

# the **Stand** south side news

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Syracuse, NY

**SEPTEMBER 2013 Issue 28 FREE**

## ANNUAL PHOTO WALK

Participants snap their way through the South Side for a fourth year

## Community Organizer

Phil Prehn of SUN advocates for residents' rights

## farm fresh

Diane Turner brings produce directly to customers

Fanny Villarreal makes it her goal to lead by example

## Empower women

## PASTOR TANYHILL'S MISSION



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PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**SPECIAL THANKS  
THIS MONTH**DEAN LORRAINE BRANHAM, AMY  
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ASHLEY@MYSOUTHSIDESTAND.COMTHE STAND IS BASED OUT OF THE  
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER  
2331 SOUTH SALINA STREET  
SYRACUSE, NY 13205**4** **FEATURE** | South Side Achiever Dale Harp shares his life story in his first novel, "The Day My Dawgs Ran," to encourage youth to stay on the right path.**6** **PROFILE** | David Tanyhill, the Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church pastor, makes youth his priority.**10** **FEATURE** | View a collection of the best images from participants in The Stand's Fourth annual Photo Walk, held this summer.**14** **PROFILE** | The new director of the YWCA, Fanny Villarreal, works to fulfill the organization's mission to empower women and eliminate racism.**18** **PROFILE** | Founder of the Farm Fresh Mobile Market, Diane Turner, greets customers with warm welcomes and fresh produce.**22** **PROFILE** | Syracuse United Neighbors community organizer Phil Prehn works to ensure residents have their voices heard.

■ Cover photography from South Side Photo Walk by Candace O'Brien

## CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER

**What:** South Side Coalition annual Cocktail Party**When:** 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12**Where:** South Side Communication Center, 2331 S. Salina St.**More Details:** Enjoy an evening filled with fun, festivities, music and food. The goal of the Southside Community Coalition is to restore, revitalize and rejuvenate Syracuse's South Side community through a partnership with community residents, agencies, organizations, and Syracuse University.**Cost:** Tickets \$25**For Tickets:** Call the center at (315) 314-6303 or Coalition member Shante at (315) 391-8231**What:** Legends of Jazz Series featuring Dianne Reeves**When:** 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27**Where:** Onondaga Community College, Storer Auditorium, 4585 W. Seneca Turnpike**More Details:** The first concert of this season's Jazz Series features Grammy award-winning and nominated artist Dianne Reeves. She is among the world's top jazz vocalists and a three-time Grammy Award winner.**Cost:** \$25 for single performance or \$50 for the season**For tickets:** Call (315) 498-2772 or visit [www.srcarena.com](http://www.srcarena.com)

## MEET NEW STAFF REPORTER

My name is Shannon Naomi Kamalamalamao'nalani Rosenberg, and I come all the way from Kailua, Hawaii. I am a graduate student at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications pursuing a master's degree in magazine, newspaper and online journalism. I graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 2013, with a degree in both journalism and psychology. I have interned for many publications, including The Cincinnati Enquirer, The Oxford Press, Midweek Newspaper and Magazine Co. I also have written for various other magazines, both in print and online. I am a soccer fanatic and a sushi connoisseur.

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This summer we partnered with a group of teens (see more about them, below) who will contribute video stories to The Stand's website. Keep an eye out for their first pieces — profiles from this summer's Juneteenth celebration.

Also this summer, we held another successful Photo Walk. You can view images from our attendees on Pages 10 through 12.

The Stand's community workshops will be on hiatus until 2014 when I return from maternity leave. In the meantime, anyone with story ideas or interest in working with The Stand can contact its founder, professor Steve Davis, at jsdavi02@syr.edu or (315) 443-3371. The project is also seeking new board members.

Before I go on break in October, I'll get to meet and train our new reporting students, editors and the designer.

For now, dive into a special collection of profiles about some active community members.

Ashley Kang



## SPECIAL PROFILE SERIES

This issue features four profiles of community members. We take this opportunity each year to offer this special profile series, which expands on The Stand's regular "Achiever" feature.

The Stand is all about people who are contributing to the South Side community. If you have a nomination for our regular "Achiever" profile, please let us know.

## The Stand Collaborates with Teens on Videos

The Stand recently invited local teens to contribute videos for publication on the newspaper's online site at mysouthsidestand.com. The teens worked under the direction of Vincent Cobb, instructional technology analyst at the Newhouse School.

Students were trained by Cobb and community volunteers on video equipment and editing software in summer 2013. Next, the students worked as reporters under the direction of volunteer broadcast journalism students to create news stories about South Side residents and events.

Youth and volunteers are working out of the Greater Evangelical Church of God in Christ, located at 4325 S. Salina St., where students have access to a computer lab and equipment.

The teens completed their first pieces as part of The Stand's annual Juneteenth celebration coverage. Their final videos are still in production but will be shared online soon!



> Vincent Cobb instructs students before sending them out to collect video of Juneteenth. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo



1



2



3

> The Stand youth broadcast reporters pose for team photos with their graduate student mentor before leaving to cover the Juneteenth celebration. Team 1: Travis Balaam, Cherish Cobb, Zjonai Butler and mentor Ahiza Garcia. Team 2: Tr'von Balaam and Latina Smith with mentor student Kori Hale. Team 3: Niezjohn Butler, Zaya Thompson, mentor Farron Stark and Devonte Hart. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo

## LOCAL ACHIEVERS

The South Side Achiever is a feature in The Stand that highlights an accomplished person in the community.



