

In the Ignatian tradition IVC volunteers seek to find God in service to others, the people we serve, our community and the lives we live. If you are interested in joining us contact Linda Wihl at lwihl@ivcusa.org. You're best job may be after you retire!

Peter Keiser a Living Witness

Peter Keiser embodies the motto, "Life Without Limits" of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cincinnati. They honored Peter with their Ambassador Award in 2011, Peter served as a Social Worker/Advocacy Coordinator at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the Chair of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Peter is also the son of Bucky Keiser, one of the founding members of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cincinnati which recognized him for championing their mission to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.



Disabilities Council, where he was chair.

Peter may walk with a limp and speak hesitatingly but is more than able to change the world as his mother taught him and others! Along with the other boards Peter serves on, he is chair of

Greater Cincinnati's Ignatian Volunteer Corps Regional Advisory Council. He teaches all of us to rethink limitations and focus on what we can do. The IVC RAC is now in the process of planning an event for spring or summer and Peter leads the way.

Joan Chittister, in her book *Gift of*

Years, states, "Age and limitations are no excuse for being a nonperson in a world that needs icons of truth and courage, vision and possibility as never before...A blessing of these years is that we know at last what really matters, and the world is waiting to hear it, if only we will make the effort and don't give in to our limitations." Peter is a living witness to living beyond limitations!

Peter Keiser retired in 2012 after 40 years in advocacy and social work. He has served on numerous "disability-related Boards" and committees, including United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cincinnati, United Cerebral Palsy Associations Inc., Envision, the Inclusion Network of the Mayerson Foundation, Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services, and the Ohio Developmental

Thank you, Peter!

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Joy of the Gospel—A Letter to All of Us from “Francis”



That he would list himself simply as “Francis” on the title page or when signing off, shows the utter humility of the amazing man God called to the papacy less than a year ago. And that he could find time, in the midst of all demands of the role, to sit down and write us a book length letter amazes me, as so many others.

Francis encourages us to be well rooted in the joy of the gospel and spread the good news by radiating that joy! He uses the word evangelizer but as Fr. Dan Hartnett, SJ points out in Spanish/Latin that word means “Gospel bearer”, not the stiff image of evangelization we conjure. “A gospel bearer must never look like someone who just came back from a funeral. Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm: that delightful and comforting joy of *bearing the gospel*,” Francis shares.

I’m sure you have heard or read, “The Joy of Gospel” but the part I would really like to underline for the IVC family is what Francis shares (in P76): “I feel tremendous gratitude to all of those who are committed to working in and for the church...especially those who care for the sick and the poor,

and those who devote themselves to the education of the young or the care of the elderly...This witness comforts and sustains me in my own effort to overcome selfishness and to give more fully of myself. “

Do you realize your service is not only recognized by a grateful pope but energizes him to do what he does? I know how amazing you are and it makes me want to do cartwheels (if I could) to see that the Pope appreciates and is fueled by you as well!

At the same time Pope Francis challenges us to:

Say **yes** to the challenge of a **missionary spirituality**.

Say **no** to **selfishness** and **spiritual sloth**.

Say **no** to **sterile pessimism**.

Say **yes** to new **relationships** brought by **Christ**.

Say **no** to **spiritual worldliness**.

And say **no** to **warring amongst ourselves**.

“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly, and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.” Thank you for sharing your joy and bringing the love of Jesus to others!

P.S. You can read “Joy of the Gospel”/ EVANGELII GAUDIUM at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/

In the Hands of God

More than ever I find myself in the hands of God.

This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth.

But now there is a difference; the initiative is entirely with God. It is indeed a profound spiritual experience

to know and feel myself so totally in God’s hands.

-Pedro Arrupe, S.J.



Guest of Little Brothers with Lou Yauss

Welcome New Volunteer Lou Yauss

Lou Yauss volunteers with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Making Sense of Language Arts and has worked with St. Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels and other countless acts of caring throughout his 80+ years. His compassion is endless! On a snow day you’ll find him shoveling snow at the dental practice his son now runs that used to be his, or digging out Little Brothers from the latest storm.

What is Little Brothers—*Friends of the Elderly*? “Imagine every day waking up alone, eating alone, sitting home alone, waiting for the hours of the day to pass. No one with whom to share your joys. No one to share your fears. Each day like another. Feeling abandoned. Lonely. Isolated.

No one should live like this, yet in Greater Cincinnati alone hundreds of elderly lack one essential part of life—someone to call a friend.

