



Common Place...*where love works!*

# GOODNEWS

May 2015

*The Mission of  
Common Place  
is to embrace  
diversity and  
improve lives  
through  
education and  
family support.*

**Common Place  
Board Chair**  
Cheryl Dawson

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Please join us for an evening celebrating our outstanding  
Common Place programs and paying tribute to

*Dr. Cynthia Fischer*

*Rev. Michael Brown*

recipients of the 9th annual Common Place Love In Action Award

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Reception and Cocktails at 5:30 | Dinner at 6:30

Par-A-Dice Hotel | RSVP by June 17, 2015

Tickets \$65

Reservations may be made online at [www.commonplacepeoria.org](http://www.commonplacepeoria.org), or calling 309-674-3315.

*Silent Auction*



## Thoughts from Connie...



*Dear Friends,*

*It is a typical Thursday morning at Common Place, with a good deal of activity as adult learners and tutors meet throughout the building. As I watch them walk by, or later in the day as the after-school children pass fortunate it is that we can help them along the way of their life journeys. For some, life had been more a struggle for daily survival than a journey. Some others, perhaps, have dreams but don't know how to get there. Through the combined efforts of our supporters, volunteers and staff, the lives of those who need us are impacted daily.*

***Because we are here.** . . . . adults like Bobby (see article) are not only learning how to read, but are developing future-thinking; children are gaining the confidence to dare to try new things; and all ages are discovering that they can succeed! Learning is multifaceted!*

***Because we're here.** . . . .the impact spreads beyond the individual. For example, when one child in our after-school or summer program improves their behavior and school performance, Mom or Dad might take a more active interest in their success, or even follow their lead and make some positive changes themselves. Siblings or friends might take notice and enroll in our programs. The child's public school class might begin to experience more success, leading to a stronger educational environment, and on it goes. It starts with recognizing the self-worth of every individual and giving him or her the guidance and opportunities that open their life to possibilities. Thank you for being a part of this journey!*

*Warmly,  
Connie*

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## Spotlight on Achievement Award

Common Place is proud and honored to announce that one of our own adult learners, Bobby Archie, has been awarded the Illinois State Library, Spotlight on Achievement Award!!

Despite a challenging past, Bobby was determined to improve his life, and has been enrolled in our Adult Literacy Program for 16 months. During that time, Bobby has improved his reading, math, and communication skills. He has also completed the Next Steps program which has assisted with his improved life skills. One of the goals that Bobby chose while in the Next Steps program was to obtain his driver's license. Bobby and his tutor worked on the written test and in January obtained his permit. With the help of some family members, Bobby practiced driving and he successfully passed his driving test in February!

Bobby has set several other goals, including finding employment with Goodwill. He sets goals and works very hard to achieve them. In spite of all the challenges Bobby has had to overcome, he greets everyone with a smile and continues to make strides every day!

Nominated by our Adult Literacy staff, the state of Illinois recognized Bobby as deserving of this award because of his inspiring story. Bobby will travel to Springfield on May 13 with the Adult Literacy staff to accept his award. Watch for pictures of the event in our next newsletter!

We congratulate Bobby on his achievements and we are so proud to have him as part of our Common Place family!



# Common Place Summer Program Is all about Financial Literacy!

Beginning June 1 at 8:00 am, Common Place will be taken over by one hundred 8-15 year olds! That's the sign that Summer Program is beginning!

This summer, the Common Place Summer Youth Work Study and Summer Teen Employment will focus on financial literacy. The kids will get a chance to earn money, learn how to make their money work for them, and establish a healthy financial knowledge. The kids will be learning through hands-on activities, study, quiz times, and community service. Supported by a grant from Peoria Rotary North and Youth United for Central Illinois, the youth will be discovering how their financial picture looks.

Throughout the two, 4-week sessions of the program, the first session in June and the second session in July, our youth will be earning a weekly stipend ranging from \$20 - \$25 per week for completing their jobs for that week. These jobs range from beautifying our Common Place campus, to working on their job as a student, and so much more!

Many of our youth will use the money from the summer program to purchase their school supplies in the fall, to purchase clothing for school, or to help out their household. The goal of the financial literacy theme is to teach our Common Place kids how to manage their money so that it will benefit them; learning that all it takes is a little bit at a time. They will also learn that where they start doesn't mean that is where they will finish. With their effort, it will grow.

In addition to learning about financial literacy, the program will again include academically focused tutoring to teach and reinforce math and reading.

We are looking forward to a great summer here at Common Place!



Miss Peggy's Girl Talk group  
hosted a High Tea at  
Common Place!



— Common Place High Tea! —

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS from October 16, 2014 to April 30, 2015

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**Common Place announces its  
2015 Board of Governors**

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**SAVE THE  
DATES**

**Walk for Literacy  
Saturday,  
September 26**

**Dodgeball  
Tournament  
Sunday,  
February 21**

**Pantry Food Needs List**

- Canned fruits, applesauce, vegetables
- Canned meats: tuna, salmon, chicken, ham, spam, beef stew, roast beef, chicken & dumplings
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Dry pasta & jars or cans of pasta sauces, canned pasta: ravioli, spaghetti, beef & macaroni, Spaghetti's
- Macaroni & cheese, rice and pasta side dishes, boxed potatoes, and instant potatoes
- Boxed dinners
- Boxes of gelatin & pudding, powdered or shelf milk
- Canned or dry beans, pork & beans, baked beans, sloppy joe sauce
- Canned soups & chili
- Cold & hot cereal, pancake mixes & syrup
- Cornbread & muffin mixes, crackers, granola or cereal bars

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**Did You Know?**

Common Place is 1 of 5 finalists this year for the Heart Technologies' 2015 Great Heart Give \$10,000 technology grant.

Don't forget to check our website often, and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter for updates and the latest news!

## Cultural Tales

We have some great events for families and friends here at Common Place. However, one of our favorite events for our kids is when the ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma Society – Nu Chapter come to present Cultural Tales!

The most recent presentation was on April 14 where the children learned about Native Americans – Eskimos. The children learned about Inuits, Native/First Americans living in the far northern parts of Alaska on the frozen tundra.

Through the use of books, pictures, music, costumes, art, games, authentic foods, and hands-on activities, the children learned how the Inuit people lived. Whether it was about the way they eat, how they hunt, the igloos they lived in, or the boats that they used, the children were introduced to the lives of the Eskimos.

The children also learned everything there is to know about salmon! Through the reading of the book *The Salmon Princess, An Alaska Cinderella Story* and through pictures and facts, the DKG ladies helped the children compare and contrast this Cinderella story with the one more commonly known. Then, using our Promethian Board, the kids became illustrators for the poem, *Giving Thanks – A Native American Good Morning Message*. The children connected the words from a stanza to the illustrations that matched.

Cultural Tales presentations are always imaginative, lively, informative, and most importantly, FUN! We are so thankful for the imaginations of the women of Delta Kappa Gamma! We look forward to our next Cultural Tales!



**COMMON PLACE**

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