# Dale Harp

*Shares the power of the written word*

By | Natalie Caceres  
Staff reporter

With his writing, Harp is on a mission to educate youth on making the right choices

When you meet Dale Harp you can't help but want to pull up a chair and listen to his life story. His demeanor is so warm and inviting you feel you've known him your entire life.

Having gone through some rather difficult times in his life, some of which include various stints in jail, Harp wants to use his experiences as a model for young people who may be headed on the wrong path. He wants them to know they have the power to pave a better future.

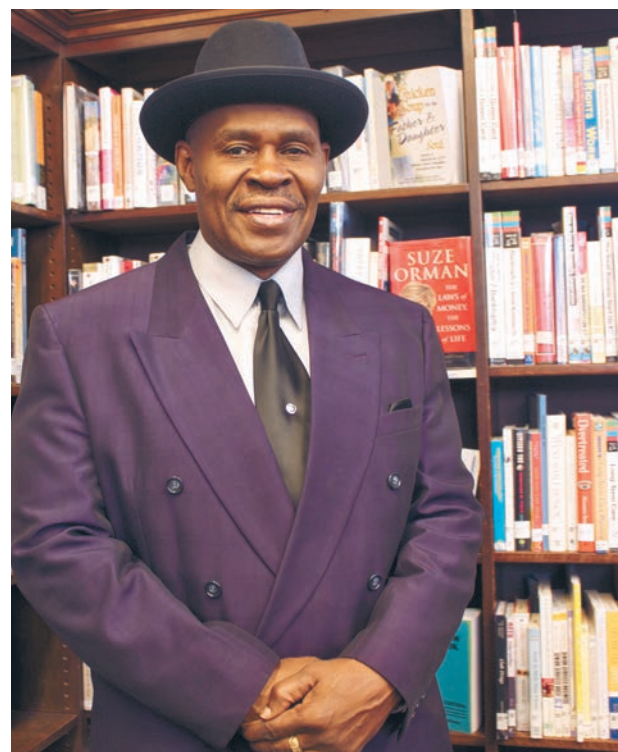
With the release of his first novel, "The Day My Dawgs Ran," in August 2011, Harp is determined to enrich the lives of others through the written word about how difficult, yet instructive, life can be.

"I try to tell kids that when you go to jail, you're walking dead; if you go to the streets, you're going to get an early grave or 30 years to life," Harp said about youth who trivialize incarceration rather than take it seriously.

"By the grace of God I made it to 60. I first made it to 30 and then [God] graciously gave me 30 more. I feel what I'm doing right now is what he sent me to do."

Harp is a Syracuse native and has grown up all over the city. However, it was on the South Side where he spent most of his childhood. It was in his early years that he found himself making wrong decisions that would ultimately bring about his first visit to jail.

"Coming up in school, I used to think that being a tough guy was the way to go," Harp said about his mentality as a young man. "At 16, I began drinking beer and wine every day." It was his clouded judgment, sometimes



> Dale Harp poses at Beauchamp Branch Library. Harp enjoys spending much of his free time reading at local libraries. | Natalie Caceres, Staff Photo

fueled by alcohol and substance abuse, that landed him a four-year sentence at the Elmira Correctional Facility after he broke into a store with two other individuals.

"With any gang out there, you're going to go down some type of way," Harp noted about the real dangers of forming such associations. He recognizes that his association with people who were often bad influences didn't exactly pave the correct path at the time. His childhood friend, KaRon White, who has experienced similar hurdles (and often with Harp), agrees.

"I've been through more stuff than most people would go through in three or four lifetimes," White said. A supporter of Harp and his efforts, White adds that young people today can learn from their mistakes by reading Harp's book.

"You have to more or less get your bumps and bruises as you go along," White added. "Experience can be one of your better bruises."

Those harsh lessons only helped to inspire Harp to educate those around him — rather than dwell on

### NOMINATE SOMEONE

Do you know a South Side Achiever? Nominate that person by contacting Ashley@mysouthsideside.com or (315) 882-1054

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be angry about his circumstances. He especially wants young men to learn that being a man isn't defined by how tough or macho you are. Instead, it's about realizing the world of opportunity out there and the power behind learning how to practice patience.

"[The book] is to show kids that the same person you're running down the street with is the same one that will get you killed or put in jail," Harp said. "I try to instill in some of these kids that in 10 years you'll be a little bit smarter. In 20, you'll be a lot more intelligent. And in 30, you'll have grown to be wiser."

The idea for "The Day My Dawgs Ran" came about the last time Harp was in jail, in 2006. He began thinking what his life would be like if he were incarcerated the rest of his life.

"When I got to jail, I found myself on the same floor that I was on 30 years ago ... I couldn't believe that anybody could tell me I would be back on the same floor," Harp said about the realization that he wanted to change his life. "When I found myself in there, all I could say was that this was a godsend ... I wasn't just going to do the time, I was going to write a book."

Harp began to teach himself how to type using a typing software. Often starting at midnight, he would write well into the morning. He averaged about four pages a night, and on Nov. 18, 2006, after coming into work one day, he realized he was done with the book.

"When I finished typing up the pages, it was 289 pages," Harp said. "When the book came out it was 401 pages." In the months and years that followed, Harp tried to get the book published. Eventually Harp discovered that through a private printing company, distributing the novel himself was the preferred way. He's still hopeful that a publishing deal is in the near future.

Friend and former co-worker Steve Bodnar, who worked with Harp at what used to be New Venture Gear Chrysler (and was eventually sold to Magna International Inc.), finds Harp's mission to be inspiring and hopefully useful for the many young people out there who may be taking a wrong turn.

