

Congregation of St. Joseph Ministries

Update – May 2008

The following summaries were provided by each ministry in response to a desire to know more about each other which was expressed during our February 2008 Ministry Gatherings. They give a brief snapshot of the many ways we extend our mission to the “dear neighbor” through this part of our total congregational outreach.

Ministry Name: ABLE Families

Contact Person: Sister Janet M. Peterworth OSU

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Kermit, WV 25674

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Description: ABLE Families is a faith-based social services agency whose mission is “to confront the systemic causes of poverty and assist families as they make changes in their lives.” Founded in 1994 to serve low-income families in Mingo County West Virginia, ABLE Families has several programs under its umbrella. We serve children in an afterschool and summer program, pregnant women and new moms in a Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker program, adults who need literacy, GED or computer training, families who need respite from children who have behavior issues, and caregivers who need hands-on nutrition education.

Structure:

ABLE Families has a 15 member board of directors that sets policy, an executive director who oversees a staff of 15 full or part-time employees, two Americorps members and one VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America).

From time-to-time it has community work experience people who are assigned through both West Virginia and Kentucky.

It depends on grants and private donations to fund its work.

Profile of those served:

ABLE Families serves families from northern Mingo County, southern Wayne County in West Virginia and eastern Martin County, KY. There is an emphasis on women and children who often suffer greatly from poverty.

The afterschool/summer program serves children from 5-12 most of whom are low-income.

The adult education program serves high school dropouts or illiterate people of every age.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

- collaborating with other agencies in our state to offer people hope, help open doors for them, give them a second chance, offer a safe place for children, and to give them new skills to be better parents and/or family members.
- giving local women a chance to work in an environment where they can use their gifts and get additional training to enhance their skills. Often it is a launching pad for other jobs or additional education that may lead to a career path.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: This is Kelli's story. I first met Kelli in January of 1997 when she moved to southern West Virginia with her three-year-old daughter. She came to escape an abusive relationship and a life of alcohol abuse. She was 26 and had been in and out of two marriages. Her oldest child, a boy, was with his birth father.

Kelli came to an agency located in the same building with our literacy center asking for food. Then she asked the question that would change her life, "Where can I get my GED?" (Graduate Equivalency Diploma) The agency referred her to ABLE Families. Our agency does individual tutoring, and Kelli came regularly. Soon she wanted to meet with a teacher every day. Because she was on welfare at the time, she went to a class provided by the Department of Health and Human Resources. By June, Kelli had gotten her GED, and she was lauded as one of the best students the teacher had ever had. Kelli often came to volunteer at our literacy center and began to teach herself computer in our lab when there was time. She took to it readily and became quite good at word processing.

In August 1997 ABLE Families became a host site for a family literacy program, Appalread (An Appalachian Family Literacy Corps) staffed by AmeriCorps members. Kelli interviewed for an AmeriCorps positions and was chosen to as a Reading Coach. She worked in Head Start with children who were at risk for not succeeding at reading. She made home visits and helped parents learn how to be their children's first teachers. She developed games and activities and read books aloud to model good reading habits for the parents.

In the fall of the same year, Kelli spoke about her experience of being on welfare at a statewide welfare reform meeting in front of a ballroom full of professionals. She did a remarkable job, and her story brought many to tears.

Kelli decided to stay with AmeriCorps a second year (1998), but this time she worked as a Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker. In this role, she went into homes of women who had babies birth-to-three years helping them with age-appropriate activities to get the babies ready to learn. She was successful at that service, too. In fact, she was so successful that I was reluctant to loose her talent. So in 1999, our agency hired Kelli as a part-time office assistant. Recently, we sent her to be certified as a trainer for Survival Skills for Women—a ten-week program for women on welfare. She now leads that program in our county. Kelli has taught herself QuickBooks and does our payroll and taxes and tracks our grants. Kelli's efficiency and positive attitude are an asset to ABLE Families, and she has been working full-time with benefits for nine years.

Kelli has been alcohol free since she moved to West Virginia where life seems to have turned around for her. She married a man from the county, and they have a daughter.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

- Fund raising
- Personnel issues
- Ways to retain adult education students
- Innovative summer camp ideas
- Bookkeeping issues

Other:

Ministry Name: Bethany House

Contact Person: Rose Cadaret, CSJ

Address: 722 S. Rose St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone: 269-388-3409 e-mail: rcadaret@csjoseph.org

Description:

Bethany House is a home of the Sisters of St. Joseph which extends the mission of the congregation by offering a welcome, supportive and compassionate presence and temporary shelter to women who need a place to stay. This ministry is carried out through the use of CSJ resources and in collaboration with others.

Structure:

Bethany House is staffed by two sisters who reside in the house and two part-time staff women who themselves passed through Bethany House when they were homeless. It accommodates 4 women at a time; when one leaves another comes. The general stay is 1 to 4 months depending on each individual situation. The building is an actual house whereby the atmosphere can be more "homey." The women set personal goals toward self-sufficiency and work on those goals from 9:00 – 3:30 Monday through Friday. There is a nightly curfew of 10:00pm and "0" tolerance for drugs or alcohol.

Profile of those served:

The women served are age 20 to the mid 60s who need shelter due to: eviction, substance abuse, divorce, loss of employment, domestic violence, release from a correctional institute, illness, etc. There is diversity in age, race/ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, etc.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Working for systemic change by serving on the Public Housing Commission to combat homelessness in Kalamazoo County, doing advocacy on housing issues on a national level, and collaborating with other housing providers.

Making ourselves and the women more aware of environmental issues by recycling and by conserving, especially in terms of water and electricity.

Modeling inclusivity by the acceptance and respect offered to all who enter our doors.

Being leaders by assuming responsibility for outreach in the name of our CSJ congregation to women in need and by providing opportunities of collaboration for our volunteers.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Two of the women who came through our program now hold part-time jobs at Bethany House. One knows what it means to be addicted and the struggle to become and stay clean; the other has exceptional relational skills; both have a faith to draw upon, feel a need to give back to the community since so much has been given to them; and are models of success for the women who come after them.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

How other groups working with homeless individuals are addressing the Generous Promises.

Other:

Ministry Name: Caregiver Companion

Contact Person: Veronica Baumgartner CSJ

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P.O. Box 146
Tipton, IN 46072

Phone: 765-675-1863 or 765-714-2546
Fax: 765-675-7958

e-mail: caregive@tiptontel.com

Description:

Caregiver Companion is an interfaith volunteer ministry. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for caregivers of the sick, frail, and disabled in their homes by offering practical support, information, and service. We also provide similar assistance to the ill, frail, and disabled individuals who desire to remain in their homes.

Structure:

Caregiver Companion is an organization directed by an Executive Director and guided by an Advisory Board. We have offices in Lafayette and Tipton, Indiana. There is one staff member in the Tipton office and two in the Lafayette site. The staff members are responsible for becoming aware of the needs in the community regarding caregivers and the frail, ill, elderly or disabled. Once the needs are discovered and a needs assessment is completed, the staff members match a volunteer with the persons requiring assistance, and monitor the situation to assure that proper service continues to be given.

Profile of those served:

Most of the people we serve are elderly, but there are a few instances where care is needed for a disabled person who is younger. We have cared for people from all ages at some time in our history of 13 years. We have had volunteers stay with infants and with people over 100 years old. Our assistance is confined to supportive services and does not include any nursing care or private care such as bathing. Our services include: visiting, respite care, grocery shopping, housekeeping, simple repairs, transportation, laundry, and meal delivery.

All of the people we serve are those who cannot afford to hire the help they need, and/or who do not qualify for government assisted services.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: living this promise: "to network with others across the world to bring about a shift in the global culture from institutionalized power and privilege to a culture of inclusivity and mutuality".

The volunteers and the neighbors we serve come from every religion, walk of life, and financial status. Together, we bring inclusive love and generous service to all.

Our volunteer pool includes high school students, medical and pharmacy students from Purdue University, working adults, and retired men and women all working to provide care for those who are often overlooked by society and who are unable to receive assistance from government or other agencies.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: A 42-year-old woman is married to a police detective who works long hours and is on call at night. The couple has a 9-year-old boy. The woman, Kris, had Addison's disease and many other medical problems. She has very little energy and has been hospitalized seven times since August of last year. Her husband is afraid that if he takes off much more time to transport her to the doctor or visit her in the hospital, he will lose his job. Caregiver Companion has several volunteers who now take care of all Kim's transportation, and visit her at home and in the hospital. One volunteer, who is Precious Blood Sister, calls Kris frequently to listen and help her pray and retain hope. We have volunteers who clean their home so the husband's free time can be spent with his wife and son.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

How Caregiver Companion might be introduced to other ministries that provide spiritual nourishment to a similar population. Could Caregiver Companion be an adjunct to such a program?

Other:

We are very excited and grateful for the establishment of the CSJ Ministries' Board. Thank you for all the work that has gone into its development and implementation.

Ministry Name: Christ in the Wilderness (CITW)

Contact Person: Julia Marie Bathon, OSF

Address: 7500 S. Randecker Rd.
Stockton, IL 61085-8922

Phone: 815-947-2476 E-mail: citw@dishmail.net
Fax: 815-947-2476 (Phone before sending documents)

Description:

Christ in the Wilderness is a hermitage retreat center welcoming persons of all backgrounds to experience the spiritual power of solitude and nature. We are open 12 months of the year and are located on in the northwest corner of Illinois.

Retreatants come here to relax and enjoy a tranquil environment far from the “noise” of their busy everyday lives. Our guests value nature, wildlife, and star-filled skies – all so evident here - but the special quality of *Christ in the Wilderness* is that it has become a spirit center where all persons can feel at home.

Three single-person hermitages are available for retreatants. Each has a living room/bedroom area, fully-furnished kitchen, and bathroom, and screened-in porch. The hermitages are built in separately, secluded hilltop areas, creating a real sense of solitude. The free standing Chapel is available for all, as well as the Granary for personal prayer time. There are numerous walking paths throughout our 80 acres of rolling countryside filled with meadows, forested areas, and abundant wildlife.

Structure:

Christ in the Wilderness is served by two full-time employees, the Executive Director and the Operations Manager. The Executive Director lives in the Main House on the retreat center grounds.

A 9-member Board of Directors oversees the ministry. The BOD has four officers and three standing committees: (1) Mission and Organization Development, (2) Finance and Donor Development, and (3) Market and Retreatant Development.

Profile of those served:

We serve men and women from all walks of life, various philosophical approaches and religious and non-religious backgrounds.

In recent years about 2/3 of our retreatants have been women, and 1/3 men, and their ages have ranged from 20 to 80, with the preponderance being between 45 and 60.

Similarly, about ¾ of our retreatants have been lay and ¼ religious, while about 60% have been Roman Catholic, 25% members of other Christian faiths, and 15% have had other or no religious affiliations.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Christ in the Wilderness commits itself to feeding the spiritual hungers of the world through our retreat availability.

We are continually working to preserve the natural environment that exists here at CITW and hope to renew it in whatever ways possible.

We are open to people of various cultures, philosophies and faith experiences continuing to invite all to come here for prayer, solitude and reflection.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Sr. Lorraine Mark, CSJ, founded *Christ in the Wilderness* in 1980 after she returned from a transformative personal sabbatical experience in Snowmass, CO. She desired to create a similar retreat experience, promoting solitude in a natural setting, more feasible for people in the Midwest region of the country.

CITW continues to serve primarily a Midwestern clientele, but also has retreatants from other regions of the country, who are seeking a unique experience of solitude.

We hope to serve those who seek solitude in their lives for many, many more years in the future.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Retreat sharing, fund raising and writing grants.

Other: Mission

The mission of *Christ in the Wilderness* is to provide an environment that is conducive to silence, solitude, prayer and reflection. This enables retreatants to experience movement toward a deeper awareness of self, creation and the holy.

Ministry Name: CSJ Charitable Trust

Contact Person: Grace Sbrissa, CSJ

Address: 1515 West Ogden Avenue
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Phone: 708-352-9557

e-mail: gsbr@juno.com

Fax: 708-352-247

Description:

The Congregation of St. Joseph Charitable Trust was established for the purpose of meeting the charitable needs of the retired, infirm, or disabled Sisters of St. Joseph. It is administered by five trustees according to the Declaration of the Trust and it's Handbook.

Structure:

The Charitable Trust was established in the State of Illinois. It is administered by five trustees. Investments are pooled with those of the Congregation of St. Joseph for custodian and investment purposes. The Trust retains title to the assets, which are administered according to the Declaration of the Trust. Current Trustees are:

Kathleen Lucas, CSJ
Jeanne Oursler, CSJ
Grace Sbrissa, CSJ
Linda Talentowski,
Lois Vanderbeke, OP

Profile of those served:

The Trust exists exclusively to provide for the charitable needs of the retired, infirmed and disabled Sisters of St. Joseph.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:
Conscientiously managing our resources for the care of our Sisters.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Other:

Ministry Name: Deerfield Woods

Contact Person: Terri Phillips
Address: 137 Mount St. Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
Phone: 304-232-8160 e-mail: tphillips@csjoseph.org Fax: 304-232-1404

Description:
Deerfield Woods is being developed on the grounds of Mount St. Joseph as a senior living community that will include up to 60 independent living single family or duplex dwellings and the potential for assisted living.

