

Dear Friends of Sister Kay,

Greetings from Portland, Oregon! For 35 years, Sister Kay Burton lived and worked in Jonestown. She loved developing enriching programs with and for the children, teens and families, and they in turn enriched her life with their love and friendship.

Before Sister Kay's passing in March of this year, Sisters Linda Riggers, Makiko Fujiwara and I were in Jonestown to help her make decisions about the ministries she started in Jonestown. Her wish was that the programs you helped support over the years would be continued by local people who had been part of them.

Several young people have "stepped up to the plate" and are doing just that. The Black Parents United Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by a former student of Sister Kay's, will be the new sponsor for the Durocher Services Ministry. The Sisters of the Holy Names (SNJM) have made a commitment to "walk with these folks" with financial support and other resources for at least two years. They will be taking the lead in working with each other and making programs happen.

We are so grateful to you and all of Sister Kay's friends for the help and support you gave to the Durocher Volunteer Service Program over the years. Hundreds of Jonestown young people and families were helped because of you and Sister Kay.

Peace and many blessings as we go forward.

Maureen Delaney SNJM

Sister Maureen Delaney, SNJM, Provincial
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
U.S.-Ontario Province



Summer School

From 1991 to 2019, this annual program provided enrichment opportunities for Jonestown junior high students and volunteer opportunities for high school students from around the country.





*Girls to Women Group
with visiting volunteers
from St. Mary's Academy Portland.*



Piano

For 20 years, Dolores Fields Mason taught music to the young people of Jonestown and organized recitals twice each year. Dolores passed away in February 2022, about month before Sister Kay.

Girls to Women

For more than 10 years, the 7th and 8th grade members planned and taught weekly lessons to younger brothers, sisters and cousins.



Spring and Summer Volunteers

Volunteers from Holy Names Schools and public universities came on summer and spring breaks for service-learning trips. They were immersed in Jonestown and helped with labor-intensive projects such as painting and repairs.

Boys Volunteer Club

Members of Boys Volunteer Club helped in so many ways: in the community garden, setting up and cleaning after events in the resource Center, packing and delivering meals and gifts, carrying the banner in the monthly Peace Vigil walks and more.





Community Garden

Adults and children in Jonestown, along with many visiting volunteers, tilled, planted, weeded and harvested the community garden each year.

After School

Junior and senior high school students came after school to do homework. Donated computers and printers helped them succeed.



College Scholarships

Over many years, several donors made it possible for our Jonestown students who give of themselves in community service to attend and complete college. These young men and women continue to volunteer and lift up others.



Civil Rights

To help the young people of Jonestown become greater advocates for civil rights, Sister Kay organized regular trips to Alabama to visit historic locations in Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham.



Let There Be Peace

Monthly Peace Vigil walks through Jonestown engaged students and brought awareness to residents.

Where Are They Now?

Watching children grow into responsible adults was a special pleasure for Sister Kay. Many Durocher Services participants like Artidra went on to be teachers, making a difference in many lives.



What's Next?

Now that there are no Sisters of the Holy Names in the Mississippi Delta, 15 volunteers in and out of the area have come together to begin planning ways to keep the Durocher Services Volunteer Ministry programs going. During a meeting with residents of the town in February, we set goals and identified ways that we will work together. The Sisters of the Holy Names have donated the program's three vehicles to Black Parents United Foundation (BPUF) and transferred the lease of the Resource Center to them. The Sisters will be "walking with" these folks, who will take the lead in working with each other to serve the people of Jonestown.



This will be the last Durocher Services Newsletter published by SNJM. We are grateful to all of Sister Kay's friends and donors for the generous help and support you gave to the Durocher Volunteer Services Program over the years. Hundreds of Jonestown young people and families were helped because of Sister Kay and you.



If you do not receive *SNJM Now* (the twice-yearly SNJM newsletter), you will be added to that list so you can continue to hear about the Sisters' work. If you would like updates from the folks who are planning to continue Sister Kay's efforts, email blackparentsunitedfoundation@gmail.com and ask to be put on their mailing list.

May God bless you with all that you need.



Sisters of the Holy Names who served in the Mississippi Delta included:

Front Row: Sisters Teresa Shields, Maureen Delaney and Linda Fuselier.

Back Row: Sisters Anne Brooks, Kay Burton, Cathy Leamy and Anne Dinneen.