"It puts everything in perspective as far as one person's view of how and why things happened," Bodnar said. "The book lets you know, maybe scare you in a sense ... that crime is not the answer." Bodnar has read the book himself and even given a copy to a friend he believed could use it as a guide to solving his troubles. And despite not working together anymore, Bodnar continues to be proud and motivated by Harp's passionate work.

"He's dedicated to his faith and a person that is always giving back to society for what he's gone through ... He's not looking for handouts, he wants to do it the right way. He's an all-around gentleman."

Harp, humble about his efforts and always optimistic about the future, hopes young people will relate to him through his novel.

"My mission is to give kids something better to do,"



> Dale Harp taught himself how to type so he could write his book. Here, he types on a laptop in Beauchamp Branch Library. | Natalie Caceres, Staff Photo

Harp said, "and what better person to show you how to do that than someone who's been through it themselves?"

His life purpose, as he says, is best described through a metaphor.

"You could lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. God is leading us to the water, but he can't make us drink. It's our jobs to tell kids, 'Do something positive,'" Harp said. "You can't make them do it, but you can tell them." And his writing is doing just that.

## ETERNAL ARTIST

Dale Harp, an impeccable artist, says the idea for the cover image of "The Day My Dawgs Ran" came from a moment when he was lying in his jail cell.

"I looked up and there were several pieces of paper and toothpaste all around and illuminated by the fluorescent light. I saw what I thought looked like two guys running down the street with dogs as their heads."

Harp immediately drew the image and saved it for the day he knew the book would eventually be published.

The idea for the spelling of "Dawgs" came from the vernacular that many use to call each other — a sort of tough guy definition.

**To learn more,** visit [thedaymydawgsran.com](http://thedaymydawgsran.com)

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*PASTOR:*

## DAVID TANYHILL

*Advocate for local youth supports, champions their successes*



# *“I became a father figure for all kids”*

By | Farron Stark  
Urban Affairs reporter

## Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church pastor makes local youth his top priority

**A**shley Noel was sitting beside her mother in the red pews of the church she grew up in but had left for years. She never expected what happened to her one Sunday morning during service. The pastor called her out to come before the congregation.

“I was so shocked I didn’t know what to say,” Noel recalled. But then, in front of hundreds of other believers, he told her that she was sitting on a gift and he wanted her to use it.

Nervous and shaking in front of the microphone, she stood before the audience with the pastor and his wife, now standing next to her. He wanted her to sing. To sing any song that came to her heart. So using the words of Beverly Crawford, she revealed her gift and sang “Inhabit My Praise.”

Noel says the experience changed her life’s mission, and she credits her pastor for her growth.

“He has taught me the importance of not just being able to sing, but also the ministry behind it,” she said. And since then, she added, he calls her one of his daughters.

Pastor David Tanyhill Jr. has been at the Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church for 15 years, overseeing a growing congregation that gathers in a new worship sanctuary.

Youth is his top priority.

When he was only 9, Tanyhill’s father walked out on him. His mother raised him to go to church and put his faith in the Lord, but he says he followed a different path in his teen years to manhood. He wanted nice clothes and a new car, and never had a strong male role model to show him the proper way to get the things he wanted out of life. It wasn’t until he was 18 and joined the military that he pulled through his rebellious stage and began to accept his higher calling.

“I never wanted to see another kid go through what I went through to make it in life so I became a father figure for all kids,” he said.

More than 23 million children in the country live in single-parent households, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That same data reveals that nearly 75 percent of African-American children live without their father in the home.

After Tanyhill initially settled in as pastor of the

church, he knew he wanted to build a youth program. He had the idea for project HOPE, which stands for Help Our People Excel. Little did he know that Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler (then an officer) was listening and was a member of the congregation. Wheels turned, and within a few years a summer camp was a reality, serving nearly 300 children between the ages of 7 and 17 from the time school recesses until two weeks before the New York State Fair opens.

“Part of the program is that they must have holistic rehabilitation processes, which means that faith has to be involved in it,” Tanyhill said. “We teach them that there is a higher power and you need to be able to reach out to God.”

Noel was a member in the beginning stages of the youth program before she had to move away to Nashville, Tenn., to take care of her ailing grandmother. When she returned at the end of her teen years, she found herself as more of a spectator during worship and at other activities until the pastor singled her out.

“He’ll ask me if I know why I sing and if I can show scriptures in the Bible that speak to me about singing,” she said. “And he calls on me to help with the kids now.”

Noel was raised as an only child in a single-parent household. Her mother paid for her to have singing lessons but it wasn’t until Tanyhill stepped in that she used her skills more for God. The night before a children’s music recital, the kids didn’t have musical numbers picked, and Tanyhill personally went to her to make sure they would have something prepared for the performance. The next day, they were the first group to perform — and were a hit, she says.

One of the young girls who performed in the choir and is part of the youth program now is 14-year-old Sydney Hall. She, too, was raised at Bellegrove and under the leadership of Tanyhill.

“He tells me how I should be a leader,” Hall said. “People watch me, so I should be a good example.”

Most recently, the church got a new minister that many of the young girls didn’t talk to. Tanyhill told Hall to step up and be the first one to open up because other youth would follow. She did, and also takes that advice to Corcoran High School, where she knows some of her friends go to church sometimes because their parents make them, but they don’t spend as much time outside of Sunday mornings applying what they’ve learned.

