He also realizes there's a difference between the talking game about a country's position and how they actually vote.

"I've come to see the United States from other perspectives as I argue and support points I don't agree with on a personal level," Micah said.

Stacy, who grew up Catholic and is now Bulgarian Orthodox, teaches about international and intergovernmental organizations, specializing in organizations like the United Nations.

"It takes much time and commitment, and the local group is student run," she said. "I'm available to answer questions and help with logistics of travel."

"Students learn only so much from texts and lectures," she said. "In the Model United Nations, they learn by interacting, negotiating and putting themselves in the shoes of people from another country."

Because students who are involved are interested in international concerns, many spend their junior year abroad, so most of the returning students are sophomores and seniors.

Stacy began with French studies at New York University and then became interested in studying about the European Union. That was the focus of her doctoral studies at the University of Pittsburgh, leading to her focus on intergovernmental organizations,

how they affect the behavior of states and whether they bring greater peace or cooperation.

"I believe they do make a difference in helping states cooperate on some issues, but they are imperfect," she said. "The United Nations is not a world government. There is no central authority in the international system, but the United Nations is useful in fighting global menaces like poverty and starvation, when members can agree there is a problem and work to solve it together."

She finds the organizations are less successful at bringing world peace, because they are created by nations that do not want to give up their control, so the most powerful countries have greater influence.

"In classes, I talk about what the United Nations does and the importance of knowing its successes and the reasons it is not successful in other ways," said Stacy, who grew up living on the East Coast and in California with her father's moves with the Army. Her family lived in Germany until she was three and her parents had traveled and were interested in other countries. Her father had studied Russian. Her husband, who is in hospitality management, is a Bulgarian-American.

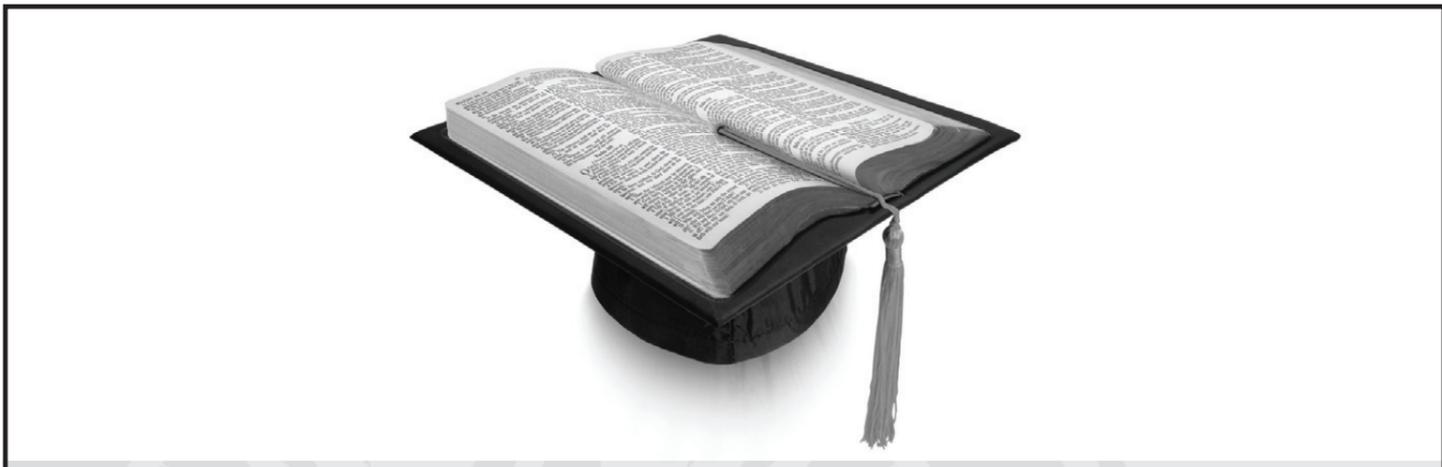
For information, on Model UN call 313-3610 or email taninchev@gonzaga.edu. For information on the dinner, call 313-6698 or 747-5252.

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Through its service learning programs

Whitworth introduces students to the continuum of problem solving

Rhoretta Rhodes brings to her new role as chief of staff for Whitworth University President Beck Taylor a commitment to community and understanding of the “continuum of problem solving” she has instilled in students as director of service learning and community engagement from 2007 through this August.

She succeeds Greg Orwig, who has become acting vice president for admissions and financial aid. Keith Kelley is her successor.

Service learning, she said, involves students, staff and faculty in opportunities “to act on their commitment to Christian service and community involvement.”

It’s part of comprehensive education, preparing students for more than jobs. All students do it.

“We prepare students to live productive lives, recognizing we are interdependent and need to be responsible for each other. If something is going wrong with a neighbor, we need to connect,” Rhoretta said. “We help students find their niches in society.

“The relevance of education is how we connect with critical issues and help students be problem solvers,” she said.

She described what she calls the continuum of problem solving:

“If we give someone a fish, we feed the person for a day. If we teach someone to fish, we feed the person for a lifetime. We also need to be sure the person has access to the pond, and we need to talk about ownership of the pond.”

Rhoretta said the goal is to engage on all levels—address-



Rhoretta Rhodes

ing hunger by feeding people, teaching them job skills, and advocating so people have access and justice.

“We help students understand how they can move along on the continuum from direct services—soup kitchens and shelters—to training, advocacy and justice. In service learning, we have given students experience in each part of the continuum so they understand the connection of all and the need for everyone to work together,” Rhoretta said. “Each needs to find his or her niche. Otherwise, world problems seem overwhelming to

the point of paralysis that inhibits action and makes us feel we can’t make a difference.

