

The Sojourner Truth

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER

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SOJOURNER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Carolyn Blesi
 Lindy Fischer
 James E. Kurtz
 Mary Ann Pedtke, R.N.
 George Singer
 Joan Trowbridge, M.D.
 Kiessa Webster

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW LOGO

A New Step On The Journey

Sojourner has a clear mission, dedicated partners and a well-established name. We have chosen this edition of our newsletter to introduce the new Sojourner logo, which we believe is a meaningful design that will serve to communicate who we are and what we do.

The new logo sprung from the work of a college advertising class held at The Art Institutes International Minnesota and taught by Lizz Sable Stauning of Peter Hill Design. Lizz's class was diligent and energetic in conducting an assessment and formulating an overall communication plan for Sojourner.

The plan included prototypes for a new logo and format for information packets. The staff and board then engaged in a team effort which resulted in suggestions that Lizz and her design team at Peter Hill translated into our new logo.

The new design links our name, Sojourner, more clearly to our namesake – Sojourner Truth. She took the name Sojourner, which means “to stay temporarily,” as she engaged upon her pursuit of freedom and justice.



A meaningful design that will serve to communicate who we are & what we do.

The road suggests the journey taken by many towards a life of greater safety. The smooth edge of the oval embraces the road, which at its end is open and wide with opportunity.

Together they represent the work and spirit of our organization.

Through January 2008, Sojourner will be applying this logo to all of its communication materials. We hope you will join us in celebrating this step forward on our journey.

Our new logo contains the tagline – “supporting the journey from fear to hope.” The Holiday Season is indeed a time for a renewed commitment to the power of hope.

In a few days, we will mail our annual Holiday Appeal Letter asking our friends and supporters for a contribution to help us support “the journey” of the many victims of violence we serve.

We HOPE you will consider making a gift.



SOJOURNER EARNS CHARITIES REVIEW COUNCIL “MEETS ALL STANDARDS” SEAL

Sojourner is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the Charities Review Council “Meets All Standards” Seal indicating that it meets all sixteen of the council’s Accountability Standards.

Nonprofit organizations earn the Seal by voluntarily participating in the Council’s online Accountability Wizard. The Accountability Wizard is available to all nonprofit organizations soliciting in Minnesota and addresses a nonprofit organization’s performance in four critical areas: Public Disclosure, Governance, Financial Activity and Fundraising. By participating in the Accountability Wizard, nonprofit organizations can demonstrate responsibility, integrity and transparency to their constituents.

Sojourner Project is now listed as a reviewed organization on the online Giving Guide of the Council’s Smart Givers Network, www.smartgivers.org and the Council’s Smart Giver newsletter distributed to more than 18,000 subscribers in Minnesota. The listings help a nonprofit organization demonstrate its commitment to accountable ethical practices to the public and that it is a trustworthy organization.



STRENGTHENING & SUPPORTING FAMILIES Announcing a New Grant



Sojourner has been awarded a three year grant from the **Minnesota Children’s Trust Fund** (part of Minnesota’s Department of Human Services) to reduce the risk of child abuse by promoting protective facts that strengthen and support families that have been victimized by domestic violence.



Sojourner will be collaborating with the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP), which is a pioneer in family work, therapy, and strong parenting programs for families involved in domestic violence. DAP is also a leader in developing, evaluating and disseminating new intervention programs, including a curriculum for children exposed to domestic violence. This new project, which begins this month, is an exciting one for both Sojourner and DAP – a way for two organizations to build on each other’s strengths to better serve families rocked by domestic violence.



Staff from Sojourner and DAP will work together at the Sojourner site to address some of the protective factors that research has shown to be important in child abuse prevention efforts: parent resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections and concrete supports in time of need.

Sojourner Provides Professional Training Opportunities



*Sojourner's
Judi Nelson trains
new volunteers.*

Fall is traditionally a busy season for training at Sojourner and this year proved no exception. In addition to two volunteer trainings offered by Sojourner during October, on September 28, 2007, Gunnar Bankovics, Director of Hennepin County Family Court Services was the featured presenter for "Family Court Services: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Minnetonka. The training, which was attended by approximately 20 advocates and volunteers from programs in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, provided an overview of Family Courts services and procedures. An important focus was the impact domestic violence plays in the evaluation of custody cases.

A second training, in collaboration with the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP), provided prosecutors and legal advocates from Hennepin, Renville and Ramsey counties with a training entitled "Beyond Crawford: Going Forward With the Case You Have." The focus of that October 26th training was on meeting legal challenges presented by recent changes in Minnesota laws, assessing victim safety, and the value to

prosecutors of working with victim advocates. In addition to Sojourner staff, trainers included former Sojourner Board member and prosecutor Wynn Curtiss, Liz Richards of Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women, and Stephanie Avalon and Sandra Murphy of BWJP. The Mound Police Department provided a wonderful training space for the 25 prosecutors and advocates who attended the training.



Gunnar Bankovics presents on Family Court Services

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE OTTO BREMER FOUNDATION

The Otto Bremer Foundation has made a \$10,000 organizational development grant to Sojourner, which will make it possible to implement portions of Sojourner's marketing plan. As a result of this gift, Sojourner will be able to upgrade technology equipment and enhance printed materials and resources.

Sojourner's Holiday Wishes



The Holiday Season is upon us. We invite you to consider a gift to brighten the Holidays for a woman or a child. Call Chrissy at 952-351-4062. Some suggested items are:

Baby, Toddler & Children's Gift Ideas:

See & Say Toys, Push-pull Toys
Talking Books, Musical Toys
Toy Household Appliances and Tools
Safe and Educational Toys
Multicultural Dolls
Art/Craft/Science Sets
Model or Construction Sets
Leap Frog Learning Toys
Computer Games for Kids
(non-violent)
Children's Non-violent DVDs

Teen Gift Ideas:

Teen's Non-violent DVDs
Personal CD Players and Batteries
MP3 Players
Sports Jerseys
Journals
Teen Apparel *(all sizes; esp. large)*
Gym Bags
Hair Accessories,
Fashion Jewelry and Watches
Handbags
Baseball Caps
Makeup and Nail Kits
Bath and Body Kits
Small Gift Cards (\$15-25)
Target, Barnes and Noble, etc.

Women's Gift Ideas:

Robes, Nightgowns and Pajamas
(esp. large & plus sizes)
Sweatpants and Sweatshirts
(esp. large & plus sizes)
Gloves, Mittens and Scarves
Bath and Beauty Gift Sets
Blow Dryers/Flat Irons
Fashion Jewelry and Watches
Purses and Carry-on Travel Bags
Datebooks, Planners and Wallets
Small Gift Cards (\$15-25)
Target, Kohl's, Cub, Barnes & Noble, etc.
Movie Theater Tickets

Besides individual gifts for women and children, the Shelter also has ongoing basic needs. We invite you to pull together a drive and help make Sojourner's holiday season a little more comfortable. **Call 952-351-4062** for information about doing a drive for paper products, personal products, linens, baby items and many other ideas!



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