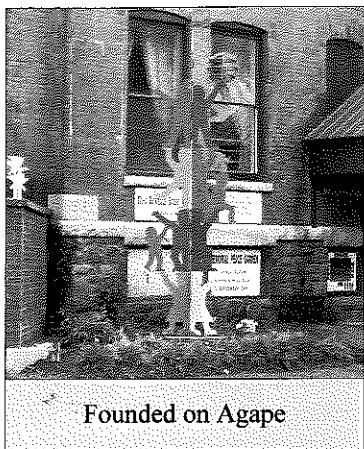


Thea's Notes

A Newsletter of Thea Bowman House

Summer 2018



What the World Needs Now

Summer becomes a time to celebrate life at Thea Bowman House. It began with the graduation of 154 Pre-Kindergarten students who delighted a packed auditorium filled with their adoring audience to the tune of songs and poems that showcased their new skills. After the ceremony, they enjoyed a picnic lunch with their families.

On the very next day, 100 school-age children came through the doors and the summer program began. It has been a very hot summer, and two of the Utica City pools were under repair. Thanks to the John Winter Family Fund, the children have kept cool in style. Lake Delta became our playground, and we made an early trip to the Enchanted Forest Water Safari and then to the Boonville Fair. Each year, thanks to Katharine Winter and Richard Parker Esq., our children get to have experiences that they will remember all of their lives.

Making learning fun has always been a founding goal of Thea Bowman House. Thanks to the generosity of the Mele Family Fund and the Alexandra G. Kogut Memorial Fund, both at the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc., the program that we call Reading Rockets continues to keep our school-age children on track with a literacy based curriculum each morning. The funding allows us to hire four NYS certified teachers to develop learning activities around a theme. This year it is compassion and kindness. Statistics tell us that many children from low income families actually lose ground in reading and math skills over the summer months. This program is a proven antidote for boredom and backsliding. The kids absolutely love it.

Our summer program is always capped off with a great adventure as we go to Camp Kingsley for a week-long campout thanks to Operation Sunshine and the Winters Fund. Children 9 years and older get to stay overnight and the younger ones come up for day camp. Forever memories are created through boating, fishing, swimming, archery, sports and, of course, arts and crafts. The best ones of all seem to come from campfire skits and delicious meals.

Let's not forget our littlest children at our Lafayette Street site who recently were thrilled to watch caterpillars become butterflies and who spend their days keeping cool in the sprinklers. There are trips to the Utica Zoo and Utica Public Library. They are becoming great vegetable gardeners in our backyard. We all know the kids love to play in the dirt.

There is a great deal of negativity in our world today. At Thea Bowman House, we choose to see the hope that comes when children are given a chance. We choose to work to build up community. Thanks to each and every one of you who make it possible for our children to have a childhood.

In gratitude

Jane Domingue

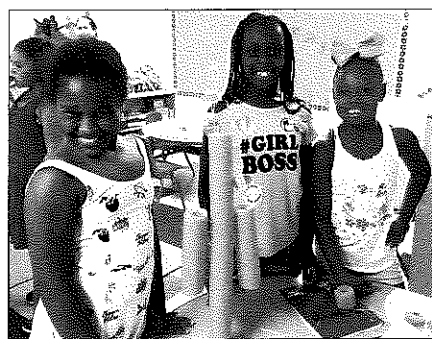
Find us on the web: www.theabowmanhouse.org or facebook.com/theabowmanhouse

A True Community Effort



Some of fresh vegetables available

New expanded space in the basement of 530 Varick Street (below Mother Marianne's Soup Kitchen) continues to provide food, clothing and supportive services for over 250 families per month. Thanks to the efforts of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, United Way of the Mohawk Valley and Greater Utica, the Food Bank of Central New York and our faithful volunteers, St. Clare's Cupboard now provides client choice. People get to choose their own food. Fresh fruit and vegetables are purchased weekly from local farm markets for distribution. The Cornell Cooperative Extension program, Eat Smart NY, helped many families grow their own food in buckets provided by Lowe's and plants provided by the Boilermaker Headquarters. A true community effort!!



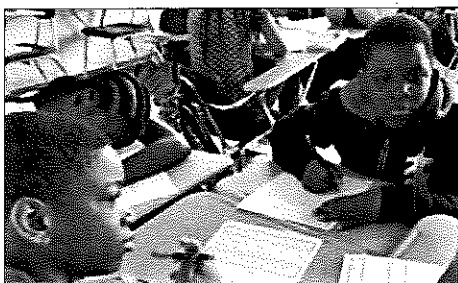
Reading is Fun All Year Long!



