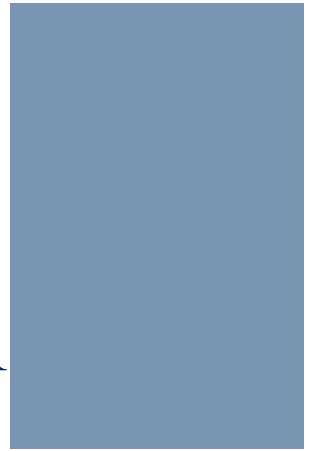




STILL HARBOR



December 1, 2010



504

<spiritual direction
sessions delivered to
young and mid-career
professionals>



...a place, a process, and
a partner in the struggles
of identity, meaning, and
purpose...

Dear friends,

The past two years have been full of celebrated milestones for Still Harbor as well as moments of profound struggle for the individuals, communities, and organizations we serve.

Growing violence plagues the city of Boston. Financial insecurity forces more and more families to live on the margins. Natural disaster and the horrific cycle of poverty and disease hit hard in countries like Haiti. But we at Still Harbor insist there is hope and strength in our individual and collective ability to come together, identify our fears, discern our roles in overcoming these daunting obstacles, and sustain our daily fight to make the world a better place.

In February with the opening of our Center for Discernment & Action in South Boston, we moved from a largely individualized model of spiritual direction to a more communal model of engagement and encounter. The timing of this shift could not have been better as social justice service providers and Haitian diaspora in the Boston area sought us out in the wake of the disastrous earthquake that struck Haiti. Still Harbor quickly became a place, a process, and a partner in the struggles of identity, meaning, and purpose that overwhelmed many of those touched by the crisis in Haiti. Through this work and with our deeply committed Praxis Network member organizations and two live-in residents, the Still Harbor community and extended programs have gained both strength and recognition.

We send out this brief report on our 2009 and 2010 accomplishments as a way of thanking you for being part of Still Harbor's beginnings and in hopes of encouraging you to continue to walk with us as we cross the threshold into 2011, which promises to be full of growing community, ground-breaking programs, and new frameworks for understanding spirituality in the service of social justice action.

In solidarity,

Edward M. Cardoza

Aftershocks from Haiti: *Akonpanye* Program

A frequent catalyst for examination of life's big questions are moments of profound trauma or upheaval. One such moment occurred on January 12, 2010 when an earthquake ravaged Port-au-Prince, Haiti and surrounding areas. Aftershocks of trauma went far beyond the island nation and into Haitian communities around the world.

Multiple local community groups approached Still Harbor to provide immediate spiritual counseling to Haitian-Americans, particularly recent immigrants, in the Boston area. As the crisis wore on, we were also asked to help local nonprofit organizations in implementing systems for tending to the emotional care of Haitian staff or staff who had become first responders to the relief efforts.

Enabled by support from The Flatley Foundation and the Loretto Community, over the course of the six months following the earthquake, we met in groups with 403 Haitian and Haitian-Americans in the Boston and New York areas (72% of whom were under the age of 25) and supported 64 individuals with one-on-one spiritual direction sessions. A total of 120 hours of individualized ongoing support sessions continued in the months that followed these initial engagements. In addition, we provided 186 hours of support and guidance for the first responders to the earthquake (largely medical personnel) in an effort to prevent burn out and promote self-care.

Knowing that grief counseling is too often considered a temporary intervention and that people who have experienced trauma (directly or indirectly) often continue to face the significant emotional—and often spiritual—challenges, we launched a pilot program called *Akonpanye* (“to accompany” in Haitian Kreyol) to provide sustained services to those touched by the disaster in Haiti. The program delivers three areas of ongoing support: 1. spiritual and emotional accompaniment; 2. vocational discernment; and 3. burn out prevention and self-care.

In January 2011, Still Harbor will host a series of reflective remembrance events and activities to bring together the members of the Boston-area Haitian community and the service providers who have participated in the *Akonpanye* program.

...grief counseling is too often considered a temporary intervention...