Structure:
Deerfield Woods is a subsidiary corporation of Saint Joseph Health Initiative and extends its healthcare mission by providing safe, maintenance-free living for seniors. The Board of this corporation is made up of five members of the congregation.

Profile of those served:
Deerfield Woods will be available to seniors 55 and above.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

We are really risking our resources to create this new senior community. During our construction phase we are also caring for Earth by attending to a number of energy saving and green concepts.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We are very happy with the response we have already had as we prepare to market the independent living homes. Without any advertising, we have over 30 serious inquiries. Our next step is to conduct a second round of focus groups, and, depending on the response, begin construction this summer.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Other:

Ministry Name: Dillon Complex for Independent Living, Inc.

Contact Person: James E. Greene, Board President

Address: 7130 Arbor Valley
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Phone: 269-372-2712(H); 269-370-0513 (Cell)

e-mail: jegreene@chartermi.net

Fax: 269-353-4910 (Fax)

Description:

Dillon Complex for Independent Living, Inc. (Dillon Hall) is a not-for-profit sponsored ministry founded in 1979 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Michigan in partnership with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is an independent living facility for economically challenged seniors and is located on the Nazareth campus in Kalamazoo, MI. The 72 apartment complex, formerly a Nazareth College Dormitory, was the first rehabilitation project of its kind in the US, that is, a renovation of a college dorm for a senior citizen residency. Dillon Hall, through the efforts of the Sisters of St. Joseph, was made possible with the assistance of a \$2.2 million loan from HUD. Dillon Hall provides safe, affordable housing to income qualified seniors within a caring, respectful and homelike atmosphere.

Structure:

The elected leaders of the Congregation of St. Joseph serve as the Owners and Member Corporation for the Dillon Complex, carrying out the governance functions for sponsorship as stated in the bylaws and articles of incorporation. They in turn appoint a Board of Trustees to carry out the Mission and oversee the ongoing business of the Dillon Complex. The Dillon Board makes recommendations to the Member Corporation regarding the management of Dillon. For many years management was through an appointed Executive Director, usually a sister. At the present time a management company, Phoenix Properties, serves as the management agent for Dillon. With Board approval Phoenix hires and supervises staff who provide direct service to the residents. Phoenix interacts with HUD and its representatives and takes direction from the Board.

Profile of those served: Dillon Hall provides equal housing opportunity for extremely low to low income seniors, 62 years of age or older and/or mobility impaired adults, 55 years of age or older as directed by the guidelines and representatives of HUD. At the present time the majority of residents are white women with a minority population of men and various cultural and racial minorities. Advertising is directed to all potential applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: Residents of Dillon Complex help *strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth* by caring for the flower gardens that surround the building on the beautiful Nazareth campus and by annually growing their own vegetable gardens and sharing the produce with one another. One of the sister residents of Dillon also cares for many of the young trees on the campus. Dillon residents *exercise leadership* by having a resident who is a member of the Board of Trustees. Often residents work together with staff to provide birthday parties, potlucks and other activities for one another. Many look out for the good of others by visiting the sick and providing meals when needed. They also participate in Bible Studies and Hymn Sings. Following the CSJ charism and HUD rules and regulations we are called to be *inclusive by definition*. (See profile of those served.)

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: Since this ministry began 29 years ago Beverly Grimes, a beautician who had operated a shop in Kalamazoo, was invited to establish a beauty shop at Dillon Hall. From the beginning Beverly identified with the Mission of the Sisters and determined to keep her prices reasonable for both the residents and sisters because she understood the financial limitations of their lives and the ministry they were beginning by establishing the facility. Beverly's shop is still today a favorite and economical place for Dillon residents to stop for service or a kind word, smile, cup of coffee and a treat.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about: We are interested in connecting with other ministries who offer housing and other services for seniors. Of special interest would be any who are also connected with HUD. We have board members with a variety of areas of expertise and could share those as well as partner and/or learn from other boards and their gifts. In general we desire to grow in our understanding of how other ministries own and live out the CSJ Mission and Charism and the Generous Promises.

Other: We are looking towards a way to make this ministry sustainable for the future. Some of the questions that arise for us are...As we approach the time when our HUD loan will be repaid in full in a few years, do we need to refinance so that we will be able to continue this ministry in partnership with HUD for many years to come or should we be thinking about something else? In preparation for a decision we are conducting a study to give us a better picture as to the longevity of the building that houses Dillon Hall. Another area that concerns us is that there does not seem to be any or much Assisted Living available for people of low or extremely low income. There are places for independent living like Dillon Hall and Nursing Homes, but not much in between.

Ministry Name: Holy Family Child Care and Development Center

Contact Person: Michele Forsythe, Director

Address: 161 Edgington Lane,
Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-242-5222 e-mail: hfccoffice@wirefire.com Fax: 304-242-5379

Description: Holy Family Child Care & Development Center, Inc. is a family-oriented service which provides early care and education for children between the ages of six weeks and nine years of age. The center is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Wheeling. As such, it is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our center partners with parents in fostering a nurturing environment enabling children to thrive and grow. As a sponsored ministry, we extend the Sisters mission by reaching out to love and serve our neighbors, especially those in need.

Structure: Holy Family Child Care Center, Inc. was established on September 4, 1985 under the sponsorship of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling assumed sponsorship on February 21, 1996.

As of November 2004 the name of Holy Family Child Care Center was changed to Holy Family Child Care & Development Center (HFCC&DC) to more accurately reflect the work that is carried out at Holy Family. The name change has been approved and registered with the Secretary of the State of West Virginia.

The governance of HFCC&DC is provided for by a two-tiered system. The President and Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph serve as the sole Member of the Corporation and Holy Family is operated and managed by the Board of Directors. The executive director reports to the board and both of these make an annual report to the Member.

The Board of Directors of HFCC&DC is responsible for establishing policies relating to the operation of the agency. Retaining final authority, the executive director delegates the authority needed to implement administrative policies and procedures.

Profile of those served: Holy Family provides early care and education for children ages 6 weeks up to their 10th birthday while parents/guardians attend school or work. We are licensed by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources to serve 125 children. By collaborating with the Title XX subsidized program, Holy Family is able accept all children into our program and to work at alleviating low socio-economic situations.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: The Holy Family monthly board meetings are alternating between business-oriented sessions one month and longer-term, proactive planning sessions in the next month. The starting point in the planning meetings will be the Generous Promises. While all quality early childhood programs have many common characteristics, the Board is exploring how the aspects of Holy Family that make it unique, support and align with the Generous Promises. For example, the emphasis on stewardship of our planet may be played out in emphasizing care of classroom environments, a possible recycling program which involves the children, or a possible curricular focus on stewardship of the earth. Another example that supports the Generous Promise of inclusivity and mutuality is that staff, children, and families are considered integral decision-makers for the program. As part of the planning process, the Board will continue to explore how the various roles include all stakeholders.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: Sr. Barbara Campbell felt inspired to begin this ministry in 1985 as a response to a young family in need. It is satisfying to know that her vision of quality care, love, and education for all young children is still being carried out today. We would like to share some words of appreciation that have been expressed to us:

"There aren't enough words to compliment this center. I only hope that I find a childcare (due to moving to another state) that provides me with peace of mind when I go to work as HFCC&DC does."

"The facility has been nurturing and caring. I can see that my child has enjoyed his time with each and every staff member. As a parent, I could have not asked for anything more."

"Thank you for the wonderful care you give our child and us!"

"This place has been so wonderful to us. Thank you so much for taking such great care of our son for us. I went to school everyday knowing that he was safe and happy."

"We have had a wonderful experience at Holy Family and will miss the warmth and care of your staff and the many friends that our child has made! Thank you!"

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Co-op purchasing of supplies and equipment

Group rates for health care

Retirement plans

Other:

Ministry Name: LITTLE NODDFA - Retreat and Spiritual Life Center

Contact Person: Wanda Wetli, csj

Address: 1440 W. Division Road
Tipton, IN 46072

Phone: 765.675. 3950 e-mail: wwetli@csjoseph.org Fax: 765.675.7471

Description:

Little Noddfa, (the Welsh word for “refuge” or “shelter”) is located on the grounds of St. Joseph Center in Tipton, Indiana. A ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Little Noddfa provides a refuge and resources conducive to deepening unity and reconciliation within oneself, with God, others and all of creation.

Structure:

Little Noddfa is a turn-of-the-century, five-bedroom bungalow. There is a fully equipped kitchen, chapel, living/dining room, and screened-in porch.

Profile of those served:

Seekers
Lay people, religious, clerics
Catholics, Protestants, a few un-churched
Mainly middle-class, white, (occasionally blacks)
Ages range from 30's to about 80

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

In doing spiritual direction I think I'm seeking to bring about systemic change by helping others notice God's activity in their life and to get at the root of what keeps them from responding to God's nudges

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

This is a section from a letter a woman wrote a few weeks after she stopped by Little Noddfa one Saturday afternoon.

...Depression is a terrible thing. It nearly got the best of me this time. I will be forever grateful that you took your time to spend with me, a stranger, that Saturday afternoon. I know that God is working in my life. I suspect I work Him a tidge harder than He would want. I am still working on listening and, for the moment, am getting by fine. I wanted you to hear about the little miracles that have occurred since visiting with you. In fact, I have this suspicion that your prayers may have had something to do with them. For the moment, I am concentrating on being with people, living as healthy a lifestyle as I can manage, and finding ways to put meaning back into my life.

Your work is terribly important. Thanks very much for being there for me when I needed you so much. S

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Other:

Ministry Name: Magnificat Center for Unity and Reconciliation

Contact Person: Mary Ellen Loch, CSJ

Address: 3700 E. Lincoln
Wichita KS 67218

Phone: 316-686-7171 e-mail: meloch@csjoseph.org Fax: 316-613-7098

Description:

Rooted in the prayer of Jesus, "That all may be one, as we are one," (Jn. 17:22b) the Magnificat

Center promotes the charism and mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph by working for unity and reconciliation among all peoples without distinction and all creation, fostering an atmosphere of holiness and healing in an environment of prayer, hospitality and peace.

The Magnificat Center serves the dear Neighbor spiritually and emotionally by offering retreats, workshops, prayer groups, spiritual direction, and days of prayer and providing sacred space for individuals and groups sponsoring events in keeping with our mission.

Structure:

Director: Mary Ellen Loch, CSJ

Program Coordinator: Nell Kaba, CSJA

Assistant: Juanita Moidl, CSJ

Other Staff members: Spiritual Directors and Companions

Retreat Directors

Workshop Presenters

Support Staff: Housekeepers, Kitchen Staff, Volunteers, Sisters and Associates

Profile of those served:

Sisters and Associates

Youth (High School and College age): Retreats, Young Adult Beginning Experience, Volunteer groups

Adult women and men - Individuals and in groups

Catholic/Christian and non-Christian religious groups and individuals

Civic groups furthering our Generous Promises

Retreatants – some bringing their own director.

Educators (faculty in schools and Religious Education), Justice Groups, Diocesan groups.

Elementary/high school/college youth in conjunction with our vocation office.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Choosing a name which indicates our spirit, using the *Magnificat* as our vision of giving praise to God through who we are and what we offer and promoting experiences which bring about a just world order.

We offer workshops and retreats in line with the Promises, e.g. on the environment, global issues, social issues.

We network with other groups and faiths in many of our offerings.

We have our Peace and Justice office in our Center and sponsor meetings, etc. here in the Center.

We have worked to conserve resources in the Center, e.g. recycling, energy efficient lights, toilets, etc.

We continue to develop a peace garden in our front lawn by the Center and to make it environmentally area friendly.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Those who have come to our Center, both Catholics and those of other faiths, consistently remark about the holiness, serenity and beauty of the Center. It is their word that has spread our reputation and is our best advertisement for adding to our number those who are being served.

We have a labyrinth in our Peace Garden (or front lawn) and one young woman, who came with a friend, to stay a few days as she discerned her vocation, joined Sister Karen and me in a prayerful walk of the labyrinth. She stayed in the center for quite a while before she journeyed back out. When asked much later what her most significant experience was regarding her visit, she remarked that she had two, one was visiting a local house and the other was her labyrinth prayer.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Sharing or recommending programs and presenters.

Offering workshops and retreats in each of the Centers regarding themes centered around the Generous Promises.

Sharing ideas.

Sharing of thoughts regarding donations for services offered.

Perhaps sharing in the offerings in bookstores that some of the centers have that could outreach to those who don't.

Working with other ministries in offering events that would benefit their employees, clients, etc., e.g. health care, retreats for abused women, leadership workshops, etc.

