



St. Francis Neighborhood Center

Newsletter

Issue 4 Spring 2004



Greetings from St. Francis Center

A lot has happened since last you heard from us. We are pleased with the great success of the current programs to which the Center is host: the *Kids On The Hill* and *Echo House* after school programs, the four 12-step meetings, our religious services and reflections, and the regular community meetings. We're soon to host an additional program, the Change and Growth Enrichment Program, under the auspices of Rodell Bailey-El and Denise Bailey-Jones. Further discussion from Denise can be found the "Change is Good" section of the newsletter.

Ahh. The Executive Director becomes the Executive Juggler of time-slots. Obviously, we need more program space. Thus our new project.

Our plans (see the drawings by our architects, Fritz Read and his associate, Kelley Moore on page 2) are to construct a new building on the east edge of our property, with the addition of an adjacent, city owned parcel.

The building, *The St. Francis Arts and Education Center*, will include four classrooms for our

current programs, a fifth for lectures, meetings and growth for future programs, and an auditorium. This auditorium will really be the hub and center of the new edifice. As currently designed, it will hold about 150 people, have a presentation stage, and a rear wall which will completely open into our "Secret Garden".

The auditorium will fulfill a necessary and oft-requested function of our neighbors: that of a proper and pleasant central meeting area for our community, a presentation hall for art and music, a location for shows, exhibits, neighborhood celebrations and ceremonies and a place for senior dance and exercise programs. The building itself, impressive in its concept, will become an icon and a powerful emblem of our resurgent community.

Currently, we've been showing the plans to neighborhood leaders and their organizations, asking for input and support. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. We've already spoken with Sally Scott and the Lakeside Neighbors Coalition, Arlen Cullors and the Upper Eutaw-Madison Neighborhood Association, Georgia Winder and the Druid Community Association, Kids On The Hill, and Bob Adams and the Bolton-Park Neighbors, Inc. Major John Skinner from the Baltimore City Police

Department has seen our plans and fully supports the building initiative, especially for the young people of the neighborhood.

We are soon to approach the City of Baltimore, which owns the property in question. From them, we need permission either to lease the parcel long-term, or to own it outright. We may have to offer a proposal in competition with developers who are myriad and moneyed. We're confident however, with the backing of our neighbors, we'll be able to clear this hurdle.

Then comes fundraising! A capital campaign for the construction costs of about \$1,000,000. We have opened an account to accept donations earmarked for the building fund. We're also requesting ideas on income streams to cover staffing and maintenance.

One need not be clairvoyant to foresee just how much work it's going to be. We have many interested and supportive neighbors here in the community. So, we're embarking. We can taste it. St. Francis is on the move. Stay tuned.

Rev. Tom Composto
Executive Director

Our Mission Statement:

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is committed to creating an environment that inspires self-esteem, strengthened and enhanced by the impetus to reach out to others who share our passion for self-improvement.

Our primary working areas are health, education, arts and the inner spirit. In this latter, we foster and strengthen the connection of people with their spiritual selves, helping to develop strength for urban living. Health, education and the arts are the vehicles for this development.

The Center provides a safe haven for learning, discussion and listening, and creates tolerance in a place where everyone is welcome.

