

Volunteer Opportunities

It is exciting to learn that the IVC story is becoming better known in the Twin Cities and we have a great reputation for extending staff in agencies that are working with the poor and vulnerable. There are five non-profit service agencies who would like to add IVC volunteers this winter. They are:

- Catholic Charities –1. Advanced Excel computer skills 2. Legal and marketing skills
- CommonBond - Administrative Experience
- Learning in Style – Childcare Center – Morning daycare for infants and toddlers of students
- Open Arms – Saturday Coordinator for food distribution to terminally ill
- Mary's Pence – Development/Computer skills needed for organization that gives international micro loans to women in poverty
- East Side Neighborhood Services – Licensed Nurse needed one day a week for working with the elderly

These organizations are looking for people with nursing skills, teaching backgrounds, computer skills, legal backgrounds, social work and administration expertise, childcare and parenting skills. If any of these sites may be of interest to you, contact Kathleen Groh at www.ivcusa.org or call her at 651-777-0991.

Fresh new sites are popping up all the time, so apply for IVC membership and we'll make the needed connections for you!

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Here's why she is joining the IVC: "Volunteer work has been a rewarding and steady constant in my life over the past 20+ years. With a few exceptions, my volunteer experiences have centered around the activities and organizations in which my children/family have been associated. At this point in my life, I feel the call to engage in volunteer work of a more personal calling. I'm drawn to the IVC for several reasons, specifically the call of faith into practice; the opportunity to use my talents and strengths; and the opportunity to experience the sense of community/continuity provided by the workplace environment and the sharing of experiences with fellow IVC volunteers."

Always ready to serve, **Patrick O'Leary** started with the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone in West Africa where he still visits the village and remains friends with many of them. He worked with a sense of compassion and justice for the poor for the State of Minnesota for thirty years. He was in the Departments of Human Services, Education, Economic Security and Jobs and Training. He continues to be involved as a community volunteer for those who are in need in his present work, too. Pat was attracted to the IVC by the spiritual components of the IVC and is ready to explore the Ignatian Spirituality of the Jesuits.



The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) provides mature men and women the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

Winter - The 2013th Year!



I spent the weekend taking down the tree and carefully putting the ornaments and all the Christmas items carefully away in their boxes. The tree was quite dry and the needles crackled up the hose as I hit the corners and edges of the living room. Now I have a pine scent permeating the room each time I turn on the vacuum cleaner and a reminder of those joyful times. It feels good to draw out the Christmas season until the Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

But this Sunday reminds us that Jesus' task is now our task and his ways should be our ways. He was not only baptized by water, but fire and Spirit as well. His burning love and conviction fueled by the Spirit compelled him to heal the sick, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and to love us to His death.

May we renew our own baptismal promises and again reignite the fire of our conviction to do as Christ did. We are called to teach, care for the elderly, tend to the needs of children, the autistic, homeless and those without hope. We have a common task as IVC Volunteers... to build the kingdom of God in our day.

Kathleen Groh – Regional Director

Ignation Volunteer Corps New Members

The Twin Cities Ignatian Volunteer Corps begins the New Year with a record number of new placements and sites. **Bob Barry** approached the IVC information table after Mass at St. Thomas Becket this summer and wanted to learn about the new service sites that were opening up this fall. You will find his amazing story of his return to the IVC and ending up in jail featured under "Volunteer Stories"!

Dede Carter found us in a Jesuit Volunteer Corps magazine and made the call to us. She tells us that she was so excited that she now was old enough to become an IVC Volunteer having had a wonderful experience when she was younger in the JVC. She is filling a void in her life as she sent two sons off to college this year. We think that her refrigerator probably is feeling the same void, too!

Dede, a social worker, is serving at the Children's Law Center interviewing foster children who will be need representation of a volunteer lawyer in court. This will help the lawyers understand the case much better before their young clients enter the courtroom.

Alison Smith is a very good friend of Dede Carter and as Dede talked about her experience with the IVC, Alison called and set up an appointment to meet to learn more about this organization. She completed her application in no time flat and is awaiting an assignment!

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Esprit de Corps - Winter 2013

IVC Volunteer Stories

Bob Barry Goes To Jail!

The obvious advantage/blessing of retirement is the freedom to do what one REALLY would like to do without the economic imperative of a job that comes with a growing family! So, last fall I decided to attend a locally sponsored Citizens' Police Academy. It was a great learning opportunity to better understand the pressures on law enforcement personnel to fight crime while balancing the constitutional rights of the perpetrators and victims; a daily challenge for motivated police personnel. Since the 9- week course impressed me a great deal, I asked: "What's next?"