Other:

It would be beneficial to have a "Resource/idea Pool" for events we have tried that work. For instance, we have had a St. Joseph pilgrimage here with area students. Shadowing the Sisters is another idea. We could share prayer services for all ages; short/simple retreats for elders. Different centers, being in different parts of the country, would have ideas that might be cultural but would work here as well. That's probably do-able in all the centers and would introduce participants to art along with prayer and consciousness of the needs of our world.

Ministry Name: Ministry Against the Death Penalty

Contact Person: Marianne Race, CSJ

Address: 4010 Oak Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513

Phone: 708-485-8526

e-mail: mrace@csjoseph.org

Fax: 708-354-9573

Description:

MADP focuses specifically on the abolition of the death penalty in the United States by engaging public discourse on the futility, injustice and torture of the death penalty so that people will be impelled to abolish it.

The staff and associates reach out in loving service both to death row prisoners and to families of their victims.

Structure:

MADP is incorporated in Louisiana and has a 501c3 status with the government. It operates with a Board of CSJ's and others and has a staffed office at 3009 Grand Rte. St. John in New Orleans, LA.

The office staff provides administrative support for Helen Prejean's speaking engagements and educational activities on college campuses. They provide support for the Play Project and internet discourse on the death penalty. In addition they communicate in writing and personal visits with incarcerated men and women.

Profile of those served:

Those principally served are prisoners who will not be executed if the death penalty is abolished.

Helen Prejean's writing is for the education of the general population here and in other countries.

The current Play Project (Dead Man Walking) is focused toward the education of high school and college populations.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

MADP works toward systemic change in the penal code of the U.S. and elsewhere through education and activities in support of life. MADP networks with other organizations and individuals toward this goal both in the U.S. and globally.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

1. 1997 Through direct communication with Pope John Paul II Sr. Helen Prejean was instrumental in changing the official teaching of Catholic Church to be against use of the death penalty.
2. The educational play project, Dead Man Walking, was inaugurated through a commitment by U.S. Jesuits to engage their university and high school communities in this project.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

1. Connecting with other social justice groups on human rights issues
2. Connecting with sisters and associates engaged in prison ministry
3. Promoting the play project among sisters and associates who are connected with a university or high school.

Other:

The play project is about 50% self supporting; we are interested in finding funding sources for this valuable educational project.

Ministry Name: Ministry Grants Fund - Wheeling

Contact Person: Carmella Campione, CSJ

Address: 137 Mount St. Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: (304)232-8160 e-mail: ccampione@csjoseph.org Fax: (304)232-1404

Description:

In 1991, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Wheeling created the Ministry Grants Fund from the Sisters' contributions. Thanks to subsequent donations and bequests, this Fund has grown and is able to increase the scope of grant making. Funding is also provided by St. Joseph Health Initiative, Inc.

Grants are made once a year to non-profit groups or agencies that have some relationship, currently or historically, with the Congregation of St. Joseph, Wheeling Center. Projects should be characterized by collaboration and response to unmet need in West Virginia. Funding is given for a year or less; the maximum amount of funding is \$7,500 per grant.

Structure: The administrative leadership team appoints the grants manager and the members of the screening committee and approves the funding of grants recommended by the screening committee. The administrator/coordinator and director of operations at the Wheeling Center are the leadership team.

The grants manager implements the grant process, convenes the screening committee, meets with the leadership team, and monitors the grantees and their outreach ministry.

The screening committee is members of the congregation and other persons who read the applications and recommend funding to the leadership team.

Profile of those served:

The purpose of the Ministry Grants Fund is to work with agencies or organizations that serve the unmet needs of the people of our diocese. Our sponsored ministries that serve the economically poor in our state, children, and women are given priority. Others who have been served by our grants are physically or sexually abused women and children, mentally ill adolescents, CASA groups, counseling agencies in rural areas of the state, rural health clinics, children in Catholic schools that need tuition assistance, homeless shelters, parish health programs, and our Catholic university in its service programs to the people in our state.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

-- using our resources to work for systemic change in collaboration with others that the hungers of the world might be fed.

-- working with others in our state/diocese to bring a shift in our culture from the power and privilege of government and large corporations to local organizations and faith based ministry. These local groups serve anyone in need witnessing inclusivity. In many of these groups, those who are served volunteer to work with others in the area and in the agencies.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Ways we might be able to join together to utilize our human and financial resources to serve the unmet needs of our people

Ways to improve the grant application process, if needed

Ways that we may further the Generous Promises in our ministry grants program

Other:

Ministry Name: Ministry of the Arts

Contact Person: Flo Christiano

Address: 1515 W. Ogden Avenue
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Phone:708-482-5051 e-mail: fchristiano@csjlagrange.org Fax:708-482-5036

Description:

Creates and publishes calendars, cards, music, prints, sculptures, and other gifts with a spiritual perspective which are offered through mail-order and on-line catalogs. Products feature themes appropriate for comfort/healing, eco-spirituality, peace and justice, celebrations, sacraments and special occasions. Many of the products are also sold in retreat centers and gift shops around the country and in several international locations as well.

Structure:

Director, Customer Service Mgr., Accounts Payable Mgr.(P.T), Call Center Staff, Fulfillment Staff., Gift Shop Staff which includes some volunteers. A majority of the approximately 20 employees are part-time and/or seasonal. A Product Development Group comprised of sisters and employees volunteer their time to assist in finalizing product selections. Art and writing commissions are contracted with artists, musicians and writers on an individual project basis based on product requirements.

Profile of those served:

Customers include people active in eco-spirituality, peace & justice movements, parish ministry, health services and teaching. Many institutional customers in both for-profit and non-profit worlds use our products as resources for their own work as well as for gifts and personal occasions.

Collaboration with artists, musicians and writers to share their vision and talent is also a mission of this ministry.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

- Creating projects to support peace & justice interests, IE. prayer cards, music, and an annual calendar with daily action suggestions and resources.
- Use of inclusive language and images that reflect the diversity in our culture.
- Featuring work by artists from diverse cultures.
- Offering Eco-products and resources to help customers live more "green"
- Increasing awareness and providing information about the Generous Promises in the catalog and other communications.
- Developing a staff that understands and lives out the Promises with one another in the day-to-day work place and in their service to our customers.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Our story began in LaGrange back in 1978 with a hand-made calendar that Mary Southard created as a family Christmas gift. She did this for a couple of years and when requests for more copies grew beyond hand-printing, she found a local printer to help. Costs were defrayed by selling copies with a one-page flyer/ order form. Kathy Sherman's music was added along with cards and sculptures by artists Pat Willems, Agnes Springer and Richard Mehren. Pat Bergen expanded the product assortment with the addition of companion ritual booklets for the calendar and music. Finally in 1995 after more research it was decided to formally create a "ministry of the arts" and "MOTA" was born. Thereafter came the "Call Center" with an 800 #, an Order Fulfillment Center, Joseph's Corner Gift Shop, and then a website. The work of 15 – 20 artists, musicians and writers is featured each year with a mission of creating products that will generate hope and healing and help to transform our world.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

We would love for our products to become resources within other ministries — helping to share the work of the Congregation. We can also "customize" our print products for the use of any of the ministries. Many congregations and other organizations already use our products as gifts for their benefactors, employees, hospice and health ministries, missions and retreats and also for peace & justice causes as well. Groups and organizations have personalized our blessings, cards and prayer cards with their own information for special events, retreats, missions or other occasions. St. Joseph Press (also located here) does all our printing which allows the text on print materials to be customized. We are able to offer generous "corporate" discounts on the products that are actually created and produced by MOTA.

Other:

Artists, musicians and writers are welcome to be in touch with us to explore opportunities to collaborate on ideas and projects. Our Product Development Group is helpful to the art, writing and music selection process by providing review and feedback on submissions. A submission process with guidelines is posted at our website within "Artist Information". Visit our website at www.ministryofthearts.org

The best method for initial contact is through this email address: deptm@csjlagrange.org

Ministry Name: Mission Fund - Nazareth

Contact Person: Patricia Warbritton, CSJ

Address: 3427 Gull Road P.O. Box 34
Nazareth, Michigan 49074-0034

Phone: 269-381-6290 ext 224 e-mail: missionfund@csjoseph.org
Fax: 269-381-4909

Description:

The purpose of the Mission Fund is to creatively further and support endeavors consistent with the mission and vision of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Structure:

Upon request, an initial form is distributed to interested organizations. Forms are available beginning in May with a final submission date of August 31st. Application forms are sent to those determined to most closely represent the mission and ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Completed applications must be received by October 1st. Grants are awarded in January.

The Mission Fund Committee is comprised of 7-11 members, the majority of whom are sisters or associates.

Profile of those served:

Over the past three years, we have served the “dear neighbor” be they the elderly, homeless, hungry, youth, “orphans,” those in need of health care and/or social services, those working for systemic change, women, those in rehabilitation and environmental issues; locally, nationally and internationally

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

collaborating with organizations working toward systemic change, taking steps now to strengthen, heal and renew the face of the Earth and networking with others to bring about a shift in the global culture from institutionalized power and privilege to a culture of inclusivity and mutuality.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Other:

The availability of grants corresponds to the investment interest gained in the year.

Ministry Name: Nazareth Academy

Contact Person: Dennis Moran, President

Address: 1209 W. Ogden Avenue
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Phone: 708-387-8517 email: dmoran@nazarethacademy.com Fax: 708-482-6466

Description:

Nazareth Academy is a Catholic co-educational college prep high school dedicated to living Jesus' mission of unity and committed to educating the whole person.

Structure:

Our current enrollment is just under 800 students with 90 members in our administration, faculty and staff. The President and Principal are co-leaders of the school and report to our Board of Trustees.

Profile of those served:

Nazareth Academy serves an area approximately 25 miles long and 10 miles wide in Cook and Du Page counties in Illinois. Students are economically diverse coming from 50 different towns and over 90 different grade schools

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Educating and developing the total human person by providing an atmosphere in which maturation-intellectual, spiritual, social and physical is stimulated and guided. Each student is encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility which is manifested in concern for others as well as for her self or himself. In addition, Nazareth directs its students towards an appreciation of culture and a sense of mission in the transformation of the world by ministering to others.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Our ministry dates back to the year 1900 when our school was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Educating young people in the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph

Other:

Ministry Name: Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School

Contact Person: Meghan Evoy, principal; Gail Wingard, development director.

Address: 4100 Martin
Detroit, MI 48210

Phone: 313-894-2228

e-mail: mevoy@olgdetroit.org

Fax:313-894-2271

Description: Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School is a full-scholarship, all-girls Catholic school serving grades 6-8. In addition to a challenging course of academic study, the school offers small class sizes, an extended school day (8am-6pm daily), Saturday activities, summer programs, parent/guardian programs and a Graduate Support Program. The school is a NativityMiguel model school and participates in the NativityMiguel Network. (www.nativitymiguelschools.org).

Structure: Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School is sponsored by four congregations of women religious: the Community of St. Joseph, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Religious of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Each of the congregations appoints a member to serve on the school's Board of Trustees. The Board also includes laypeople and a local Catholic pastor. The Board supervises the Principal, who in turn supervises the rest of the school's staff. A parent group, the Guadalupe Guardians, advises the principal.

Profile of those served: Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School serves girls ages 11-14 who live in Southwest Detroit. We serve an ethnically and racially diverse population: 70% of students are Latina; 20% are African-American and 10% are Caucasian and Native American. Many students are multiracial. Most students are very poor; 95% of students qualify for the federal government's free or reduced lunch program. All students are academically focused. At the time of admission, students are achieving not more than two grade levels behind; at the time of graduation, nearly all students are on or above grade level. Graduates attend the area's best Catholic, public and charter high schools.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: 1. We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to take the risk to surrender our lives and resources to work for specific systemic change in collaboration with others that the hungers of the world might be fed. OLG responds very well to this promise. In asking little of our students in the way of finances, we risk our own resources for their benefit, striving daily to show them how to break out of cultural influences, respect themselves and others and work for the good of the planet.

2. We, the congregation of St. Joseph, promise to recognize the reality that Earth is dying, to claim our oneness with Earth and to take steps now to strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth. We recycle paper and other goods at the school and have a beautiful organic garden on the playground, maintained by the students. We also teach students to conserve and use resources with wisdom and stewardship.

3. We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to network with others across the world to bring about a shift in the global culture from institutionalized power and privilege to a culture of inclusivity and mutuality. There are many ways in which OLG works to make a difference in Southwest Detroit. As an example, just this past January, the girls celebrated Dr. King's birthday with service at All Saints Neighborhood Center, Gleaners Food Bank, and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen along with a rally at the Central United Methodist Church. We are also collaborating with the NativityMiguel schools that strive as we do, to "bring about a shift in the global culture" .

