

The Writing Opportunities Reading Discoveries (WORD) Project began in September of 1998 through the support of the Marywood Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, MI. The WORD Project staff and volunteers continue to develop an environment that is inclusive, ecumenical and collaborative. The increasing number of volunteers has made it possible to expand services to meet the literacy needs of persons of all ages in a low income and increasingly Spanish speaking area commonly known as the Northwest Neighborhood in Grand Rapids. Presently, WORD consists of two different programs: Homework Assistance and Skill Development (HASD) for school age children and English as a Second Language (ESL) for adults.

#### Mission

The WORD Project seeks to provide an intergenerational literacy program of services to enable individuals to improve the quality of their lives and their community.

#### Vision

By providing programs that meet the needs of literacy, the WORD Project hopes to empower individuals to help alleviate their poverty, enrich the quality of their lives and become involved in community action toward a reconstructed, improved and viable neighborhood environment and beyond.