And Tanyhill’s work with the youth isn’t just directly

## CHURCH HISTORY

Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1959.

Pastor David Tanyhill has expanded the opportunities for women at the church since he’s been there. In June 2002 the church had its first woman licensed into the ministry. Two years later, the first lady — Sister Laura Tanyhill — was licensed into gospel ministry as an evangelist.

In 2004, Tanyhill received his doctorate degree from the United Theological Seminary and in 2005 the church started the Bellegrove School of Theology, which offers local classes.

Tanyhill’s son recently became pastor of his own congregation in Syracuse.



ON THE SIDE

## ACTIVITIES

Youth activities open to all:

- Tuesday Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- Young Women's Bible Study, every first and third Friday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Young Men's Bible Study, every second and fourth Friday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

## CONTACT

Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church is located at 219 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.



> Rebecca Jinks, 4, holds on to her mother, Pam Jinks, as they sing gospel music at the Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church junior choir recital. The Jinkses are members of the Second Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, and their choir was among the participants in the recital. | Mark Logico, Staff Photo

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*Continued from Page 7*

with them, but also with their parents. One member of the congregation found out her 14-year-old daughter was pregnant; the mom was embarrassed and didn't know if she would continue going to church. But everything changed with one unexpected phone call from Tanyhill.

"I didn't know who told him, but then it was no hiding," said the mom, Nicole Hudson, a mother of three and grandmother of one. "He said, 'Don't hold your head down.' He encouraged me to keep moving forward."

Vernon Williams Jr. is the newly appointed youth pastor at Bellegrove who works closely with Tanyhill. "He's a people's pastor and especially for the youth," Williams said. "They look at him as a father figure, as someone you want to please, you don't want to let down, and he'll always steer you in the right direction."

Williams said he didn't grow up with a father, either, and looks to Tanyhill not only as a spiritual leader, but also as a father figure. At the age of 19, he lost his brother to gun violence, which is what awakened his calling to ministry and children specifically.

About a fourth of the congregation at Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church are youth, and Tanyhill and Williams ensure there are enough activities to keep them busy. Every Tuesday there is a prayer service. Tutoring is offered twice a week, girls' and boys' individual training is on alternating Fridays, and members of the youth group travel to symphonies, sporting events, and even across the country visiting college campuses to expose them to other cultures and communities.

Joshua Martin knows all of these well. He grew up at the church and now serves as the president of the youth department. He credits much of his spiritual growth to the pastor and the ongoing support from the church. Although he described his initial interactions with Tanyhill years ago as a "feeling out" process, he said their relationship has grown through a mutual trust that is shared with the entire congregation.

"He has empowered us to be leaders so it is our job to take what we do seriously and to own it," he said. "We represent the church well and we represent him."

Martin helps guide the boys in the young men's Bible training, as Hudson does with the girls in young women's Bible training on Friday nights.

"Everything we go through in life happens for a reason," said Tanyhill, quoting the scripture from Romans 8:28. "And we know, all things work together for good to them that love God and to those called according to His purpose."

Tanyhill said youth who went through his summer camp have gone on to work on Wall Street, or as lawyers, and others have joined professional athletic teams. When he preaches or speaks with them one-on-one, he doesn't worry about being politically correct, he says. He only speaks the truth and shares what he's held onto for so many years and what his mom always told him: "Keep your hand in the master's hand and one day God will raise you up."



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# South Side Photo Walk

| CANDACE O'BRIEN



| DAVID SUTHERLAND



| CAROL TERRY

The Stand's Fourth annual Photo Walk opened with a photo lesson taught by Nick Lisi, who worked at the Syracuse Post-Standard for 26 years and now teaches for the Syracuse City School District. He volunteered his time to provide pointers and guidance throughout the day's event, held July 13.

The walk welcomed 14 photographers of various skill levels and took participants down South Salina Street, through neighborhoods, into Kirk Park and back to the South Side Innovation Center. There everyone met to share their images. While at Kirk Park, participants even handed over their cameras to children playing in the park.

Additional photo walk leaders were Mike Davis and David Sutherland, both photography professors at the Newhouse School, Syracuse University.



| MIKE DAVIS



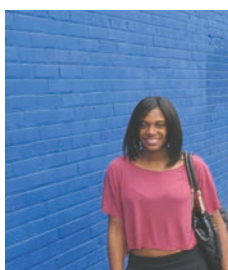
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*LEADER:* **FANNY VILLARREAL**

*Working to empower young women and lead by example*



# "I decided to do something to help"

By | Marisa DeCandido  
Urban Affairs reporter

## New director of the YWCA teaches life skills to keep girls heading on the right path

One look at Fanny Villarreal's kitchen, and it's clear that the mother of two is proud of her kids. Their artwork and examples of good grades line the cabinets, with more added every day.

"My sons are the light of my life, very active, very intrigued with everything, always questioning," Villarreal said. "I always like to hang their projects or their 100-plus grade-level work in the kitchen."

In turn, Brian, 13, and Carlos, 7, know their mom is making a difference in the Syracuse community. They recently surprised her with a gesture that made her realize how important her job really is.

"When I became the executive director of the YWCA, an announcement came out in the newspaper," she explained. "So [my kids] cut it out of the newspaper and hung it up in the kitchen, and when I came home they said, 'Mom! Look!'"

Fanny was so touched she could barely speak, Brian said.

"She was just smiling and so happy that we would do that for her."

