



Fred Royal, Jr.



Paula Dorsey

Change in SDC Board

There are some new faces on the SDC Board of Commissioners.

Fred Royal, Jr. has joined the agency's governing board after being sworn in by County Clerk Mark Ryan. Royal replaces Bobbie Webber as the SDC Board representative for MATC. Webber stepped down earlier this spring after serving more than two years on the SDC Board to become Chair of the MATC District Board.

Paula Dorsey returns to the Commission appointed to represent the AFL-CIO replacing Richard Abelson.

Commissioner Marcus White has left the SDC Board because his term expired. His replacement will be named by the Interfaith Conference. SDC Commissioners help draft and implement policy for SDC which is the Community Action Agency for Milwaukee County.

2008 Board of Commissioners

Officers

Warner Jackson
Chairperson
SDC District 1

Dr. Sandra Jones
Vice Chairperson
UW-Milwaukee

Dawn Helmrich
Secretary
United Way of Greater
Milwaukee

Don Cohen
Treasurer
Hispanic Chamber
of Commerce

Commissioners

Paula Dorsey
AFL-CIO

Rieva Allen
SDC District 3

Richard Cox
Office of the Governor

Guadalupe Escobedo
SDC District 5

Jennifer Gonda
City of Milwaukee

Albert Holmes
SDC District 2

Dr. Aquine Jackson
Milwaukee Public
Schools

Steven L. Johnson
Greater Milwaukee
Committee

Dester Martin
African American
Chamber of Commerce

Fred Royal, Jr.
MATC

Roy L. Williams
Milwaukee County

Jessica Wineberg
SDC District 4

Chief Executive Officer

Deborah Blanks

Go to www.cr-sdc.org
for more information
on SDC.

Partnerships Aid Families

Seeing the Value

Families who come to SDC have benefited from partnerships formed between the agency and local businesses.

Families from SDC's Family Support Center and Transitional Living Center are able to see clearly, thanks to a gift from Eyeglass World. Staff from the Milwaukee area eye care business offered free eye screenings to the parents and children on Martin Luther King Day.

The screenings helped identify potential vision needs of the families from the SDC homeless programs. Those found to have vision problems were later taken to the Eyeglass World store in Brookfield to receive more extensive eye exams and free glasses, if needed. The screenings were observed by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett who noted that getting proper vision care is extremely important in the healthy development of children.



Mayor Tom Barrett watches as Eyeglass World staff gives an eye exam.

Woof!

Another example of a partnership that is helping SDC clients is seen at SDC Head Start classrooms. Dogs from the Health Heelers Therapy Dog Program are visiting Head Start sites at Green Tree and West Allis as part of a new program.

Handlers from the program bring dogs to the Head Start classroom to help children get over fears they may have of dogs. They learn how to approach a leashed dog and act around them. A number of Head Start students have not had positive experiences in the past with dogs. Through the program, they are learning the best way to get to know a dog and its owner. The dogs will eventually become involved with lessons for the children, helping them with counting and alphabet exercises.



SDC Head Start students enjoy therapy dogs.



4041 N. Richards Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 906-2700
www.cr-sdc.org



ONLY \$10

An Inspiring Message

An inspiring music CD and DVD is being sold to support SDC programs. The CD contains nine songs by Milwaukee musicians including the title song "Believin the Power of You" written by SDC CEO Deborah Blanks. The DVD is a video of the title song that includes voiced clips by community leaders discussing poverty.

The nine music selections on the CD are written and performed by area artists including Muhibb Dyer, Element Everest and the Running Rebels Music Group. The CD offers a blend of urban, pop, jazz, and hip-hop musical styles, resulting in thought-provoking and hope inspiring music.

The CD/DVD package is being sold for \$10 with all proceeds going to the Social Development Foundation, a licensed 501(c)3 nonprofit that supports the programs of SDC. For information on purchasing the CD/DVD, contact Dorothy Washington at SDC at 414-906-2701 or use the order form available at www.cr-sdc.org.



Social Development Commission

May, 2008

Continuing the Fight Against Poverty

Symposium Follow-Up

Just a few months ago, more than 400 local residents and community leaders participated in the Symposium on Poverty. Many of them have accepted the challenges laid out at that day long meeting by continuing the fight against poverty.



Dr. Sandra Jones, Ed Olson, Deborah Blanks, Warner Jackson and Rev. Darryl Williams at Symposium follow-up meeting.

The event last fall focused on the epidemic of poverty in Milwaukee and how to eliminate it. At the Symposium, three major areas of concern regarding poverty in the Milwaukee area were identified by participants. Since then, dozens of people have established work groups to focus on the three specified areas; Education, Job Opportunities, and Racism.

SDC CEO Deborah Blanks, at a follow-up meeting, urged the dozens of people attending to remain actively involved. "We can't let this be one more pretty initiative that talks a lot, but does little" she said.

Work groups in all three areas are meeting regularly to plan and execute goals, achieve outcomes, develop strategies, and set timetables. The participants are also reaching out to all sectors of the community including

non-profits, faith-based groups and businesses to bring as many parties to the table as possible.

