

St. Francis Neighborhood Center

Newsletter

Issue 2 May, 2003



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toys who make all the noise, send guns and bombs anywhere they want, and dis fellow human beings as enemies?" I often feel this way, too.

But then I began to think about the power that one person can wield: Shakyamuni Buddha, Christ, Peter, Paul, Ghandi, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, John XXIII, Martin Luther King, Itzhak Rabin, Anwar Sadat, Wilbur & Orville Wright, Jonas Salk, Dan & Phil Berrigan, César Chavéz, and, locally, Vinny Scotto, a friend and the owner of the restaurant where I work. He took an old, dilapidated, semi-demolished motel and turned it into a successful Italian restaurant.

Look at our St. Francis. A few people long ago had a vision. No committee would ever have founded such an impossible place, in a neighborhood that the rest of the city knew was gone with the wind.

So I began to think, the messiahs are not *out there*; they're in the **mirror**. None of the above people sat around, waiting for rescue from a cloud-riding messiah. They

spoke with the people around them: neighbors, relatives, friends, co-workers. They had a vision they knew could influence, that the law of cause and effect always worked, that their ideas, once spread, would change people for the better.

They knew that every thought they thought, every word they said, had effects, right now and into the future. Their success was directly proportional to the confidence they had in themselves.

Go back over my list. Think what they've done. The power is there. It's in your mirror, too. Victims lose. Winners choose. They change the world, one voice at a time.

Hi Folks
In the past month, serious thoughts hit me, so I'll share them with you.

A lot of folks I know have this feeling of powerlessness. "I'm just one person. What can I do about the rich tops who have all the money and care not a whit about the people who walk in our city streets? What can I do about the the boys with the big



Kids On The Hill Bumper Sticker

KUDOS

We offer a sincere **thank-you** for all the gifts you have sent. Our continued existence relies almost entirely on your donations.

At the moment we're still seeking a grant to renew the Mobile Dental Service equipment. The dental unit is almost fifteen years old and paper clips and duct tape just won't work any more.

Stay tuned for some great new expansion endeavors: mucho challenging.

Please keep us in your prayers.



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

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