Her new position at the YWCA adds to the ways Villarreal has had an impact on the Syracuse community. The YWCA offers a variety of programs and events targeted for women, as well as teen and adolescent girls. These programs, ranging from a housing project to motivational healthy lifestyle campaigns, combine to fulfill the mission of the YWCA: to empower women and eliminate racism.

In Syracuse, 32 percent of residents are living below the poverty level, and 66 percent of families have all parents and guardians who are present working full time, according to the U.S. Census. The YWCA addresses how this can affect women and girls, helping to motivate them to set and achieve goals.

One of those women is Kathleen Phillips, a resident of the YWCA's Women's Residence Program on the South Side. Located at 300 Burt St., the project does more than give women a place to stay. Caseworkers teach life skills that help to keep them on the right track.

"I met one of the caseworkers while I was in rehab and came as soon as I got out because I had nowhere else to go," Phillips said. "It's a wonderful program because it's young women just trying to get on their feet."

Part of the project provides women with a stable part-time job at the YWCA office, working at a newsstand in the lobby of the building.

"Because of my background, it's been hard for me to find a job," Phillips said. "Them having this newsstand, giving me an opportunity and employing me, it shows other employers that you are responsible and employable."

"(The YWCA) trusted me to give me this position, and it's helping me turn my life around."

It was through this job that Phillips met Villarreal, and she has found Villarreal to be a constructive presence in the YWCA, she said.

"I've seen that Fanny is making changes, and she is always such a positive person," Phillips said.

As executive director, Villarreal wants to give these kinds of programs more publicity in the Syracuse area. There are so many success stories, she said.

"I hope to educate the community about the services we provide," she said. "One of our programs, Girls, Inc., just got a grant for \$175,000 a year for five years that will go towards pregnancy prevention programs in two different schools. What I would love to do this year would be to provide the visibility we need to have in order to reach more women."

Villarreal's former co-worker, Taino Palermo, is confident she will. As the YWCA youth development director, Palermo works closely with Villarreal and says her straightforward and clear leadership style has done a lot for the organization.

"I have known Fanny since I was in high school, and she has always had a way of bringing people together that no one else does," Palermo said. "Just last year, she organized a dinner dance for her Nosotros radio show, and both Dan Maffei and Ann Marie Buerkle attended."

Villarreal is also someone who leads by example, Palermo said.

"When we are planning on attending an event, and maybe setting up a table, she doesn't tell people, 'OK, you have to work at the table.' She says, 'I'm going to be working the table, you can join me.' She is a very hands-on leader."

Villarreal's leadership and drive to help the less fortunate began in her home country of Peru, where she would volunteer at her church every year. Her family was well off, and its blessings were her motivation to help others, she said.

Two of her older siblings attended Syracuse

## WOMEN'S RESIDENCE

One of the highlights of the YWCA is the Women's Residence Program, a "safe, structured, and affordable housing program for women and their children," according to the YWCA website.

Women come from various situations, including prison and rehab, and receive a caseworker to help them find jobs, develop independent living skills and offer support. There are 55 apartments, both temporary housing and permanent. Fanny Villarreal says she visits the program at least once a week to meet with the women and see how they're progressing.

The program also includes the YWCA News Stand and "My Sister's Closet," both resources for women who live in the Women's Residence Program. The YWCA News Stand is an opportunity for women to find an initial stable working environment before they search for other employment. "My Sister's Closet" is an area in the Women's Residence Program where residents can find wardrobe items for the work world, self-help books and additional resources.

> Portrait of Fanny Villarreal  
| Kayla Rice, Staff Photo

Continued on Page 16

# NOSOTROS RADIO

One of Fanny Villarreal’s first projects in Syracuse was a bilingual radio show called “Nosotros.” The program — consisting of discussions about women’s issues, health issues, parenting skills tips and inspirational stories — is a way to give the Hispanic community a positive outlet, Villarreal said. The show is in both English and Spanish, and is set to Latin music. It is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Sept. 15, 2013.

**The show airs:**  
Fridays, 8 to 10 p.m.  
Saturdays, 3 to 7 p.m.  
Sundays, 4 to 6 p.m.

*Continued from Page 15*

University on scholarship, but Villarreal was not planning to follow in their footsteps. However, after a broken engagement, Villarreal decided she needed a change of scenery.

“I was a lawyer at the time, and so I decided to go to a different part of my country and there I became a judge,” she said. “I was also working for the president over there.

“I thought that would help me forget about everything, but I actually started feeling really, really depressed.”

So Villarreal decided to leave everything behind and move to Syracuse in 1991, much to the dismay of her parents.

“My father paid for my education in Peru, so he was like, ‘What?! I paid for your education and now you’re going to go there to do what?!’ ” Villarreal said with a laugh. “But I just wanted to go, so I went.”

While Villarreal wasn’t positive about what she wanted to do in Syracuse, an experience early on made her realize her passion for helping people.

“When I came here, I worked at a school, and I would cry when I saw the kids were throwing out cartons of milk because they didn’t want to drink the whole thing,” Villarreal said. “I was thinking how in my country, how many kids would love to have that little

“She has always had a way of bringing people together.”

— Taino Palermo

milk that they were throwing out. And that just made me see the difference from where I’m coming from and here. It gave me the opportunity to realize how lucky I am.

“And so when I came here, I decided to do something to help people.”

Her first stint at “helping” was a little less conventional than her recent jobs. When she first arrived



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Learn more about the Save the Rain Program and how Onondaga County is working to clean up Onondaga Lake!



Joanne M. Mahoney  
County Executive



in Syracuse, Villarreal settled into a job as a cashier at Nojaim Brothers Supermarket on the Near Westside. Her title might as well have been “social worker,” she said.

