

## Notre Dame Education Center Celebrates New Beginning with a Grand Open House

**S**aturday, November 1, was a beautiful fall day with just a few clouds in the sky, not a drop of rain in sight and a perfect temperature. Reverend Monsignor Thomas McDonnell, a founding member of the Board of Directors at Notre Dame Education Center and the celebrant for the Open House ceremony, remarked how fitting it was that this special occasion was being held on the very same day that All Saints Day is celebrated. This is a feast which,

in the Roman Catholic Church, commemorates all those who have attained eternal happiness in heaven.

During her greeting to the NDEC community, including board members, staff, faculty, volunteers, students, businesses and friends, Executive Director, Anne Metrick, remarked: "This Open House ceremony has been five years in the making and there were times, more often than not, that I thought it would never happen. Our Board of Directors and members of the various committees worked tirelessly as they watched over the sale of our property and the subsequent construction of our new classrooms."

The Open House was a result of many weeks of planning which included a number of meetings where attention to detail was given a top priority. Members of the Board, staff, faculty, volunteers, students and businesses gathered to get the job done. That's what Open House was all about – a celebration of the NDEC community!

During the Open House ceremony the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were recognized for their tremendous efforts over the years. The Sisters started NDEC in 1992, when the Archdiocese closed Cardinal Cushing Central High School. They endured the hardships and emotions that came

*(continued)*



**Above:** Mary Mulligan SND, places a statue of Saint Julie in the NDEC lobby.

**Right:** Open House speakers and NDEC board members gather for a photo. (back, L-R) Janice Waters SND, Connie Kastelnik, Patricia McSharry SND, Dick Horan, Hank Mulhern, Sy Danberg, Trish Tower, Paul Solano, Janice Carmen SND, (front, L-R) Elizabeth Michaels SND, Fr. Thomas McDonnell, Mary Ryan SND, Anne M. Metrick



(continued from previous page)

with making that tough but understandable and unselfish decision to sell the property at 50 West Broadway so that Notre Dame Education Center could survive for years to come.

The Open House is a “new beginning” for NDEC with the sale of the property at 50 West Broadway and the completion of the new learning center at 200 Old Colony Avenue. This does not mean that the past has been forgotten. As a matter of fact, the past has been a very important part of the legacy of Notre Dame Education Center. It has helped to shape the Mission and what the teaching center is today. Now the administration can move ahead and focus 100% of its attention on programs and, more importantly, its students. Without students it is not a school! Students are a big part of the NDEC community.

If you weren't able to participate in the Open House celebration you are encouraged to contact Notre Dame Education Center and schedule a private tour. You are invited to join this special community! ■

**Right:** Our Open House banner. Thank you again to our sponsors!

**Bottom:** The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur sang “Ah! How Good is the Good God.” as St. Julie was placed.

## NDEC Program Information

Notre Dame Education Center offers a variety of programs to meet the growing needs of the adult learner population. In the ESOL programs there are 8 morning and 4 evening classes supporting 193 learners. The Literacy Program supports 146 learners with 6 morning and 3 evening classes. The ever-expanding High School Diploma Program currently serves 36 students in 7 classes. Distance Learning, which allows students to learn ESOL in a non-traditional environment, is currently serving 34 students, including a dozen from its partner program at NDEC – Lawrence. In addition to the programs mentioned above, NDEC goes the “extra step” to try and fill the voids in adult education by offering classes in GED Fast Track, ESOL Math Employability Skills (3 8-week cycles) and Citizenship (3 10-week cycles).

Please visit our web site at [www.ndecboston.org](http://www.ndecboston.org) for additional information about our programs and for volunteer opportunities. ■





*Anica Rosa, GED program student, leads the procession of graduates.*

## **Class of 2008 Graduates from NDEC**

**O**n Friday, September 26, Notre Dame Education Center celebrated its sixteenth commencement ceremony by graduating twenty-two students from its High School Diploma Program. The Literacy Program also shared the stage that night with thirteen students earning their GED's.

Notre Dame Education Center has been a leader in providing community-based adult and youth literacy programs in South Boston for sixteen years. Students are offered the opportunity to adapt to American culture and to train for upward mobility in the job market. NDEC students are taught to achieve self-sufficiency.

The members and leaders of the Ironworkers Local 7 were very generous by providing NDEC with the use of their meeting hall for the ceremony. Graduates of both the High School Diploma and GED programs received their well-deserved awards in front of a gathering of over two hundred of their family members, friends and neighbors. In her speech to the graduates and gathered audience, Anne Metrick, NDEC Executive Director, asked the members of the graduating class to "hold NDEC close to your hearts as you continue your education or pursue a career. We ask that you return to us with the experience, wisdom and success that we hope you will gain."