“Service learning has a transformative effect that tends to produce lifelong civic engagement—if not immediately after graduation then later,” Rhoretta said.

The daughter of a Marine, growing up in the Southeast, California, the Philippines and Hawaii, she married Floyd Rhodes in 1983 and followed him in his Air Force career to Spokane 20 years ago. In her early years in Spokane, she worked with Fairchild’s Family Support Center, as the day

care training technician, relocation manager, information referral assessment counselor and volunteer program manager. After her husband retired, she was the Postal Service’s regional Equal Employment Opportunity mediation specialist for three years.

Then she served as director of continuing education, service learning and community engagement at Spokane Falls Community College.

Rhoretta, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, did not attend church until she was a teen. In 1985, she said she “understood what it meant to be Christian and making a conscious choice to be Christian, to follow Christ’s example and live as he taught.”

For her, it has meant trusting as God has led her into various positions along the way. Looking

back, she sees how her work in EEO mediation led her to a position where she trains students in mediation.

Similarly, her work at the community college began her commitment to help students understand how learning math and other subjects are relevant to addressing societal ills.

“I didn’t always realize why I was led to certain work, but I look back and see the connections,” she said. “I realize it’s best to trust God, doing the best I can in whatever I do and being ready to move on when God is ready for me to move.”

In the president’s office, she will continue to help the community connect education with social needs.

For information, call 777-3200 or email rrhodes@whitworth.edu.

1,500 from campus assist at 45 agencies

By Josiah Brown

The morning of September 20, 25 buses arrived at Whitworth University to take about 1,500 students, staff and faculty to 45 sites around Spokane for their annual Community Building Day.

Started in 1907 as Campus Day, it is Whitworth’s oldest tradition, evolving from a day of campus-wide service into a community-oriented service day.

The community offers projects, making it a bottom up, grass roots event. This year students, faculty and staff went to a variety of sites including, but not limited, to Anna Ogden Hall, Boys and Girls clubs, Catholic Charities sites, Christ Kitchen, Goodwill Industries, Project Hope, Salvation Army and Youth for Christ.

Beck Taylor, the university’s president, believes it’s an expression of Whitworth’s mission to equip students to honor God,

follow Christ and serve humanity.

“It is a biblical mandate to serve the least of these,” he said. “We have many needs in our community, so we would be shirking our responsibility as a Christian university if we didn’t think of service seriously as part of our mission and then program service into the university’s activities.”

More than going out and serving in the community just one morning a year, it is about cultivating a spirit of service in the students. As Steve LaPointe, the assistant director of service learning and community engagement, points out, “It is a first step for many, especially freshmen, who are serving in the community for

the first time and are unfamiliar with Spokane and with service.”

For him, the day fits the biblical call in Matthew 20:28 to serve “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

Ryan Knight, a junior, who has fond memories of his first Community Building Day, was excited to be part of it again. This year he helped clean at Catholic Charities’ Delaney Apartments. As a cultural diversity advocate on campus he is glad students can step outside their own cultures, because the day cultivates empathy and moves students out from behind the “pine cone curtain” of campus.

For information, call 777-4673 or email slapointe@whitworth.edu.

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For Gonzaga University students

Community action and service learning introduce Jesuit values for service, justice

By Mary Hazuka

Gonzaga University's Center for Community Action and Service Learning (CCASL) plant seeds of the Jesuit identity of service and justice.

As CCASL helps students be involved in the community through service-action programs, it transforms them to become active participants in their communities after graduation.

"A high number of graduates go on to serve in the Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Teach for America. Service is a pathway for students to become dynamic members of their communities for their whole lives," said Sima Thorpe, assistant dean of students and founder and director at CCASL, which now has 32 programs, eight of which are mentoring programs.

"It is the realization of a long-term dream to see how the program has progressed. About 2,800 students annually are involved in service," she said. "There are service-learning classes in almost every department with 90 faculty involved and 1,500 students participating in more than 30 classes each semester."

CCASL provides different programs to attract students to service related to their interests and studies.

Todd Dunfield, the associate director of CCASL, started as a mentor with Campus Kids, one of the first mentoring programs. Since graduating from Gonzaga University in 2000, he has helped the program grow, serving through AmeriCorps from 2000 to 2001.

He attributes the success of GU mentoring programs to the many students who return every year.

"They come back to mentoring programs, such as Campus Kids. About 45 percent of student mentors are sophomores. We don't recruit freshman until late spring," Todd said.

Campus Kids mentoring after school on campus has helped at-risk children in fourth through sixth grades succeed in academics and relationship building for 15 years. Many mentors work with the same student for several years.

"Students are great role models for at-risk children. There are positive learning outcomes for both the children and the student mentors," Sima said.

Senior Lindsey Friessnig, who has participated for three years, said, "It's a way for me to integrate service into my Gonzaga routine. By spending a few hours a week with my fellow mentors and mentees, it has demonstrated how easy it is to take a step back from life in college and to do



Todd Dunfield and Sima Thorpe

something for others. It has also been an opportunity to learn about social justice issues that impact our schools and communities."

Student teams do homework and educational games together. One Saturday a month, students and mentees do activities, such as trips to a skating rink or apple picking at Green Bluff.

"Three years ago, I met my bouncy, bright-eyed mentee and had no idea what to expect," Lindsey said. She has found consistency crucial: "Always being there when I say I will is a little act that goes a long way and establishes trust," she said.