“People would come and see me, and they were asking me questions, and I said: ‘I think you should do this, I think you should do that,’” she recalled. “And whatever I told them worked, so they kept coming back and telling their friends to come.

“So there was a point where I wasn’t even doing my cashier job because most of the time I was giving advice to everybody.”

Paul Nojaim, owner of the store, saw Villarreal’s potential and set her up with Catholic Charities. From there, her career with nonprofits moved quickly. Villarreal took a job as executive director of the Spanish Action League, then went to P.E.A.C.E., Inc. to serve as the director of family and community development. That eventually led her to her current position with the YWCA, which is the best position for her yet, she said.

“I think it is an awesome opportunity for me because of my experiences,” she said. “I believe in the mission, empowering women, eliminating racism, dignity for all, freedom. I think those are the things that we all should have.”

Her passion is evident as she walks through the

YWCA office. Bustling in from a morning meeting, she greets everyone with a wide smile and a cheerful “hello.” Her desk is covered with papers, evidence of all the projects the YWCA is working on. Sitting at her desk, she flips open her calendar for April. Every day is packed from start to finish.

Villarreal’s friend and former assistant, Diana Perez, who teamed with her at the Spanish Action league, says Villarreal works tirelessly.

“At the Spanish Action League, their budget was about \$300,000 and they had nine employees,” Perez said. “When she left a couple of years later, she had doubled the staff to about 21 and tripled the budget to over \$1 million.”

People who know Villarreal — including her children — agree that her work ethic is unparalleled.

“My mom is one of the most passionate people I know,” son Brian said when describing his mom. “No matter what she is doing, or who she is working with, she always does so in the most caring way.”

Even with her busy schedule, Brian says his mom makes sure the family always has time together.

“Ever since I can remember, we have sat down for dinner at the table every night as a family. No TV on or anything, and we would share good experiences and not so good experiences.

“It’s a great way to connect to our family.”

## HOW SON SEES MOM

Fanny Villarreal’s son Brian, 13, offers three words to show his mother as both a person and as a parent.

**Passionate:** “She puts everything she has into all of her jobs, and also at home. She’s always there for me and my brother.”

**Intelligent:** “My mom always has a different and unique approach to solving problems, and it always works out.”

**Loving:** “My mom is extremely patient ... That’s how she is all the time, too.”

## Poem

*The South Side Stand is here to stay,  
For the voices in our community have a lot to say.  
The South Side Stand is here to stay,  
And our commitment to true excellence is leading the way.  
The South Side Stand is here to stay,  
And our goal is to foster community pride;  
And ultimately turn around the negative tide.*

— By Joyce A. Boahene,  
The Stand reader

### How to purchase an ad

If interested in running an ad, contact **Ashley Kang** to request a rate card and discuss options by emailing [Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com](mailto:Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com) or by calling (315) 882-1054. The Stand’s rate card can also be found online.

[www.mysouthsidestand.com](http://www.mysouthsidestand.com)





ADVOCATE: **DIANE TURNER**

*Providing access to fresh produce directly to seniors and residents*



## *“I do it from my heart”*

By | Dana Harris  
*Urban Affairs reporter*

### Farm Fresh Mobile Market works to bring healthy food and education to communities

When you walk through the doors of a small side room of the Villa Scalabrini Apartment complex, you're welcomed with a double surprise: a table filled with colorful fruits and vegetables and a warm and welcoming smile.

Virginia Diane Turner holds her arms open wide to greet with a hug, not a handshake.

“Hey honey, what would you like?” Turner asks an elderly woman as she enters the corridor with her walker.

“We get regulars all the time,” Turner tells a visitor. “They love that we make it easier for them to access their fresh fruits and vegetables.

“What I’m doing, I do it from my heart. I don’t do it for a reward. I know my reward is up there,” Turner said as she pointed toward the sky.

Through a window in the room, you can see a large yellow truck outside with the words “Farm Fresh Mobile Market” written on the side. Turner is the face behind the wheel, and out front is a project that has been successful for five years and counting.

Turner’s son, Anthony, was in junior high school when his mother started the market. “When my mom first started the mobile market, I didn’t quite understand it because I was younger, you know? But I always knew she liked to help out the community, and I know she’s doing for others,” Anthony said. “I’m very proud of her. She’s amazing, just amazing.”

Turner describes how the mobile market began. “We got the truck in 2008, (and) we began to do all the necessary paperwork that we had to do, and then we started,” Turner said. “We started enabling. You see most of the people that come in here now are either in wheelchairs or use walkers, so they aren’t always able to go to the grocery store. So by bringing the market to the people, that really helps them to come and shop and give them the opportunity to shop.”

“These are some big oranges!” one customer exclaimed last spring as she took a look at one of Turner’s spreads.

“Yes they are!” Turner said. “You will see things in the grocery store that (are) smaller that you pay more for. Donations that we receive help to keep the prices of the produce low. So you can do something a little better than what the grocery store is doing.”

The purchase of two oranges, two bananas, zucchini, and one plum comes to a total of \$4.10, which Turner says can be almost double in a bigger grocery. Turner says she has bought produce from over 40 states; in the summer, most of it comes from local farmers.

The Farm Fresh Mobile Market was designed to provide high-quality produce at reasonable prices, to shoppers who can’t get out, or go far. It was originally funded through a partnership, including the Gifford Foundation, Onondaga County and the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets. It is now managed by the Southside Interfaith Community Development Corporation and sustained by donations and grants.