4. We, the Congregation of St. Joseph, promise to be mutually responsible and accountable for leadership in the congregation. At OLG, the girls are encouraged to be leaders in their own sphere of influence, to stand for what they believe, even though it be counter-cultural; to be role-models themselves for other girls, especially as they go on to high school. The on-going mentoring that supports the girls during their high-school years helps make that happen. Leadership at the school is encouraged as girls are given many opportunities to try out their skills in small group projects, after-school activities and sports.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: The admissions process for our school includes a review of the family's financial paperwork, a teacher recommendation, written and oral exams for the student and a family interview. Since every prospective student and their family must participate in the interview, our school principal has become very familiar with the interview questions! One of the questions is "What are your hopes for your daughter's future?" Every parent stops and smiles at this question; some have started to cry. Their answers are remarkably the same: "I want her life to be better than mine; I want her to study hard so she can have a career". It is clear that parents believe our school is the first step toward this; it is a great privilege to be trusted with such a profound dream.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

- mentors for students
- fundraising/development

Other: Thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Ministry Name: People Program

Contact Person: Mary Catherine Lombard, (outgoing) Executive Director
or Carolyn Brady, CSJ, President of the Board

Address: P. O. Box 113557
Metairie, LA 70011-3557

Phone: 504-483-8613

e-mail: info@peopleprogram.org

Fax: 504-483-8614

Description: A ministry begun by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille in 1974, the People Program brings together senior adults who share in community their experiences, talents, wisdom, knowledge, and losses with each other. The retirees themselves, as volunteer teachers, take leadership in facilitating this sharing by offering classes holistic in scope: spiritual, aesthetic, intellectual, and physical. Retirement and separation by death often breed loneliness and frustration. People Program offers creative and intellectual activities which contribute to a renewed self-esteem and sense of well being.

We offer two 15-week sessions a year with approximately 140 courses taught by volunteer instructors to 500 current members. Classes include exercise, art, dance, music, crafts, games, religion, computer, etc. We operate one central campus and two satellite campuses. Students pay a flat membership fee of \$125/session and can take as many classes as they desire at one, two or all three campuses.

Structure: We have a governing board comprised of five Sisters of St. Joseph, and an advisory board to give input into the decision-making. The administrative staff consists of an executive director, 3 associate directors (one for each campus), and a secretary/receptionist. Currently, we have 100 volunteer instructors teaching 140 various classes to 500 students.

Profile of those served: People Program is open to anyone aged 50 years and older, and all ethnic, racial, and religious groups. All socio-economic levels are present, and our membership includes (with percentage estimates) Caucasian (50%), African American (35%), Hispanic (10%) and Asian (5%). Three of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina--Gentilly, Lakeview and New Orleans East--were where the large majority of our members resided pre-Katrina. We know that 80% of the metropolitan area flooded and considering that our program was in the heart of the devastation, we estimate that 90% of our members sustained hurricane damage making these retirees much less financially stable as they struggle to cope with a bureaucratic maze of possible government assistance that is often debilitating even for younger, healthier, and more resourceful people. It is important to note that many seniors have lost their support system with family and friends no longer available (moved or engulfed in their own recovery), and our healthcare system is in crisis (hospitals closed, 80% of mental health providers left town). People Program is multi-cultural with participants from diverse socio-economic backgrounds with a desire to pursue creative, lifelong learning.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: We are serving the unmet needs of older adults in the Greater New Orleans area, using all of our resources to work for systemic change. We are conscious of our global footprint making every effort to use less, recycle and conserve. We are open and inclusive to all active adults who have a desire to continue to learn and share in a caring, creative environment.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: Hurricane Katrina destroyed our home and the lives of many of us, but People Program is a survivor. This is a program for people, by people, that is bigger than any one person or event. From a dream of Sr. Alice Marie Macmurdo in 1973, to opening our doors to 35 participants in 1974, to over 600 members and 150 classes in 2005, to today's incredible recovery with three thriving campuses serving 500 members. The spirit of the program lives in all who are connected to it, and will continue for many years.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

- Save on insurance (health, liability) costs by grouping together
- Co-write grant proposals for similar projects
- Share fundraising ideas and expertise
- Share programming ideas with similar ministries

Other: You can learn more about us by visiting our website: www.peopleprogram.org

Ministry Name: POTTER'S HOUSE

Contact Person: **Karen Van De Walle, CSJ**

Address: 1805 Cholla Court - B
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Phone: 317.587.1348 e-mail: kvandewalle@csjoseph.org

Description:

The Potter's House is a small art studio for clay-making. In this quiet space, I make clay vessels (bowls, blessing cups, funereal urns, plates, etc.) for the love of it and the people who visit and purchase my work. This sacred space contributes to the humanizing of our world . . . offering peace to all who enter. The charming ambience is the antithesis of 'big box' shopping. Through the combined efforts of many friends, we recently installed a state-of-the-art computerized kiln to address good environmental standards (less electricity and emissions).

Structure:

As a sponsored ministry, I receive a living allowance and am expected to generate income to cover costs associated with The Potter's House. I send monthly financial reports to the Tipton Center to keep the community apprised of the financial status of my ministry. While I don't have a standing advisory committee, I do have a strong network of friends who come together to work with me and the development office to plan fund raising strategies for special needs. I collaborate with other artists on several projects, which enhances our work and introduces us to more people who appreciate the arts.

Profile of those served:

Those who visit and support The Potter's House are people who celebrate the arts and are sensitive to the daily use of hand crafted objects in their lives. It is often a symbiotic relationship that forms . . . I make clay vessels, they make the connection to the divine of every day living. I fulfill requests for specific vessels and sacred installations from churches and religious communities as well as funereal urns.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

There are very real hungers in our world needing to be fed, I believe art is one way to speak to this hunger in people.

Clay offers a connection to Earth and strengthen one's awareness of lasting utility as opposed to a 'throw-away' mindset. Additionally, I give care for the environment at the studio by using an efficient kiln, planting blooming plants at the entrance and avoiding a 'consumer-take-all' atmosphere.

The Potter's House is a simple example of a shift in culture can, indeed, bring about a culture of inclusivity . . . all are welcome, all are one.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

For more than 30 years I have worked with clay, the stories are numerous and yet much the same. A clay object, moments of quiet reflection, the beauty of color and texture, an opportunity for conversation, time to soak in the nature of humanity . . . all stories of timeless connection to our quiet, radical charism.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

I'm always open to exploring ideas for collaboration with others. I also welcome the opportunity to provide vessels to help others raise funds through auctions or other creative means.

Other:

I'm excited about feeling a deeper connection to all our ministries as we each strive to serve the dear neighbor and live the generous promises.

Ministry Name: Resident Program – LaGrange Park

Contact Person: Sr. Jeanne Oursler, Center Administrator
Richardine Bellovich, Receives Applications

Address: 1515 West Ogden Avenue
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Phone: 708-354-9200

e-mail: rbellovich@csjoseph.org

Fax: 708-354-9573

Description:

Single occupancy, affordable living accommodations for women, both lay and religious.

Structure:

Tenant / owner relationship; Center Administrator bears responsibility for residence hall operation; COO assists with general operational concerns; Director Human Resources receives applications and participates in interview process.

Profile of those served:

Fully independent , honest, financially responsible individuals; must be adaptable, considerate and accepting of others; willing to share common lavs, laundry and living room spaces.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

- feed the hungers of the world by sharing resources with others;
- inclusivity and mutuality
- establishing relationships with the dear neighbor

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

- how to grow and better serve the ministry;
- share our experiences

Other:

Ministry Name: Resident Program - Tipton

Contact Person: **Monica Rosa**

Address: 1440 W. Division Rd.
Tipton, IN 46072

Phone: 765.675.4146 e-mail: mrosa@csjoseph.org Fax: 765.675.7471

Description:

St. Joseph Center offers apartments for older men and women who are still living independently. Within a family atmosphere of community living, residents share many aspects of life with the sisters and guest who come for conferences. It is a safe, quiet, happy environment that benefits the sisters, staff, guests and residents. Several activities are planned and almost always include both residents and sisters, enhancing the feeling of family and unity.

Structure:

The Lay Resident Coordinator reports to the St. Joseph Center Administrator. I work directly with the Motherhouse Coordinator and the Supervising Nurse to interview prospective residents and determine suitability for living here. Residents pay rent monthly directly to the Business Office. I provide transportation to appointments as needed, plan activities and stay in touch with residents and their families. Each resident forms relationships with sisters as well as staff . . . creating an ever-widening circle of friendship.

Profile of those served:

Men and women are welcome as residents, but are required to be able to care for him/herself, we are not a nursing home. Most who come are in their seventies or eighties and feeling vulnerable and uncertain of the change. Many come because they want to live and interact with others their own age. Experience has shown that the sisters are served as much as the residents through this comfortable relationship. This living arrangement allows retired sisters to demonstrate their hospitality and encourages residents to be a part of a larger community.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

The sisters here "surrender their lives and resources . . . so that the hungers of the world might be fed." While the residents pay for living here, the sisters yield their privacy and ensure that the facility is well-maintained and everyone is living in a safe environment.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

The most touching stories are of the connections made between staff, residents and sisters. Almost all the residents truly do become a part of a new family while here. Recently, at a simple memorial service for a resident, the family expressed the realization that the people at St. Joseph Center had become their mother's family and the family extended their condolences to us! That is typical of how we all come to be one here.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

The opportunity to learn from other CSJ ministries is welcome. I am open to sharing whatever I can and to receiving what others have to offer.

Other:

Ministry Name: River's Edge - A Place for Reflection and Action

Contact Person: Rita Petruziello CSJ

Address: 3430 Rocky River Dr.
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Phone: 216 688 3440 e-mail: rita@riversedgecleveland.com

Description: River's Edge, *a Place for Reflection and Action*, is a retreat and conference center, situated within the century old CSJ Motherhouse (St Joseph Center) on 40 acres of land overlooking the Rocky River and the Cleveland Metro Parks. Our mission is to foster the integration of personal wellness, spirituality, global and ecological responsibility, and expanding consciousness in order to bring about personal and societal transformation. We do this by:

- Helping to shape a new worldview through educational programs and practices.
- Providing holistic services that promote healthy lifestyles
- Hosting meetings, conferences, and retreats
- Assisting women moving from homelessness to self-sufficiency

Structure: River's Edge is governed by a 12 member decision making board of directors. Our executive director reports to the board and works collaboratively with a marketing director, accountant, hospitality manager, administrative assistant, 2 outreach co-directors, and 30 wellness affiliates.

Our hospitality manager supervises a staff of center aides. Our outreach directors work with a volunteer staff of professionals who provide services for the women. Our wellness affiliates work on a contractual basis with the Center and have team leaders within their particular specialties, i.e. spiritual direction, body work, etc.

Profile of those served:

Programs:

70% white middle class, middle age, educated women

20% a mix of folks who are male, younger, and economically / culturally / religiously diverse.

10% homeless women in shelters and at our own Outreach Center.

Hospitality Services:

A balanced mix of all of the above with much greater economic, cultural, and religious diversity

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: providing an underpinning for our Generous Promises, in that our Center is structured to support and foster personal and societal transformation for a wide and diverse group of people on a regular basis. We are engaged in supporting a shift in consciousness and the evolution of another worldview

A concrete expression is in our outreach to those who are marginalized by providing services and financial resources for the working poor, homeless women and HIV patients in Cleveland and Africa.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

How we got Our Name

For our first three months in existence we used the name CSJ Center which we considered too general and not descriptive enough for what we were called to be. So we engaged in a process with a group of sisters, friends and employees that lead to the following:

Reflecting on the lives of our sisters who went before us, we visualized them visiting the river on our property for refreshment and rest; and also as courageous risk takers, standing at the edge ready to act on behalf of the dear neighbor. Thus the name, River's Edge, a Place for Reflection and Action. We strive to both nurture and challenge.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

We would be interested in sharing operational and programmatic ideas with Centers similar to our own. Also, we would like to explore ways to collaborate so that we can have greater impact on our mission and generous promises

Other:

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Academy – Baton Rouge

Contact Person: Linda Fryoux Harvison, Principal

Address: 3015 Broussard Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Phone: (225) 388-2244

e-mail: harvisol@sjabr.org

Fax: (225) 344-5714

Description:

St. Joseph's Academy is a National School of Excellence where young women learn and experience their Catholic faith traditions, the pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth. This premier Catholic secondary school was founded in 1868 in Baton Rouge by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The mission of St. Joseph's Academy is to educate young women as responsible and unifying members of the world community. In the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, St. Joseph's Academy offers opportunities for faith development in the Catholic tradition, academic excellence and personal growth.

Students at St. Joseph's Academy are motivated to grow in Catholic faith traditions through a comprehensive religious education program, liturgical rituals and service opportunities; become life-long learners through interaction with master teachers and mentors; and enjoy peer relationships and learn leadership skills in a variety of co-curricular activities.

Structure:

St. Joseph's Academy is owned and administered by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The Board of Directors is the official representative of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in all matters pertaining to St. Joseph's Academy. The Board of Directors evaluates the school regarding the effectiveness of the school's mission. The SJA School Board is appointed by the Sisters and is charged with the operational management of the school. The Sisters have the final authority in appointing the president and principal of SJA.

The President of St. Joseph's Academy is appointed by the President of the Congregation of Saint Joseph and the members of the General Council. In her capacity as President, she is a member of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Academy; is the liaison between SJA and the General Council of the Congregation; and is responsible to promote the mission of the Congregation and of SJA.