Other mentoring programs offered are Student Mentoring in Life and Education (SMILE), building self-esteem; Earthbound, teaching sustainability, and Zag Study Buddies, doing tutoring and academic mentoring.

Another popular program is Mission:Possible, a service-immersion program that sends students during spring break across the country for a week of community service and mission to such cities as Portland, Ore., Denver, Colo., Tacoma, Wash., and San Francisco, Calif.

Student leaders and a faculty member run Mission:Possible. The small group setting supports bonding, and trips introduce the

four pillars of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps—simplicity, spirituality, service and community.

CCASL also offers a Spring Break Spokane, in which students serve in the local area, reaching out to those in their backyard to address issues of this community.

Todd said student slots for Mission:Possible filled up within four hours this past year.

Many students do Mission:Possible three or four times, he said. Based on feedback, CCASL finds that the most impact is from immersion trips.

For example, the pre-orientation Reality Camp draws 40 incoming freshman to campus early for a night and day of service at the House of Charity, a night on campus, one in the woods and the last night on campus, so they are immersed in Spokane and come to know their neighbors, he said.

Reality Camp also emphasizes the Jesuit pillars.

A student who participated in the Way of the Heart retreat and Special Olympics wanted to connect students year round with people with developmental disabilities. The student started CCASL's program, Gonzaga University Specialized Recreation, which has more than 50 volunteers. It does sports and puts on plays to raise funds for

local people with developmental disabilities. It wants students and local people of diverse backgrounds, abilities and ages to feel welcome, respected and loved.

CCASL supports social justice educational programs through Just Desserts, a dessert with a forum and speakers discussing current justice issues such as human trafficking. Students learn ways to help homeless or hungry people, or fight AIDS through local organizations.

"Service requires people. Students and staff lead the programs, working with 150 community partners and volunteers. CCASL is run 50 percent by grants, donations and fund raising, and the university underwrites the rest," said Sima, who is fulfilled by sharing her commitment to social justice.

Growing up in a Middle-Eastern-American household, she experienced and learned about injustice at an early age. She learned from her parents, who were teachers, to work for justice.

"My father, an Iranian immi-

grant, met and married my mother at the University of Oregon. During the Iran-Iraq war, most of my family in Baghdad, Iraq, became refugees and moved into our home in Eugene," said Sima.

She went to the University of Oregon because it had one of the first service learning programs. Throughout college she worked with homeless, hungry and poor people, going into their homes. After graduating in 1985, she taught poor and low-income children, including at the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. She was an advocacy paralegal from 1988 to 1994.

Todd came to Gonzaga from Texas, seeking a school with a culture driven by social justice and service.

Going often to daily Mass with his family, he learned about care of the poor. He majored in history with plans to teach, but went on to earn a master's degree in student affairs in 2004 at Seattle University before returning to Spokane to work at CCASL.

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Okanogan veterans reach out to serve today's veterans

Volunteer Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Michael Stewart thinks fewer Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will run away to live in isolation as Vietnam veterans like him did, because there are more programs in place to help them transition from combat to civilian life.

The young vets, whom he helps apply for benefits, are dealing with physical, emotional, spiritual and mental wounds that he understands. Plus they face a tough economy with few opportunities for employment.

So Michael and others on the Okanogan County Veterans Board are hosting a Volunteer Services Officer Training, and Homeless and Incarcerated Veterans Seminar, gathering veterans' and community organizations from five Northeast Washington counties—Douglas, Chelan, Ferry, Stevens and Okanogan—Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 17 to 19, at the Armory, 101 Armory Ave., in Okanogan.

Along with Michael, his colleagues, volunteer veterans service officer Dale White and Shane Barton also of Tonasket, are helping organize the event.

They are also among veterans who have established the U.S. Armed Forces Legacy Project in Tonasket and helped bring health care for veterans to the North Valley Hospital there.

Michael and Dale first met in 1979 when Michael was living on Whidbey Island, and sought medical help for health issues and for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after Vietnam. For 30 years, Dale worked with veterans in Seattle before retiring and moving to Tonasket.

On Oct. 19, area county commissioners and heads of organizations will meet to learn what each is doing to address the myriad of issues common to veterans. Organizers encourage bringing county resources together to save funds for all programs and provide more connected services, Michael said.

Three years ago, Michael and Dale informed Okanogan County commissioners that veterans brought \$3.6 million in federal compensation—disability checks and pensions—into the county. He estimates that since then they have helped veterans apply for nearly \$1 million more in benefits. They also help veterans with incomes less than \$1,600 per month with food, clothing, rent, utility bills and medical bills as a "possible hand up, not a hand out," he said.

While farm communities supplied many veterans to wars, Michael said there was also an influx of Vietnam vets into the county in the 1970s. Many were running away, drawn by the isolation of living in the hills.

Dale suggests that, depending on how homelessness is defined, 43 percent of veterans in the county qualify as homeless because they have no running water, live



Michael Stewart

in primitive places and live with family or friends. About 300,000 veterans nationwide are homeless.

Based on benefit and pension payments, Michael stated that there are more than 4,400 veterans in Okanogan county.

"It's win-win for counties to invest in their veteran population," he said.

The County Veterans Board recently persuaded the County Commissioners to create a paid county position for County Wide Service Officer (CWSO). They hired a veterans service officer, Shane Barton, a 1987 Tonasket High School graduate, who joined the Army and served with the 10th Special Services for 10 years. After traveling in Europe, Southwest Asia and Bosnia, he spent 15 years in business management. A disabled veteran, he recently moved back to Tonasket.

