



THE
GLOBE
STAR

NAVIGATOR

mentoring a spirit of gentleness for individuals with disabilities



We Make the Road by Walking

The writings and teachings of Dr. Paulo Freire (1921-1997), a philosopher and educator from Brazil, are considered to be some of the 20th century's most influential works about education that focused on expanding knowledge with positive action and development of community.

Founder of Gentle Teaching, Dr. John J. McGee, was very inspired by Freire's works, and knew him personally. The Gentle Teaching journey is about mutual change, building relationships and collaborative interaction based on **dialogue**.

'Dialogue is central to Gentle Teaching,' as Dr. McGee said. "It's not just our talking; it's our whole communication with another."

Freire illuminated a well-focused narrative ethic for paving the roads of education or 'critical pedagogy' as he named it. Each person sustains absolute human value, and in mutual respect, each one's knowledge (ascertained by 'hopeful inquiry' that is processed through 'critical compassion') and path of experience, should be incorporated into the educational process.

With this approach, education poses as a personal and local call to action through which individuals and communities can learn and grow from a grassroots level, cultivating individual/personal development that opts for the kind of perceptual change that impacts greater society.

This is the 'mutual change' dynamic in our work at Globe Star that 'mentors a spirit of gentleness for individuals with disabilities.' Director Dr. Anthony M. McCrovitz and his wife, Amanda, were longtime colleagues of the late Dr. John McGee, often joining him in his work with Gentle Teaching in Puerto Rico.

Based on the principles and practice of Gentle Teaching, Dr. McCrovitz developed a dialogue-based model of service at Globe Star that focuses on the 'mutual change process leading to companionship and community,' that Dr. McGee said was 'the central care giving intention of Gentle Teaching.'

Globe Star's *Quality of Life Model* maps out the design and delivery of its services and programs.

(cont. on p. 5)

"What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves."

-Paulo Freire, *We Make the Road by Walking: Conversations on Education and Social Change*

From the Executive Director



Journeying with Gentle Teaching...

As we provide services based on the framework of Gentle Teaching and engage in dialogue with others, a question we often ask ourselves is about *presence*.

‘Presence’ is one of the tools of Gentle Teaching (eyes, hands, words, *presence*). When we build relationships at Globe Star, our presence begins with awareness and openness to the processes of learning and growing together, of being loving and available without conditions. Accepting the present invitation to move with compassion toward a situation or circumstances brings our interactions into focus with the framework of Gentle Teaching.

How do we become present and how do we remain present to facilitate the creating of meaningful moments, especially during times of conflict?

It helps when we understand that the individual is not trying to grab our attention, make an escape, address a sensory need or get an object, but is confronted with the sometimes seemingly insurmountable task of *assimilating* (adding new information to existing knowledge) and *accommodating* (changing old ideas and beliefs with this new information).

A bridge of understanding needs to be built and, at the same time, this understanding needs to become accessible knowledge for one’s own social/emotional development. Any variety of low-range perceptions and moral memories that one identifies himself with as to who he is and who he continues to become, obstructs one’s ability and restricts one’s possibility to engage in a collaborative effort to build a bridge--- or trust a relationship. *(continued on page 3)*



Special Olympics Summer Games

Each year the Globe Star community looks forward to the challenge and exciting opportunities we are given for supporting and participating in the Special Summer Olympic Games.

First held in Indianapolis in 1969, the Summer Games is one of the most exciting and by far the largest competition that Special Olympics Indiana brings to the state.

This year’s event began Friday evening, June 6, with Opening Ceremonies at the Hulman Center at Indiana State University Campus.

The Globe Star community joined many others all across Indiana, and traveled to Terre Haute to participate in the event on June 6, 7, and 8.

We celebrate all of our community members who participated in these games, all of them bringing home medals and ribbons.

And we are thankful for the daily privilege we have at Globe Star of being present to interact with the individuals we serve. In valuing one another, we develop companionship and build relationships that ‘go for the gold’ of feeling safe and loved.

In the relationships we build, it is the meaningful moments we create and facilitate that become recognized and affect one’s sense of value and self-worth.

‘Winning’ is not about extraneous awards or rewards, but about the full, rewarding experience one learns he can achieve in life.

We have so much to celebrate!!!

