

## *News From Sister Kay...*



Dear friends,

As I write you a note of greeting and gratitude, Jonestown is enduring an extremely hot summer in the midst of circumstances due to COVID-19. In normal times, I would be in Vietnam with the young Sisters who are improving their English. But this is anything but normal for all of us and I am very happy to be here, in good health thanks to competent surgeons, the assistance of Sister Cathy, SNJM, and the prayers, get-well cards and gifts received almost daily since early February. With your support, I am ready with vigor and flexibility to begin the Durocher Program activities. What follows are accounts of some accomplishments prior to the mandatory shut-down.

With grateful prayers,

*Sister Kay Burton*



### *Teacher Preparation*

Our last newsletter pictured several young men who agreed to the training necessary to become future Summer School teachers/coaches. We began by inviting other high school boys who subsequently organized younger children into flag football teams.

### *Girls to Women*

During the fall and winter, 7th and 8th grade members of Girls to Women planned and taught weekly lessons to their younger siblings. During one lesson they used the book, *The Stolen Ones and How They Were Missed* by Marcia Tate Arunga.



How to support us: [www.snjmusontario.org/donate](http://www.snjmusontario.org/donate)

## ***Giving Back to the Community***

For several years, former Durocher participants returned home to voluntarily give back to the community, using skills developed in college. Last winter, Jonestown native and current Tougaloo College student George Taylor gave two presentations to the youth in the Resource Center. Both were excellent. Luwanda Bush came for several weeks with classes to discuss life challenges and opportunities.

**- COMMUNITY DISCUSSION FORUM -**  
**HOSTED BY:**  
**GEORGE O. TAYLOR**

**Lets Talk About:**  
Government/Politics  
• Education  
• Health  
• Leadership  
**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**LET'S TALK**

Join me and guest for an intriguing learning experience.  
Refreshments will be served and Door Prizes!

**WHERE**  
411 CHURCH STREET  
JONESTOWN, MS 38639  
"SISTER KAY BUILDING"

**WHEN: 6 P.M**

**Wednesday , November 26th, 2019**



## ***Winter/Spring Break Volunteers***



Student volunteers from St. Mary's Academy, Portland, Academy of the Holy Names, Tampa, and Michigan State University came to be a part of our community while interacting with our students as well as doing badly needed house repairs.



## ***Community Garden***

For the first time, those adults and youth who have been a part of our wonderful Community Garden could not gather to plant nor tend so we only are doing necessary maintenance and letting the ground rest.



## ***Mississippi Flag***

Several Jonestown citizens, older and younger, signed a petition that resulted in the law mandating a change in Mississippi's flag. Crystal H. wrote, "I've stated that I wanted to be a part of the flag change and ... I was able to do just that."



## *Witness for Peace*

Different college students organized our monthly Witness for Peace sessions until everything came to a rolling halt in March. Interestingly, the “topic” for February 2 was COVID-19.



## *Tribute to Rep. John Lewis*

George T. wrote, “In the world we live to-day, I find it outstanding for (me, in spring, 2019) being able to walk the Edmond Pettus Bridge, where amazing and trailblazing people such as Representative John Lewis marched. Thank you, Representative Lewis, for fighting until the end. Legacy will live on.”

## *Easter Sunday Storm*

Several places in Jonestown received heavy damage when, late on Easter Sunday, tornado-like winds blew in, ripping tree limbs off and many trees out of the ground. It became the opportunity for many people with good hearts, strong backs, chain saws, backhoes and trucks to help one another clear and clean.



## *Piano*



Delores Fields Mason, our piano teacher, was preparing eager students for the spring recital when COVID-19 changed our lives. However, we have the successful Christmas recital as consolation and inspiration to continue when possible!



## *Where Are They Now?*



Ebony Brown was one of the original members of Girls to Women Two, a piano student, participant in many activities of the Durocher Program, including the training to volunteer her services in Jonestown. She taught English as a volunteer in Hue, Vietnam in the summer of 2017. She is now living in Chicago, married with a beautiful one-year-old boy, and working as a nurse. In the wake of COVID-19, she juggles her time between caring for patients in the hospital and maintaining a sense of normalcy at home.



## *Thanks!*

There is no one more grateful than I to God who works through such good friends. For the past several months, Sister Cathy has been companion and nurse, driver and spiritual director, advisor and counselor.



Finally, a special request. Do you have a working laptop that you are no longer using? College students have to take their classes online but many do not have computers. Some are asking if I can help them get a laptop.

Special thanks to donors who through the years have made possible educational, cultural and physical opportunities for children and adults alike in the Resource Center, the house, the track and field, the community garden, Spot of Serenity, the tennis and basketball courts, the children's playground, etc. Scholarships to help many college students make a huge difference in their lives and in the community. Know that you are very appreciated!

With loving prayers, Sister Kay