



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 11, 2007

### MINUTES

The KSF Advisory Council met on Monday, June 11, 2007 from 5:00 to 7:00 in the Peace Chapel. Members present were: Sharon Smith, Terri Klawonn, Debbie Humphrey, Bruce Holland, Tom Mulhall, Pat Mathis, Fran Smith, Tom Smith, and Kevin Smith (via phone conference). Members absent: Fr. Bill Hitpas and Bernadette Middeke.

We began the meeting with a report and evaluation of the June 2 and 3 **“Erase the Stigma” Conference** held at the Shrine. There were about 100 people each day and the written evaluations were very positive, with most participants saying they will return for another conference next year and will try to bring someone with them. The testimony of the people on our Advisory Council who attended was also positive, with the most common observation being that we had an effective balance between helpful information and personal testimony. We agreed to work with the Shrine, the archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Elizabeth Hospital and the St. Clair County Mental Health Board to host another conference next year.

Sharon Smith then reported on the plans for the upcoming **Dinner/Auction** on June 30. The Fundraising Committee has worked hard and well in organizing and promoting the Dinner/Auction. Auction items were coming in very nicely. During the meeting she received a phone call confirming a donation of a \$6000 hot tub from Munie’s, the biggest item at the auction. Sharon expressed some concern about the number of attendees – reservations were less than hoped at the time. She asked the Council to help promote the Dinner/Auction in the next few weeks.

We then discussed the **“Visits with Families” program**. The Financial Aid Committee worked out many of the details of the program and a subsequent meeting with Mike Conley from St. Elizabeth’s reinforced the need for this approach. While we still have to finalize some aspects of the program, the Council agreed that KSF should begin a pilot project with St. Elizabeth’s in the near future. The plans for the program are mature enough at this point to announce it at the Dinner/Auction on June 30.

Tom Smith reported on some follow-up to the **faith based initiative** we discussed at the last meeting. We are planning to begin a mention of mental health issues at a daily Mass once a month in a number of parishes, and to continue at least an annual Prayer Service. On another related topic, Archbishop Gregory sent a proposal to the Administrative



Committee of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops for a statement related to mental illness and suicide.

**The Directors'** commented on an upcoming panel/presentation at the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers national conference in Denver in June. This presentation will give us a chance to outline the mission of KSF to people from all over the country. Tom and Fran also announced that KSF will be the recipient of the Fr. Charles Rubey Award at the LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) banquet next April in Chicago. This is a national award given to people and/or organizations who have contributed to suicide awareness, prevention, and/or grief support. The Directors' also reported that the support groups remain steady and helpful. Tom said he is working with Catholic Social Services in establishing possible KSF support groups in Mt. Vernon and Carbondale.

Other committee reports included an update from the **Resources Committee**, who said they will have a list of local resources for KSF in the near future.

We asked each committee to submit **their goals and budget** needs for 2008 for the September 17 Advisory Council meeting. These goals and budgets will be reviewed and then finalized during the December 3 Advisory Council meeting. Forms developed by the Financial Aid Committee will be distributed to each committee in order to standardize the budget request process.

During the rest of the meeting we brainstormed regarding the **Communications Committee** question: how do we extend the message and mission of KSF? Some suggestions: newspaper informational ads, news features, announcement of the LOSS award next spring, radio and/or TV interviews, book interviews coinciding with the publication of the new editions of *The Tattered Tapestry* and the possible publication of *A Balanced Life*, networking with local mental health providers, and personal testimony. Tom Mulhall offered to contact the Belleville News Democrat for a possible feature article related to the Dinner/Auction (subsequently published 6/24/07) and to coordinate with Sharon on ads for the Dinner/Auction. We will also do some informational ads in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 with a reminder that our next meeting will be on Monday, September 17 at 5:00 in the Peace Chapel. The Council agreed that we need not provide a meal but that light snacks and a drink would be sufficient for the meeting.