From the Executive Director... *Journeying with Gentle Teaching*

(continued from page 2)

How does one come to recognize his own goodness and feel valued as a human being? How does one experience a sense of belonging with others because he can feel loved and also become loving? How does one interact with his world and participate in ways that create meaning for one's life so that one can live a meaningful, rewarding life?

Building relationships, creating companionship and developing community all help in building mutually beneficial bridges of knowledge and understanding that help us walk from old ways to new ways (through assimilation and accommodation).

The materials we incorporate for this understanding come from *social fabric* that is created through our interactions and dialogue. By engaging in processes of collaborative learning, we participate in paving the paths upon which concrete experience becomes poured. (*We make the road by walking*)

Navigating the course of the Gentle Teaching framework builds on trust and nurtures the foundation of safe and loved. It provides us with the opportunity to engage with one another in creating companionship and developing a sense of community. The manner of our presence communicates our awareness, our focus. An

individual will pick up the message of whether or not we are aware of their presence or if, instead, we are focused on their behavior.

Our loving presence welcomes another's, without conditions. The invitation to engage in learning about living is held by our unwavering presence, accepting of another's gifts and possibilities, as well as their vulnerabilities as they begin to unfold, with us, their joys and their fears, and as they learn about doing things with us, with others and for others.

It's important to understand, especially in a moment when one might ask us 'why,' 'what,' 'do I have to,' that we **be** in that

moment and remain focused on what is 'presented' through the scope of Gentle Teaching: unconditionally safe and loved.

We learn to pay attention to what can unfold through conditions of safe, loved, loving and engaged, and remain present to this knowledge and let it become known through our presence.

“Presence
begins with awareness and
openness to the processes of
learning and growing together,
of being loving and available
without conditions”
-Dr. Anthony M. McCrovitz




Dr. Anthony M. McCrovitz
Executive Director



Preparations continue for the South Bend office to become a Snoezelen Center for the community. Re-published here is some local press that Globe Star received in a recent issue of the South Bend publication, the River Park Newsletter.

Globe Star

by Robert Hosier

Located in a picturesque historical house at 935 South Ironwood Drive, Globe Star is a River Park treasure few are aware of. Globe Star is a human services organization providing services to individuals with disabilities, their families and the community. Headquartered in Chesterton IN, with additional offices in Indianapolis and Warsaw, along with their South Bend office, the organization

seeks to mentor individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in achieving a quality of life that fosters interdependency within their own community, creating companionship, and formulating a sense of community. Globe Star achieves this through three "Quality of Life" programs; "Quality of



Globe Star's Megan Allen and Wendy Johnson stand in what they hope will become a certified "Snoezelen Room", a controlled multisensory environment (MSE) used as a therapy for people with autism and/or developmental disabilities.

Community Life" offering residential, respite, and community-participation services, "Quality of Mentoring Life" with behavioral and crisis-intervention services, and "Quality of Work Life" with supported employment and pre-vocational services. By promoting human growth potential through "Gentle Teaching," a non-violent approach for helping people, the focus is on building a relationship rather than modifying behaviors. Gentle Teachers use their hands, words, eyes, and presence to help individuals feel safe and valued. With a spirit of gentleness they *Value, Teach and Protect* the

person, encouraging the person to *Reciprocate* valuing back to them. Globe Star is currently in search of quality caregivers that can unconditionally value the individuals being worked with, build a relationship with that person and embrace a spirit of gentleness and evoke peace even in the face of difficulty. Globe Star provides complete training before people commence working on their own and support when working with clients. Pay is commensurate with experience and skill. For more information, either to seek services or employment, call the River Park office at 574-246-131 and/or visit their web site globe-star.org.

Neighborhood Crime Watch Captains

by Phil Niswonger

Visit our RPNA booth to sign up to be a Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain during River Park Days after the parade on the SE corner of Mishawaka Avenue and 30th Street.. River Park is the most organized NCW with over

100 captains in our NETWORK. Help make River Park even more safe with your assistance. All you need is a local phone number. All those that sign up will be entered to win one of four free hair cuts or hairstyles.



Walking...continued from p. 1



The scope of Gentle Teaching creates the essential paradigm that forms the framework of mutual respect and unconditional love. It is this framework that engages us in collaborative relationships that create the capacity and ever-widening possibilities for authentic learning and living.