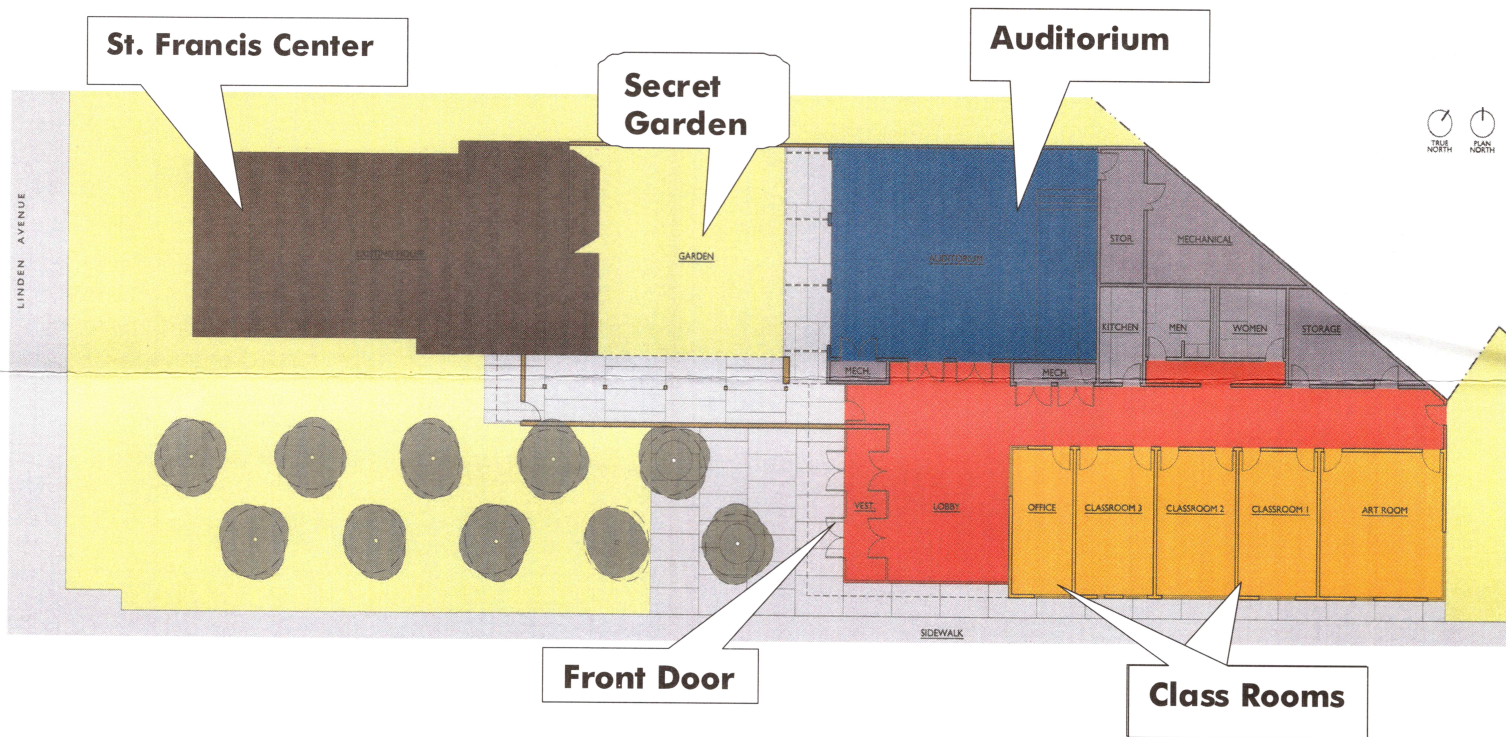
St. Francis Neighborhood Center is a non-profit organization, #52-0968759. All contributions are tax-deductible.

