



The Benedictine MultiCultural Center

Welcoming the Stranger

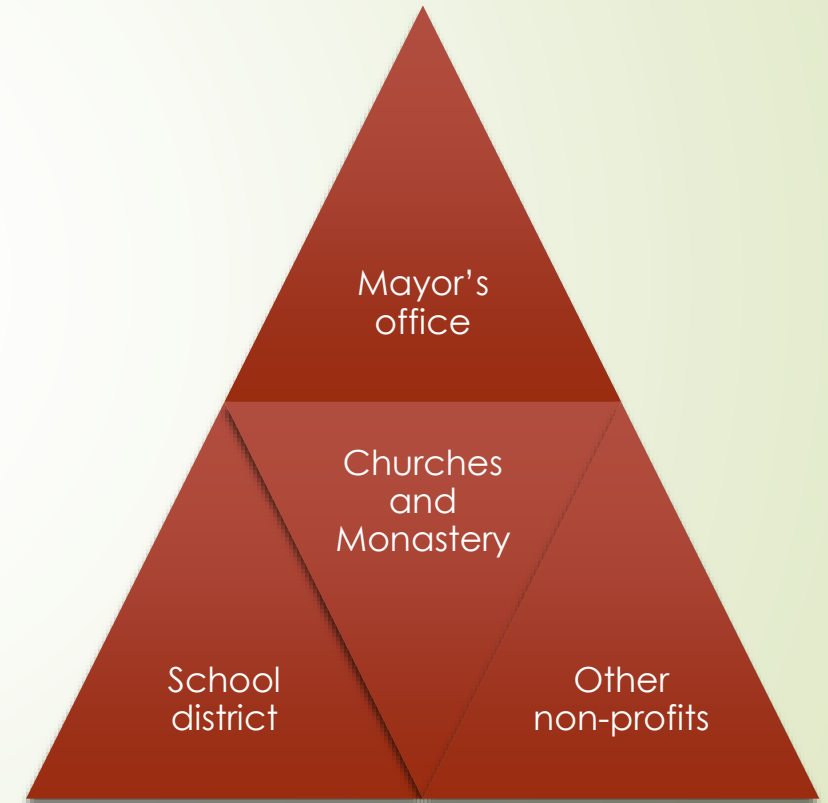
History of the BMC

- A group of high school students recognized a need.
- The old radio station is put up for sale the same day the students presented their need to the Sisters.
- The Sisters purchase the building.
- Representatives throughout the community are invited to develop a plan for a multicultural center.



Planning Committee

- Met monthly at Harmony Hill for almost a year.
- Sister Adrienne Kaufmann facilitated the meetings.
- Analyzed the needs of the greater Watertown community.



Planning Results

Named the facility the Benedictine Multicultural Center.

Developed the Mission and Vision Statements.





Mission Statement

The Benedictine Multicultural Center welcomes the stranger so that the stranger can participate fully in the life of the community.

We embrace and celebrate diverse cultures by promoting understanding and respect for all by providing Education, Referrals, and Multicultural Resources

Grand Opening

February, 2008

Mother of God Monastery, together with visionaries of our community, opened the doors of the BMC in February, 2008.



Ten Years Later



February, 2018

Since the doors were opened, over 36,800 people of all faiths and cultures have been welcomed in or served by the Benedictine Multicultural Center's (BMC) staff off-site.

Services Provided

- Education
- Referrals & Immigration Assistance
- Dental Care Project
- Multicultural Resources
- Pastoral Care



Education

English as a Second Language courses and conversational Spanish courses are offered on-site and in places outside of the center. Computers with Rosetta Stone software are available in our language lab. Citizenship classes are also offered.




Around the World Summer Youth Program

- ▶ A safe and enjoyable experience for children (ages 8-12).
- ▶ Participants “travel” to different countries, exploring culture, food, arts and sports.
- ▶ Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout June from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Transportation is available.