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly is a national network of non-profit, volunteer-based organizations committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of good will the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.” Check them out at <http://cincinnati.littlebrothers.org/>

We’ll soon be joined by Jean Shannon and Terri Sevryn from Bellarmine—please keep them and all our volunteers in your prayers!



Guest of CAIN with Sue Lennert

*With gratitude to our
Fall Donors...*

Barry Aldemeyer
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 Dick & Jeanne Stevens
 Mike & Rosemary Whitney
 The Ignatian Volunteer Corps
 depends of the generosity of
 our donors to provide training
 and coaching to our amazing
 volunteers!

Sue Lennert—Above & Beyond

Sue Lennert, like most of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps members, serves not only her “official” partnering organization but in a myriad other ways. She has tutored children in elementary schools, adults in GED (graduate equivalency degree) programs and has mentored young adults.

At our September meeting Sue shared that she celebrated the birthday of one of the young men she mentors. “We both had a birthday in August, so we went out to a place on the river for a nice meal. He asked if he could bring his brother and I said, ‘yes’. I mentor his brother too, and he’s doing pretty well. He got his GED and has a job now. But this young man, the one with the birthday, struggles. He couldn’t read and no matter how hard I tried, I couldn’t help him learn. So I connected him with the Literacy Network and tried to get him a tutor that could. At first the group was large and he wasn’t getting much individual attention. But then others started not showing up and he started getting the individual attention he needed. Well, at dinner that night I gave him a present and a card. He opened the card and READ IT OUT LOUD! He could read that card!” She was teary-eyed telling it (so were most of us

listening) so I’m sure she shed tears at the time. She is such a compassionate person and doesn’t give up! He had reached a milestone and she was rejoicing!

In her “official” work with IVC she serves Churches Active In Northside (CAIN). Like most nonprofits, weathering the “perfect storm” of increased demand and diminishing resources, CAIN did not replace personnel when they moved on and some of the administrative work has fallen on Sue as well as demanding more of the already stretched Executive Director, MiMi Chamberlain. MiMi calls Sue a “tireless champion” and “don’t know what we (CAIN) would do without her!” (or Michael Heinrichs, who is also an IVC member at CAIN.) MiMi is looking for another IVC volunteer who can serve as “Choice Pantry Operations Shift Leader” at CAIN. If you’re interested, contact Linda Wihl at lwihl@ivcusa.org or 513 477-3428 for the job description. Lighten Sue’s load a little ☺

Sue is also contemplative. She journals and shares her reflections, check some out at <http://www.ivcusa.org/ivc-offices/welcome-to-ivc-cincinnati/ivc-cincinnati-volunteer-stories/> Unlike T.S. Elliot who said, “We had the experience but missed the meaning,” Sue’s reflection on her experience of finding God in the men and women and experiences of her life enriches us all.

We are so very blessed that Sue Lennert is a member of our community!



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cally instead please
send us an email!**

From the Regional Director, Linda Wihl
3 C's: Compassion, Contemplation and Community

I've shared this with some of you in my weekly letter, but I want to share it as well with the rest of you...

I've been spending time with Henri Nouwen lately. Yes, I know he's dead but as he himself says, "Every time I read the life of a saint I experience a powerful call to be as loving and devoted as that holy one of God was in life...not just canonized saints that call us to conversion, or the 'cloud of witnesses' who touch our spiritual lives. All who faithfully live the Christian life--whether still living or in memory---can exercise a deep and positive influence on our spiritual lives. Reading...any of God's faithful servants, is like stepping out of this world and back into it again under the guidance of these special men and women. They know the struggles I know and are living with them in a different way."

Among the things I've come to love about the way Nouwen sees things is his commitment to "Compassion, contemplation and community." I see the parallel to the Ignatian Volunteer Corps in this triad. It's like a three legged stool that wobbles without any of its legs. Compassion, is our sharing (com) in the passion of Christ by serving the poor, (or empowering others) to serve the poor with our volunteer service. Contemplation is taking the time to reflect on our service, our lives and find God's love and will for us through prayer (talking but especially listening to God), reflecting as a group, and reflecting with our spiritual directors. As Nouwen says "No one can discern the signs of daily life alone. We turn to our religious traditions and also to the wisdom others have gained." Community is taking the time to actually be together. "Individual seekers of God always come together in community, for the Spirit gathers all believers into one body for accountability and mutual support. A person honestly seeking to know God's will and way will choose to be in community." Nouwen also warns about "deceiving ourselves" when we isolate ourselves from community.

Thank you to the "saints" of IVC who have taught me so very much! You are the face of compassion, contemplation and community and I am so blessed to know you!!!