The Villa Scalabrini Apartments is one of more than 10 locations where the market stops, including the Syracuse Community Health Center on the South Side. Southside Interfaith CDC was founded in 1995, when it first began operating a food pantry out of the South Presbyterian Church in Syracuse. Turner is the president of the organization.

“One of my favorite moments is when a senior says ‘Thank you for coming.’ That is one of the best highlights they could ever give me,” Turner said.

A few years ago, funding for the mobile market was in jeopardy. Turner got together with a few of her board members of the Southside Interfaith and changed their minds. That day, they went out into the community where they met with seniors. The seniors were asked, “What would happen tomorrow if the market quit running for you?”

Turner thinks back to some of their responses: “I wouldn’t know what to do. I mean look at me, I can’t go to the grocery store.’ I was very interested to know that this thing must be very important to them. It’s the people that really enjoy the market that keeps you moving.”

And move she does. Turner sets out every day of the week, either working from her office at Southside Interfaith or driving the mobile truck herself to the various locations.

Since her trek from North Carolina to Syracuse more than 30 years ago, Turner has worked numerous jobs in transportation, factory work, back to transportation and countless volunteering positions.

“She’s compassionate,” said Stacey Holmes, who’s been a friend for more than 20 years. “She’s just there for people. No matter what you’re going through. She’s a good friend. You don’t have to call for her, she’ll already be waiting for you.”

Sheena Solomon, of the Gifford Foundation, has

*Continued on Page 20*

## FRESH VS. STORE

Compare the cost of the following variety of fruits and vegetables:

- Lettuce
- Butternut Squash
- 6 Bananas
- Bucket of Potatoes
- Red and green grapes
- Carrots
- 3 Plums

Farm Fresh Mobile Market (set prices):  
\$15.50

Regular Grocery Store (by weight): \$20.63

Source for produce prices:  
<http://foodcoop.com/go.php?id=90>

> Portrait of Diane Turner  
| Shaun Janis, Staff Photo

# SUPPORT SYSTEM

## SOUTHSIDE INTERFAITH MOTTO:

To empower South Side residents of the city of Syracuse to organize, create, build up and support a vibrant, diverse and high-quality neighborhood in collaboration with community partners.

## OTHER SOUTHSIDE INTERFAITH PROJECTS:

**Southside Neighborhood Action Group (SNAG):** With the help of volunteers and the Gifford Foundation, SNAG re-vamped 97 South Side homes

**Seven Habits of Our Community:** Brings together a network of community and government agencies to teach residents how to manage a range of issues such as poor nutrition and health care, violence, personal finances and housing.

**Onondaga Earth Corps:** Works to brighten up neighborhoods by planting gardens and training local youth.



> Charles Wilson pays Diane Turner for produce during the Farm Fresh Mobile Market’s stop at Crouse Hospital this past spring. | Jim Tuttle, Staff Photo

*Continued from Page 19*

known Turner going on seven years now. “She is one of the hardest-working women I’ve met, but she always has a smile on her face,” Solomon said. “She makes things fun and has such a good sense of humor.” Every time they get together, she says they share a good conversation and a good laugh.

Asked what she does in her time off, Turner turns that into a good laugh, too. “What time off? The day is a day of laughter. No matter what’s going on. You’ve got to laugh and you gotta stay focused and laugh about it. Because if you carry it home, you’ll be divorced.”

Willie Ballard is one of about 10 volunteers with the mobile market. “She is a very nice lady,” Ballard said. “She’s very independent and knows what she’s doing and where she’s going. She’s just a very good person to work for and I enjoy working with her on a daily basis.”

Anthony, now completing his master’s at the Uni-

versity of Arkansas, describes his relationship with his mother. “It was fun growing up with my mom. She was always there to guide me in the right direction when I otherwise could have made negative decisions. But she was always there, and supportive. She never restricted me. I told her, ‘Mom, I want to play football,’ and she’s supported me ever since. Now I’m playing football for University of Arkansas.”

Audrey Haskell, vice president of Southside Interfaith, says Turner is “enthusiastic” about everything. “No matter what she does she’s excited about it, she makes it interesting, you know? She doesn’t do something just for the heck of doing it, she does it because she’s really, really excited about it,” Haskell said.

Although Turner doesn’t get paid, she hopes to continue for many years to come.

“It would be a sad day if I didn’t have the market,” Turner said. “I grew up on a farm in the South, so I grew up around people helping people.”

## CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER

**What:** Free Get Health Connected Screening Fair  
**When:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28  
**Where:** Martin Luther King Jr. Community School, 416 E. Raynor Ave.  
**More Details:** Fair will offer free on-site health screenings. Screenings will include: Blood pressure, Breast cancer\*, Glucose (diabetes), Colorectal cancer, Cholesterol, Peripheral artery disease, Vision/ glaucoma, Prostate cancer\* and HIV and STD testing.

\*Advance appointment needed by calling (315) 464-8668. Also, facilitated enrollers will be on site to help individuals select and enroll in public health plans and learn about the Affordable Care Act. Spanish and other language translators will be available. Free parking, free transportation by request, door prizes and refreshments will be available.  
**More Info.:** Call (315) 464-8668 for more information or to make a transportation request.



# JOIN THE STAND SPEAK



## & GET YOUR VOICE HEARD

The Stand currently has two openings for community members to join our Board of Directors. Board members meet every other month for two hours on a Saturday morning. Members discuss story suggestions, events, advertising opportunities, workshop offerings and any questions or concerns.