The Administrative Team is comprised of the Principal, the Associate Principal and the three Assistant Principals. They are responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, planning the school year and seeing that all programs and activities give evidence of the mission. The Principal holds the final authority of the Administrative Team.

Profile of those served:

The SJA student body is comprised of 834 girls in grades 9-12. Approximately 13,000 hours of service are given to the Baton Rouge community each year by the student body. 99 percent of Academy graduates advance to the university level. 47 percent of the class of 2007 received scholarships totaling \$8.5 million. Because SJA has embraced the concept of teaching for understanding rather than simply for recall, students are engaged and challenged, and education practices incorporate varied learning styles and meet the needs of all students. Each student has exclusive use of a tablet computer to enhance learning.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: Taking the risk ... Through numerous club and co-curricular activities, including Students for Unity, Habitat for Humanity and Student Ministry, students give service to address hungers of the world. Outreach efforts have brought access to technology to several community organizations.

Claiming our oneness with the earth ... Next year's charism theme will be "Celebrate the Unique Gifts of Each Person and All Creation" to focus on reverence for all the earth and all God's creation. Presently, SJA is a Coastal Roots school, planting cypress trees to prevent coastal erosion, and students are encouraged to recycle and conserve resources.

Networking with others ... Students exhibit cultural competence and learn about regional and global realities through mission trips to Honduras, South America and Mexico; club activities; and foreign language curricula.

Being mutually responsible and accountable for leadership ... A leadership plan for SJA students was developed in 2002-03 under the supervision of Principal Linda Harvison. Every girl will have opportunities to develop leadership skills.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: As a founding member of the Cordoba Education Initiative, St. Joseph's Academy has played an integral role in providing access to technology and computer training in schools and orphanages in Cordoba, Veracruz, Mexico. Since February of 2005, delegates from SJA have traveled to this impoverished region to set up fully equipped computer labs and internet access with the goal of enhancing student learning by providing access to technology in the classroom.

This past summer saw the largest delegation to date travel to the region. Among the traveling party were three SJA graduates and six current students who spent two weeks in Cordoba.

SJA representatives will continue to travel to the region to set up computer labs and share their expertise in the use of technology. The group's work has been featured on the front pages of both *El Mundo de Córdoba* and *El Sol de Córdoba* newspapers.

Additionally, SJA students volunteer after school at the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council to refurbish donated computers for shipment to the region.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, SJA accepted 250 new students from the New Orleans area who were displaced by the storm. These girls were given laptop computers, and administrators created schedules to meet each student's course requirements from her prior school. New courses were created and teachers were hired to successfully integrate the new students into the existing 800-member student body. SJA also worked with the Foundation for Teaching Economics to secure an online course to enable 17 New Orleans seniors to continue their study of economics, despite the fact that the course is not part of the SJA curriculum. In addition, the parents of New Orleans students were able to come onto SJA's wireless campus to fill out electronic forms for FEMA, Red Cross and insurance claims, which further strengthened the ties between the Baton Rouge and New Orleans communities.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about: In our ongoing desire to serve the dear neighbor, we are interested in service in the broader context, outside of the city of Baton Rouge and state of Louisiana.

We desire to expand our current collaboration with our sister schools.

Other: Staffed by the Sisters and dedicated laypersons, SJA has been continuously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1931 and is accredited by the Louisiana State Board of Education. The school has been recognized three times by the U.S. Department of Education as a national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and was one of three schools in 2002 to receive the U.S. Department of Education's Special Emphasis Award in Technology.

SJA continues to expand its visual and performing arts curriculum as a complement to the academic core curriculum, offering a broad-based education to develop well-rounded students. SJA's commitment to the visual and performing arts underscores our belief in the important role they play in providing a holistic education to our students.

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Academy - Cleveland

Contact Person: Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis, President

Address: Saint Joseph Academy
3430 Rocky River Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Phone: 216.251.6788 x256 e-mail: MACD@sja1890.org Fax: 216.472.0101

Description: Saint Joseph Academy was founded by the Congregation of Saint Joseph (Cleveland) in 1890 and is an accredited, comprehensive Catholic all girls' high school. It exists for the purpose of providing quality education for young women of diverse backgrounds. The Academy promotes academic excellence, fosters love and unity with God, each other and all creation, and educates young women for compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Faith formation which is rooted in the charism of the CJSs is at the heart of the education provided. Each student performs at least 20 hours of community service each year, as we strive to serve our "dear neighbor" in our daily lives. Our focus on preparing the students for the 21st century includes courses such as pre-engineering, Mandarin Chinese, and graphic and web design. We continue to offer four years of Latin and many AP courses. We also have launched a literacy initiative designed to give the girls skills they will need for lifelong learning.

Structure: Saint Joseph Academy was incorporated as a separate entity in 1989, at the time of the Academy's centennial. SJA is one of 22 Catholic high schools in the Cleveland diocese. The school is independently operated by the board of directors comprised of 25 members including alumnae, parents, CSJs, and community leaders with broad professional experience. A new leadership model with both a president and a principal was introduced in July 2006. The president reports to the board. The principal, director of finance, maintenance director and four directors in advancement area report to the president. The faculty, of 50+ professionals, reports to the principal, who is the chief academic officer. The Academy operates on a balanced operating budget of over \$6.5 million, with an endowment of over \$5 million. There are 100 full-time employees.

Profile of those served: Saint Joseph Academy has been at capacity enrollment of over 660 young women for the past four years. Ninety percent of the students are Catholic and 58% are residents of the City of Cleveland. Minority population is at 15%, with 7.4% of the students self-identified as multi-racial and 3.7% Latina. Seventeen percent (17%) of our students are eligible for the federal free and/or reduced lunch program. Over 94% of our graduates go on to colleges nationwide, although 63% of our parents do not have a college degree. Many of our graduates are first generation college students. Tuition and fees for 2007-08 academic year are \$8,355, a struggle for many of our families. Fifty-four percent (54%) of our students receive some type of financial assistance, which totaled over \$522,000 in the 2007-08 academic year. Over 25% of our students are daughters and/or granddaughters of Academy graduates, reflecting a rich legacy.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: emphasizing environmental issues. The student club ECOS (Environmental Concerns of Students) is very active, with recycling of paper and cans throughout the school. The club is also spearheading "Study Up, Power Down" on Earth Day, April 22nd. As we consider a campus renovation and expansion, we are looking to be as "green" as we possibly can be, so that we can strengthen, heal and renew the face of the Earth.

In addition, we perform many service projects to bring awareness of global issues to the students, including a weekly tutoring program of African refugees who have settled here in Cleveland and a summer mission trip to Appalachia. We also have a UNITY club, which celebrates the diversity of our student body with activities throughout the year.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: Each year, about 95% of our graduates go onto college. What makes that fact unusual is that 63% of our parents do not have a college degree. They often work multiple jobs, sacrificing much to provide a quality Catholic education for their daughters. The Jordans were no exception, both immigrants. Patrick read meters for the gas company & Nora was mother to their 2 sons and 4 daughters. The Jordan sisters all became SJA graduates, the first generation to attend college. Mary Jordan, class of 1979, went on to Georgetown and then Columbia for her master's degree. Mary's first and only job has been with the Washington Post. Mary & her husband Kevin Sullivan won the Pulitzer for their work in international reporting, exposing the injustices of the Mexican criminal justice system, especially the plight of the children caught in this terrible web. Her sisters have become a physician, a lawyer and a business executive. Mary reflects that her time at SJA formed her as a leader. She learned confidence, conscience and compassion. She lives out the CSJ charism of serving the dear neighbor. And today, SJA continues to provide a springboard for our students, as they are prepared to bring people into union with God, each other and all creation. When 156 young women graduate this June, many will again be that first generation college student, and a future leader for this troubled world.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about: education. We are pleased to already be connecting with Nazareth Academy (LaGrange) and St. Joseph's Academy (Baton Rouge). We plan to continue to nurture these relationships, sharing thoughts and ideas in many areas: charism and mission, curriculum, advancement, alumnae, finance, capital campaigns, etc. Future hopes are to perform mission work together, have student and teacher exchanges, and further the charism of the CSJs in the daily lives of our community members.

Other: Principal Audrey Menard and President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis were able to attend the inaugural conference for laypeople at the International Centre in Le Puy in October 2007. It was a fantastic week and such a rich experience. We hope that the CLT will continue to support the International Centre and encourage others to attend such conferences in the future. Perhaps there could be scholarships for the ministries to send people to Le Puy?

We would also be interested in exploring other international opportunities that may occur, perhaps with other CSJ-sponsored schools outside the United States.

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Adoption Ministry

Contact Person: Sister Doloro May, CSJ

Address: 8160 Parallel Pkwy – Suite 103
Kansas City, KS 66112

Phone: 913-299-5222 or 1-800-752-1737 e-mail: apeacefulblessing@yahoo.com

Fax: 913-299-5111 or 913-299-6578

Description:

St. Joseph Adoption Ministry opened on January 8 2002 as ST. Joseph Adoption Referral Services Inc. This organization began as an outgrowth of, and adjunct to, years of prolife ministry in crisis pregnancy services. (June 29, 1985). The first child was born March 2, 2002 in California and is currently living in Colorado with his parents.

Structure:

The organization is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph and has 501 (c) (3) designation. In addition, it is separately incorporated, and functions under such guidelines of the State of Kansas.

On May 13, 2005 - at the request of the State of Kansas - State licensure was procured and granted and the delineation title was changed to ST. Joseph Adoption Ministry. In essence, since the Corporation remained the same, the legal title is as follows: St. Joseph Adoption Referral Services d/b/a St. Joseph Adoption Ministry.

Profile of those served:

As of March of 2008, 115 children have been blest with parents since the inception of this organization. Our stated mission is to be of service to Catholic married couples who are under the age of 50 and who are wishing to expand their families through the avenue of adoption.

Adoption law is State specific, and we work with couples for purposes of helping them to complete a domestic adoption. We do not work in the International arena. We can work with couples throughout the United States, with the exception of the State of New York - where we would have to have a visible presence. We follow the respective State and Federal guidelines with respect to the home study, post - placement visits, FBI and child abuse clearances. When a child is adopted from a State other than wherein the adoptive parents reside, the process known as The Interstate Compact for the Protection of Children (ICPC) is fully complied with.

Our goal is to be the advocate for the adoptive family - and we work with roughly 20 - 25 other adoption professionals who in turn are in need of families, since they represent and help the parents of birth. We find too, that this arrangement also precludes an appearance of a potential conflict of interest between the parents of birth and adoption

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: We believe that our talents and resources, in collaboration with others, so cited; are helping to better the outcome for children, to strengthen family life, and thus, to take a positive step towards integrity of creation and betterment of society and the values of goodness inherent therein.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: Needless to say, there are many. We are three nuns working here - a business woman, a social worker, and a director. We value and enjoy this ministry and are CONSTANTLY SURPRISED by the working of God in our midst.

Six years ago, a 7 year old girl whom we fondly call "the angel in the outfield" (because of her love of softball), received loving parents and a wonderful home, subsequent to having a rather tumultuous beginning and being an unwanted child. She has adjusted well and is so happy – in her words – to have a REAL FAMILY. She will be 13 in July and she couldn't be happier. At Christmas, she wrote us a lovely thank you for helping her to find A REAL DAD AND MOM. Had this not happened when it did, she would more than likely be a ward of the State of Missouri.

In another case, the birthmother had intended to place the child at birth with a couple in Massachusetts - not one of our clients - although the couple were at the hospital and had hoped to adopt this child, it did not happen for them. The birthfather and the birthmother's mother - who lived in California, promised to help her and convinced her to keep the child.

This arrangement was fraught with difficulties. Just last week the birthmother's mother put everyone out on the streets - literally. The birthfather, who is quite young, disappeared many months ago, and told her and the daughter that he didn't want to be involved with them anymore. The birthmother contacted the agency with whom she had worked over 2 years ago for help. They in turn, contacted the original couple, who by this time, had adopted successfully and did not want any more children. Now we are working with a Virginia couple, who hope to adopt this child, once legalities are addressed.

There are many more stories similar to this one - some better - some worse. In Iowa, one couple was running from the law for fraudulent check writing in Oregon, and just decided they couldn't do it any longer. They went to one of the attorneys with whom we work to turn themselves in, and to beg her to find parents for their 3 month old daughter. I got the call at 10 pm on Friday night. A Texas family came forward, and went to Iowa to meet with the parents. The Dad was amazed - the adoptive father was wearing a football shirt from his Alma Mater - the same number that the birthfather had when he played high school sports. After all the paper work was duly signed and finished, and after many weeks in Iowa, they adopted this little girl. Subsequently, after serving their time, the birthparents had a second daughter, and asked that this couple adopt her as well.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about: Pro-life issues

Other: Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to network. Thank you, too, for all the work you are doing on behalf of all of us.

