

## THANK YOU ANDRÉA, WELCOME ALVIN

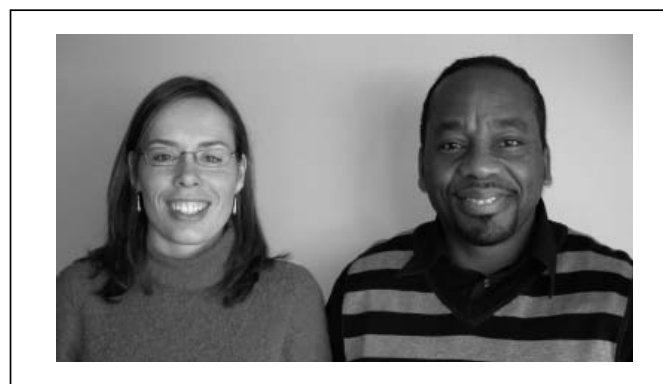
Join us in praising God for Andréa Vugteveen's faithful investment in Westtown teens over the past nine years. Andréa will continue to work with a small group of teens in the Leaders In Training (LIT) program through May as she transitions to new ministry opportunities.

We are happy to welcome Alvin Gray as our new Teen Ministry Manager. Alvin will work alongside the Middle and High School teens in our community.

Alvin comes to "The Other Way" with a long list of work and life experience involving Youth and Family Development. He has worked with Life Quest Ministries, Urban Young Life, the Grand Rapids Community College Diversity Learning Center, and Brown-Hutcherson Church in a variety of leadership positions.

Alvin's personal ministry focus is to increase the spiritual maturity of youth and enhance academic performance and social awareness among teens and young adults. Alvin's work will be an important link in our focus on Family Development in Westtown.

Please pray for Alvin as he transitions into his work at "The Other Way" Ministries.



WESTSIDE STORY  
We are a Christian ministry that walks alongside Westtown urban families as they strive to grow spiritually, relationally and economically.

# THE WEST SIDE STORY

"The Other Way" Ministries

SPRING 2009

## THE WISEST SUREFIRE INVESTMENT

I was upside down, reaching eight feet into a chimney, friends holding my ankles, my trowel now firmly in my grasp, when I heard the words, "Trust us"! Famous last words...

Bernard Madoff told his investors, "Trust me"... National consensus says we're in a financial crisis; it's really a crisis of trust. Without trust, people hesitate to invest and banks are slow to lend. Without trust, cynicism sets in and hope fades.

In Psalm 11, David asks, "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can God's people do?" His feisty faith is imprinted on our coins, *In God We Trust*.

The truth is, over 42 years, our ministry partners have become a community of trust, investing in the 'futures' of Westtown neighbors. "The Other Way" is simply about God investing Himself in people, and people re-investing in other people. As we focus on 'family

development' in 2009, please continue to invest your prayers and your ministry partnership in ways that God leads you.

Because we believe that "prayer is the wisest, surefire investment" we can make in hard times (Philip Yancey), we ask you to join our staff in confident prayer and praise, with words we recite together each Monday from Ephesians 3:20-21. (See below)

Please see inside this newsletter for some stats and stories as well as perspectives from a couple of our partnerships. We do invite you to go deeper on our website ([www.theotherway.org](http://www.theotherway.org)) for a 2008 program report and some hopeful glimpses of the unfolding of God's family development vision for Westtown.

Lou Roossien,  
Executive Director



### YOU ARE INVITED....

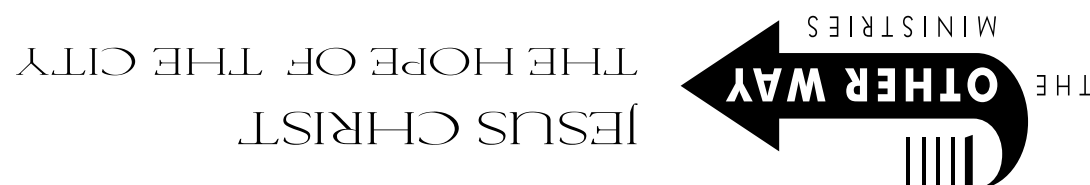
To an Open House at our re-newed  
Jean Czarnecki Family Center at 839 Sibley NW  
Thursday, April 2  
11am - 1pm and 6:30pm - 8pm  
Enjoy light refreshments, see our new Family Development  
Center and learn about new programs

## 2009 FAITH FOCUS VERSE EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



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## 2008 MINISTRY IMPACTS

2008 was filled with development opportunities for our neighbors. Below are a few statistics from our programs and partnerships. To view more, go to [www.theotherway.org](http://www.theotherway.org).

