



Leadership Lunches

Sponsored By: The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership
and the Board of Governance

Kathy Schneider and the vision of Saint Margret's House



Kathy Schneider is serving in her sixteenth year as the Executive Director of St. Margaret's House, a day center that provides a nurturing community, basic necessities, warm meals, supportive programs for the women and children located in downtown South Bend. Kathy holds a Master of Divinity Degree from the University of Notre Dame. She also is a leader in the South Bend Community addressing issues of poverty with the Sisters of the Holy Cross

Kathy Schneider, is the fourth of eight children. Her parents never went to college and it was in 1974 that she attended the University of Notre Dame. It was a shock for her to realize that ND was a boys' school and she would be the third generation of women attending. She paid her way through school by working two jobs in the summer. One of her major visions were teaching social justice after studying abroad.



She was accepted to go to Brazil and got involved working with the Sisters of the Holy Cross. She was the first woman to work in a pastoral position while working with immigrant women in New York City. Being a woman empowered Kathy. She claims to be a feminist. Schneider's definition of feminism is how male and female have equal dignity, respect, and must be lifted up to their fullest potential. She refers back to Catholic Social teachings and how we are God's children and need to be treated with equal dignity. Saint Margaret's House serves as a faith based gateway to other programs and is not an overnight service center. Overall, it doesn't matter which program you refer or place a person in. In order for change to occur it must be cultivated within. Many trans-



formational stories are told of women who have suffered and been abused who later become "powerful". Whenever problems arise, the women come together to solve it; the "parental role" is taken out and the adult stage learning is put into play. A lot of women in general are treated like children in places such as the jail system, etc... St. Margaret's instills collaborative and ministry leadership. Every voice is heard and decisions are made together. Most of the rules at St. Margaret's are created by the women. Leadership at Saint Margaret's House is to help every woman with her gifts and talents and not focus on her problems. St. Margaret's is a place where every woman can develop to her fullest potential. Find out more information, or how you can contribute to this worthy cause by visiting their website at <http://www.stmargarets house.org>. St. Margaret's House is open Monday through Friday 10-4

Every other Monday from noon to 1:00 pm the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and the Board of Governance sponsor a Leadership Lunch and welcome community women in leadership onto campus to share their stories with the Saint Mary's community. It is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to get connected with our women leaders and discuss a variety of issues and concerns. It also opens opportunities for student internships. Sarita Fritzier a senior Political Science major plays an important role in organizing this event.