

History and Background

Giffen Memorial Elementary School

Giffen Memorial Elementary School is a Success For All School! It is an exciting learning place where young people develop their natural gifts and abilities as they gain confidence in their potential. Students grow to become well-adjusted, independent thinkers as they explore their intelligence's. They realize the satisfaction of productive teamwork as they collaborate with others from a variety of racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Stimulating activities integrate themes and basic content, resulting in higher scholastic achievement for all. Children are empowered to become strong, responsible citizens through the dedicated efforts of a competent faculty, involved parents and supportive community organization.



After-school Art Class, 5 yr old boy, Oct. 2009, St. Rose Student Teacher: Chris Beers

Giffen has a Family Resource & Support Center is designed to use school-community partnerships in its mission to support, strengthen, and stabilize families in order to help their children succeed in school and foster healthy development at home and in the community. This mission is accomplished through collaborative efforts of parents, community outreach services, faith-based organizations, and corporate sponsorships.

The College of Saint Rose

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet as a Roman Catholic college founded the College of Saint Rose in 1920 for women. Its founders selected the name of Saint Rose to honor the first woman saint in the Americas. The primary academic purpose of the College was the full development of the person through a strong liberal arts curriculum. Initially, emphasis was placed on the professional training of teachers and this emphasis was expanded in the early years to preparation for business and other professions.



RISSE Afterschool Art Class, 7 yr old girls Oct. 2009, St. Rose Student Teacher: Rachel Jensen & Sara Fisher

As needs in the Albany area increased, the College expanded and revised its programs to meet those needs. An evening division was developed in 1946 to meet the needs of World War II veterans and was reinstituted in 1974 to respond to continuing education needs. In 1949, a graduate school was added to provide master's degree programs. Men were admitted to both the original evening and graduate division, and in 1969, the College became fully coeducational.

In 1970, the Board of Trustees was expanded to include laypersons in addition to the Sisters of Saint Joseph. With the formal transfer of control to this Board, The College of Saint Rose became an independent institution with a Roman Catholic tradition, sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, Albany Province. (Approved by The College of Saint Rose Board of Trustees)

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus

Emmaus Intervention Project with Refugees and Recent Immigrants began its work on July 5, 2007 with a summer ESOL school program for refugee children who spoke no English, using a \$3000 budget line in the church's operating budget and one part-time teacher. Since that time, the program has grown in capacity, programming and funding. We have a part-time Executive Director (ED) with 35 years of experience in not for profit work, a part-time deputy ED and Business Manager who is about to earn her Ph.D. in educational administration and finance, a full-time project director with a BS in logistics who is himself a refugee, an Education Director with two master's degrees who is multiply lingual and an immigrant, a part-time food service director/chef educator, many volunteers, and five permanent teachers, as well as a new 15 passenger van. We have formed a Board of Directors for Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc, (RISSE), including several professional people and other immigrants. Our budget exceeds \$200,000 per year. We have several community partnerships, most notable with the College of St. Rose, for social work and art education, as well as with SUNY Albany School of Education for community service placement and service learning.



**After-school Art Class, 8-10 yr old students,
Oct. 2009, St. Rose Student Teachers: Reanna
Fisher and Chris Hearn**

RISSE is the fruition of community outreach work of the international and multi-cultural congregation of Emmaus United Methodist Church (UMC). In early 2007, in response to an influx of refugees from several countries in Asia and Africa, Emmaus UMC made it its mission to help serve and support the resettlement needs of these newly arriving families and individuals. Its first initiatives were a licensed after-school program offering English instruction, homework assistance, life skills instruction, and meals, serving approximately 25 children. This program has expanded to serve 60 students in its

registered ESOL After-school Program, including twelve refugee youth from Albany High School on a year-round basis with childcare for school age children of working parents on days when public schools are not in session. Our adult services include social work, pre-employment skill training, job coaching, vocational training, and English classes twelve hours per week.