

## Why Camden, New Jersey?

The city of Camden, and in particular our neighborhood of Waterfront South, has experienced extensive environmental degradation and injustice. Here, we are within a few blocks of both the sewage treatment plant and trash incinerator. Scrap metal yards dot the landscape, and hundreds of diesel trucks rumble by every day. In this context, it becomes easier to see and feel our complicity in the degradation of the earth and its people. The burdens borne by the residents and environment of Camden are largely created by the choices of others.

While our setting confronts us with the reality of environmental devastation, it also provides opportunity to see other possibilities. Gardens flourish on abandoned lots. "Waste" (empty food-grade barrels) becomes a resource for job creation and water conservation through rain barrel construction. Urban youth enthusiastically plant seeds, harvest vegetables, and together prepare meals with the produce.

Motivated by the injustice of our environmentally distressed context, we seek to partner with our neighbors in the healing and transformation of the woundedness around us. We invite you to join us in discovering new ways of relating to the earth and each other.



### Heard from retreat participants from Neumann University

March 2011

- *This was not the Camden I see on the news. Being here has changed my perspective of Camden – Don't know if it will change my mother's perspective but I will speak differently about Camden now!*
- *Everyone we met here tells a story – now we have our story to tell.*
- *Maybe I can change others' perspectives because my perception of Camden has changed. People were all friendly to me and I didn't expect that given the reputation one gets from the media.*
- *I was narrow minded concerning food and farms – now I can support good agriculture.*
- *This was the most important week of my life!*

The Center for  
Environmental Transformation  
a ministry of Sacred Heart Church  
Camden, NJ

## Environmental Justice Retreats



Rutgers University, March 2011

**1729 Ferry Avenue  
Camden, NJ 08104  
856-365-8111**

**Our goal** is to provide you opportunities to reach deeper understandings of your connection to the earth and to those communities and people who often disproportionately bear the environmental costs of our 21st century lifestyle.

We believe that a deeper awareness and some hands-on education will help inspire a caretaking attitude toward the earth. You will feel impelled and empowered to return home as agents of change in your own community, contributing to the healing of the earth and walking more lightly upon this planet.

The Center for Environmental Transformation and its mission to seek environmental justice grew out of the Catholic Christian tradition. We welcome all faith-based and secular groups, and customize the retreat content and experience for each group.



Our meeting room

## Highlights

- Hands-on projects in the neighborhood: gardening, greening lots, working with children, demolition projects
- Eco-reality tours of the neighborhood and city
- Interactive learning sessions on sustainability, environmental justice, Camden and its history, becoming agents of change, etc.
- Guided and independent reflection time
- Recreational and group-building activity time
- Opportunity to culminate experience in a personal and/or group commitment to specific action(s)

Contact us at

[retreats@camdencenterfortransformation.org](mailto:retreats@camdencenterfortransformation.org)

for more information

and to inquire about availability.

Visit our website at

[www.camdencenterfortransformation.org](http://www.camdencenterfortransformation.org)

## Fees & Accommodations

\$40 per person, per night

Groups may prepare their own meals in the Center's fully-equipped kitchen, or can arrange for Center staff to prepare all meals at an additional cost of \$30 per person per day.

The Center has sleeping accommodations for up to 24 people (10 people is the minimum number for overnight groups)

For day use of the Center, the fee is on a sliding scale determined by the size of the organization's budget. Arrangements can also be made for the Center to provide food for day events.

Minimum number for day groups is 5 people. (Maximum number for day groups is 30)



Eve's Garden and some of her helpers.