We Make the Road by Walking, a book published in 1990, invites readers to listen in on conversations about social justice and education in a collection of recorded dialogue between Freire and his American colleague Myles Horton, another influential thinker on social change.

Whether an educator or a student, or simply one and another, it is about engaging in the processes together, as learners, creating a collaborative field of exploration, discovery and insight.

In this book, both Freire and Horton expose roots of political and social dynamics that shape education and impact the development of human beings, illustrating how each one's active participation in the educational processes is what primarily contributes to social change and liberation of the authentic Self.

The narrative ethic of Gentle Teaching unfolds through dialogue. We communicate with our tools (hands, eyes, words, presence) and interact with others using visual and meaningful dialogue that evolves through the development of language, founded on the four pillars of Gentle Teaching that teach one to feel *safe, loved, loving and engaged*.

How we communicate with our tools and formulate dialogue creates mutual accessibility to a threshold of trust, opening up the invitation for engagement. Being void of behavioral conditions, the encounter

invokes meaning for the quest to become human. It signifies respect for humanity and values the moral memory of each one's existence, recognizing the distinct privilege we have with one another on this road, that together, we learn to walk.

The dialogue itself becomes a way of responding to our inherent *calling* to grow; *to become* human. Each one's *call to action* is guided by interactions that reflect an unconditional capacity for living life. At the same time, the dialogue becomes what is *reflected upon*, influencing each one's awareness and possibilities. (social justice-making)

This includes an individual's intrinsic motivation for learning how to feel safe and loved, as this path of dialogue is an accessible road for whatever sparks one's genuine curiosity for learning and living---for being and 'becoming human.'

The road of Gentle Teaching is a foundation of gentleness and unconditional love. At the same time, ***Gentle Teaching becomes the walk itself as it becomes the dialogue.***

Through our Gentle Teaching-based services and programs at Globe Star, the conscious valuing of one another conveys meaning. The motion of dialogue and gesture toward community shapes the language that constructs the dialogue we are able to engage in with others.

Together, we enter a dimension of hope that invites each one of us to *be* and also *to become* human. ~

On Board at Globe Star

We saw some **new faces** around Globe Star this summer,



and **welcome** Allana Linn and Matthew Seip who have joined us as Navigator Mentors.

Matthew, a longtime resident of Crown Point, completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees here in Northwest Indiana.

He spent the last nine years in an acute care hospital setting after earning a master's degree in health administration from Valparaiso University.

What he says most attracted him to working with us was Globe Star's mission and values.

Allana has lived in Chesterton all of her life. She initially became acquainted with Globe Star through her cousin who benefits from our services.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue North Central, and has been a gymnastics coach for seven years.

Since joining us as a professional, Allana has made a nice transition and become a valued member of the Globe Star family.

Welcome aboard!





On The Road with Globe Star

Summer concluded with Globe Star Director, Dr. Anthony M. McCrovitz, traveling to Baltimore for another week of onsite training with our friends at *The Providence Center*, an agency that is committed to learning about creating a culture of gentleness by integrating the principles of Gentle Teaching into

"It was just an awesome week working with Tony in our program sites. It has surely boosted moral and brought us closer to creating a culture of gentleness here at Providence Center."
 -Jane Conrad, Director of Training at Providence Center

their services that meet the growing needs of approximately 500 individuals.

On the calendar for fall, Dr. McCrovitz will be the keynote speaker for the upcoming GTI (Gentle Teaching International) Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, the week of September 22nd.

At the end of October, Anthony will join International Snoezlen Association colleagues and travel to Helsinki, Finland to present at the annual Multisensory Environment XII World Conference, hosted by HAMK, a University of Applied Sciences. The title of his presentation: *The Brain Connection: Perspectives from Affective Neuroscience in our Snoezelen Model*, introduces newly published discoveries that provide a solid foundation for understanding the significance of human relationships and their central role in brain development.