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Center - Wheeling

Contact Person: Mary Clark, CSJ

Address: 137 Mount St. Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-232-8160 e-mail: mclark@csjoseph.org Fax: 304-232-1404

Description:

St. Joseph Center is a small retreat house sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph, located in Wheeling, WV. We welcome people of all faith traditions to days of prayer and reflection, as well as guided and directed retreats. We have ten rooms and a self contained apartment for those who desire a place to come away and rest in the quiet. We have a labyrinth located in a wooded area close to a stream and quiet area for prayer

We hold our land and buildings as a sacred trust to be used for the spiritual and mental well-being of our sisters and others.

Structure:

We offer guided, conference and directed retreats. There are a number of spiritual directors available for those who wish to enter into a spiritual direction relationship. The Center serves as a means for extending our charism of loving unity to which the congregation is called.

Our Center is comfortable and marked by simplicity and hospitality.

Profile of those served:

We seek to provide space for all those in the world who come looking for a quiet and peaceful atmosphere in which to find God, heal relationships, and find a place of peace within their own heart.

Folks have recently come from Mississippi, Virginia, California, and Washington, D.C. Our desire is to widen our boundaries so that we are able to accommodate small non-profit groups, as well as local church and parish groups.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Reaching out to those in our local area who may not have the opportunity to meet in a retreat house because of cost. Recently we invited Marian House, a day program for those with mental illness, and a faculty from a small school that serves pre-school autistic children. Both groups came for a day without cost and enriched us greatly by their presence among us.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Recently a woman called; she had been traveling for about two months straight because she had been evicted from her home. She came with a much wounded spirit, to a place where she had never met sisters before. Originally she asked to stay two days, and then asked to extend it to a week. Day by day we could see her spirits lifting, and a deep peace come over her. When she left at the end of the week it was with tears of joy, and a belief that she would be held in prayer each day.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Ways of continuing to reach out to those who have no funds to stay at retreat houses. We would be interested in sharing ideas about programs and retreats that have been successful in other areas; and provide a resource for possible retreat directors throughout the country.

Other:

Each year we offer an annual French Dinner as a way to invite those in the Ohio Valley to celebrate our French beginnings in Le Puy, France and to enjoy an authentic French meal together in a lovely setting in the hills of West Virginia.

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Conference Center - Tipton

Contact Person: Betty Hawkins

Address: 1440 W. Division Rd.
Tipton, IN 46072

Phone:765-675-4121

e-mail: bhawkins@csjoseph.org

Fax:765-675-7471

Description:

The Conference Center is a warm place to relax and learn in a welcoming, flexible environment. St. Joseph Center of Tipton offers a perfect blend of hospitality and efficiency. It is home to the Sisters of St. Joseph and has welcomed thousands of people in search of a quiet and reflective space to meet. Provided are well-equipped meeting rooms, overnight accommodations and comfortable dining space situated on spacious and beautiful grounds. A small gift shop is offered to our visitors. The House of Prayer, a contemporary log cabin, is an additional space to contemplate the wonder of God's creation.

Structure:

The Conference Center is a sponsored unincorporated ministry which offers retreats, workshops, day meetings and dinners. The Director reports to the Administrator of the campus. Fifteen double rooms, fifteen single rooms and two suites can house between 55 and 60 guests at one time. A large number of volunteers that over the years have been very devoted to the Sisters and the ministries here assist as requested.

Profile of Those Served:

Primarily we hold conferences and retreats for varied church denominations who come from all over the state of Indiana. Length of stay ranges from two days to two weeks. We also hold many formal dinners throughout the year serving church groups, schools, hospitals and other non-profit organizations.

We're furthering the Generous Promises:

Many groups from both within and without the congregation meet at the Conference Center to work towards systemic change and collaborate with others in order to better feed the hungers of the world. The recycling and care of the grounds practiced at the Center assists with the healing and renewing of Earth. The diversity and variety of groups served draw us to embrace greater inclusivity and mutuality in all relationships.

Story we'd like to tell about our Ministry...

The United Methodists were bringing their continuing education classes here when I became the Center Coordinator 22 years ago. I was soon told by the Superintendent of the North Indiana Conference that if the Sisters continued to pray for them while they held their classes here and, if I kept my smile and flexibility, that they would continue to come for years. They are still with us.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about...

I would like to have more retreats and conferences held during the week. The main time for them to be scheduled now is on the week-ends. I am open to ideas and suggestions from other Conference Centers as to how they maximize their time and space.

Other:

We will be looking into new furnishings and a floor covering for one of our larger conference rooms. Any suggestions or ideas from other communities that have large meeting room spaces would be helpful.

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Health Initiative

Contact Person: Marguerite O'Brien, CSJ

Address: 137 Mount St. Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-232-8160 e-mail: mobrien@csjoseph.org Fax: 304-232-1404

Description:

Saint Joseph Health Initiative continues to extend a vision of healing and holistic care by developing a senior living community, providing a site for the local Hospice to build a 12 unit acute care center, and supporting various ministries of the congregation throughout West Virginia.

Structure:

The Board of St. Joseph Health Initiative (aka: St. Joseph's Hospital of Parkersburg) oversees all activities required to close the hospital which was sold in 1996. In addition, the Board extends the purpose of the corporation through new health outreach programs. Five members of the congregation serve as the Board of Directors for this corporation

Profile of those served:

Those served by SJHI include several agencies throughout West Virginia who receive annual grants. Creating a senior living community on the grounds of Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling is responding to a need for independent and assisted living in the Upper Ohio Valley. Providing a site for a Hospice center will afford the local community a lovely site for end-of-life care.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

By sharing our resources with Valley Hospice, we are responding to a hunger known by families who seek quality, compassionate end-of-life care.

By utilizing "green" building concepts, we are working to renew the face of Earth.

By opening our Mount St. Joseph home to family and friends, we are extending our hospitality to include the neighbor in new ways.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Several years ago we discussed the option of partnering with Valley Hospice to build a center on our property. That offer was considered by their Board, but they chose to explore other options. Two years went by and we were preparing to begin our plans for our senior living community. Just as a courtesy call, Hospice was updated about our plans and the offer of a building site was again made.

Unknown to us, the Hospice Board had – 2 days before this call – made the decision not to pursue their most recent building plan. This was the third option they studied and each time, something caused them to decide not to proceed. Our call came at the perfect time, one they describe as a gift from God.

The building pad is now ready and construction is beginning.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Other:

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Press

Contact Persons: Ed Sutoris Sr. Judy Sikorski CSJ

Address: 1515 W. Ogden Avenue
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Phone: 708 579-8935

e-mail sjp@csjlagrange.org

Fax: 708 354-9573

Description: St. Joseph Press specializes in professional digital printing services for religious and nonprofit organizations. We produce high quality flyers, brochures, booklets, annual reports, cards and your tailored message at reasonable prices using equipment which is environmentally friendly. Just tell us what you need - design, prepress, custom messaging, addressing, printing, finishing, packaging mail or bulk shipping.

Structure: The director and operations manager work with design personnel, press operators and bindery personnel. We are fortunate to have the services of many of our sisters who volunteer to do bindery work.

Profile of those served: As a ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Press works in synergy with the Sisters' Ministry of the Arts. We print many Ministry of the Arts products including prayer cards, prints, greeting cards, bookmarks, Advent and Lenten Reflection booklets and marketing materials.

We serve other religious communities, church organizations, and non profit groups helping them meet their printing needs with quality and affordability.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by: continuing to use and to search for paper produced by wind power or other methods friendly to our planet, recycling paper and by using a press whose waste products and other emissions are the least possible threat to our environment.

The very products which we print for Ministry of the Arts help us "to network with others across the world" to help spread the message calling for "a culture of inclusivity and mutuality".

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: Our ministry began as a way to increase our revenue and it has blossomed into a way to further our ministry and to keep our older sisters active. Our sisters are proud of what we accomplish and their hand in helping us do it.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about: How best could we help you meet your printing needs?

Other:

Ministry Name: Saint Joseph Spirituality Center - Baton Rouge

Contact Person: Sr. Cynthia Sabathier, CSJ

Address: 2980 Kleinert Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone: 225-383-3349 e-mail: sabathcsi@aol.com Fax: 225-336-4874

Description: The mission of St. Joseph Spirituality Center is rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ, the same mission which continuously unfolds in the Church and in the world: "That they all may be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us..." (John 17:21)

From its mission, interpreted through the charism of the Congregation of St. Joseph, flows the ministry of companioning in Christ, women and men desirous of a life of faith, prayer and service. Within the Roman Catholic tradition, the Center identifies with Ignatian Spirituality as the context for its offerings.

The purpose of the Center is to promote religious education and the spiritual development of adults. This includes activities that foster the wholeness and holiness of the human person, which leads to a deepening and effective consciousness of the role of the Christian in the world.

Structure: The St. Joseph Spirituality Center, a non-profit organization, is owned and operated by Sisters of St. Joseph. It is not funded by the diocese, any parish or any institution. In the 24th year of our existence, the Center has derived financial support primarily from donations, which, along with admission fees, helps to cover program costs, salaries, and operating expenses.

Powers and Responsibilities are delineated in corporation bylaws for the Corporate Board and the Board of Directors. Staff members include three Sisters of St. Joseph who are certified spiritual directors. They hold the positions of executive director and associate directors. A layperson serves as office manager. Only the executive director is full time.

Profile of those served: Ecumenically based, we serve the people of Baton Rouge and beyond. Our current mailing list is 2540.

The services we offer include

- workshops, which promote instruction in Scripture, theology, and prayer;
- days of prayer and retreats of longer duration;
- workshops geared to self-understanding and the improvement of relationships;
- and private spiritual direction and pastoral counseling.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

-- working for specific systemic change in collaboration with others that the hungers of the world might be fed. **Especially addressing 4 hungers #4, 5, 6 and 7; offering consistent input on forgiveness, healing, 12 steps.**

-- claiming our oneness with Earth and to take steps now to strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth. **Our physical plant is very simple, a 4 room former house. It is simple in its design and upkeep. We use other facilities for all programs and retreats, with the exception of spiritual direction. We appreciate the uniqueness of this facility. Our reality causes us to think outside the box and to collaborate with others on a regular basis.**

-- networking with others...to bring about shift...from institutional power and privilege to inclusivity and mutuality. **We strive for inclusivity with other religious**

traditions through ecumenical endeavors; specific efforts to invite minorities and to go to where they are; collaborating to host *Immaculee Ilibagiza*.

-- being mutually responsible and accountable for leadership in the congregation. We are mutually responsible and very accountable for mission and fiscal matters to the Congregation, to the Board of Directors of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, and to one another in carrying out these Generous Promises for the mission and by exerting leadership.

We are fiscally responsible in generating and turning over funds and asking for just remuneration as we provide services for individuals and groups.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry: The gradual unfolding of the dream of the spirituality center was born in the home of Sr. Lydia Champagne who was encouraged by the laywomen who came to her, to "start a center." 24 years later, these ladies continue to invite others to join in. Sr. Kathleen Babin supported the dream and followed as director.

A story for another day is how Sr. Cynthia Sabathier, the present director, also came to the center through a dream, this one at night, followed three days later by an invitation in the mail from then president Sr. Lucy Silvio. The latter three are our present staff.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

- state of the heart and order of the house, as face to face opportunities occur
- specifically, in connecting with other spirituality and retreat centers, re. programming, and how to attract a diverse clientele.
- common concerns such as finances.

Other: none

Ministry Name: School of Music – LaGrange Park

Contact Person: Emily Rokos, C.S.J.

Address: 1515 W. Ogden Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526-1721

Phone: 708-354-9200 e-mail: erokos@csjoseph.org Fax: 708-354-9573

Description:

In our Music School, we teach the Suzuki Method. Mr. Suzuki named his method “Talent Education”. He believed that all children can be trained to have musical talent if it is taught as the mother tongue is taught, by listening and repetition.

Structure:

We begin this process with our students as early as 4 years old, sometimes even at the age of three. The songs are recorded and the parent is urged to play the recording every day. This trains the child to listen to what is being played. Music is not just how you move your fingers but what your ear hears in the music. A good ear helps to develop good rhythm and also the memory. When the child is old enough to begin reading, we teach note reading. The parent is involved in the learning process and it is a happy way to be introduced to music.

Profile of those served:

Most of our students begin at pre-school age but we also accept older students or adults, who will be taught the conventional way. S. Mary Ricardo teaches violin. S. Emily teaches piano, and a lay teacher, Ling Meh Huang, teaches conventional piano.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

(#1) “..That the hungers of the world might be fed.” One of the hungers of the world is for peace. Suzuki says “If a child hears good music from the day of his birth, and learns to play it himself, he develops sensitivity, discipline and endurance. He gets a beautiful heart”.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Our motto is: “Music is for life.” No matter how old a person becomes, music can always bring pleasure and peace.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Are there other teachers of music in our congregation, and of what does their ministry consist?