"We have funds to put the October seminar on, and we expect 12 to 15 VSOs to come. VSOs will help vets with the process of filling out benefit forms in a completed claims format, which increases the ability to begin receiving checks in six to eight months," said Michael, noting need for more because of the many veterans in the area.

They also help with death benefits, burial costs, education benefits, transitional guidance and taking photos for mail-in ID cards.

The seminar will cover compensation and pensions, death compensation, unemployment issues, vocational rehabilitation, mental health and faith community response to these issues. On Wednesday, the focus is implement solutions to the homeless and veterans court issues.

Michael and Dale have involved the Colville Confederate Tribe—whose warriors they have helped receive their earned benefits—as well as veterans in county American Legion posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Vietnam Veterans, the Veterans



Construction continues on Armed Forces Legacy Project at Tonasket.

Coalition, the Purple Heart Organization, the Paralyzed Veterans Association, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, North Valley Hospital in Tonasket, county commissioners and Spokane Veterans Administration Medical Center officials.

"All organizations need to hold hands and meet face to face to use resources to better serve and to draw funds into the county to improve programs," he said.

Nationwide, Michael said there is a backlog of approximately 1 million cases of vets filing for health care and support benefits. With anticipated cases to be reviewed, plus new cases, the system has slowed down.

"There was also a backlog after Vietnam, so organizations built up, then downsized. Now we need to train more volunteer VSOs to strengthen response for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan," said Michael.

Like him, many volunteer VSOs are retired and disabled. They volunteer as "giveback" to other combat vets.

After high school in Tacoma, Michael served three-and-a-half years in the Navy and then three-and-a-half years in the Army, serving two partial tours in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Wounded in the first Tet offensive, he was sent home and spent six months in the hospital before returning to Vietnam. He recorded his oral history as a sergeant and tank commander. It's at the Purple Heart Museum in Windsor, N.Y.

The U.S. Armed Forces Legacy Project in Tonasket, which area veterans are developing on half an acre just south of the city line on Highway 97, will include a library to house such oral histories and will have a service office for veterans and families.

Eight walls will hold 1,040 plaques with names of living and deceased veterans. Four walls now display more than 500 names of service members from the Revolutionary War, Civil War,

World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The project started in 2006 as an initiative of George Frank, a World War II Air Force veteran, then in his 70s. He wanted to build a memorial and, with the initial support of the local American Legion Post, approached the city.

So far, they have raised \$150,000 for the project through donations, fund raising, small grants and selling sponsored basalt memorial pillars and plaques.

The office building, which will be built in 2012, will be used along with the small space Michael, Dale and Shane use as a veterans service office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays at North Valley Hospital.

They set up there because in February 2011 the Tonasket Family Medical Clinic, located in the hospital, contracted with the Spokane Veterans Administration Medical Center to provide primary care, lab work, radiology imaging and emergent pharmacy needs for veterans who live in and near Okanogan County.

The Legacy Project office will have showers homeless vets can use, plus access to DSHS, unemployment and mental health services.

Michael said veterans hope the hospital will eventually provide other veterans' clinics for such health issues as cancer, hearing, physical therapy and surgery. Federal funds now reimbursing travel to Spokane or Seattle for medical care can be used to help

fund those services to "provide integrated health care to keep vets close to home," he said.

For Michael, medical care turned his life around. With Dale's support, he was diagnosed with a rare adrenal gland tumor that fed his fight-and-flight response in war and afterwards.

"For three years, I traveled the world chasing a combat high," he said. "Dale helped me resolve my health issues and file for my earned benefits. He made an appointment for me to go to the VA hospital where the tumor was diagnosed and removed in 1980."

In 1982, after he completed medical care, Michael moved to Chesaw in the mountains northeast of Tonasket. He now lives outside Tonasket.

After going the drug route for a while, he faced what he had done and stopped "hiding behind chemicals." He learned lessons and has now put together insights from what he learned about religions during his travels in Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

"I had a spiritual transformation, so spirituality has been added to my tool box as a human being, giving me power to do what is better and best," Michael said.

"I can go into homes and talk with veterans about issues they previously could not talk about. My spiritual side gives me strength to help," said Michael, who has put 96,000 miles on his 2009 Subaru driving veterans to Seattle and Spokane.

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East Central Community Center - 500 S. Stone

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Healthy Corner Stores crop up in 'food-desert' neighborhoods

Two West Central Spokane stores have been designated Healthy Corner Stores by the Spokane Regional Health District. Such stores are located in areas defined by the U.S. "food deserts," residential areas where people need to travel a mile or more to find a full-service food store.

Usually major arterials are zoned for large grocery stores and residential areas are zoned not to allow retail stores to be built.

"When people jump into their cars to go elsewhere to shop, there's no neighborhood hub where they can meet and build community," said Natalie Tausin, health program specialist and registered dietitian at the Spokane Regional Health District.

The Healthy Corner Store project is a lower-cost solution that can use existing structures, such as a convenience store whose owner agrees to certain criteria.

Natalie listed the criteria for participation, pointing out the store's level of participation is based on the number of elements they adopt.

- Have a fresh produce rack with 12 varieties of seasonal fruits and vegetables;
- Have whole-grains items such as breads, cereals and rice;
- Provide simple recipes for preparing foods;
- Position healthful foods near the cash register;

Retailers receive technical support and marketing assistance from a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the Washington Department of Health's Communities Putting Prevention to Work. The grant helps provide some assistance to repair refrigeration or partially offset the cost of produce displays, as well as technical assistance on marketing and produce management, she said.