The Adult Day Program at Globe Star University (GSU) is committed to four key tenets:

- ✓ **Volunteerism** provides volunteer opportunities that enable program participants to establish meaningful connections with others in the community who share a similar interests.
- ✓ **Education and Skills Development** offers education and training in functional skill development that focuses on individual strengths and interests.
- ✓ **Community Integration** identifies and nurtures opportunities for participants to be involved in leisure and recreational activities of interest to them, and facilitates their use of such community resources as libraries, parks, museums, theaters, festivals, etc.
- ✓ **Pre-Vocational Skill Training** provides training in specific job-related skills based on individual strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes, empowering them to pursue employment in an area of matched interest.

contact: Mary Ellen (219.921.5492, ext5,#) www.globe-star.org



Gentle Teaching

The Gentle Teaching approach teaches caregivers to embrace a "culture of life" over a "culture of death." What are the elements that constitute these cultures?

Culture of life...

- * Based on **companionship**
- * Leading to **community**
- * Centered on the **person**
- * **Mutual change begins with us**

A spirit of gentleness is about...

- * Our **nonviolence**
- * Our sense of **social justice**
- * Our expression of **unconditional love**
- * Our warmth toward those who are **cold**
- * Our teaching others to feel **safe, loved, loving, and engaged**
- * Our teaching a feeling of **companionship with the most marginalized**
- * Our forming **community**
- * Our sense of human **interdependence and**

solidarity

- * Our option to be **side by side with the most devalued**

Culture of death...

- * Based on **control**
- * Leading to **compliance**
- * Centered on **behavior**
- * **Imposed change under the guise of choice a feeling of companionship with the most marginalized**

Updates from the GLOBE STAR offices

The **Warsaw Office** Social Skills group meets on Monday afternoons for games, discussions, and making colorful, seasonal decorations. Everyone raves about the camaraderie and says they are really enjoying our times together.

Special shoutout to our caregiver, Doreen Honeycutt, who did a fantastic job of advocating for Sondra K. Doreen has worked with Sondra for several years, and Doreen recently applied to United Way for much needed repairs at Sondra’s home.

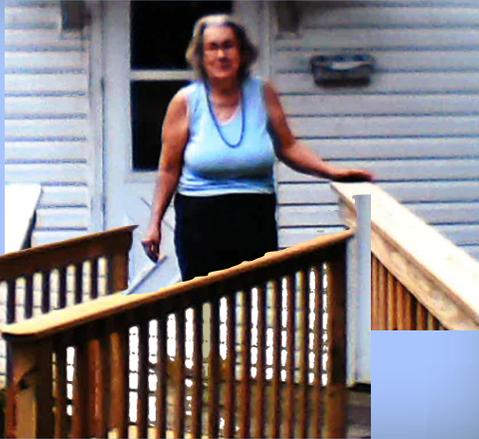
Sondra’s application was chosen for a *Day of Caring* on August 13. A foreman and his crew arrived, prepared to do more work on her home than was requested. They power washed the house and porch,

washed the windows and screens, and repaired the porch and built a ramp with handrails. After painting the table and chair that sits on her porch, they checked the roof and told Doreen to put in for a new roof

next year for Sondra. They cleaned out the gutters, cleaned up the yard, mowed, planted flowers, and even painted the shed!

Afterward, Doreen helped Sondra write a thank you note and submit it to the newspaper.

Day of Caring was a big blessing for everyone involved and who prepared for and shared this rewarding day together.



WE ARE HERE!

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
LEARN MORE, CONTACT US.

website www.globe-star.org

email info@globe-star.org

Main Office - phone (219) 921-5492

Main Office - address 621 Broadway
Chesterton,
Indiana 46304

Newsletter Crew

The Navigator is a newsletter published for Globe Star, LLC by the Quality of Life Institute, a non-profit organization

For a free subscription, write or e-mail us at: navigator@globe-star.org.

Executive Director:
Dr. Anthony M. McCrovitz

Associate Editor:
Mara Hawks

Contributors
Zathoe Sexton
Mary Ellen Sullivan
Dawn Ivanyo
Megan Allen
Samantha Henley
Carole Steele
Wendy Johnson



GLOBE STAR, LLC is a service provider that views caregiving through the scope of Gentle Teaching. Through this framework, we navigate with a compass of compassion on our course to Value, Teach, Protect and Reciprocate.

As navigators, we strive to facilitate the Individual’s journey to destinations where they are able to experience and dwell in the destiny and dignity of being human.

-Dr. Anthony McCrovitz, Director