

NORTH FAIRMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER



If you haven't heard yet I want you to know that I moved from my office on the lower level of the North Fairmount Community Center at 2569 St. Leo Place to the first floor of our rental office at 1826 Baltimore Avenue (corner of Baltimore and Geiger).

I came to work as a Pastoral Assistant for St. Leo Catholic Church in 1979 when Father Jim Shappelle was Pastor. My office then was in the Church Rectory.

When we began the development of the North Fairmount Community Center as a non-profit organization we leased the school building and my office moved to a very small corner space at the rear of the first floor. Eventually we outgrew that space and moved to the lower level at the front of the building (the former Thrift Shop). My love affair with all of North Fairmount and surrounding neighborhood has been going on for 36 years.

I struggle to find words that can express what that was like. I found kind, generous, loving, caring people as I walked the neighborhood almost every day for years. I wanted to know them and know what they wanted for themselves and for others. It was such an incredible experience. Even the guys on the garbage trucks knew me. The mail carriers and meter readers often talked about how much safer things had become.

We started a Food Co-op and Thrift Shop which became like a Community Center. Folks would drop in sometimes just to talk. Seniors were coming out of their shade-drawn homes to enjoy their neighbors, their churches and other activities. People in cars would stop to talk when they saw me.

I was in Seventh Heaven. Whenever things became difficult or challenging, I would go outside. The people were the ones who gave me the strength to keep going.

I was born here, my mother was raised here and my grandmother died exactly one year before I was born. I firmly believe she is a real part of my being here and loving it beyond words.

The most exciting thing about my new office is that the door will be open five days a week and I invite everyone to stop in. When the Center was not rented I felt like I needed to limit access. It was so hard for me not to have lots of people stopping by. You can also call me at 921-5842 (the same number), fax me at 921-8949, or email me at NFCC@fuse.net.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. - Lois Broerman, Co-Director

Fun Fact: 2569 St. Leo Place is the address of the old St. Leo School. North Fairmount Community Center purchased the property from the church in 2006.