The stores also display Healthy Corner Store marketing materials. Bong's Grocery and Deli has a medium-level covenant in their store at 2040 W. Boone. That means she meets three criteria. Bong Cho opened the healthy-corner section in March 2011.

Parkside Grocery and Meat, currently has a high-level agreement, which means they meet all the criteria and are not selling alcohol or cigarettes in their store at 1913 W. Maxwell. Chuck



Bong Cho shows the Healthy Corner Store poster she displays.
Photo provided by Natalie Tausin

Redmond opened their store in September. They are the only WIC approved store with less than 1,000 square feet in Spokane.

They opened the new store in former office space they renovated. They are a meat mart and cut meat, grind hamburger and make sausage daily.

"The challenge is to encourage the community to shop at these stores that are offering healthier options," Natalie said. "Many people drive by Parkside on their way to Spokane Falls Community College or live on the western rim and can walk there. These are people who could help sustain a store like this."

Funding for these shops' adopting healthier food options comes from federal stimulus under Communities Putting Prevention to Work a means to address obesity, she said.

Other funding that makes up the \$10,000 for the project comes from the Spokane Regional Health District.

At Bong's, the funds helped with improving the sign, marketing and training to handle the fresh produce.

Two local gardens are work-

ing with the stores to sell their produce. One is the Vinegar Flats Gardens of the St. Margaret's Catholic Charities Shelter, which is run by Brian Estes. The other is Project Hope, five plots in West Central Spokane worked by local teens. Parkside is also selling produce from Hutterite communities in Odessa and near Spokane.

"With these local sources of seasonal produce, the fruits and vegetables are less expensive," Natalie said.

On Fridays, from Sept. 9 to Nov. 4, the stores are giving away fresh produce to children who come in, as a promotion to draw them and their families.

"The hope is that the children will develop a positive association between the stores and fresh fruit," said Natalie, who said the Healthy Corner Store project is focusing on children from Holmes and Bryant schools, Headstart and ECEAP.

Her role is working with community leaders to create a healthier West Central Spokane environment. She is reaching out to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to start an after-school program for children with healthy snack

recipes provided through WSU's Food Sense—one-to-one nutrition education.

West Central Community Center is suggesting that WIC clients check out Parkside Grocery, and personnel at Native Health on Maxwell are coming for lunch at the deli café beside Parkside.

Stores receive assistance to improve the store layout for display

and storage; free advertising and promotional materials; marketing to current and new customers living and working in the area; training in purchasing, pricing, stocking and marketing healthful food, small business development resources and bi-annual evaluations of progress.

For information, call 324-1659 or email ntauzin@spokanecounty.org.

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Public-private split in political rhetoric is a figment of imaginations

Our culture's and media's either-or mentality inaccurately pits the concepts of "public" and "private" at opposite ends of the philosophical mindset. The practical reality is collusion, cooperation and inter-connection of government with business and nonprofits.

Government subsidizes businesses to do much of their work: build roads, airplanes, bridges, weapons and much more. Often the subsidies are from the revenue ledger of the budget in tax breaks, but some are through contracts with private industries for them to do the job.

Government also underwrites human services that are often done on contract by private nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Usually these subsidies are seen

on the expense side of the local, state and federal budgets.

For example, Heather Byrd, development and communications director at the Salvation Army in Spokane, said many programs have a small percentage of funding from government contracts. Its program, Sally's House, however, has half its budget from state funds that may be cut.

Since the program started in 2002, she said 1,600 children have come through its emergency foster care, where children ages two to 12 stay after Child Protective Services and law enforcement remove them from a dangerous home until a foster home is available.

That's just one example from one nonprofit of how public and private programs

intersect to help people.

Public and private overlap in a myriad of partnerships that the economy and society need in order to operate in a healthy balance that forms the nation's infrastructure. The Healthy Corner Stores are an example of government helping support retailers' efforts to stock more healthful foods.

In these times when some would vilify anything "public" as tainted by its association with government, it's good to go back to our roots. Often the words "justice" and "general welfare" are twisted to seem unpatriotic, as if the only role of government is warfare—from which the private business sector profits.

At the Faith Action Network's Fall Forum, a presentation on the state budget

process included a reminder from the U.S. Constitution that the U.S. government is "to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Closing the forum, Whitworth University history professor Dale Soden encouraged churches to offer "gracious space" for members to offer the hospitality of listening with respect "in an atmosphere of mutuality and trust, willing to challenge each other to enter into conflicts to make things better."

The intermingling of public and private might be a starting topic for discussions.

Mary Stamp
Editor

Joining with others, we can chip away at solving major problems

We don't start work on an issue of the Fig Tree with a theme in mind, but one often emerges as we begin editing.

This issue could be subtitled, "Everything is connected," or in the words of Paul Tillich, "All things are interwoven."

In this issue, we meet college students who have worked service of many kinds into their schedules and have found that it has broadened their horizons, made them more aware of social justice issues, and allowed them to develop relationships that would not otherwise have been possible.

It has also shown them how the pieces fit together and can deepen their faith.

Coordinators of service learning programs at both Whitworth University and Gonzaga University find satisfaction in their work when they see this growth developing in students. When we look at their own life stories we see that the same sort of progression has taken place in their lives.

Veterans in the Okanogan area who are familiar with the system that provides the services they need know from experience that the system is often hard to navigate,

so they have organized to help other returning veterans. For some of them, this means stepping out of their own feelings of isolation.

These people and a wide variety of other individuals, organizations and even some neighborhood stores have become aware of problems that concern them, made choices about where they could help, and have made room in their lives to take action.