2405 Linden Avenue Baltimore, MD 21217

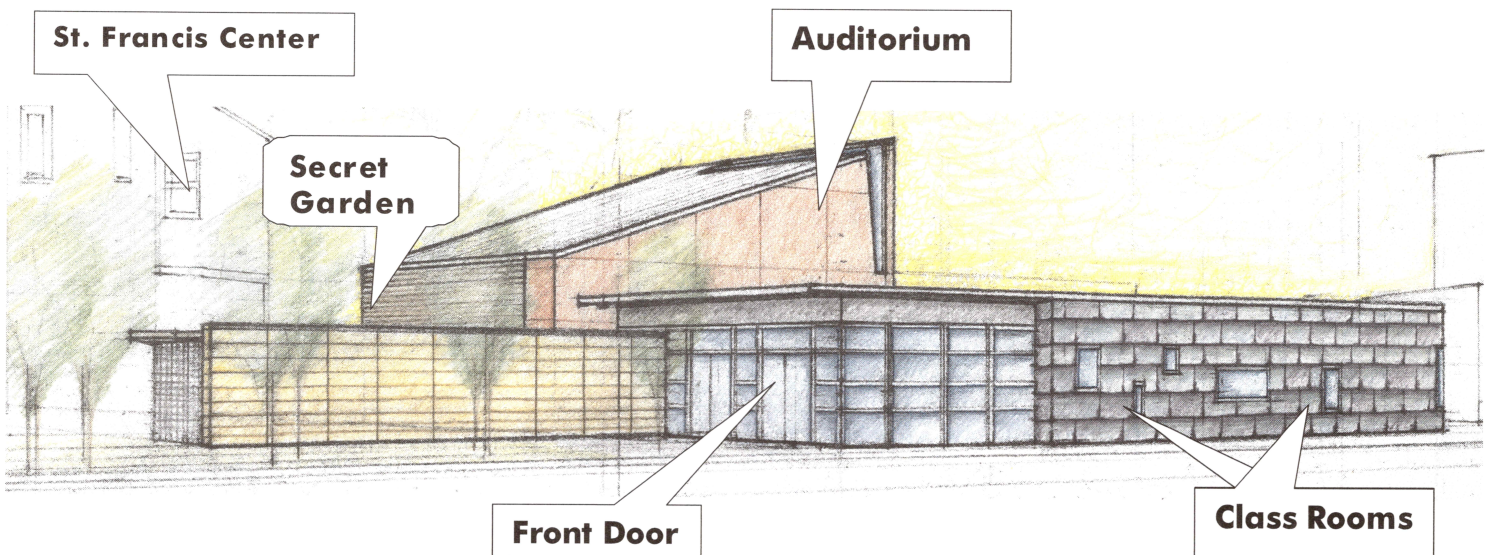
410.669.2612

composto@verizon.net

St. Francis Arts and Education Center Floor Plan



View from Whitelock Street



Here at St. Francis...



St. Francis Neighborhood Center

KIDS ON THE HILL

An Exciting Youth/ Adult Dialogue in Reservoir Hill!

On March 13, 2004, teens from Kids on the Hill hosted an engaging afternoon of workshops, entertainment and problem solving for youth and adults from Reservoir Hill and neighboring communities. There was lively conversation and a great sense of purpose for the 50 plus people who attended.

Teens partnered with adults from the Crime & Safety Committee to present three skits that highlighted some of the misunderstandings between youth, parents, police officers and neighborhood adults. The dramatizations were a perfect way to identify the need for mutual respect and positive attitudes

One of the best ideas that came out of the conference was an interest in establishing a series of meetings between youth and police to reduce hostility. The teens at Kids on the Hill will investigate the possibility of developing workshops that foster healthy relationships between youth and law enforcement officers.

CHANGE IS GOOD!



The Change and Growth Enrichment Program, Inc. is a nonprofit organization in the Reservoir Hill community that seeks to empower those who desire a better way of living. The program's mission is to always live, learn, and help someone change and grow! The program was launched in 2003 with a Boys Basketball Project targeting youth ages 4-10 years old. A brand new project will be offered to girls 4-10 years of age beginning May 1, 2004. The "Cutting Edge Project" will be centered on the basic fundamentals of sewing and will allow for creativity and growth and will be held right here at St Francis.

The dedicated people behind the programs have a lot to be proud of. The basketball program was responsible for increasing academic achievement in school, two awards banquets to recognize the youth participants, their parents and the sponsors, and helped increase the number of students who were able to achieve the honor roll at their schools.