The students who received their high school diplomas were Briana Annese, Terrence Ash, Chris Attardo, Katherine Barnes, Fatoumata Barry, Jean Mencia Batista, Juliana K. Brunick, Ralph Cadet, Alfonsina Del Mar Chang, Pierre Deus, Ashley Kelley, Ian McNeill, Joseph Milisi, Justin B. Miller, Dhilsia Osorio, Madonna Pires, Manuela Pires, Jeff Potenza, Jesus Rivera, Alandra Sheffield, Armani Steele and Chace Taylor.

Among those receiving their GED certificates were Maxwell S. Adjibodou, Maruisz P. Bochynski, Ghislaine Bousseau, Daniel Bracken, Willie C. Bizzell, Alan Coveney, Dorothy O. Kuffour, Michael Kuzmich, Marie Loiseau, Sakeena L. Piersaint, Endri Plaku, Anica Rosa and Tracy Q. Situ.

*(continued)*

***"Hold NDEC close  
to your hearts  
as you continue  
your education or  
pursue a career.  
We ask that you  
return to us  
with the experience,  
wisdom and success  
that we hope  
you will gain."***

***-Anne Metrick***



## Contact Us

200 Old Colony Avenue  
South Boston, MA 02127  
617.268.1912

[www.ndecboston.org](http://www.ndecboston.org)  
[info@ndecboston.org](mailto:info@ndecboston.org)

## Mission Statement

The Notre Dame Education Center is **"A Place of Hope."** People from the diverse neighborhoods and cultures of the city come here to initiate or to continue their education. As part of their learning, they will participate in the development of the Center as a place where family values are strengthened, community building fostered, and diversity respected and celebrated.

## Board members

Patricia Butler, SND  
Christine Canavan  
Janice Carmen, SND  
Ted Daiber  
Seymour Danberg  
Richard Horan  
Connie Kastelnik  
Marie McDonald, SND  
Martin J. McDonough  
Patricia McSharry, SND  
Anne M. Metrick  
Elizabeth Michaels, SND  
Mary Ryan, SND  
Jesus Salgado  
Charles R. Shediak  
Paul Solano  
Patricia Tower  
Janice Waters, SND

## Board Emeritus

Hank Mulhern  
Rev. Msgr. Tom McDonnell  
Albert Kaneb

## Editor:

Craig Maser

## Design:

Kazia Eastep

## Pictures:

Jon Julie Sullivan, SND

## Content:

NDEC Staff

(continued from previous page)

Special recognition goes to Charles R. Shediak, Chairman of the NDEC Board of Directors who presented the diplomas with Executive Director Anne Metrick. Amie Cressman, NDEC Program Director, Donna Pomponio, the High School Diploma Program Coordinator, Jason Forman, the High School Diploma Program Case Manager, Sr. Mary Mulligan SND, the Literacy Coordinator and Patricia Espinoza-Toro, an NDEC GED instructor also took part in the graduation ceremony. Sister Jon Julie SND photographed the event and singer and American Idol contestant, Lola Frazier, shared two beautiful songs which were dedicated to all of the graduates ■



## Where are they now?

Notre Dame Education Center's 2008 Graduates can be found...

### ...Studying

- ✓ Salem State College
- ✓ Massachusetts College of Art and Design (Art)
- ✓ Lincoln Technical Institute (Criminology)
- ✓ Ben Franklin Institute of Technology (HVAC)
- ✓ Quincy College (Health Care)
- ✓ Iron Workers Local 7 (Apprenticeship)
- ✓ Roxbury Community College (Social Work)

### ...Working

- ✓ UPS
- ✓ YMCA
- ✓ Boston Westin Waterfront (Hotel Engineering)
- ✓ Universal Technical Institute (Auto Mechanic)

### ...Serving

- ✓ Marines
- ✓ National Guard

## Did You Know?

- That 20 people have become "New Americans" since July and 8 more will be sworn in before January?
- That at Notre Dame Education Center we currently have 190 ESOL learners, 145 Literacy learners and 36 High School Diploma Program students?
- That NDEC has had an increase in South Boston-based students since moving to our new teaching center and that 1/3rd of our ESOL students are now from South Boston?



**New Americans:** Sammy Ajdini (top right) and Jose Granillos (bottom right)