- 80 parents graduated from Family Wellness communication classes
- 150 families earned 2376 hours of credit to buy gifts at our Christmas Store
- Youth Employment Service employed 12 teens and mowed lawns for 52 neighbors
- 11 students were trained as cross cultural servant leaders through Leaders in Training
- Counselors had 230 interactions with English and Spanish speaking neighbors

## CCC - CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER

by Dr. Iraida Rodriguez, Counselor



The Christian Counseling Center strives not just to “be profitable” but also to provide quality services for those without means or access to counseling. Through partnership with core city sites like “The Other Way”, CCC seeks to bridge barriers faced by the underserved and uninsured...issues like transportation, language, culture, affordability and trust. Offering services within a community through organizations that have built trust with their neighbors helps break down these walls and gives us opportunities to offer help and hope.

The CCC not only provides professional intervention that addresses individual and family crises, but also offers preventative services through small groups and educational workshops designed to strengthen family skills. Recognizing Christ as the foundation for healthy families, “The Other Way” and CCC partner to build stronger Christ centered families in Westtown.

## YES - YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

by Ed DeVries, Developer

Our five year partnership with the YES program has provided many opportunities to talk with West Side youth about basic work habits and to observe the impact of this program over time. As a ministry partner, I receive real satisfaction from sharing my own work and life experiences, especially when I see young workers willing to learn and develop their unique potential.



It’s very satisfying to be part of “The Other Way” community that walks and works with young people. Writer, Henry Nouwen, described community as a mosaic of thousands of little stones, many different colors, together creating a beautiful picture and telling a story that none of these stones can tell by itself. “Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world...and together we make God visible.”

Whether through quality lawn care or planting flowers on Monroe City Parks, the YES program provides opportunity for youth and adults to work and walk together, both to get things done and to make God visible to the broader community.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### WE PROMISE....

...to respect your privacy. We will not sell or give your name and address information to any other organization.

Please tell us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

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## 2009 MINISTRY GOALS

The founder of “The Other Way”, Dick TerMaat, tells a story about spending money in the neighborhood. It’s about “local investment”, going to the local grocery store and spending \$100. In turn, a portion of that money goes to pay store employees that live in the community, which then can be used for rent, a mortgage, a heat bill, etc.



Investing is more than money. It’s time, support and resources poured into the lives of our neighbors. It is the sweetness of the gospel lived out. As we build relationships, we build a sense of trust, and we actively invest in the families of Westtown. Here is a small sampling of our Family Development programming. See our website for more ([www.theotherway.org](http://www.theotherway.org)).

### 2009 Family Development Investments

- 35 Families attend Family Kick-off Dinners in January and February
- 13 Families sign up for new Family Coaching program
- 12 Families attend Family Camps at CranHill Ranch
- 50 families earn and utilize credit in Family Resource Co-op
- 15 Men attend Men’s Family Discussion groups



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We have a few holes in our food pantry supplies. Here is what we need most:

Toilet paper	Ketchup
Toothpaste	Tomatoes (diced, stewed etc)
Bar soap	Canned fruit

Driver needed every Wednesday, 2pm to 3pm to pick up and deliver a donation for our pantry.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

• **Matching Gifts** - Double your impact with Matching Gifts. Contact your employer’s human resources (HR) office to find out if your company is one of thousands that match employee contributions. The HR office should give you a matching gift form to complete and send to us along with your donation. We handle the rest by verifying your gift and returning the form to your company so they can send the matching funds directly to “The Other Way”. Contact Kyle (616-454-4011 ext. 14) with questions.

• **Planned Giving** enables you to maximize the personal benefits of your giving while helping our organization and our neighbors. A planned gift combines your personal financial objectives with your personal giving goals and values. There are various methods of Planned Giving you could use to invest in “The Other Way” Ministries. For more information ask your financial planner or contact Kyle.

## GET CONNECTED

Show your support and get regular updates on what’s happening at “The Other Way” by joining our Facebook Cause. See the website for more information ([www.theotherway.org](http://www.theotherway.org)). You can see our newsletter online, too.