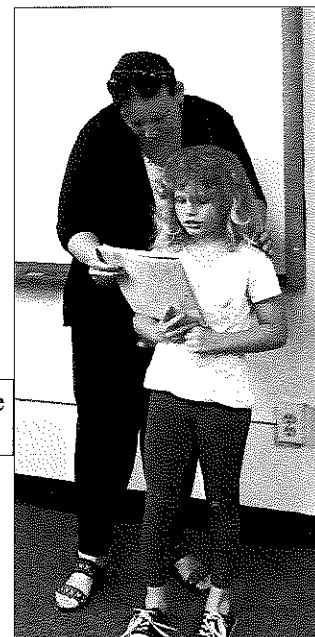
Annette Procanick uses stories to show the importance of filling our "buckets" with acts of kindness.



Tanya Stefanski captivates her class as they read *Wonder* together.

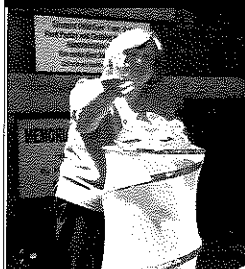


Left: Mike Pagliaro's class of fifth, sixth, and seventh graders are deep in thought as they delve into thought provoking questions on the book *Max*.



Right: Adrienne Albin helps Caroline with an oral presentation.

Up, Up and Away!



Fifty very excited pre-school children and toddlers let out a cheer for each of thirty-three painted lady butterflies that made their maiden journey across Lafayette Street in late June. During the two weeks before the release, the children witnessed the miracle of caterpillars spinning their cocoons and emerging from them as butterflies. It made the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* come alive, and it marked the beginning of a great summer. It is also meaningful that the butterflies were released in the Peace Garden. We hope that they will bring a message of hope to all the world's children.

Peace Begins in the Garden



The summer heat in July prohibited weeding in mid-day and when Martha Lacell arrived on the scene, it appeared that the weeds had won. It then became Martha, her two friends, and a crew of incoming freshman from Hamilton College to the rescue. They spent hours getting our Peace Garden back into shape and made the grounds look beautiful again. Martha was one of the founders of the garden, which surrounds a colorful sculpture by artist Peter Michel. It depicts children at play and also commemorates the lives of children who have lost their lives through violence. It raises our awareness that peace begins in the hearts of each of us.

What's New at DeSales Center?

Thanks to a grant from the NYS Dormitory Authority, there will soon be some brand new windows at the DeSales Center (formerly St. Francis de Sales School). Because the building is in the Scenic Historic region of Utica, the new windows must keep the same look as the former ones. The entire front of the building and most of the first floor will benefit from the project. The Universal Pre-K program will be moving to the first floor in September and their rooms will be filled with light and improved space. We will soon be upgrading our DeSales website to announce new projects. Since opening in 1931, 309 Genesee Street has been a building used to serve and educate thousands of children. We hope to continue the fine tradition as we work to give the building new life. The next order of business is replacement of additional windows and making the center handicap accessible by installing an elevator.



Thea Bowman House

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Mission Statement

The mission of Thea Bowman House, Inc. is to provide a safe, nurturing environment.

To enable culturally diverse children and families achieve their full potential.

The foundation on which Thea Bowman House is built is agape, "unconditional love."

Jane Domingue
 Executive Director
 Sandy Wright
 School-age Program Director

Board of Directors

Officers:

Darby O'Brien, President
 Michael Brennan, Vice-President
 Emily Tracy, Secretary
 William Ryan, Treasurer

Members:

Katherine Poupart
 Martha DuMont
 Chinua Eaddy
 Kumari Regmi
 Heather Beebe
 Christopher Giruzzi, Esq.

Ex Officio:

William Taft

This is Who We Are



Needs List

- Funding for additional classroom furniture for school age children at DeSales
- A new industrial stove for the Lafayette Street Center
- A new ramp at the Lafayette Street site
- Booster car seats—new or used in good condition
- Volunteers to help with our holiday assistance program
- Volunteers to help in a variety of capacities

Please contact Jane or Cindy at 315-797-0748 or info@theabowmanhouse.org if you can help with any of the above.

I would like to make a contribution to Thea Bowman House.

Name _____

Gift Amount _____

◇ General Support _____

◇ Specific Program _____

◇ In Honor of _____

◇ In Memory of _____



United Way of
 the Valley and
 Greater Utica Area

PLEASE SUPPORT THE UNITED WAY

United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica helps to support four Thea Bowman House programs. These are the Child Care for low income families, the DOVE program (Domestic Violence Ended), the Kids with Promise Teen Program, and our food pantry called St. Clare's Cupboard. They also fund many of our collaborating partners. Our local United Way works tirelessly on behalf of our community through advocacy and volunteerism. They have recently helped start a valuable resource called 211 so that people in need can connect with appropriate services. They deserve our support.