Other:

Ministry Name: School on Wheels

Contact Persons: Sr. Marybeth Mc Dermott, CSJ or Barbara Bernhard

Address: 1515 West Ogden Ave.
La Grange Park, IL 60526-1721

Phone: 708-482-5060 or (708)482-5037 e-mail: mmcdermott@csjlagrange.org
Fax: 708-354-9573

Description: School on Wheels provides Literacy Education to low-income residents by providing tutoring sites in DuPage and Cook counties of Illinois. The free tutoring is conducted in a 40 foot Mobile Classroom where ten students are instructed each period. We address the challenge of Adult Literacy by providing a constructive, positive environment for learning every day English language skills one-on-one to students in their immediate neighborhoods, helping them to become self-sufficient.

Structure:

Executive Director –Responsible for management of the program. Program Director reports to her as does Associate Director. Conducts performance evaluations of these positions.

Program Director- Responsible for day to day operation of the program. Manages volunteers, student worker & bus drivers, training of volunteers and teaches in the day time session at all sights. Conducts performance evaluation for student worker & bus drivers

Associate Director- responsible for operation of the evening hours and the six week summer school session.

Advisory Board- 9 members, gives advice on fund raising programs, teaching materials, work with volunteers etc. Act as ambassadors in the community.

Profile of those served:

Low-income adults above the age of 17. Average number of years in school in their native countries is 8.8. Average age of adult learner is 32. Ethnic groups are Hispanic, Asian, White, Black, Polish, Lithuanian, Egyptian, Pakistani, Bosnian. Most students are below the poverty level.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Taking the risk to surrender our lives and resources to work for specific systemic change by working to eradicate illiteracy through teaching English to immigrants thereby empowering them to become independent and useful future citizens.

We also work to bring about a culture of inclusivity and mutuality by empowering our students to navigate this world better through language improvement.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Olga Sanchez has been a student for two years. She went to 6th grade in Mexico. She spoke to a group of prospective donors telling what School on Wheels means to her and all the ways she has been helped. She was interviewed with her tutor and Sr. Marybeth for Comcast TV and told what she has learned since enrolling in school. The program aired for the month of February each day. Comcast gave each of us a DVD which was 28 minutes in length. It was wonderful for PR. We got 14 new tutors who called to be trained.

She was a great representative. She now has a job at Party Rental and fills in for the Assistant manager when she has to leave the building. She also went to Parent-teacher conference without a translator.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Adult Literacy, Funding, Money raising, and new ways to attract Volunteers.

Other:

Thanks for asking.!

Ministry Name: Seeds of Literacy

Contact Person: Bonnie Entler

Address: 3104 W 25th Street, 3rd Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Phone: 216-661-7950 e-mail: bonnieentler@seedsofliteracy.org Fax: 216-661-7952

Description: Seeds of Literacy is an adult literacy project that provides basic education and G.E.D. preparation to the adult population in the Cuyahoga County free of charge to its students. Our program is built on one-to-one tutoring in which relationships of trust are built. Our students benefit greatly from this approach compared to a group teaching environment. Each of our students are able to work at their own academic level. One-to-one tutoring allows students at all academic levels to participate in our program. Our sites are located throughout different neighborhoods in the Cleveland community. Last fiscal year, we served over 700 students with the assistance of over 175 volunteer tutors.

Seeds of Literacy collaborates with community-base organizations, to strengthening our neighborhoods and our organization. In choosing our sites, we partner with neighborhood churches and social service agencies that provide additional services to help our students focus on self development and self-sufficiency instead of survival. Our class sites are located at: Annunciation Church, 4697 West 130th Street; St. Augustine Learning Center, 2486 West 14th Street; Headquarters, 3104 W 25th Street; Thea Bowman Center, 11901 Oakfield Avenue; St. Malachi Center, 2416 Superior Viaduct; St. Joseph Center, 3430 Rocky River Drive; Legacy Program ~ Sisters of Notre Dame, 1325 Ansel Road; St. Henry, 18200 Harvard Avenue; and West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Avenue.

Structure: Seeds of Literacy is a 501©3 organization. Our staff consists of a full-time executive director, a full-time director of teaching & learning, 3 full-time site coordinators, 3 part-time site coordinators, a part-time student recruiter, data entry, receptionist, and administrative assistant, along with dedicate time from the CSJ Cleveland's development director, communication director and HR director. We currently have 17 board members who oversee the operation of 5 committees – board development, community relations, fund development, finance, and program.

Profile of those served:

With our network of sites in Cleveland neighborhoods, we can reach a variety of students geographically. Our students cover a diverse range: 60% of our students are African American; 23% of our students are Caucasian; and 17% of our students are Hispanic. 62% of our students are female and 38% are male. Our student's ages range from 18 to over 60 years of age. 29% are between the ages of 18-24; 53% are between the ages of 25-44; 14% are between the ages of 45-59 and 4% are 60 or older.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

The Seeds of Literacy program brings together people of diverse race, ethnic, social and economic backgrounds to work together to help break a root cause of poverty – illiteracy. Seeds of Literacy believes that a strong educational foundation will provide our students with the ability to become self-sufficient. Seeds of Literacy strives to provide our students with the skills to compete and advance in society.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Marge Stack, Tutor for Seeds of Literacy

When Marge Stack heard about Seeds of Literacy in her church bulletin, she knew she wanted to get involved.

“Well, I wanted to do something. I had retired and I wanted to do something. And after working at a school for so long, not as a teacher but at a school, I liked the idea of teaching. And I thought, I could tutor people.”

Besides ten years of tutoring, Marge has also volunteered with other events and projects with Seeds. She enjoys seeing how the organization has grown, and how the changes can positively affect students.

“When we first started, Sr. Kathleen, she knew what she wanted because she had worked with the poor at the catholic center and in the women's center. She knew what to do to get it started. At first we didn't have many students but now they're coming all the time, it's great! We have more materials and computer programs. And now with the new programs helping students learn about the work situation, and you know what they need to work day to day, I think that will be really important with people to stay with a job.”

When asked if there is anything else she would like to say about Seeds of Literacy, Marge is short and to the point.

“If you want to do something to help people, come and be a tutor. Anybody can do it.”

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Seeds of Literacy looks forward to building new relationships with the other CSJ's ministries. Together we can share best practices and continue to share the mission and vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Other:

Seeds of Literacy's staff and board members look forward to continue working with the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Ministry Name: Sisters of Saint Joseph Charitable Fund, Inc (SSJCF)

Contact Person: Jane Harrington, CSJ

Address: P.O. Box 4420, 4420 Rosemar Road Suite 204
Parkersburg, WV 26104-4440

Phone: (304) 424-6080 e-mail: jharrington@ssjhcharitablefund.org
Fax: (304) 424-6080

Description:

The SSJCF is foundation established from the proceeds of the joint venture of St. Joseph's Hospital; the SSJCF mission is to continue and expand the health and wellness ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the Mid-Ohio Valley with a focus on health promotion and disease/illness prevention.

The primary method is by making grants to non-profit and public agency in the 11 county service area (8 in West Virginia and 3 in Ohio) through a competitive process; there are two grant cycles per year with a total amount of funding equal to approximately \$950,000 annually.

In addition, through its strategic plan, the SSJCF has identified several areas within the arena of health and wellness to which we offer leadership and more intensive and focused support. These areas are health ministry, healthy lifestyles (nutrition and physical activity), and oral health.

Grants and the pro-active work of the SSJCF is characterized by collaboration with other funders, agencies and the communities served.

Structure:

The SSJCF is a 501c3 incorporated in West Virginia; the by-laws call for a Board of Directors with at least 3 Sisters of St. Joseph and a total of 5 to 11 members. The By-Laws stipulate an Executive Director. At present, in addition to the Executive Director there is an Assistant Director and a Program Director or the Health Ministry Initiative.

Profile of those served:

The SSJCF most directly serves public and non-profit agencies through grants made to support the underserved, particularly children, families, the elderly. West Virginia and southeastern Ohio are characterized by high levels of poverty, limited access to health and wellness resources, and large percentages of residents with one or more likely, several risk factors adversely affecting health (use of tobacco, oral disease, obesity, etc.).

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

At this point, we are furthering the Generous Promises indirectly through the work of the SSJCF, in which the resources (investments) of the SSJCF are used to improve the health and wellness of those most in need and at risk, and with a specific focus of collaborating for systemic change. For example, the SSJCF has provided support and worked with groups that increased insurance coverage for poor children, increased state minimum wage, and are improving access to oral health care in manner that is responsive to the needs and opinions of those lacking these resources.

Our Board has adopted a strategic plan that includes emphasis on board education and we look forward to using the materials to be provided by the CSJ for board reflection and to help them understand the generous promises and their connection to our mission.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We are learning the value in staying with an effort over a significant period of time and the payoffs that can result for the community. About 7 years ago, the SSJCF gave primary support for a school system (13,000 students) to increase physical activity in the elementary schools. Now, virtually all of the 24 schools have physical activity programs in addition to PE classes and have also improved nutrition. Based on the process in the first few years, the system was the only one in the state of WV to receive a multi-year half-million dollar federal physical education grant.

The project, with support from larger funders, added a research component; the results demonstrated a correlation between physical fitness and academic performance. The project staff has had this study published in two national journals and have presented at national meetings and Yale University.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Area of making grants, or with any ministries that have experience in the areas of health promotion particularly in rural/high poverty areas and with special focus on healthy lifestyles and oral health.

In addition, we focus some resources on how to assist non-profit groups and agencies as they work to strengthen and develop their organization; and we through our health ministry we are working to engage the faith-community to be active participants in helping members and the community to better holistic health.

We would be interested in connecting to ministries that share or have experience in these areas.

Other:

At this point, we have two members of the CSJ on staff (including the Executive Director) and even so, are challenged to convey to the Board of Directors (primarily from our service area and not members of the CSJ) in a sensitive and effective way the relationship of the SSJCF to the Congregation, not to mention the area of Generous Promises.

It is our hope that through this CSJ Ministries all of the sponsored ministries can have access to materials and information that we can all use and share with our boards and our collaborators that accurately, consistently, and sensitively communicate this relationship.

I'd suggest that these forms be available through the (a) website – all names listed so one could “click” one name and access that particular form. Would facilitate updates. Also, if ministries have websites, have active links to those – for more information.

Ministry Name: Sisters of St. Joseph Dear Neighbor Ministries

Contact Person: Bill Gress, Executive Director

Address: 1329 S. Bluffview
Wichita, KS 67218

Phone: 316-684-5120

e-mail: bgress@csjoseph.org

Fax: 316-684-3983

Description:

- 1) StepStone – transitional housing and support services for women and children survivors of domestic violence
- 2) Hilltop Neighborhood Outreach – home visitation, food and financial assistance to poor and needy in this neighborhood
- 3) Representative Payee Services – bill payment for recipients of Social Security Disability who cannot manage their personal finances
- 4) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance – for low income taxpayers
- 5) Community Garden – individual garden plots for interested neighbors
- 6) Prairie Land Food co-op – monthly order of groceries at less than half the retail price, for anyone interested
- 7) Alternative Spring Break – college students spend their spring break doing service projects for us and staying with the sisters in the Wichita Center
- 8) Mission & Ministry Trips – group trips to work in areas of need in other cities

Structure:

- 1) 5 full-time employees, 3 half-time employees, 3 semi-retired sisters, 50 regular ongoing volunteers, 200 volunteers in group projects over the year
- 2) Board of Directors is 5 Wichita CSJ's
- 3) StepStone is incorporated separately because it is co-sponsored with Adorers of the Blood of Christ; board is 5 CSJ's & 2 ASC's.

Profile of those served:

(covered above in description of each service)

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

We work in collaboration with others to feed the hungers in our part of the world.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

We are an enthusiastic collaboration of volunteers, sisters and employees serving the needs of the dear neighbor.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

- 1) Establishing a Mentor Program for the children of families in our StepStone program
- 2) Destinations for our Mission & Ministry Trips, sites that would host the group and arrange for local service work
- 3) We are able to host another college spring break group in March

Other:

We have a very good 11.5 minute video that describes our ministry and our services.

Ministry Name: Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling Foundation, Inc.

Contact Person: Sister Alicia Weiskircher

Address: 2260 Marshall Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-242-2088

E-mail: aweiskircher@csjoseph.org

Fax: 304-232-1404

Description:

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1974. It is the official retirement fund set up for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling. Its purpose is to assist the congregation financially in providing care for the retired and ill members of the congregation.

Structure:

The Members of the Corporation are ex-officio the President and the General Council of the Congregation of St. Joseph. The business and affairs is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of no fewer than seven and no more than eleven Directors, at least four of whom are Sisters of St. Joseph.

Profile of those served:

Those served are the retired and the ill member of the Congregation of St. Joseph from the Founding Congregation of Wheeling.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Sharing mutually responsible leadership in the Congregation and by collaborating with others to meet specific needs.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

The Foundation has had in the past and has at the present many wonderful Directors who are concerned about the welfare of the Sisters.

There are many persons who give generously to the Foundation either in the form of memorials or outright donations. Some do this on a regular basis.

The West Virginia Auxiliary of the Congregation of St. Joseph has also been very helpful in providing funds for the retired and ill Sisters.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

What the other Founding Congregations are doing to meet the needs of the retired Sisters in their area.