Volunteer tri-chairs of each committee consist of **Education:** Jeff Spence, Agency Services Manager, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Pauli Taylorboyd, President, Cream City Wisc. Chapter The Links, Inc. and UW-Milwaukee; Bathena Webber, MATC; **Job Opportunities:** Martha Love, Martha Love Association BLLC, Community Volunteer; Julie Kerkstick, Executive Director, The New Hope Project; Greg Lewis, Minister, St. Gabriel's Church of God In Christ; and **Racism:** Martha Barry, Racial Justice Program Manager, YWCA of Greater Milwaukee; Pamela Fendt, Director, Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition; and Deborah Blanks, CEO, Social Development Commission.



Commissioner Warner Jackson addresses Bridge of Hope Job Opportunities group.

WNA's 1st Statewide Gathering June 10, 2008

Nonprofit leaders from across Wisconsin will rally at the state's capitol to speak as one voice. The Wisconsin Nonprofits Association SUMMIT, of which SDC CEO Deborah Blanks is President, will meet **June 10** at the Madison Sheraton Hotel to attend workshops, network and, most of all, establish common ground for common good. For registration information on the Nonprofits SUMMIT, visit www.wisconsinnonprofits.org.



Michael Morris and Deborah Blanks discuss MABC outreach to the disabled community.

Tax Services Reach Out

facilities in order to be more accessible to Milwaukee County residents.

At the formal MABC Tax Season Kick-Off, Michael Morris, Director of the National Disability Institute, praised MABC for its efforts to reach out to the many disabled Milwaukee County residents who have not been able to use the free services. He noted that the disabled are like everyone in that they want and deserve a piece of the American Dream.

Deborah Blanks congratulated MABC on constantly looking to expand the number of families and individuals it can help begin building financial resources. She pledged that SDC will continue to support that effort as lead agency for the MABC partnership of roughly 30 businesses, governmental agencies, community groups, faith-based organizations and private foundations.

The many wonderful volunteers who helped make the tax preparation project successful were recognized at the annual MABC Volunteer Awards Breakfast held Saturday, April 26, 2008.

Financial Literacy Effort Recognition

An effort spearheaded by SDC to spread financial literacy has been singled out by the Governor's office.

The Milwaukee Asset Building Coalition (MABC) was one of a number of recipients of Governor Doyle's Financial Literacy Council Award. MABC was cited for its participation in last fall's Money Smart Week campaign in the Milwaukee area. That campaign offered a series of free workshops aimed at teaching financial literacy that were attended by hundreds of local residents.

The Money Smart workshops provided the residents with information on topics like household budgeting, repairing credit, financing higher education and starting a business. The Milwaukee Money Smart Week was organized by a collaboration of financial institutions, educational programs, governmental agencies and community based groups like SDC. Other recipients of the awards included Make A Difference - Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation and M&I Bank.

The Governor's Financial Literacy Awards were presented on April 6th by First Lady Doyle and recognized excel-

lence in promoting financial literacy among Wisconsin citizens. They were based on innovative implementation, demonstrated measurable results, collaboration with partners, and scope. The partners for Milwaukee Money Smart Week including SDC have begun planning for the next Money Smart Week scheduled for October of 2008.



MABC staff provides services at Clinton Rose Senior Center.

Wish List

In-kind donations are greatly appreciated and can truly make a difference in a person's life. Your gift starts working right away for individuals right here in our own community.

For more information or questions please contact Diane Robinson at (414) 906-2804 or email; drobinson@cr-sdc.org

Head Start

- Building improvements
- Playground renovations
- Site beautification, painting & gardening: shade tree, shrubs, potting soil, single peat cups, seeds, large indoor planter, and materials for raised planting beds (retaining wall lumber or rock, dirt and flowers)
- Professional volunteers (speakers, program planning experts)
- Underwriting for our Male Involvement Program called "24/7 Dad"
- One new children's bicycle
- Food for parent meetings
- Furniture for families

- YFDP (Youth and Family Development Program)
- Prizes to award youth for accomplishing goals
- Motivational speaker for Annual Awards banquet
- Gifts to present to each youth at the annual awards banquet
- Tables and chairs for youth meetings
- 8 passenger van or mini bus for youth field trips
- Admission tickets to Great America, Milw. Brewers
- Admission tickets to summer events and festivals
- Board games
- Videos, DVDs & DVD player

Education and Training

- New computers
- New books
- School supplies
- Notepaper for taking class notes
- Pencils and pens
- Donations to purchase graduation gowns

Family Support Center Emergency Family Shelter

- New bedding for single beds (sheets/pillow cases/blankets)
- New or gently used bath towels
- Casey's Welcome Kits: Each includes a hand towel, washcloth, comb or hair-pick or hairbrush, bar of soap, razor, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion, and a pair of shower flip-flops
- Videos, DVDs & DVD player
- Speakers and trainers on various subjects including Job Search and Applications
- Children and infants: diapers (Sizes 4, 5 & 6), wipes, baby lotion, sippy cups, bibs, teething gel, changing pads-washable and disposable, infant socks, toddler socks and slippers, infant toys, PJ's, toys, board games
- Adults: new women's slippers (all sizes) new women's nightwear, sizes M L XL XXL, new women's underwear (all sizes), flip flops for shower (all sizes),
- Books for children, youth and adults. (A children's summer reading list is available at Reader's Choice Book Store on MLK Dr.)



