

When A Bathroom is More than a Bathroom

How Daughters of Wisdom Mission Fund Grants are Used

If you've wondered about how the Daughters of Wisdom Mission Fund Grants are used and the creative ways it continues the ministries of the Sisters, read how one of last year's recipients used Grant money to help booster the self-esteem of the young ladies of the Martin de Porres High School, in Rockaway Park, NY.

By Sr. Marie Chiodo, DW

At St Martin de Porres High School in Rockaway Park, New York, "WE SEEK youngsters who have had difficulty in the development of their educational skills and whose behavior has been severely disordered and disruptive.

WE CREATE an environment where personal change can begin –an environment that provides concrete reminders to our students that they are competent, important and protected.

WE TEACH all who have been entrusted to our care that they are lovable and worthwhile persons."

(Excerpts: St. Martin de Porres Philosophy)

When school officials thought about applying for a grant from the Daughters of Wisdom, they had a wish list a mile long. But the basic question for them is always "What will help our students see they are valued?" For the girls this has resulted in the rehabbing of a bathroom that will be more than a bathroom when decorating is completed. "There," Principal, Dr. Doretha Brown-Simpson said, "the girls can do their makeup and hair and see themselves and one another as attractive. It is their private space." They rarely get compliments or privacy at home. The students' human dignity and self-worth are as important a part of the curriculum as the educational and career tracks. The Daughters of Wisdom are pleased to share through the Wisdom Grant Fund in this mission to the young women at St. Martin de Porres.

