



# Restoring Connections

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH RELATIONSHIP  
*formerly the Center for Spirituality at Work*



Racial Healing group participants learning at an evening with Dr. Carlotta Walls Lanier (left), and at the Five Points neighborhood walk (right).

## Celebrating 25 Years of Innovation and Healing with Renewed Focus

Just prior to the pandemic, we engaged in a listening process that involved deep reflection on our organizational calling.

- What is it that others ask of us as a nonprofit?
- What is it that we do best?
- What is our responsibility to the community?

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## Love is Inventive to Infinity

As a community-based nonprofit informed by the Vincentian ethos, we often reflect on the words of Vincent de Paul, "Love is Inventive to Infinity." Certainly during the Pandemic, we have all been challenged to find creative ways to maintain relationships, to care for our health and the health and growth of people we love, to engage in creative work and attend to the need for income, to grieve losses and celebrate life's important moments and to find some joy in the ordinary moments. In the same way, Restoring Connections has drawn on the richness of the Vincentian Heritage to be innovative in building relationships that bring healing to individuals and foster transforming connections for the community. We're celebrating 25 years, and all the accomplishments of the past and the services we continue to provide are possible because of your participation.

Gratefully,

Vie Thorgren, Director

# Celebrating 25 Years

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The answer was clearly the building of relationships that foster healing and inclusion. This is reflected in the new business name we adopted, **Restoring Connections.**

Listening even more deeply to our donors, volunteers, partners, and clients in 2021, we learned that our most valuable contribution is Soul Care. Concerned with the whole person, Soul Care goes by many different names, including spiritual direction, spiritual companionship, and soul care mentoring. It responds to the need for life purpose and meaning. It attends to healing and calling; interior life and relationships; family and community; sabbath and work; service and social justice. It enables an individual to explore a core foundation in their relationship with the divine.

This fall, our commitment to Soul Care included

- **direct services** to individuals
- **formation and training** in Soul Care
- **attentiveness to systemic issues** needing healing.



## *Soul Care for Justice-Involved Women*

**Direct services** embraced Soul Care Mentoring for Justice-Involved Women during incarceration and re-entry. Denver Women’s Correctional Facility has re-opened to volunteers and we are active within the facility once again. **More about this next month.**



## *Memorial Service*

**Direct services** also involved our now-annual Memorial Service at the beginning of November, including a self-care “Healing through Grief” workshop for those who have lost loved ones. Following the memorial, 135 trees are scheduled for planting in memory of departed loved ones.

## *Tying all of these programs together is Soul Care and the need for healing.*



## *Formation Program for Soul Care*

This fall we have provided **formation and training** for individuals interested in providing Soul Care for others. We started a new cohort in our Formation Program for Soul Care in June. Interns in this 15-month program are responding to the needs of children, adolescents in need, young adults identifying their gifts and seeking to serve on the margins, individuals in the correctional system, and migrants fleeing violence.



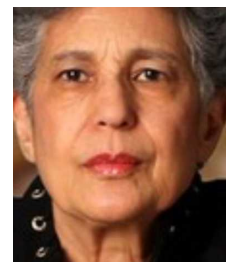
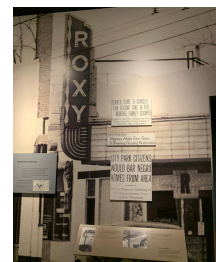
## *Grandparenting as a Healing Presence*

As additional **formation and training**, grandparents were offered a workshop on being a healing presence and how they can care for the soul of their families and serve as soul care mentors for grandchildren.



## *Racial Healing*

Finally, our **attentiveness to systemic issues** included 8-week inquiry groups on Racial Healing. Participants studied, prayed together, shared in small groups, and engaged in various immersion experiences. They included the opportunity to hear from Central American mothers desperately seeking their children in this country, relational opportunities with black faith communities, a Five Points Walk in Denver, and an evening with Dr. Carlotta Walls LaNier, the youngest of the Little Rock Nine.



# News from the Board



This month we want to honor and express our gratitude to Martha Karnopp, who has fulfilled her term as a Board Member and Chairperson. Martha brought legal expertise to the board and a commitment to systemic change which continues as a part of her daily advocacy. Martha had direct experience as a mentor with our Making Choices program. Her many gifts enabled us to successfully transition through the challenges of the pandemic and reorganization. She enabled us to step into the future with a clearer mission and focus. We are so grateful for all her time and efforts.



We welcome Kay Glunk, SCN, who will step into Martha's place on the Board. Kay is a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, an international Congregation, and has dedicated her life to living the Vincentian Spirit. Within her congregation, she has served in a variety of

ministries and 17 years in Congregational leadership. She brings experience serving on numerous Boards and administrative experience which includes oversight of personnel, financials, and care of physical properties. She comes to us with international experience.

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*I am a proud graduate of the Formation Program for Spiritual Directors. My participation in this wonderful program continues to enrich my life. I am willing to share whatever gifts and talents I have with this Board. I am a good listener, able to examine details as well as look to the bigger picture of issues brought for consideration. I bring the experience of many years of serving on Boards in a variety of capacities. I have a great love of the Vincentian Charism, a strong desire to support and further the mission of groups who reach out to poor and marginalized of our society. -Sr. Kay*

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December 7, 2021

Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 7th. Please support **Restoring Connections** by scheduling your donation now!

Go to  
[www.restoringconnections.org](http://www.restoringconnections.org)  
and click on

**SCHEDULE YOUR  
COLORADO GIVES DAY DONATION**



Registration  
coming to  
your email  
soon!

Save the Date for **Healing Conversations: Dialogue not Disaster**, and focus on the skills for addressing conflict in family and community.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Online via Zoom

2/5/2022



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

## Remembering With Gratitude

We remember with deep gratitude as we mourn the loss of two special friends.



Frankie Dehne taught us so much about welcoming, hospitality and joy. She modeled the power of relationships for bringing healing to the lives of the most vulnerable and abandoned.



Bill Miller was always attentive to the giftedness of others. He was a great listener and mentor who called forth the beauty of each person.



**Restoring Connections**  
formerly Center for Spirituality at Work

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