

DOROTHY DAY TAMPA | IN DEVELOPMENT – *radical hospitality*

April 2022 NEWSLETTER – Vol. 1 No. 3



Servant of God Dorothy Day

Vision - *"Make the kind of society where it is easier to be good."* – Peter Maurin

Mission - *Recruit and train volunteers in a Catholic Worker tradition, who recognize the dignity of each person, to provide relief, hospitality, and housing assistance to homeless men and women within the Tampa area.*

Core Values - *"The Sermon on the Mount is our Christian manifesto"* – Dorothy Day

Ministry Overview: www.catholicworker.org

Dorothy Day Tampa – officially in development!

"People say, what is the sense of your small effort. They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time." – Servant of God Dorothy Day

What is the story behind Dorothy Day Tampa? In 1989, Catholic Worker, Sr. Char Madigan, shared with us the plight of her residents struggling to find housing surrounding her St. Joseph's Women's Shelter for women and children.

Her 'seed planting' request – *"help transform a square block surrounding her shelter to transitional homes for her women and children."*

Dorothy Day vision carrier - Sr. Char introduced us to Servant of God, Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Her shelter model was a Dorothy Day House.



St. Joseph's Women's Shelter – Minneapolis, MN

Solution Minneapolis: In 1989, the neighborhood was filled with vacant land and deteriorating housing. As founding board members of HOPE, we acquired land no one else wanted and began rehabbing the block where the shelter had been, house by house. Starting with one property at a time, today Hope Community (www.hope-community.org) has 253 rental apartments (70% affordable), Hope's offices and community center, small businesses, large community gardens, and outdoor community spaces. Hope Community is a community empowerment blessing and a potential long-term model for Tampa to replicate.

How to begin in Tampa: Through our work with Love INC we experienced the profound mutual value of volunteers entering into loving relationship with people with life stories much different than their own. At the same time, we all see our most vulnerable and voiceless citizens, our homeless neighbors, still living on our streets. Thus, our hearts and minds returned to Sr. Char and Dorothy Day. **We asked: How do we introduce Dorothy Day to our Tampa community?** Could Tampa embrace the idea of "radical hospitality" as a way to love our neighbors who struggle with chronic homelessness? Is there interest and willingness?

After completing our first six-week study of Dorothy Day's examples of love, we were humbled by the "YES" response from 12 attendees. We understand that hospitality may not always change the status of homelessness, but could relationships, with loving volunteers, give these neighbors a safe space and a sense of dignity, respect, and belonging in our community? We believe so.

Last month's newsletter detailed a model for a homeless drop-in center that our Development Board decided would be the beginning project of Dorothy Day Tampa. The start-up legal paperwork has been completed and filed. Now we start the logistical development!

Ann M. Doyle

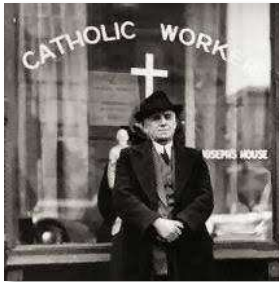
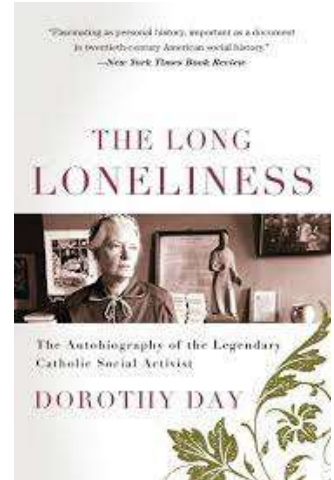
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Come and journey. We continue to invite those interested to join us at the initiative's ground floor for a six-week virtual study of Dorothy Day's autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*. We will introduce and explore Dorothy Day's model of hospitality, as we assemble a development team and begin a two-year ministry development process to create a fully functional Dorothy Day Tampa. We plan to continue the study groups to engage and nurture participants as vision carriers to further develop Dorothy Day Tampa and begin providing services.

"There are two ways to look at your life – the Well-Planned life vs the Summoned life." – David Brooks, *The Summoned Life*

If you are a person leading a *Summoned Life* and asking, **"What are my circumstances asking me to do?"** we welcome you to explore joining and journeying in faith with us. **Our next virtual study group, starting June 8th 2022, is forming.** For details, please contact Michael 813-466-9166 (cell).



"I want a change, and a radical change. I want a change from an acquisitive society to a functional society, from a society of go-getters to a society of go-givers." – Peter Maurin, Catholic Worker Founder, 1933

"My life looks very different than Day's did, but her witness continues to prod me out of the deep ruts in today's political and ideological discourse. Her daily, radical faithfulness dares me to imagine a world made new." - Tish Warren, *The New York Times*

If replicating Dorothy Day's radical hospitality, in service to our most underserved Tampa neighbors, resonates with you as an undertaking deserving your support, we welcome your *"ground floor"* financial or practical help at any level.

"It takes energy to sustain the broken connection within us; splitting our lives from our values. We want to address injustice but stay silent while the environment is ravaged and families sleep in the streets. When we shrink from the world, our souls shrink, too." – Paul Rogat Loeb, *Soul of a Citizen*

Missing resources:

- **Ministry location** – centrally located storefront, building, 3+ bedroom home, unused church building, vacant lot, or distressed property of any kind to be rehabbed.
- **Prayer support**
- **Study group participants** for six-week studies.
- **Seed money** for start-up media services and legal services; funds for study books (\$150 for ten books).

"[T]he only solution is love and that love comes with community. It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on." – Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

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P.S. *We cannot do this without your support!*

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