It turned out to be a spring course at my local community college entitled: Introduction to Criminal Justice. Do you see a pattern here? During this course one learns that there are four different policing "types": Crime Fighter; Law Enforcer; Watchman and Change Agent. Because of my past dealings with social justice issues, I put myself in the Change Agent type. In my concluding course presentation, in fact, I made the case that a life of criminality is very similar to the "circle of poverty" often described as such by the Campaign for Human Development. Hence there is a need for a Change Agent to break the "circle of criminality". At the conclusion of the excellent course again I asked, "What's next?"

Enter Kathleen Groh making a presentation about the Ignatian Volunteer Corps at my parish, St. Thomas Becket in Eagan, MN. Since I had previously volunteered with IVC as a tutor at St. Matthew's School on the west side of St Paul, I asked Kathleen what opportunities were presently available. She was waiting for a job description from the Dakota County Jail in Hastings for a person to assist soon-to-be released inmates by updating the jail's referral data base for employment, education, skills training, parenting, sobriety programs etc. Once again, here was an opportunity to be an Agent of Change. Was this a coincidence or divine intervention? People of faith know the answer!

I am presently going through a multi-week comprehensive orientation program at the jail and have sat through my initial inmate exit interview with a dedicated committee of Change Agents. As a team, we are hoping the circle of criminality can be broken for each individual, each child of God.

Bob Barry

Ginny Walzer – MN Adult Day Care Award

Ginny Walzer has been a volunteer at Friendship Center since 2008. She came to us through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. We were in need of a nurse and as an R.N. she wanted to contribute to the community through service. It has been and is a perfect match. Ginny does everything expected of a nurse through licensing, checks over all of our client's medical papers as they return from the doctor, keeping us up to date on medications as well as training our staff on each medication we administer. Ginny does a group educational class as well as takes time to meet with individual clients to discuss their personal health issues.

She is very dedicated to our program and has told friends about Friendship Center. One of her friends agreed it would be ideal for her husband with Alzheimer's who came to our center for over 2 years. Both the client and his wife were thrilled to have found a place he could be safe and have fun while she received a much needed respite.

Ginny helps out in any way she can. She has been seen walking a dementia client outside to check on the garden or just to walk with someone in the neighborhood.

Continued above... Donna Kavanaugh

Ignatian Volunteer Corps Minneapolis and Saint Paul Region

2013 Regional Council

Marguerite Magill Connolly
Stephen Lucke
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Patrick McCorkell
Marilyn Peller-Nelson
John Roache
Jim Scheibel

Kathleen Groh, Regional Director
Jeffrey Prottas, Development Consultant
Mary McGinnity, National Executive Director

... Continued from previous column

She loves being "backup" in our groups, adding to the laughter with the clients playing UNO. She will also lead a group on a "Crazy day and gives showers when our CAN is absent. When Ginny came to us, she was going into retirement. Well, she was and still is called upon at the hospital to fill in.

She informed me in the spring of 2012 that she would be leaving us at Friendship Center. We only had a year commitment, so I wasn't too surprised after three years, but sad as I'd also be losing a good friend. She came back to me later that day and said, "I can't leave these people! How about I just come one day a week instead of two?!" Of course I said "yes" and am looking forward to another year of her gentle caring spirit toward our clients as well as continuing our working together on the Friendship Center team. Spiritually I have found her to be a good sounding board for the difficult situations that arise in our field, including vulnerable adult issues. I hope you will look closely at choosing Ginny for the Adult Volunteer Award.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps What's Happening...

IVC Partnering Service Agencies for 2013

- AMICUS
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Law Center
- CommonBond Communities – Affordable Housing
- Cristo Rey Jesuit High School - Library
- Customized Options – Autistic Adults
- Dakota County Jail* - Securing prisoner resources
- East Side Neighborhood Services – Elder care
- Hospitality House – North Mpls. Youth Center
- Learning in Style* - Tutoring immigrants
- MICAH* - Lobby for affordable housing
- MN Internship Center High School - Teacher
- Risen Christ School – Mentor Math Students
- Union Gospel Mission – Teach in Learning Center
- Sara's...An Oasis for Women* - Teach homemaking skills and support women in transition

IVC thanks our 14 Partner Service Agencies for their continued support.

Day of Reflection with Susan Stabile

On Friday, January 18th the IVC Family (IVC Volunteers, Spiritual Reflectors and Regional Council members) were invited to spend the day with Susan Stabile, author of "Growing in Love and Wisdom."

She holds the Robert and Marion Short Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Our Theme was "The Wisdom of St. Ignatius".

Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation Grant

We are very grateful to the Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation for a generous grant given to the Ignatian Volunteer Corps to help us to continue to serve the poor and vulnerable in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

Thank you from the IVC Volunteers, Spiritual Reflectors, the Regional Council and the non-profit service sites that we serve.

Visit IVC - Minneapolis - Saint Paul on the Internet
www.IVCUSA.org