186

< hours of resiliency work conducted with first responders to Haitian earthquake >



403

< Haitians or Haitian-Americans received group emotional support after the earthquake >

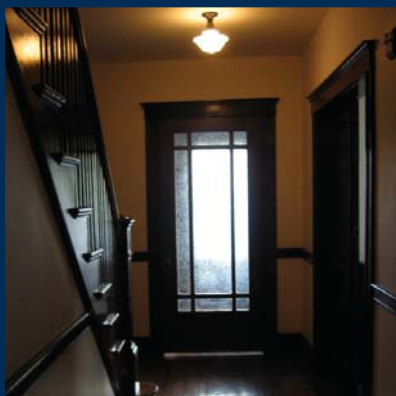
The Center for Discernment & Action

In February 2010, Still Harbor's Center for Discernment & Action in South Boston, Massachusetts opened its doors and has since hosted more than 925 individuals from across the United States and around the world. Our guests have ranged from genocide survivors to earthquake relief workers and from young high school interns to tenured nonprofit management professionals. Currently, we have two long-term residents living at the Center.

Still Harbor was initially founded in February 2008 with a small office at 101 Federal Street in Boston's financial district. Then in October 2008, when we began our programs in earnest, we moved to a three room office in Boston's Back Bay. We quickly realized, however, that while the Back Bay setting was suitable for one-on-one or small group meetings, it could not accommodate the group retreats and meaningful community exchanges we were eager to facilitate. Given this, in early 2009, we began the search for a building to house our offices and to host larger group activities. After much deliberation about whether we should look for an urban, semi-urban, or rural facility, we settled on 666 Dorchester Avenue in the heart of Andrew's Square in South Boston.

By deciding to establish a social justice community and retreat center in an urban setting, we have poised ourselves to have easy access to multiple communities we seek to serve. Being situated in South Boston's Andrew's Square allows Still Harbor to serve the residents of one of Boston's poorest neighborhoods as well as the students and urban professionals who live and work only a few subway stops away.

Our location has enabled us to begin to create and implement a model for the integrated practice of discernment and social action. In today's world, non-denominational, organized or directed reflective practices typically take place removed from what is often called "real life." At Still Harbor, we strive first and foremost to encourage people to pragmatically incorporate their personal or collective discernment into their daily lives.



...a social justice
community and retreat
center in an urban
setting...

127

< people trained in
contemplative and
reflective practices >



in South Boston, MA

Over the course of our first months of operation, we have discovered a great need for a place of hospitality, solace, and comfort for those working and living in areas of poverty and violence. People have come to the Center individually to write, reflect, seek guidance, or find a community and groups have come to host retreats or hold important off-site meetings.

We are proud that we have successfully renovated the building into the Center it is today. We transformed a slowly collapsing old convent into a vibrant and active new community space. The Center boasts 6,872 square feet of living space on a large piece of land. The floor plan includes a multipurpose room, a conference room, an individual counseling space, a kitchen, a large dining room, 2 communal living rooms, 2 large shared office spaces, 12 bedrooms, and 7 community bathrooms.

Our hope is that in the coming year the Center will continue to thrive and truly transform into the crucible of community-based reflection and innovation we intend it to be. Individuals from diverse walks of life will continue to gather, study, reflect, discern, create, and experiment in a supportive community. Front line service and social justice workers will continue to seek respite and hospitality here. To complement these existing activities and recruit new participants, we will begin to offer a variety of workshops and classes for adult learners led by inspiring leaders whose interests and work bridge the disciplines of spirituality and social justice.

The renovation of the Center for Discernment & Action was made possible by generous contributions from Andrew Buzzi Construction, an anonymous donor, Albert Cummings, Circle Furniture, J.F. White Contracting Company, Diane E. and Albert J. Kaneb, and Lois and Thomas J. White.

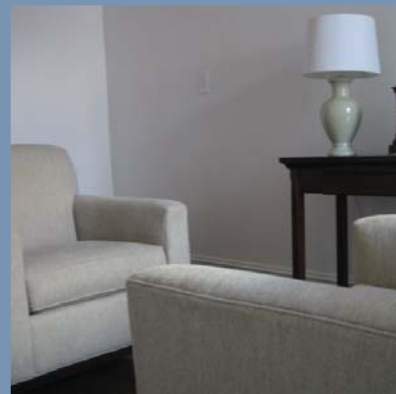
“People of all ages crave meaning in their lives. The Center offers a place for people to reflect, discern, and put to practice their own personal transformations.”

