



November 2010

# A.D.R.O.P. News

## AUGUSTINIAN DEFENDERS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR

Letter from Father Jack Deegan, O.S.A.

Once again, it is a pleasure to bring you news of ADROP'S programs as we continue to serve the community of South Philadelphia.

Our After school Tutor and Mentor program has been able to involve volunteers from the local Neumann/Maria Goretti High School as well as faculty and students from Temple University. This development will allow us to offer more consistent help to the students of St. Nick's Grammar School.

St. Rita's parish has opened her doors to us so that we can offer ESL classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings and evenings for a growing number of young adults seeking to improve their English speaking and reading skills.

The Unity Clinic, our primary physical health program, has been able to offer lectures on nutrition, exercise, and control of hypertension through the efforts of faculty and students from Villanova's College of Nursing. Also, flu shots have been administered and TB testing provided. The number seeking primary health care continues to increase.

ADROP'S Board of Directors has elected to take two new programs under its tutelage: Sanctuary and HEC (Handicap Encounter Christ). I hope you will enjoy reading about these programs in this newsletter. I would also like to introduce Andrew Slike as our new Coordinator of Programs.

We are looking forward to a busy and rewarding 2011.

In these difficult times, I would ask you to think seriously about giving of your Time, Talent and /or Treasure to ADROP. We can always use volunteers. The schedule is up to you. We need your financial support. Again, the amount is up to you. Large or small, your gift will be put to good use making a difference in the lives of the neediest of God's children.

For all that you do, thank you. Fr. Jack



### Mission

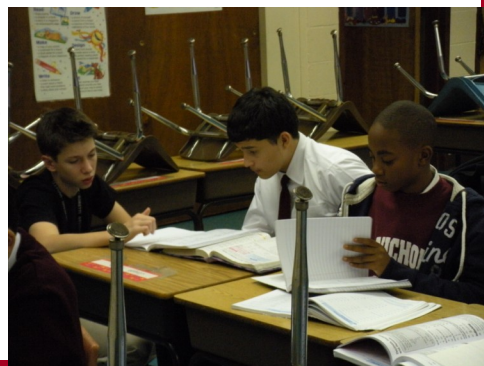
- To empower and collaborate with the poor and those without a voice in society
- To educate the decision makers, service providers, and the recipients of these services
- To create opportunities for all to reflect and meditate on the human condition

# St. Nicholas of Tolentine

Welcome Neumann/Goretti Tutors!

This year we welcome tutors from Neumann Goretti High School, just up the street from St. Nick's as they assist with our after school tutoring program. They help the students with their homework and are all great mentors and role models for the grade school students to look up to.

In addition to tutoring, from January 27 - March 17 the students of St. Nick's will take part in a traveling music program, Musicopia ([www.musicopia.net](http://www.musicopia.net)), which teaches the students how to tell stories through music. Also, brought back by popular demand, the students will dance like the stars in their own ballroom dance class! Last year, the ballroom dance class was a success and concluded with a performance for their parents and classmates. With a year of experience under their belt they shall be seasoned veterans by the end of the program.



## English as a Second Language

A Smooth Transition

During my year of service in Lawrence, Massachusetts with the Augustinian Volunteers the majority of my students considered Spanish their native language. There was a part of each school day that was devoted to teaching an English as a Second Language (ESL) course to different groups of students. There were often exciting moments throughout the year when one of the students would hone in on the meaning behind the stories we would read, or would use one of the words from the vocabulary section in the correct manner and would just light up with accomplishment.

I can see a similar sense of accomplishment, sometimes more so, with the students at ADROP's ESL lab.

Though I have only been leading these classes for three months there has been a vast improvement in many of the students' English. One of the students, on the first day of class, had a difficult time conveying exactly what he wanted to gain from attending this program and I was almost certain that he didn't understand me at all. Now, when he enters the room, he does so with a smile, "good evening teacher, how are you?" and we carry on until his computer is ready to go. I look forward to each and every ESL class because I know that these wonderful individuals have come to learn and I continue to learn a lot from them.

~Andrew B. Slike (ADROP Coordinator of Programs)



In this photo (from left): Apolinar Cabrera, Andrew Slike, Ignes Salles, and Natalia Garcia.

# Unity Clinic, KLINIK TERPADU

## We Couldn't Do It Without You



The Unity Clinic staff would like to take the time to thank the medical professionals, interpreters, and students who give their time each week to make the clinic a success.



We would also like to thank the City of Philadelphia and the administration of Health Care #1 for their continued support.



*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

*~Mohandas Gandhi*

This year the Unity Clinic has added educational sessions, led by students of Villanova's College of Nursing, on high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and healthy diet, as well as other helpful topics that are used to show the patients how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

## New Additions to ADROP!

ADROP would like to welcome two new programs into the organization, Sanctuary Music Ensemble and Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC), brought to us by Fr. Shawn Tracy O.S.A. Sanctuary is an ensemble of musicians and artists who offer musical events such as prayer services, Masses, retreats, communal celebrations, and festivals. "The mission of Sanctuary is to write, record, produce, and present sacred music so as to complement, affirm and support the work of people of faith in consciousness raising programs of a spiritual nature." HEC leads retreats for individuals with physical disabilities to join together in community to pray, reflect and celebrate their life with God in an environment where people feel loved and accepted for who they are. "HEC creates a space where able-bodied and dys-abled people alike, can join with people of other faith traditions, races, and walks of life to share life's journey within a supportive and loving community."

Beginning on December 12 at St. Rita's Parish Church, on the corner of Ellsworth and Broad St., Sanctuary will hold an Advent program to celebrate the season through song in Marian spirituality. A second performance on December 19, will be held at St. Raphaela Retreat House (616 Coopertown Rd., Haverford, PA), and will celebrate the Winter Solstice through music and scripture. Please join us for these concerts.

## Donate Now!

To make a donation now, visit us online at [www.rightsofthepoor.org](http://www.rightsofthepoor.org) or return this form with your donation.

A.D.R.O.P. is a 501c3 Non-profit Organization, United Way Donor Choice Code # 29721

Enclosed is my check payable to ADROP:

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to donate at this time, but please send me information on volunteer opportunities with A.D.R.O.P.

Name

Phone

Email

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**Your support of A.D.R.O.P. has an immediate impact on the lives of others & provides tangible results in the community. Businesses can get involved by sponsoring programs, supporting A.D.R.O.P.'s office needs and providing space for various programs. A.D.R.O.P. programs also benefit by contributions such as : medical & office supplies, gifts of stocks, foundational grants, or other long-range gifts.**



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**Charity, Advocacy, Justice**

**[www.rightsofthepoor.org](http://www.rightsofthepoor.org)**

### **VISION**

Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.) is about building bridges—bridges between people, communities, social service organizations, health care providers, politicians and others. At the heart we are about community, recognizing that we all play a role in society and that we all journey together. By building bridges throughout a community—connecting individuals across economic, political and religious spectrums—we work toward a community that recognizes the dignity and respect owed to all persons.

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