In doing this, they have not only taken the step of putting their beliefs to work, but they have also become aware of the inter-

weavings of the many crises we face today.

Henry David Thoreau had a gift for stating matters tersely, and one of his observations is applicable today: "One is not born into the world to do everything, but to do something."

No one of us is going to "solve" poverty, the school dropout rate, homelessness or greed, but each of us, joining with others, can chip away at them with our choices and actions.

Nancy Minard
Editorial Team

Interfaith Service

Sounding Board

Reflection Excerpts

For a recent interfaith service during 11 Days of Peace in September, the Interfaith Council of Spokane and One Peace Many Paths gathered people of different faith paths to learn about each other. Participants shared what their faiths say about moving "Toward a Lasting Peace" and taking "Next Steps for Mother Earth and Her People."

The Rev. Joe Niemiec of the Interfaith Council and Center for Spiritual Living said awareness that someone believes in God can open doors to relationships.

The Rev. Joanne Broeckling of One Peace Many Paths, which emerged from a Unity Church peace group, said peace and healing require patience and humility.

Venerable Geshe Thupten Phelgye, a Buddhist monk in the Universal Compassion Movement and a visiting professor at Gonzaga University, promotes peace, tolerance, forgiveness, compassion and love. He pointed out that religions have existed thousands of years and continue to evolve. Each teaches what is necessary for peace.

"We need to understand mutual practices and put aside differences," he said. "We need to change ourselves and forget our differences, so we can be the change. We need to clean our hearts to let wisdom and compassion grow."

The Rev. Clare Austen of Unity Church explained that Unity was part of the metaphysical new thought denominations that grew up in the United States in the 1800s.

Unity believes all faiths are in touch with Mother Earth and that peacemakers transform thoughts of division to oneness.

She said that Unity is a way of life that can turn around thoughts of hate, revenge and anger so people can find their peaceful centers and become the ones to change before they look at the world.

"If we know how wondrously made we are, how can we ever hurt others? We need to open our spiritual eyes to see the intrinsic worth of all," she said.

The Rev. Todd Eklof of the Unitarian Universalist Church gave an overview of religious thinking: Citing beliefs and values expressed in Hinduism, Taoism, Judaism, Buddhism and physics, he pointed to their understanding that various parts are inter-



Mona Ali of Spokane Islamic Center lights a candle.

dependent parts of the whole.

"Religion means ligament or root. It is intended to create bonds of solidarity among people who are separated and segregated," Todd said. "When it is used to exclude or discriminate, it separate us, and it is a sin. We need to mend fences of religion to realize our oneness."

Agnes Broncheau, a Nez Perce-Colville descendant of Chief Joseph, welcomed worshipers to "Turtle Island, the original name for Mother Earth."

"We must help heal Mother Earth," she said, telling of her work with the SHAWL (Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water, Land) Society to clean up waste from uranium mines on the Spokane reservation.

"People of many tribes hope for better life," she said. "We need to have inner peace and mend minds, so we can be part of the bigger circle. We are to know our neighbors. Then we need to become allies and help our neighbors and the original tenants of the land."

The Rev. Liv Andrews Larson, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, hopes churches honor people's tears, allowing people to join in public lamentation.

In this capitalist economy that wants people to buy things, "we can let tears surface, knowing that children and others suffer while some make profits," she said.

Liv urges engaging in the Christian practice of hope "to rehearse a new future in

singing, dancing and playfulness in public places," as retired South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "rather than succumbing to oppression."

Joe Urlacher, who is Baha'i, shared a prayer for America that calls for the oneness of humanity, for seeing all faiths as one and none as self-sufficient.

He quoted from the Baha'i Peace Pact, calling for sovereigns to establish

universal peace and unions of nations of the world to agree to a binding covenant to respect clear frontiers and limit armaments.

Mona Ali of the Spokane Islamic Center said peace is a universal goal all humanity longs for. Peace in Islam begins in the heart of an individual before the community or society, she said. It comes through a relationship with the Creator, a bond with God, so people set aside negative emotions, are more patient, and have peace in our hearts and our interactions.

Mona said bringing peace in Islam means doing good and abstaining from the bad, because Mohammed said human rights, justice, tolerance and respect were the way to peace, while intolerance and ignorance hurt people and society.

She believes people's differences exist so they can come to know each other and build bonds over the barriers.

Sree Nandagopol of India's Hindu tradition said the greeting, "Namaste," means "I see the God in you." She said that means "no matter who we are, man or woman, or what race we are, we see the soul over the body. Nonviolence is our greatest duty, so most Hindu people are vegetarians."

When Sree first moved to Spokane 35 years ago when her husband came as city engineer, people asked her why her skin was brown, why she wore a dot on her forehead, why she dressed as she did and more.

She decided to dedicate her time to educate people, starting with the kindergarten class of one of her children.

"I want to move people from untruth to truth, from ignorance to knowledge," she said.

Sally Duffy and Charmarae Moffet, a grandmother and granddaughter, spoke. They are associates of the Sisters of the Holy Names and part of UNANIMA International, a coalition of Catholic sisters promoting human dignity and peace.

Charamarae believes joy requires making a habit of the serenity prayer "to change what we can, accept what we cannot change and know the difference."

Sally said, "There's no difference between the many and the one." She read from the Earth Charter principles for sustaining the future with respect, ecology, democracy, nonviolence and peace.

Rabbi Michael Goldstein of Temple Beth Shalom said that the Hebrew word for peace, "shalom," is from "shelem," which means whole or complete. People are all kinds of sizes, dimensions and angles. Each is a piece. "Apart, we are alone. We can appreciate what is unique about each of us, and when we step back, we can see how we fit with the others," he said, noting that peace is about living in coexistence—recognizing "what separates us" and still being able to live in harmony.

