

Available Placements

Do you know someone whose gifts could make a difference? Here are few available placement sites. See full list at: <https://ivcusa.org/ivc-offices/welcome-to-ivc-baltimore/where-we-serve/>

- Archdiocese of Baltimore Prison Ministry: *Research Assistant*
- Asylee Women's Center: *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Baltimore Child Abuse Center: *Social Workers*
- Esperanza Center: *ESOL Program Assistant; Client Services Assistant; Lawyers*
- Innovation Works: *Business Mentor Coordinator; Communications Associate*
- Intercultural Counseling Connection: *Van Driver; Office Support*
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps: *Finance Consultant*
- Loyola Early Learning Center: *Teaching Assistant; Financial Management*
- National Trafficking Shelters Alliance: *Event Planning Support; Financial Management*
- St. Peter's Adult Learning Center: *Program Assistant*

Ignatian Volunteer Corps Baltimore
112 E. Madison St., Ste.301
Baltimore, MD 21202



"The education of women is the transformation of the world."

"COME JOIN US!"



Partner Events:

- Sarah's House: Bull and Shrimp Roast, April 25 (cc-md.org/sh-bullroast/)
- Caroline Center: "Scrubs on a Mission," April 30 (https://caroline-center.org/files/attachments/post/Newsletter_Winter_2019.pdf)
- The Immigration Outreach Service Center: 20th Anniversary "Savor the World," May 3 at Gertrude's at the BMA.

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting IVC at 112 East Madison St., Baltimore MD 21202 or 410-752-4686. Documents and information submitted to the state of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage. (410-974-5534).

Baltimore *examen*

NEWSLETTER OF THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS BALTIMORE • MAR 2020 • 3.1

Saying Yes!

On March 25, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation...the Feast of Trust and Surrender...the Feast of the Word, "Yes!" Like Mary, we are asked to carry Christ, to feed and nurture his presence in the world. What is your answer?

Certainly, Ignatian Volunteers are a community of people that say "Yes!" For the past 25 years, more than 100 men and women have answered the call to carry and nurture Christ right here in Baltimore.

This month, we also recognize International Women's Day (March 8), a day to focus on the lives and plight of women, who disproportionately suffer the weight of poverty. Single mothers are more than twice as likely to be food-insecure and live in poverty (27.9%) than all U.S. households (12.3%). Women of color are at far higher risk of poverty -- closer to 40% -- and face an even greater wage gap because of jobs that do not offer benefits. A 2016 study by the Bread for the World Institute reports that *"the higher rates of poverty and hunger in female-headed households are a direct result of systemic inequity through gender and racial discrimination."* (<https://www.bread.org/library/hunger-and-poverty-female-headed-households>)

Many of our Ignatian Volunteers support non-profits dedicated to women. Caroline Center, our focus for this newsletter, Asylee Women Enterprise (featured last month in our national newsletter: <https://ivcusa.org/helping-asylum-seekers-rebuild-their-lives/>), and Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care, to name just three, all serve women in need. We know that when a woman is educated and able to provide, her children have a better chance as well. We break the cycle.

We follow the example of Mary and bring forth in our community the love and compassion of Jesus. There's no doubt Mary has a special place in her heart for single mothers! Mother Mary, thank you for showing us the way to love with your courageous "Yes!" And to our blessed Ignatian Volunteers, thank you for your resounding "Yes!"

"We believe that when you change a woman's life, you change families, communities, cities, and, ultimately, the world." - From Caroline Center's website.

Events

To learn more about volunteering with IVC in Baltimore, check out our website: https://ivcusa.org/ivc-offices/welcome-to-ivc-baltimore/information_sessions/

- Monthly meeting: April 15
- Monthly meeting: May 15
- Gathering of graces, Mass, and year-end pot-luck: June 12

Making a Difference For Women in Baltimore

“Caroline Center’s mission is to empower each woman to reach the fullness of her potential so that she can create a future of hope for herself and her family.”

A few years ago, Sister Grace Sciamanna, SSND, took a call from a surgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The doctor had just performed emergency surgery on a woman and called because the woman was insistent about signing herself out of the hospital. The reason, she told the doctor, was because her interview at Caroline Center was scheduled that day and she needed to be there. Of course, accommodations were made for her situation, she completed 15 weeks of training and a 4-week internship, and started work as a certified Pharmacy Tech at—you guessed it—Johns Hopkins!

This is an illustration of the passion and commitment Sr. Grace sees every day at Caroline Center. Since its founding in 1996 to serve women in Baltimore City, Caroline Center, named in honor of Mother Caroline Friess, SSND, has seen 75 cohorts—groups of 50-60 women—complete its tuition-free, 15-week, accredited professional program as certified pharmacy technicians or as certified nursing assistants, many of whom take a national test to become geriatric nursing assistants.