Vincent Montgomery at his new meeting room.

Support for Programs

SDC has received support for its services from some new sources.

The agency and the MABC's free tax services have been named the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. MABC provides free tax preparation for thousands of area residents. Nayoakee Parker reported that the grant was used to purchase new equipment like printers and laptops for the tax sites. Northwestern Mutual Foundation joins the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation and the Helen Bader Foundation in supporting the free tax service.

A State of Wisconsin grant will also help SDC assist low-income families enroll children in the BadgerCare Plus program. SDC was one of 32 community-based groups across the state to receive such a grant. SDC is partnering with Automated Health Systems for the program that is focusing at MABC tax sites at SDC Richards, the Southside Center and SDC Teutonia facility.



Board of Commission Chair Warner Jackson, Commissioners Al Holmes, and Jennifer Gonda join SDC and Sheree Dallas Branch, State of WI, Division of Energy, for the Weatherization ribbon cutting.

Weatherization on the Move

The SDC Weatherization Program has a new home. Effective March 3rd, the program has been based out of 2460 W. Clybourn Street. It was previously located at the SDC Richards Street facility.

The program moved to the new facility because it is larger, offers more privacy to clients, and provides secure indoor parking for program vehicles and equipment. The new site also gives the program a location in the central part of Milwaukee County with easy access to public transportation and the freeway system.

The SDC Weatherization Program serves residents of Milwaukee County drawn by the State of Wisconsin from the list of Energy Assistance Program clients. The program weatherizes identified homes to lessen energy usage and reduce utility bills. SDC is one of two administrators of Weatherization Services in the City of Milwaukee.

Leadership for Social Change



Arthur Parsons

Public Allies at SDC

SDC has been fortunate to enjoy the energy and knowledge of a budding young leader. Arthur Parsons has been working at the agency as a member of the Public Allies program. That effort is an AmeriCorps program that gives young people the opportunity to develop leadership and organizing skills.

Arthur has been assigned at SDC since September of 2007 and has been involved in a wide range of activities including the Spring Job and Resource Fair Planning Committee, the Giving Tree effort, Guns, Grief & Violence Initiative, and the Symposium on Poverty.

He says of his work at SDC, "My time thus far at the Social Development Commission has been an enlightening experience. From helping with the Symposium on Poverty to sitting on the Job and Resource Fair committee, I have gained a wealth of knowledge that will follow me far beyond my Public Allies term. I came to SDC expecting the usual bureaucracy that one with minimal experience in the non-profit work may encounter upon partnering with an organization of this magnitude."

"It did not take long for me to realize that the culture of the office is saturated with a sense of purpose and duty to the residents of Milwaukee that I am finding is quite contagious. I have also found it quite refreshing just how kind and welcome I have been made to feel since I arrived at SDC. I am confident that as long as the Social Development Commission is in operation, the residents of Milwaukee can rest assured that there is still hope that we can continue to build a more affluent and prosperous community."

Arthur's term with the Social Development Commission as a Public Allies representative will run through the end of June, 2008. We wish him continued success.



Earnestine Gray of the Family Support Center helps sort donations for the Community Baby Shower.

Community Baby Shower

Thousands of families across Milwaukee County and Southeastern Wisconsin were helped by the Community Baby Shower in January. The annual event is a project of Today's TMJ 4, SDC, Sentry Foods, Columbia-St. Mary's and Kimberly Clark. It collects donations of items that needy families can use for their newborns and infants.

Volunteers from SDC's Family Support Center helped with the project by staffing donation sites at Sentry Stores. Items donated included diapers, new clothing, infant formula, and baby food.

Building Self-Esteem

The SDC Family Support Center is focusing on building life skills of the families who come to the homeless shelter. These include Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention and Financial Literacy. Thanks to a volunteer, a series of classes building self-esteem can be added to that list.

April Holland presented the four seminars in March at SDC's Family Support Center. The workshops focused on setting life goals and priorities for the 12 participants. By the end of the sessions, Ms. Holland noted great changes in the attitude of the residents. The experience was so positive, she plans to volunteer her services again to offer the self-esteem workshops to other families enrolled in the Family Support Center and the Transitional Living Center programs.



We Energies staff, Mike Mueller, shows how to save energy by switching light bulbs at Energy Resource Fair.

Energy Resources

SDC partnered in a series of Energy Resource Fairs aimed at helping families struggling with high winter energy bills. The agency worked with the State of Wisconsin Office of the Governor, the Department of Administration - Division of Energy Services, Community Advocates, and We Energies. The Fairs were held across Milwaukee County and offered families the opportunity to sign up for Energy Assistance as well as provide helpful information on personal finance and energy conservation.