"God did not create us the same, but to celebrate our diversity in color, size, diversity of religions. Each unique individual is an image of God," Rabbi Michael said.

"We need to reprioritize the allocation of resources so health, safety, education and basic needs will be protected," he said. "We need to build civil discourse, rekindle hope and trust in caring community and a just society to enhance the social contract and the bond of humanity. We need to repair the broken world through prayer and dialogue."

Ghani Tom Schmidt of the Baraka Sufi group said that a common phrase of his faith is: "In the Many Names of the One who is mercy." To close the service, he invited participants to gather with speakers, choose a simple phrase from their faith, and say or chant it simultaneously while walking forward to form a circle.

World Relief celebrates refugees' cultures

World Relief Spokane is holding its first Local Refugee Art Auction and Fashion Show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, at the East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone. The event is geared to raise awareness about refugee cultures in Spokane, show artistic talent of refugees from many cultures and raise funds for refugee resettlement.

Refugee artists will receive 80 percent of the highest bid for their pieces. Silent auction items crafted by refugees in Spokane include homemade clothing, jewelry, home décor and art.

The Fashion Show will feature ethnic clothing worn by refugees who now live in Spokane. Clothing represents about 10 countries including Bhutan, Burma, Eritrea, Dem. Republic of Congo,

Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Iraq, said Sharon Page, fundraising and ministry development coordinator

for World Relief. For information, call 484-9829 ex.140 or email spage@wr.org.

Calendar of Events

- Oct 6**
 - **Steven Bouma-Prediger Lecture** "Why Care for Creation", Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3275
 - **Fr. Nigro, SJ** "The Philosophy of God," The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 313-5765
- Oct 7**
 - **DREAM Act Demonstration**, Federal Courthouse Plaza, 921 W. Riverside Ave, noon, 455-4960
- Oct 7-9**
 - **Weekend Healing Retreat for Women**, "This Is Not the Life I Ordered," Thea Loughery and Sarah Compton, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224
- Oct 8**
 - **Composting 101 Workshop**, Suite 200, 32 W Second Ave., 10 a.m. to noon, 6 to 7 p.m., 467-0986
 - **Care of Creation and Environmental Justice**, St. Aloysius Parish, 330 E. Boone Ave., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 358-4273
 - **Mysticism in the Life of St. Francis**, The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 313-5765
 - **"Praying for Peace in Our World,"** Bishop Blase Cupich, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 1 p.m., 448-1224
 - **Work Not War: Community Speak Out and March**, Peace and Justice Action League, Clarke Park at Division and Garland, 1 to 4 p.m., 838-7870
 - **Linking Families for Life**, Childbirth and Parenting Assistance benefit, Lincoln Center, 1316 Lincoln St., 5 to 8 p.m., 358-4254
- Oct 9**
 - **Bishop's Poor Man's Meal**, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 358-4254
 - **Spokane CROP Hunger Walk**, Millwood Presbyterian Church, 3223 N. Marguerite, Registration: 12:30 p.m., Walk: 1:30 p.m., 891-1045
 - **Jam for Bread**, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington St., 3 to 5 p.m., 624-1366
 - **The Singing Nuns Dinner and Concert**, Mount St. Michaels, 8500 St. Michael's Rd., 6 to 7 p.m., 467-0986
- Oct 11**
 - **Transitions' People Who Care Benefit**, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 303 W. North River Dr., breakfast 7:30 a.m., luncheon noon p.m., 328-6702
 - **Take Action Against Hate Banquet**, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 6:30 p.m., 313-3665
- Oct 14**
 - **One Night, One World Celebration**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. George Wright Dr., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 325-6383
 - **Cardboard Box City**, Family Promise Coeur d'Alene Benefit, Community United Methodist, 1470 W. Hanley Ave. Coeur d'Alene, Overnight, 208-777-4190
- Oct 15**
 - **Fall Compost Fair and Fall Leaf Festival**, John A Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6800
 - **p.e.a.c.h. Community Farm Harvest Festival**, 10425 S. Andrus Rd., Cheney, noon to 5 p.m., 216-9273
- Oct 16**
 - **Yakima Interfaith Coalition's CROP Walk**, La Casa Hogar, 106 S. 6th St., 2 p.m., 457-5058
- Oct 17-19**
 - **Okanogan County Volunteer Service Officer Training and Seminar** on Homeless and Incarcerated Veterans, Armory, Okanogan, 486-2144
- Oct 19**
 - **Spokane City Forum**, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar St., 11:45 to 1 p.m., 777-1555
- Oct 20**
 - **Mark Braverman Lecture**, Jewish American psychologist and author, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-4263
- Oct 22**
 - **Proper Tree Planting**, Finch Arboretum, 3404 W. Woodland Blvd., 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 - **Local Refugee Art Auction and Fashion Show**, World Relief, East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 484-9829
- Oct 23**
 - **"Model United Nations,"** United Nations Day Dinner, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 6 p.m., 747-5252
- Oct 26**
 - **"Big Bucks, Big Pharma,"** Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, Jundt Art Museum Room 110 at Gonzaga University, 6 to 9 p.m., 313-3578, nw-arm@gonzaga.edu
- Oct 28**
 - **Hope House Celebrity Fashion Show**, Doubletree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 624-2378 x104
- Oct 29**
 - **"Splendor in Ordinary Lives,"** Samuel Torvend lecture, Spiritus, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 838-4277
- Nov 2**
 - **YWCA Women of Achievement Luncheon**, Spokane Convention Center Ballrooms, 344 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 11:30 to 1:30 p.m., 789-9304
 - **Fig Tree delivery**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Nov 3**
 - **Fig Tree Board**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m., 535-1813
- Nov 5**
 - **Fr. Nigro, SJ** "The Philosophy of Man," The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 313-5765
 - **Northwest Coalition for Human Rights**, University of Idaho Student Union Building, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 208-885-4285