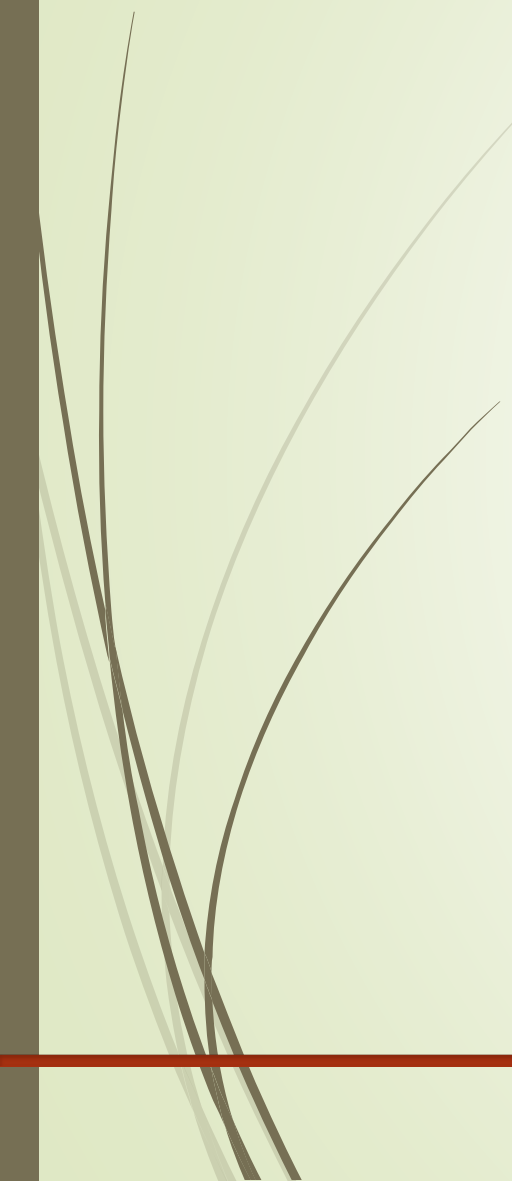


Referrals and Immigration Assistance

- ▶ Rather than duplicating existing community services, the BMC provides referrals to agencies already assisting newcomers.
 - ▶ Translation and interpretation services are given for health care and school appointments and work issues.
 - ▶ With the oversight of an immigration attorney, we assist in the completion and submission of legal immigration applications.
- 
-



Dental Care for Immigrant Adults

- Most immigrants do not have health or dental insurance
 - Partnership with Palmquist Dental
 - First visit: initial exam, cleaning, x-rays (patient fee \$50)
 - Appointment #2 and #3: Alleviation of toothache, filling, extraction (patient fee \$50)
 - Maximum of 3 appointments
 - BMC staff person makes an appointment and arranges for an interpreter to accompany the immigrant
 - Project is in recess during June, July, August and December
 - 200 registrations from 2012-2017
- 

Multicultural Resources



- Bilingual (Spanish/English) pastoral and liturgical resources
- Films and other information on immigration/multicultural issues
- Cultural forums and celebrations





Cultural Enrichment

The BMC is a member of the H20-20 Implementation Committee to develop cooperative programs in support of community inclusivity. We collaborate with the annual **Zoofari** event.

Pastoral Services

- Bilingual and/or Spanish booklets to appreciate Hispanic devotions and their unique way of living their Christian Faith
- Jail/Prison Ministry
- Pastoral Care for Newcomers
- Sacramental Preparation



Benefactors

- Individuals
- Organizations
- Foundations
- Volunteers





Our First Donation

On February 14, 2008 Lizbeth Gallardo, 4th grade received the "Kids With Heart" award which was a \$100 shopping spree at the Mall and a \$500 donation to her favorite charity. Event was sponsored by Diversified Reality.

Hours and Contact Information

- Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 4:30pm
- Phone Number: 605.878.2021
- Director: Sister Teresa Ann Wolf (srteresawolf@gmail.com)

