

THE ADVOCATE

June 2014

The

Dan Allen
Center for
Social
Justice

Welcome to *The Advocate*, the newsletter for the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice

The Dan Allen Center for Social Justice is dedicated to carrying on the work of the late Father Dan Allen, the crusading priest who fought for Tulsa's poor in the '60s, '70s, and '80s. The Center that bears his name is an all-volunteer group that was created in 2011 to foster social justice through education and advocacy.

We plan to issue this newsletter periodically to spread the word about what we're doing, about poverty and justice issues in our community, and about what we can all do to help. The newsletter can be sent via email to anyone interested, so please share it with your friends and encourage them to sign up for the newsletter mailing list, too. We want to give special thanks to Carol Holly, our volunteer newsletter typist.

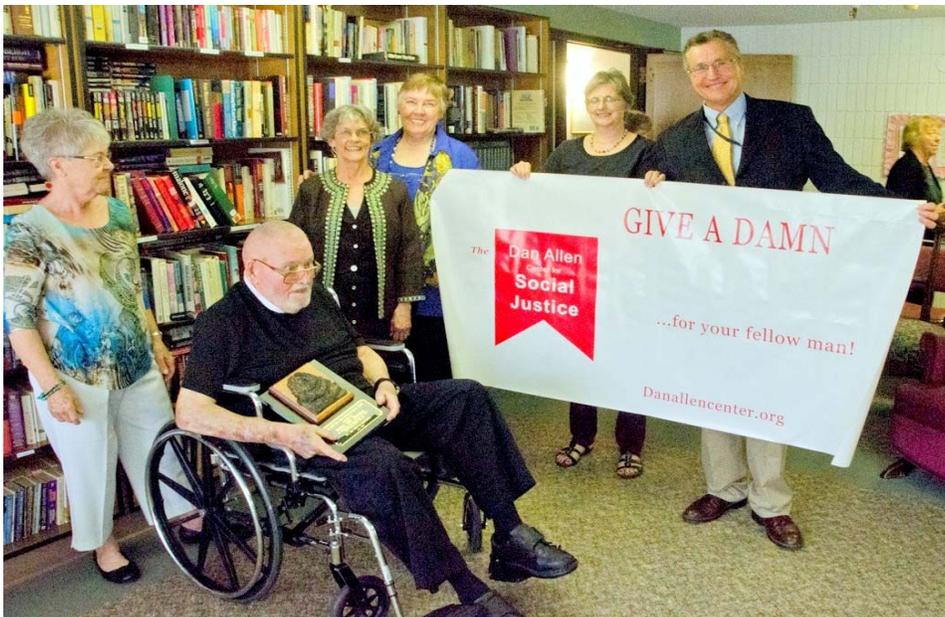
For updates, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dacsj>. We also have a website, www.DanAllenCenter.org, which contains more information and offers the opportunity to purchase our first book, *Dan's War on Poverty: A Grassroots Crusade for Social Justice*. Written by Ann Patton and co-published by the Center in 2012, *Dan's War* recounts the story of the anti-poverty work of Father Dan and his volunteers. The hard-cover book is available through the website for a donation to the Center of \$100 or more.

Mission Statement

To promote social justice through education, outreach, advocacy and demonstration of social justice and caritas.



Dan Allen



"Give a Damn!" — a motto of Dan Allen and the Center that bears his name. Center Board members shown from left: Carol Falletti, Fr. Bill Skeehan, Jerri Lesikar, Ann Patton, Linda Nicholson, Ed Rossman. Thanks to Linda for the banner. Photo by Randy Kindy.

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2014 Board members include (standing, l to r) Linda Nicholson, Carol Falletti, Ed Rossman, Ann Patton, Jerri Lesikar and Father Bill Skeehan.
Photo by Randy Kindy

Center Elects 2014 Officers & Board

Officers:

President Emeritus, Father William (Bill) Skeehan, retired Catholic priest and life-long advocate for social justice.

President, Edwin J. Rossman, Ph.D., sociologist and water resources manager.

Vice President, Carol Falletti, certified medical technologist and founding director of the Neighbor for Neighbor free clinic.

Secretary, Dana Falletti, auditor and chief financial officer for the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, SEG foundation, and related companies.

Treasurer, Alan Rowland, a financial planning manager for the City of Tulsa.

Board Members:

The Rev. Twila Gibbens, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Tulsa.

Jerri Lesiker, retired biomathematics researcher.

Tom Long, environmental services manager in refining and petrochemical industries.

Linda Nicholson, educator.

Ann Patton, consultant, writer, and author of *Dan's War on Poverty: A Grassroots Crusade for Social Justice*.

Anne Sublett, retired Tulsa attorney.

Organization and Opportunity: *Charting Our Course*

It's a bit ironic that the Board of the Dan Allen Center is engaged in a little bureaucratic organizational and strategic planning.

Rules and a structured process can either be the enemy or friend to getting things done.

Dan recognized that and was effective in addressing poverty in Tulsa by circumventing established rules and processes. He made things happen where existing rules and process did not.