YWCA honors women at benefit luncheon

The Spokane YWCA will honor six women for their leadership and service at its annual Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 2, at the Spokane Convention Center Ballrooms, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Receiving awards are Joanne Moyer, a community leader and historic preservation advocate; Marcia Bond, owner of Luna restaurant; Lisa Matteson-Coleman, a teacher at Havermale High School On-Track Academy; Faith Washington, nurse manager at Inland Imaging; Yvonne Montoya Zamora of Human Resources at Washington State University, and Olivia Hagel, a senior at Medical Lake High School.

The keynote speaker is Erin Gruwell, an educator working with inner city students hardened by gangs and drugs.

Funds help the YWCA respond to requests for services, which have recently risen 20 percent, said Trish McFarland, executive director.

For information, call 789-9304 or visit ywcaspokane.org.

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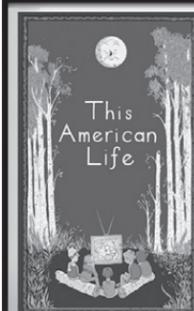
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New program helps released prisoners establish a support system

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

Since this spring, Hope for a New Tomorrow has made it possible for men and women previously incarcerated and in transition to have access to a support system that helps them strengthen their ties to the community and increase their confidence.

As a collaboration between Goodwill Industries and Spokane County community agencies, the program offers volunteer mentors to people in Spokane area work release centers.

"Ninety-five percent of prison inmates re-enter our communities and two-thirds of them return to prison," said Anna Gonzales, Hope for a New Tomorrow's program manager. "In Spokane, more than 2,000 people are released from jail each year. One in two men and two in three women will return to prison.

"We're building this program from the ground up," Anna said. "We know mentoring works for children, and we need to see how it works for adults."

The Spokane Goodwill was one of 50 sites chosen from 483 applicants to host the transitional program and only one of three Goodwills in the nation in 2010.

"Having a criminal record is like a scarlet letter," Ann said. "The stigma is that these are all bad people. Many come from a cycle of poverty and need support systems that keep them from falling back."

She explained that Hope for a New Tomorrow recruits mentors who will be a positive influence in the lives of the participants and be "their cheerleaders."

Her team includes Dezmon Cole who recruits and prepares mentors and Dawn Yarbrough who does the matches.

While the program is open to adults 18 years and older, she said the average age of participants is in their mid-20s to 30s.

Both mentees and mentors undergo screening that includes a personal interview before they



Anna Gonzales seeks to prevent recidivism.

are accepted and matched. In addition, both are required to complete a written application and interest survey. Mentors must have a valid ID and complete and pass a national criminal history background check, but a criminal past may not prohibit someone from being a mentor, Anna said.

Mentees attend a one-and-a-half hour training session before being matched and a one-hour session monthly followed by an hour activity with their mentors. Topics are secure, safe and affordable housing, work readiness, self-management, personal relationship development and education.

Mentors must attend a three-hour training session with topics that include the criminal justice system, effective mentoring practices, community transitional services, general guidelines and procedures. They also attend one-hour monthly trainings followed by an hour with their mentee.

Matches are based on gender, common interest, compatibility of personalities and geographic proximity. Participants are

matched for one year and required to visit with each other at least six hours a month.

"We have already seen transformations in initial interviews with mentees who enter sad and shy, and end talking openly and even laughing," Anna said. "In most cases one mistake led them to where they are and they feel like they have been frozen in time."

The program has 14 matched pairs, but still needs more male mentors.

"These relationships have resulted in big changes," she said. "We have seen more self esteem and confidence and more motivation to earn a GED and pursue more education."

"Our mentors are also transformed and are great advocates for our program," she said. "They celebrate their mentee's victories like reconnecting with children, finding a job or getting a promotion or having a girlfriend."

Anna said the benefits for mentees is that they not only have one-on-one support in a time of

change in their lives, but have a sounding board for issues and can receive constructive feedback and advice from their mentors.

One outcome that helps mentees is for them to develop personal statements, which reveal their past and how they want to move forward. They can attach the statement to job applications and take them to job interviews.

"These are open and honest personal assessments they want to share," she said.

Anna's own commitment to the program comes from a professional and volunteer career that has focused on serving others.

Born in Fresno, Calif, she moved to Spokane in 1995 sight unseen looking for opportunities that led to jobs at the American Cancer Society, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Greater Spokane Incorporated.

Before joining Goodwill's staff last October, Anna served as Gonzaga University's student activity coordinator and the multi-cultural coordinator at Unity House.

Her commitment to social justice issues has included involvement on the Task Force on Human Relations, Unity in the Community, Institute for Action Against Hate, Hispanic Business Professional Association and

African-American and Hispanic graduation events.

"I can't be like Martin Luther King, Jr. and change the world," she said, "but I can try to help change my corner of the world."

Anna, who received her bachelor's degree from California State University in Fresno and master's from Gonzaga, grew up Catholic.

"I had open parents who encouraged spirituality," Ann said. "I ask guidance from God to help me make the community a better place, and God has put me where I need to be here at Goodwill."

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