If you would like more information on either the "Cutting Edge" or Boys Basketball programs, contact Michelle Redding-El at 410.532.6221 or Rodell Bailey-El at 443.872.8575

6212
Holabird Avenue
Baltimore, MD
21224



Telephone:
410-633-7709

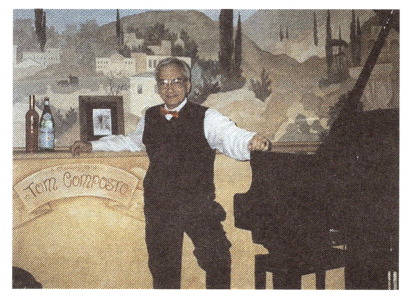
Fax:
410-633-8552

An Authentic
Italian Restaurant/Café

TOM COMPOSTO,
at the piano


On A Personal Note

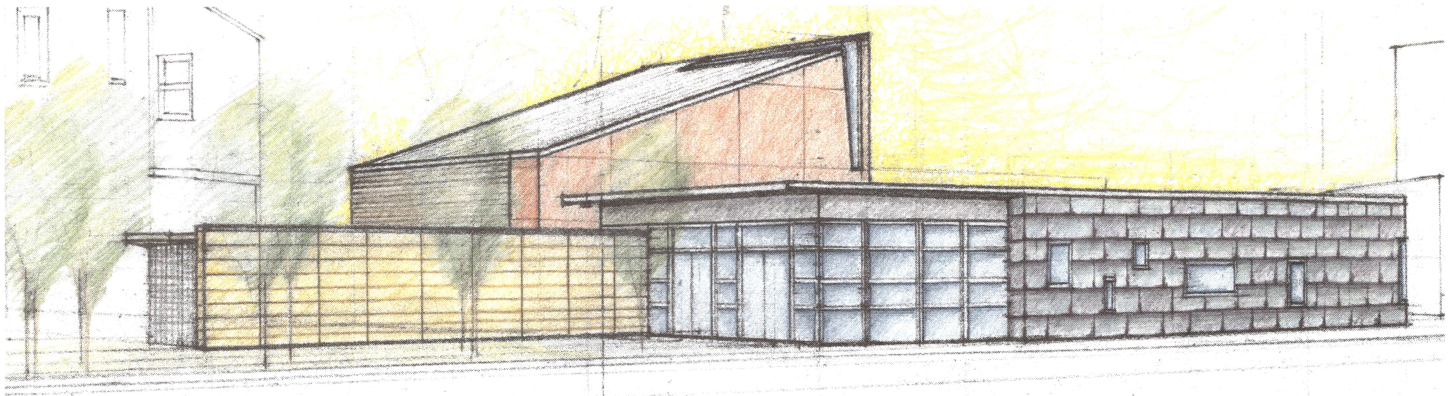
I am using a talent that my parents were sensitive enough to see in me and foster, and for which I am grateful- -music. At present, I sing and play the piano on weekend evenings at the best Italian restaurant this side of the Alps: **Vinny's Italian Café** on Holabird Avenue in Dundalk, MD. Great food, personable atmosphere, and great fun. **Vinny's** opened in June 1999, and I've been there ever since. Plus, Vinny "da boss" is a friend of mine. C'mon down.



Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 8073

Return Service Requested

St. Francis Neighborhood Center
2405 Linden Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217



Coming soon - The Saint Francis Neighborhood Arts and Education Center

I've also organized a Dixieland musicians from our neighborhood: Munshower on drums, Kid Howard trumpet, Jamie Lantz, also on University), and myself on vocals onto a skillet-size floor, we also Alex Muehleisen on tuba and looking for a Dixieland clarinetist.

On St. Patrick's Day this Remington Ave. and West 30th three hundred people there through the evening, and they loved us. Want us back. We really felt great. Nice place, great food, great people. Try it. The owner, Elaine, would love to see you. Tell her, "Tom sent you!"



band, *The Dixieland Saints*, with super Frank Patinella on banjo, Alan on trombone and vocals, Frank Donn on trumpet (when he's back from Indiana and piano. If we don't have to squeeze have Tyler Goodwin on stand up bass, Clayton Fulling also on banjo. We're Know anyone?

year, we played at *Dizzy Issie's* on here in Baltimore. There had to be two to