



Summer School

How many years have we had summer school for junior high children? Our first one was held in June, 1991 with students from Jonestown and Marks. Our last one was held a few months ago and it was very successful! Our first session young teachers, trained by former teachers, culminated in the student written play, "The Life and Legacy of Jerry Rice".

News from Sister Kay...

Dear Friends,

Autumn greetings to each of you! These greetings are filled with hope for the next several months of Durocher Program activities and with gratitude for those past. Our June 2019 Summer School was very successful, thanks to wonderful young volunteers from Jonestown and Seattle. For three weeks in July, several high school boys participated in an extended summer activity: swimming. These young men will join others in developing Summer School 2020. How will they do this? Progress will be reported in the next newsletter.

In the name of Blessed Marie Rose (Eulalie Durocher), whose feast is celebrated October 6th., thank you for being a part of this SNJM program in Jonestown. With prayers,

Sister Kay Burton



The second session young teachers came from Seattle as Shared Mission Volunteers. The curriculum included math, science, reading, writing, etc. On the final Friday, the students demonstrated in a program of what they had learned. Throughout the four weeks, the students with their teachers were taken to the Clarksdale swimming pool.

In late June, a couple of senior citizens joined students and teachers in a chartered bus trip to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson.



Piano

Twice a year, under the able and loving direction of Ms. Delores Fields Mason, our piano students perform in recital. Beginning in September, they are learning and practicing very diligently so that when they are in front of an audience, they will take pride in their accomplishments. Ms. Fields has named our music program the “Mother Marie Rose Durocher Catholic Music Center”.



Girls to Women

In the last couple of newsletters, you saw several activities that engage the different age groups of the young ladies who come every week for Girls to Women. For more than ten years, the 7th and 8th grade members have planned and taught little lessons to younger brothers, sisters and cousins. In the spring, they plant vegetables in the garden. In recent years, I have had the assistance of older girls to keep this educational endeavor successful.



Community Garden

We planted cabbages first, then squash, green beans, okra, tomatoes, cucumbers and watermelons. The first planted was the second harvested. Our forty tomato plants grew quickly with lots of blossoms that produced fruit April through mid-September. Now, we have sown the seeds of winter greens.

July Swimming

This summer, I was free to initiate additional activities geared to future summer school success. How did this happen? 11th and 12th grade boys were invited to get involved. They were contacted and given the opportunity to go swimming in Clarksdale and almost every day for three weeks the big van was filled with young men.



Future

Seven of the young men who enjoyed swimming responded to another invitation: come to a meeting to plan recreational activities for little children. We shall see how this works during the course of the coming months leading to summer school in June 2020.

After School

Several junior and senior high school students come after school to do homework. Computers and printers seem to be required these days for children to succeed.



Some of our readers give support through prayers and words. Others give support through donations. All is needed and appreciated! With loving prayers from me in Jonestown,

Sister Kay Burton

Director
Kay Burton, SNJM

Durocher Volunteer
Service Program
PO Box 628
164 Second St.
Jonestown, MS 38639
Phone: 662-358-4674
Fax: 662-358-4785
burtonkay@bellsouth.net

Support our work by visiting
weblink.donorperfect.com/Durocher_Service



Alabama Civil Rights Trip

Four young men went with me on the same Alabama Civil Rights trip as was taken with young ladies earlier in the year. Both groups were wonderful learners and now greater advocates for civil rights.



What are our needs?

As always, I will need additional school supplies and the wherewithal to keep the computers and printers functioning. Utility bills, and the ongoing upkeep of our big van, among other things... And, with donor help, small but crucial scholarships are given to college students who show promise in their studies and who give back to the Jonestown community.



Carrie Brooks and I at her graduation.
Carrie is now in her first year of college.