

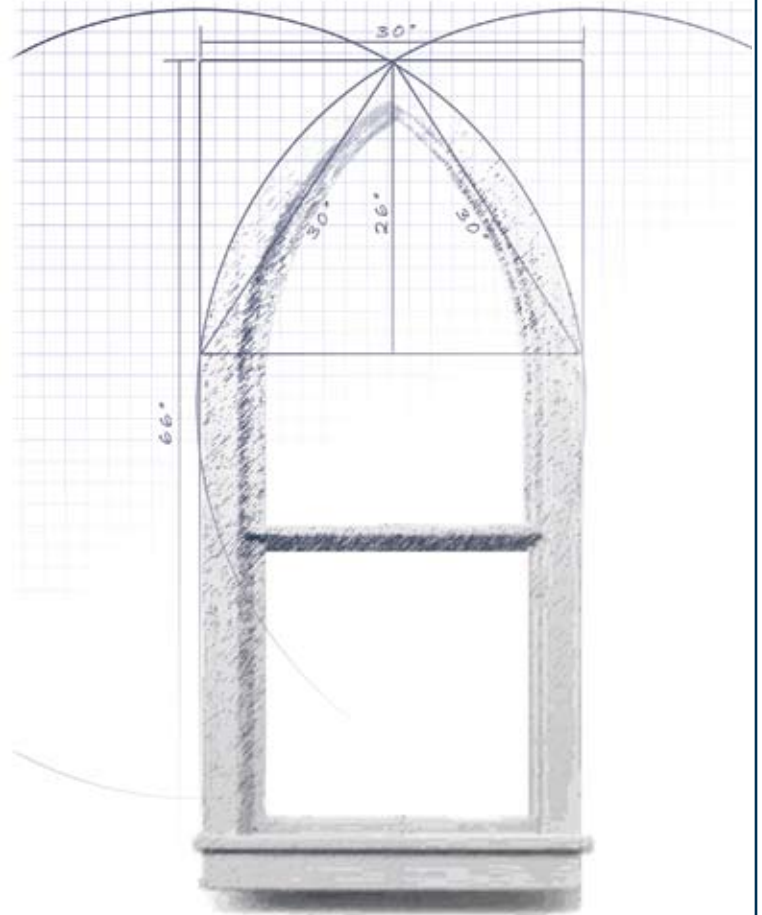
Karen House Catholic Worker ADOPT-A-WINDOW PROJECT

Project Goals:

- 79 windows to replace
- \$60,000 to raise
- Window Installation Blitz
Labor Day Weekend,
September 2009

How Can I Help?

- Adopt a Window for a
Christmas, Birthday or
Anniversary Gift
- Organize your Group
to Sponsor a Window



KARENHOUSECW.ORG

KAREN HOUSE

(314) 621-4052

1840 HOGAN STREET

ST. LOUIS, MO 63106

KAREN HOUSE, FOUNDED IN 1977,
IS A CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE OF
HOSPITALITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN
AND CHILDREN IN NORTH ST. LOUIS

KAREN HOUSE ADOPT-A-WINDOW PROJECT: INFO SHEET

What is Karen House?

Founded in 1977, Karen House is a Catholic Worker house of hospitality for homeless women and children in north St. Louis. Karen House offers short-term shelter for 13 homeless women and their children. No one gets paid to work at Karen House. It is not an “agency,” but rather a very big, shared home.

Karen House, one of over 150 loosely-affiliated Catholic Worker houses worldwide, promotes the Catholic Worker vision of Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day. This vision includes calls us to take personal responsibility for both performing the works of mercy and changing unjust systems that cause homelessness, hunger, and suffering. A community of about eight people is responsible for the day-to-day work at Karen House. Some of these community members live in the house, and some live in the surrounding neighborhood.

Karen House is run completely by volunteer labor and on contributions from people in the St. Louis community and elsewhere. Donations of sandwiches, clothing, money, food, hygiene supplies, furniture, and everything else under the sun keep Karen House running. We make these donations available to both the women living with us and also our neighbors who are in need. We hope that Karen House is, in the words of co-founder Peter Maurin, a center for “doing the acts of love,” and a place where “it is easier to be good.”

Why replace the windows now?

During the Summer of 2007, we closed Karen House for six weeks to work on plumbing, electricity, wall repair and lead remediation. We were able to thoroughly clean and/or seal against lead except the on the windows. We are very committed to protecting our children against lead poisoning, so now hope to replace our decaying century-old windows.

New windows will: 1) ensure a lead-free environment at Karen House, 2) provide a more comfortable space to offer our guests in the extremely cold months, and 3) decrease our natural gas consumption, and therefore lighten our monthly bill and environmental footprint.

How will this happen?

We need to raise \$60,000 to replace our windows. This is about \$300 per regular window (we have 33) and \$800 per historic window (we have 46), plus \$13,000 for other installation costs, such as equipment rental and supplies. We are planning a Labor Day 2009 installation blitz with volunteer teams, and we're looking for skilled people who can install windows.

How can I get involved?

We need help raising money. Maybe your child's class could sponsor a regular window. Perhaps your social group could have a fundraiser for a historic window. Maybe you could encourage friends to sponsor half-windows as Christmas, Birthday, or Anniversary gifts. Bake sales, car washes, window holiday parties, window concerts, window wine tastings....The possibilities are limitless, and we're so grateful for any fundraising or sponsorship help you can give. Donations can be made 1) On our website, via Paypal, or 2) By mailing checks to Karen House, Attn: Windows Committee – 1840 Hogan St. Saint Louis, MO 63106

Is my window adoption tax-deductible?

In keeping with the philosophy of the Catholic Worker movement, Karen House is not a 501c3 (tax-deductible) organization, and we've never sought funding from foundations, corporations, or the government. For over 30 years, Karen House has been wholly dependent on the generosity of individuals, families, churches, and schools, believing our work can be more directly and authentically done without the approval and regulation that government 501c3 status entails.

Is Karen House part of Catholic Charities?

While we are wonderfully supported by many faith-based groups including Catholic high schools, youth groups, and church groups, Karen House and the Catholic Worker as a whole are not “branches” of the institutional Catholic Church. Nor are we affiliated with to Catholic Charities. Rather, we are lay people of faith who share a belief in the Catholic Worker vision and a passion for the hospitality that Karen House provides.

**Karen House Catholic Worker 1840 Hogan Street St. Louis, MO
63106 314.621.4052 www.KarenHouseCW.org**