- ☐ fill out a bio information sheet
- ☐ provide a resume
- ☐ meet current board members to be interviewed

The Board is searching for someone ready to become an active member, to suggest ideas and represent others in the South Side community. An ideal candidate will also have advertising experience and help boost the project's ad revenue.

If interested, contact The Stand's Director: Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or call (315) 882-1054.



> The Stand board member and music columnist Reggie Seigler discusses his music column — A Friendly Five — during a past Behind the Scenes of The Stand workshop. The Stand director, Ashley Kang, listens. | Ally Milligan, Staff Photo

The Stand is a print and online news source covering Syracuse's South Side. It is written for and by South Side residents. As the voice of the South Side community, the paper aims to start a community conversation by inviting residents of the South Side to share their stories. The paper is the brainchild of The South Side Newspaper Project, a collaboration of the Southside Community Coalition, Syracuse University and a number of dedicated South Side community residents.



**COMMUNITY  
ACTIVIST:**

## Phil Prehn

*Community organizer focusing now on vacant houses, helping others*



# "I was destined to do this"

By | Kori Hale  
Urban Affairs reporter

## Local activist got his start as a student protester in college majoring in political science

As Phil Prehn drove down Interstate 90 from Syracuse to Albany for a concert, he had the radio playing full blast. He was gearing up to see his favorite artist, Bruce Springsteen.

"I'm not saying he's a god, but maybe a prophet," Prehn said.

Prehn has been to more concerts than he can remember and is an avid music collector. "He's like a rock-and-roll guy," said his wife, Beata Karpinska-Prehn.

Community activism has been running through his veins just as long as the music, a connection he saw and enjoyed in protest songs by Springsteen and others.

Today, he tackles community issues ranging from a lack of financing for homes to the shortage of grocery stores on both the South Side and Near Westside. He prefers organizing to the limelight, shying away from self-gratifying attention.

"As an organizer my goal is to help people change their lives," he said.

Prehn has been with the Syracuse United Neighbors organization for 19 years and says the people he has met keep him going, including those on the "rich and wonderful" South Side.

"He can get very animated and enthusiastic about some issues close to his heart," said Peter Polikarpenko, a board member of SUN. He recalled their many trips to Washington, D.C., for National People's Action conferences, where Prehn had the opportunity to lobby lawmakers. Polikarpenko said Prehn would get so excited speaking on behalf of the people in Syracuse.

Originally from Fayetteville, Prehn got his start as a community activist at the University of Pennsylvania. He jokes that his focus was on protesting apartheid "and other student activist stuff but my major was political science."

After graduation, he started out in insurance. But a year and half later, he could tell it wasn't his calling. "I realized I had to get out of there or I was going to lose my mind."

As he began his transition from corporate job to professional community organizer, his first stop was at the state prison in Auburn. "I was an (AmeriCorps) Vista volunteer," Prehn said. Through his work with AmeriCorps, the national community service group, he heard about the job opening as a community organizer at SUN.

Prehn's community work involves: helping residents get into affordable homes by putting them in contact with local banks and credit unions; providing access to public services through community training sessions; and assisting with educating the community about different programs that will help them rid their neighborhoods of drugs and crime.

Rich Puchalski, executive director of SUN, hired Prehn, and they've been working together ever since. Puchalski recalls receiving the application and the certainty of his decision. "I knew I picked the best person after the interview," Puchalski said. "He's worked on a number of campaigns and organized residents in the area."

For Prehn, community organizing wasn't something passed down through the generations. He and his parents had different views on politics. Just the thought of his parents as activists brings him into a deep laughter. "I didn't agree on many things with them other than sports and the weather."

He identifies the reason for his calling: "I think I was destined to do this."

Prehn's wife is also a community organizer, as director of advocacy for Arise Child and Family Services. The couple shares a love of dogs.

They have had as many as four dogs at once. All of them were rescue pets. A member of SUN found the recent addition to the family. "She called me and said, 'Do you want a dog?' and the magic word 'Husky,'" Prehn said.

"We were living in an apartment at the time and were forbidden from having pets," Prehn said. "So we hid the dog from our landlord for two months. We told the dog we bought him a house. That's how spoiled he is."

Karpinska-Prehn says the passion her husband has for his dogs is amazing but nowhere near as strong as his desire to serve the community.

His primary focus right now is "trying to reduce the number of vacant houses and helping people become homeowners," he said, along with "helping people understand how they can change policy to make their neighborhoods better."

As Prehn looks toward the future, he would like to expand SUN's reach. "It would be good to be known as a citywide organization." And he's going to continue fighting to ensure people have their voices heard.

Maria Johnson, SUN community board member, says Prehn is an old-fashioned type of community activist who doesn't mind a little confrontation.

"He'll stand on the street corner for hours and tell you how it really is."

## SUN GROUP

- Focuses on the South Side, Southwest and Near Westside neighborhoods
- Works to provide access to public services, banking and housing
- Members facilitate all public meetings that are attended by the Syracuse Police Department and the Syracuse Fire Department

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Southside Coalition — Meets 2nd Tuesday of every month
- Westside Coalition — Meets 3rd Monday of every month
- Skunk City Neighborhood Association — Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month
- Southwest Action Council — Meets 3rd Thursday of every month

## MORE GROUPS ON THE SOUTH SIDE

- Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today
- Southside Coalition
- Southside Interfaith Community Development Program

> Portrait of Phil Prehn  
| Nathan Laird, Staff Photo

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new baby or  
young kids?



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