John Hammock,
Resident of Still Harbor



22

< events and retreats
hosted at the Center for
Discernment & Action >



Sustaining Action: The Praxis Network

With generous support from the Waterfall Foundation, Still Harbor launched the Praxis Network in 2009 in hopes of forging new alliances for the practice of social justice. Through the network, we united seven small, high-impact nonprofit organizations and began providing their leaders with training in reflective practices and discernment as well as new opportunities for learning, networking, and peer support.

The member organizations have all reached inflection points in their growth and struggle with similar issues around financial risk, mission evolution, and bringing in new staff. In the course of developing such organizations, founding directors often have recurring fears of failure and inevitable temptations of stability that might lead them to give up. The Praxis Network provides the supportive peer environment to learn from shared experiences and work through the challenges.

In addition to hosting workshops and retreats for member organizations, Still Harbor connects them to inter-generational mentors, field experts, and other valuable resources. This year, we recruited a team from Harvard Business School to evaluate each member organization's strategic plan and provide comprehensive feedback to the leaders.

The Praxis Network has been so successful that since the opening of the Center for Discernment & Action, three member organizations have decided to use Still Harbor as their Boston administrative offices, thereby consolidating their overhead and administrative costs. Five of the seven organizations have taken advantage of the Center for facilitated meetings and retreats. A true community has been created among the organizations, and we expect that it will lead to ongoing collaboration and innovation.

< Praxis Network member organizations currently include: Face AIDS (faceaids.org) / GlobeMed (globemed.org) / The Global Health Corps (ghcorps.org) / Nyaya Health (nyayahealth.org) / Project Muso (projectmuso.org) / Tiyatien Health (tiyatienhealth.org) / Village Health Works (villagehealthworks.org) >

"The advising and accompaniment of Still Harbor's Praxis Network has been instrumental to Tiyatien Health's recent growth."

Peter Luckow,
Tiyatien Health

Find out more about our programs at www.stillharbor.org.

38

< nonprofit organizations supported through free, expert and peer consultory services >



Other Core Programs

- **Discovering Self**

Still Harbor provides non-denominational spiritual direction to individuals of all walks of life as they strive to discover, integrate, and/or pursue their evolving identity and purpose.

In 2009 and 2010, Still Harbor spiritual directors delivered a total of 504 sessions to young adults and mid-career professionals and an additional 120 sessions to those impacted by the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010.

- **Forming Leaders**

Still Harbor trains young adults and transitioning professionals in sustainable processes of inquiry and reflection with the goal of cultivating a new cadre of leaders dedicated to making transformative social impact.

The Global Health Corps, co-founded by ex-first daughter, Barbara Bush, Face AIDS founder, Johnny Dorsey, Dave Ryan, and others, uses Still Harbor to plan and facilitate three custom annual retreats on global health service as well as to provide one-on-one support to fellows throughout the year.

In 2009, Still Harbor developed and implemented our first stand alone Dialogue Driving Innovation program, which teaches a process by which future leaders and entrepreneurs can test the logic behind their thinking, approach decision-making with perspective and humility, and deepen their resolve to be of service to others.

- **Sustaining Action**

In addition to the Praxis Network, Still Harbor supports nonprofits tackling various stages of formation and growth through both formal and informal consultative arrangements.

Over the course of 2009 and 2010, we have served a total of 38 organizations with a range of services, including the implementation of employee training programs, the development of mission-oriented outreach programs, and the facilitation of individual and collective moments of retreat and reflection for leadership, service providers, and other staff.

2,272

< students reached through speaking or training events at 17 educational institutions >





www.stillharbor.org

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Our mission at Still Harbor is to support and accompany individuals and organizations, regardless of belief or circumstance, as they wrestle with questions of personal meaning, purpose, and social concern. We serve as a mentoring community and learning partner, providing opportunities to come together for reflection, discernment, and meaningful exchange.