With that in mind, the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice recognizes that addressing issues of poverty takes a coordinated effort and a plan.

The board has divided up activities into various programs to meet the overall mission of the Center — to promote social justice through education, outreach, advocacy, and demonstration of social justice.

Those programs include: Community Outreach/Education, Special Events, Communications, and Center Operations.

Under each main program, there are activities and projects, including such things as hosting workshops, hosting special awards events to recognize leadership in the spirit of *Dan's War*, developing and maintaining this newsletter and a website, and managing the business of the Center.

In the upcoming year, the Center plans to be busy carrying out its important mission. In this case, the process will be a friend to help get things done.

The Board is in constant search for volunteers to help with special events, newsletter publication and mailings and Center projects. If you can help, please email ejrossmans@gmail.com.

—Ed

Dan Allen Award. The very first Dan Allen Award for Social Justice was given in April to our beloved Father Bill Skeeahan for his lifetime of work on behalf of justice for all. Joe Williams (right) of Bartlesville, was among sixty people attending the April awards ceremony honoring Father Bill (left). The Center plans an awards dinner at the Food Bank in the fall for Father Skeeahan and others who will be honored for their social justice leadership. Photo by Randy Kindy.



Contact Us

Let us hear from you!

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<https://www.facebook.com/dacsj>

The Advocate is a periodic newsletter issued by the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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Designer: Carol Holly

By the Numbers by Edwin J. Rossman, Ph.D, Center President

This edition of *By the Numbers*: **75,636** and **1**.

75,636. That is the US Census Bureau estimate (average between 2008-2012) of the number of people in the City of Tulsa living in poverty (about \$22,000 a year for a family of four). This is almost 1 in 5 persons in the city. A large segment of Tulsa's population has its overall well-being in jeopardy.

Poverty research clearly shows the adverse consequences of being poor. Living in poverty means one is more likely to experience family disruptions, be ill, not have a regular doctor, be exposed to crime, be exposed to environmental hazards, have restricted access to good schools, have restricted access to transportation, have less opportunity to live in stable neighborhoods, and have a low likelihood of finding a way to improve one's station in life. For a person, being poor means the odds are against you.

As for the threat to the community, poverty represents a drain on the human and social capital that makes a community. Addressing poverty not only benefits individuals, it fosters a stronger society. As Sigurd R. Nilsen, Director of Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues of the Government Accountability Office, reported to Congress in 2007, "Whatever the underlying causes of poverty may be, economic research suggests that improvements in the health, neighborhoods, education, and skills of those living in poverty could have impacts far beyond individuals and families, potentially improving the economic well-being of the nation as a whole."

And what about the number **1**? That is a number that will appear often in my newsletter notes... That's the number of people it takes to make something happen. Case in point is the man for whom the Center is named. Read Ann's book-- even for a second time.

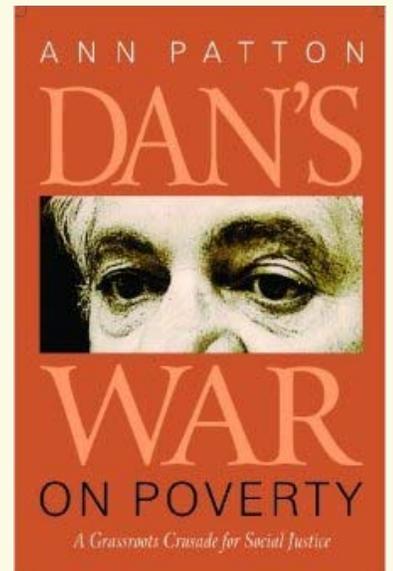
— Ed

The Board gratefully recognizes service by Mike Calnan, Wilbert Collins, and Lorraine Lowe, retiring members who were charter members in the Center's formative years.

Upcoming Events One of the chief goals of the Dan Allen Center is to recognize and encourage excellent work on behalf of the poor. Toward that end, the Center plans to hold an awards dinner in the fall at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. A dinner highlight will be the formal presentation of the Dan Allen Award for Social Justice to Father Bill Skeehan. Other planned awards for 2014 include:

- The DAC Local Champion Award
- The DAC Leadership Award
- The DAC News Media Award
- The DAC Outstanding Social Justice Program Award

Watch our Facebook page, website, and future newsletters for more details.



DONATE NOW!

Please help support the work of the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice. No amount is too small to help. For details, or to purchase a copy of *Dan's War*, see www.DanAllenCenter.org.



In April, the Dan Allen Center had a fundraiser at St. Paul's Methodist Church near the 15th Street Farmers Market. DAC Board members helping included the Rev. Twila Gibbens, Dana Falletti, Ann Patton, and Carol Falletti, with visitor Betty Ann Faulk (seated). Photo (and homemade cookies) by Kathy Rossman.



PASSAGES

We give thanks for the lives and work of members of the Center family who have passed on during recent months, including Dr. Tim Dennehy, Pat Flanagan, Don McCarthy, and Pat Skeehan King. They were faithful warriors on behalf of the poor, and they brought us great joy.