Other:

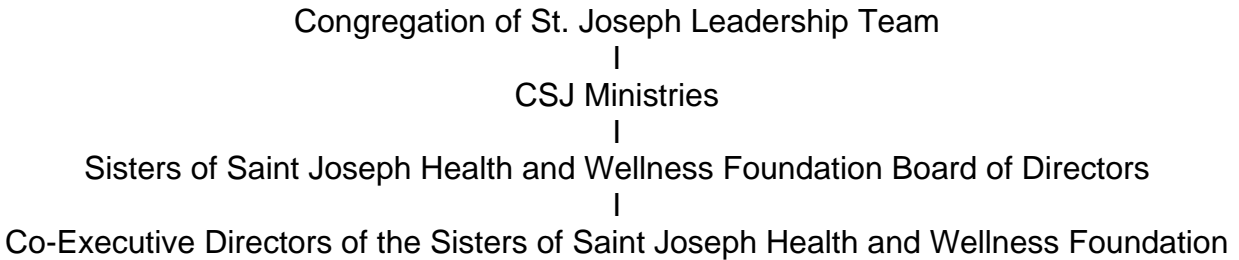
Ministry Name: Sisters of Saint Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation

Contact Persons:	Helen Skormisley, CSJ	Janice Landwehr, CSJ
Address:	684 Killarney Drive Morgantown, WV 26505	137 Mount St. Joseph Road Wheeling, WV 26003
Phone:	(304) 599-5174	(304) 233-4500
E-mail:	helenssj@aol.com	ssjhwf@aol.com
Fax:		(304) 232-1404

Description:

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation funds programs/projects at the initiation of the Board of Directors. The current primary focus is to provide funding for the School-Based Health Initiative in West Virginia by concentrating on the mental health needs of children. In addition the Foundation is providing 5-10% of its available annual funding to support Child Abuse Prevention Projects such as Child Advocacy Centers, In-Home Parent Education and In-Home Family Education.

Structure:



Profile of those served:

Children living primarily in rural West Virginia who are uninsured or under insured, have no primary care physician, and are at high risk for health problems. These children generally live at or below the poverty level.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

We are partnering with local, state, national and governmental groups to address systemic change in health care, especially for children. In West Virginia we are doing this by collaborating with the West Virginia School-Based Health Initiative and other state agencies concerned with children and children's health.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

A licensed professional counselor whose position is funded by the SSJHWF and who works in a rural School-Based Health Center says there is an overwhelming demand for mental health services for school children.

She states: "I attend graduation ceremonies every year, and each year, so many of the kids are my 'success stories.' Very often I got to know them when they were in the seventh grade, and they would have told me then that they were going to drop out and not finish school. Every single year I see several students with those circumstances get their diplomas and walk across the stage. Some of them wouldn't have made it if not for the mental health services we are able to provide here. That's quite a reward, seeing them get their diplomas, knowing that we've made a positive difference. I can't imagine anything better."

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

-projects they sponsor that change/improve health care for children

Other:

Ministry Name: Taller de José

Contact Person: Kathy Brazda, CSJ

Address: 3047 W. Cermak
Chicago, IL 60623

Phone: 773-521-8400

e-mail: kbcjsj@aol.com

Fax: 773-521-4890

Description:

Taller de José is a resource center where people who lack the basic necessities and freedoms of life can come to be accompanied in the search for agencies and people who will help them. Taller de José does not duplicate already existing services in the ecclesial and civic communities of Chicago but partners with them to help to alleviate human sufferings caused by, but not limited to, hunger, domestic abuse, addictions, homelessness, sickness, and violence.

The current plight of persons who are immigrants and their families makes the creation of Taller de José and its ministry a necessity. Taller de José involves the hopes, presence, and hard work of members and friends of the Congregation of St. Joseph, staff and parishioners of Our Lady of Tepeyac Parish, and people from the Little Village area. They hope to all work together so that this small part of the city of Chicago “may become one.”

Structure:

The Advisory Board of Taller de José assures that the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph and of Taller de José is upheld and enhances the Mission of Our Lady of Tepeyac Parish. The Board decides on all policy, maintains final approval of the budget, leads the fundraising/development and future planning and hires/oversees the director. The director of Taller de José oversees the daily operation, prepares the budget and finance reports, and recruits and trains the *acompañero(a)s*, those who accompany the clients.

Profile of those served:

Taller de José is located in the Little Village (La Villita) neighborhood, which is a port of entry for Mexican natives seeking a new life in the city of Chicago. The population is largely Latino with a number of undocumented residents. The community is family centered and rich in culture and faith, but it is plagued by the stresses of immigration, (fear, poverty, the presence of gangs, absentee landlords.) Little Village is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Chicago. A report issued by the City of Chicago Department of Public Health in 2000 states that over eighty percent of the population lives below twice the poverty level. The community has many social, health-related and educational needs.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

Those involved with Taller de José are furthering the first Generous Promise ...” taking the risk to surrender our lives and resources to work for systemic change in collaboration with others that the hungers of the world might be fed.” We are helping our clients to better their lives by using resources that are available in the community. We connect with agencies, many who are already working for systemic change to walk with and accompany our clients to health and wholeness. This project involves the Sisters, Associates, Parishioners of Our Lady of Tepeyac as well as others to work together and utilize resources well and provide service to those in need. The founders of Taller de José have accepted leadership in bringing this project to this point in its development.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

The Director of Taller de José has been in place since September and is excited about the progress that has been made. In this brief time, it is more and more apparent that the services of Taller de José are much needed in this area. The director has met with various social service agencies who see this ministry as helping with networking in order to better serve the people in the neighborhood. Local universities and young adult volunteer programs are interested being a part of Taller de José as acompañero(a)s. The Pastor, staff and parishioners of Our Lady of Tepeyac Parish, where Taller is located, are warm and welcoming of this ministry. Taller de José would like to begin the process of becoming an “officially sponsored” ministry of the congregation.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

We would be interested in talking to other agencies about grants, marketing and development, as well as ways we could collaborate to fulfill our Generous Promises and mission of unity.

Other:

Ministry Name: The Well

Contact Person: Marlene Schemmel, CSJ

Address: 1515 W. Ogden Ave.
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Phone: 708-482-5088

e-mail: thewell@csilagrangepark.org

Fax: 708-354-9573

Description:

The Well is the retreat and spirituality center for the Congregation of St. Joseph LaGrange Center. It is a place where people of all faiths and cultures are invited to recognize and affirm our communion with God and all creation; to experience an atmosphere for spiritual, physical, and emotional wholeness and to participate in the Sacred processes of healing and caring for earth and her people.

Structure:

The mission of The Well unfolds through a schedule of classes, workshops and retreats that extends throughout the year. In addition, The Well promotes healing through massage and Reiki, yoga, art expression through a water color and drawing class and Come & Paint retreat experiences and other select workshops.

The facility is used to provide space for individuals and small groups to make retreats. The Well looks for a "mission match" when renting its space to other groups.

Staff consists of an executive director, program director, marketing manager, massage and reiki therapist and several adjunct teachers, counselors and program presenters.

An Advisory Committee meets four times a week. Members assist with program development, marketing, fundraising and other aspects affecting The Well.

Profile of those served:

Although The Well programs and activities are open to men and women of all ages and religions, the profile of the person most likely to be in attendance is that of a middle-aged or older white Catholic woman. Ongoing efforts are made to encourage more men to attend programs. We hope in the future to target young adults in a more specific way. The location of The Well is an upper middle-class white neighborhood, and it is from this neighborhood that most of its constituents are drawn. A grant that we have received for the past three years has enabled The Well to serve abused women in a local shelter. This has helped to broaden the demographics of those we serve.

We're furthering the Generous Promises by:

- Teaching in light of the new theology, emphasizing the God of Creation, the beauty of earth and the responsibility of all to nurture and sustain earth and all its creatures. We hope to further our commitment to the 2nd generous promise (To recognize the reality that Earth is dying, to claim our oneness with Earth and to take steps now to strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth.) by building an even more dynamic regional Spirit Earth Center over the next several years.
- Modeling an inclusive style of leadership that encourages a team approach, and a sense of shared responsibility on the part of staff members, advisory committee members and volunteers who are involved in the life of The Well. (4th promise: To be mutually responsible and accountable for leadership in the congregation.)

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Stories most often repeated at The Well are those having to do with life transformation through exposure to eco-theology. A common theme is that of a person who comes to The Well on the verge of losing her childhood faith, feeling that the 'old ways' are no longer nourishing and tenable, left uninspired with the homilies she is hearing on Sundays. After taking a few classes, this person's faith seems to come alive with new meaning, new metaphors for God, new views of the world, and new ways of reconciling faith and science. This conversion experience provokes a thirst for more and soon this seeker becomes a regular to The Well eco-spirituality classes. Different names, different faces and different life experiences, but the theme of the story is always the same. We hear it often.

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Sharing personnel for short-term programs

Advertising our programs to their constituents

Brainstorming on meaningful and effective programming ideas

Using teleconferencing to expand our offerings

Other:

Ministry Name: Transformations Spirituality Center

Contact Person: Michele Gossman

Address: 3427 Gull Rd, Box 02
Nazareth, MI 49074

Phone: 269-381-6290 X254 e-mail: mgossman@csjoseph.org Fax: 269-381-4616

Description: We are a retreat and conference center whose vision is to encourage spiritual growth, to create a peaceful environment for gatherings, and to collaborate with others in providing programming to enhance transformational growth. We do this by offering 4 primary services: educational programming, retreats, spiritual direction for individuals and groups, and hosted events.

Structure: This unincorporated ministry is overseen by an Advisory Group represented by community leaders from various walks of life, a CSJ representative, a staff member who is a CSJ, and the TSC Director (ex officio). We collaborate with individuals and groups to reach out more broadly to the community. In hosting the annual Trinity Theological Conference we have established good rapport with a cross-section of the Protestant clergy, and worked with representatives from local foundations and universities as well as with the Islamic and Jewish communities. We form working groups to further specific efforts such as 12-Step spirituality and a celebration of International Women's Day.

Profile of those served:

One way to describe those who come, is by looking at those who attend classes or come for spiritual direction. Over the past 3 years 1,795 individuals have come 4,566 times, for an average of 2.54 classes per person. Our audiences have been 78% female. We do not ask people to disclose their religious affiliation, and 72% don't. Of the small percentage who do, we know that 16% are Catholic, with Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians represented in significant numbers. Others come from other mainline denominations, from evangelical congregations, from Anabaptist roots, and from non-Christian traditions. The caring professions, such as clergy, allied health professionals, therapists, social workers and teachers comprise the majority of our attendees.

We're furthering the Generous Promises:

We act locally and think globally in finding ways to support the generous promises. We often collaborate with others to feed the spiritual hungers of our neighbors, such as through the annual community of caregivers events that more intentionally ground those in caring professions with their spiritual journeys. We have committed ourselves to raising justice issues that encourage greater inclusivity and mutuality and have provided programming on issues such as the death penalty, corporate corruption, the UN Millennium Goals, global spirituality & sustainability, and unemployment. We've raised awareness of human responsibility for a sustainable Earth by offering programming such as "The Universe is a Green Dragon" and "Radical Amazement" as well as by conducting Earth Day events and exploring nature deficit disorder in children and adults.

A story we'd like to tell about our ministry:

Transformation is much like bread-making, in that transformed hearts rise slowly and only under the right conditions. This ministry provides the incubator for this rising. In addition to the more direct ways in which we further the generous promises, we do so more subtly with the work we do to nurture people in awareness of their true selves. By providing opportunities for people to explore issues such as addiction, shame, conflict, anger, self-defeating behaviors, and integrity we prepare people that function from a God-centeredness that reduces fear and opens them to new ways of being in the world with other people. Ways that are more loving, more accepting, and more willing to work for the common good rather than for narrow self-interest. One retreatant summed it up nicely when she said, "This retreat allowed me to remember who I am."

We'd be interested in connecting with other ministries about:

Collaborating with other ministries might be done in many ways. A good place to start might be to share what is going right – an appreciative inquiry approach to ministry. This might allow us all to be more efficient in offering programs and services to which the public responds. We have talked about pooling resources for presenters fees and travel, but the first step might involve sharing programming philosophy and goals. Ask the who, what, where, when and especially why questions first, then look at ways to structure programming to meet goals.

Other:

We are increasingly known not only as a place of ecumenism, but as a place of building interfaith bridges. Our visitors are still overwhelmingly Christian, and primarily of the Catholic faith tradition consistent with the Center's roots. We host retreats and gatherings of Diocesan sponsored groups and events several times each month. These include formation retreats, jail ministry meetings, teachers gatherings, Deacons retreats, and training for liturgical ministers – and represent most offices of the Diocese. Additionally, we work to build appreciation of others and understanding across lines of religion, race and culture. To do this we have hosted groups such as Sufi gatherings, and retreats from followers of a Hindu path. We have offered Dances of Universal Peace, and explorations of topics like Midrash and Shabbat. We participate in Interfaith endeavors in the community, and actively cultivate relationship.