



Jonestown Family Center

for Education and Wellness

Spring 2016

Dear Friends,

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith... trusting in His holy word... God’s never failed us yet.”

(Gospel Song)



*The four Jonestown Family Center Founderesses.
L to R: Sr. Teresa Shields, Sr. Rose Monica Rabdau,
Sr. Anne Skok and Sr. Mildred Hein.*

1984—Four Holy Names Sisters came to Jonestown from Seattle to start an educational mission here. Two tutored in our home and two taught at Immaculate Conception School in Clarksdale. After IC closed in 1990, I taught at St. Gabriel School in Mound Bayou.

1992—Along with two mother volunteers, a St. Joseph Sister, and generous grants from the Phil Hardin Foundation and Our Sunday Visitor, we started the Jonestown Learning Center. A small pre-school, an after-school program, summer sports and enrichment, Girls to Women for grades four-eight, parenting classes, and women’s wellness classes began as we hired more staff and received grant funding from religious communities and foundations.

2002—We built the Montessori Children’s House next to the Learning Center so we could accommodate up to 24 children. The next year we started the toddler half-day program for two-year-olds as a feed-in for Montessori.

2005—With major funding from Catholic Extension Society, we started the Fitness and Health Club in an abandoned tavern.

2008—We became the Jonestown Family Center for Education and Wellness, a separately incorporated non-profit in the state of Mississippi. Programs continued and expanded. Thank you to the Holy Names Sisters and so many of you who have donated your resources and time to the Family Center over the years.

We now come to 2016 and, after 32 years in Jonestown, it is time for my transition to new adventures in Seattle. My heart is overflowing with gratitude for all the ways that God has blessed the Family Center for so many years. Those of you reading this letter—family, former students, friends from many parishes and groups in Seattle and all over the country—please know that we could never have helped so many children and families without you!



I want to give a special shout out to Sister Celine and her talented team who have published this newsletter since 1993.

*Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Washington Partners in Mission*

A. Teresa Shields

Meet Catholic Charities



As you know, the Holy Names Sisters have supported our ministries here since 1984. but now that we are no longer staffing the Family Center, the Sisters of the US/Ontario Province, though still financially supporting the Center, can no longer be the sponsoring body. For over two years, our Province Leadership Team has been in dialogue with Catholic Charities in Jackson to partner with the Family Center so that the great work of education and wellness will continue. By the time you read this the Center will be well on its way to being a program of Catholic Charities of Mississippi. We will still need your support! Our SNJM US/Ontario Province Development Office will continue to raise funds for the Center

We are very excited to bring our Jackson Bishop Joseph Kopacz and Jonestown Family Center's new Director (yet to be hired) to meet our Seattle friends. Mark Sunday, April 3rd, on your calendar. Bishop Kopacz will be celebrating the noon Mass at St. James Cathedral, 804 9th Ave. 98104. Hope you can all come so the Bishop can meet our Seattle area friends.

Vashon Baby Supplies and Giving Tree

When my sister, Jenny Shields, came to help expectant and new moms in 2014, she shared her experiences in Jonestown with her parish, St. John Vianney, on Vashon Island. At Christmas, they decided to donate to Jonestown as well as local non-profits, as part of the Giving Tree. Though a small parish, they raised almost \$1500 for baby supplies for our Baby University classes which start in the spring. Thank you, Jenny and our friends at St. John Vianney!

Montessori and Toddlers

Fall and winter fun and learning was the daily agenda in our Montessori and toddler programs. Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas activities helped the children learn lots about holidays, shapes, colors, and vocabulary. Ninety-nine percent of parents brought Halloween and Christmas treats for their little ones. Thanks, too, to all of you, our grantors and donors, who helped provide books, toys, coats, mittens, candy and even little electronic reading tablets, to all the children.

Parents are observing their children at work this month and the staff is pleased that so many parents are happy with what their children are learning. One mom praised the staff and says she now understands that her daughter is learning so much vocabulary and math, as well as practical skills like putting on her own coat and putting her toys away.



Toddlers paint fall tree



Montessori Christmas picture



Twins, Anna and Yanna Fisher (Montessori)



Halloween-Montessori-Rikki Hill and J'Haia Brunt



Maple and Latavius -toddlers painting



Toddler D'Voryeaux likes working with clay



Fitness and Health Club

Mrs. Lady Jackson is not only the manager of the Fitness and Health Club, but also a life coach for so many who come to work out or just to chat. She told me the other day a woman was sent by her doctor to come and work out at least 30 minutes a day to help her lose weight and get off some medication for high blood pressure. On February 5th, we took some women to the local Clarksdale hospital for “Go Red for Women” Heart Health screening. We continue with Yoga twice a month.



Go Red for Women health screenings. L to R: Rudy Eagins, Lady Jackson, and Ruby Lee Johnson

Mission Statement
The purpose of the Jonestown Family Center for Education and Wellness is to improve the general welfare of people in Jonestown and the surrounding area. The Family Center strives to increase educational and health opportunities through its programs.

Programs

**Montessori
 Toddlers
 Parent Education
 Fitness and Health Club**

**Teresa Shields, SNJM,
 Director, Jonestown
 Family Center
 for Education
 and Wellness**

Family Center Needs

Small book bags, baby and toddler supplies and clothes, small hand weights, board books and pre-school books, simple coloring books, pre-school music (either tape or cd), pre-school scissors, crayons, paper, pencils

Family Center Staff

I want to introduce our wonderful staff of 2015-2016.

L-R: Standing: Mrs. Tina Crawford, Mrs. Mildred Joiner, Ms. Ashley Horton, Ms. Maxine Kinnard, Mrs. Lady Jackson, Ms. Rudy Eagins, Mrs. Mary Jean Stoxstill, Mrs. Carolyn Robinson. Seated: Sister Janyce Bouta, Ms. Carolyn Allen, and Sr. Teresa.



Ms. Maxine, Ms. Ashley and Ms. Carolyn are our Montessori staff. Ms. Maxine has been here since 1994. She’s taught after-school, parenting, pre-school, Montessori under Sister Deanna Randall, and is now the lead teacher in Montessori. She has her international Montessori credential for ages three-six. Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Ashley came in 2012 with their BS in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Tina and Ms. Rudy are our toddler pre-school teachers this year. Ms. Tina has

been on the staff since 2004. She’s been our bus driver (she drives the school bus for Jonestown Elementary School), our housekeeper, our lunchroom coordinator, and for the past few years has been one of our toddler teachers. Ms. Rudy came to help with after-school and summer enrichment in XXXX. Since there is no after-school program this year, she has been working with Ms. Tina in the toddler program and spends a few hours each day at the Fitness and Health Club. Both she and Ms. Ashley are former students. Mrs. Stoxstill is also a former after-school teacher. She helps with the toddlers, the Montessori lunch and nap, and always is available for subbing and “other duties as needed.” She’s worked here since 2006. Ms. Carolyn is our very competent bookkeeper. Sr. Janyce has been at JFC since 2013 and is our highly organized transition coordinator and executive assistant. She will begin a new ministry in Spokane in July.

Jonestown Family Center for Education and Wellness

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