Making a Difference at Caroline Center

Robbie Sabin LOVES teaching math. A former computer science professor at Loyola Maryland, she has continued her passion, teaching basic math and measurement to the women at Caroline Center. She has served there as an Ignatian volunteer one day a week for the past four years, and talks about what she has received from the women in the program: *“They come to*



Caroline Center to better themselves and their families, and they come with a hope that is contagious! My greatest joy is seeing these women achieve, frequently beyond their expectations of themselves.”

While some of the women face challenges due to gaps in math skills, Robbie is always inspired by their dedication and effort. One young woman she remembers in particular: *“She had the top grade for the semester, so I presented her with a simple certificate. She later told the group that she had never before been encouraged or celebrated for an achievement.”*

Caroline Center’s program, teaches women holistic skills beyond the basics. The women often form a sisterhood, learning together the importance of care rooted in sound values and compassion. They learn self-care skills with the help of social workers, licensed counselors, and mentors at the Center. And they remain members of Caroline Center for life, encouraged to further their educations and access the ongoing support services available to them as graduates.

Over 2,500 Caroline Center graduates work in healthcare, most choosing to stay in the Baltimore area, contributing to local healthcare organizations and the community at large. These determined women are given support and the self-confidence to believe they can make a change for themselves, their children, Baltimore City, and the world. IVC Baltimore is honored to be part of Caroline Center’s mission to the strong women of our city.

Robbie’s involvement with IVC nurtures her as well: *“Sharing at the monthly meetings with fellow IVC volunteers is so valuable,”* and she encourages others to come and see: *“Attend a meeting, meet the group, and discern if it is for you.”*



Caroline Center’s mission is what attracted her to the placement where she serves as the volunteer coordinator. Marti sees hope at every turn: *“Each day offers the opportunity to see everyday heroes. I see them in the students trying to build better lives. I see them in the staff who give so much to the students.”* She also appreciates the flexibility volunteering through IVC allows: *“I care for other family members and IVC and my placements are always accommodating and supportive.”* She too encourages others considering joining IVC: *“Just do it! Jump in, give back! Make the world a better place.”*

“Caroline Center faculty and staff are committed to the success of our trainees, but we don’t do it alone. Ignatian Volunteers contribute so much to the success of our programs, embodying the IVC mission to work for a more just society.”

**Sister Grace Sciamanna, SSND
Director of Administration,
Caroline Center**

Marti Eckert, in her second year with IVC, splits her two-day-a-week commitment between Caroline Center and Innovations Works, an IVC partner that supports entrepreneurship in the city. *“I find joy helping the organizations make a difference for Baltimore residents,”* she says. *“I want people to see Baltimore differently from how it is portrayed in the media.”*

For God’s Greater Glory

Elaine Ireland, Baltimore’s Spiritual Development Associate, spoke with Toni Moore-Duggan, the Program Coordinator and a Clinical Instructor at Caroline Center, and an Ignatian Spiritual Director.

Caroline Center welcomes women regardless of their faith practice, but are there aspects of Ignatian Spirituality that you teach or share with the women?

Oh absolutely! My spirituality is my life so I share it freely! The women who come to Caroline Center are women of great desire, hope, and faith. Too often their life experiences have been traumatic—unhealthy, unstable living environments, abusive childhoods, dysfunctional parenting, disordered relationships; they often have sole responsibility for children and other family members. Underemployment or lack of employment is also stressful. Nurturing their spirituality to turn to a greater source of healing is an important aspect of helping them to become caring, compassionate, and efficient health care providers.

The two main aspects of Ignatian Spirituality I incorporate into my time with the women are teaching and encouraging them to use the nightly Examen, and to recognize that growth requires movement and change. Some form of the Examen helps them unpack the stressors of their day so they can get the rest they need. We encourage them to turn their worries over to a higher power for both their mental and physical health. Other holistic life skills we teach are journaling, the healing tools of communication, presence, and meditation, all of which are at the advice of St. Ignatius as well.

We stress that as health care providers, we cannot serve and honor the spiritual lives of our patients until we have come to terms with our own. We teach them to respect the spiritual diversity of the patients they serve. We encourage our students to see God in each patient, especially when they are having difficulty with the presence of God in themselves. The compassion we have available to give to others is often a reflection of the compassion we have for ourselves.

What gifts of Ignatian Spirituality do you personally rely on in your work? Do you and your co-workers come together and use spiritual sharing techniques?

One of the greatest tools I have been able to cultivate in my spiritual journey is “The Ignatian Plus Sign,” the virtue of always assuming the good intention of the other. I have shared it with the Center’s staff. The “Plus Sign” quickly grounds me when confronted with someone else’s disordered presentation. Every morning, as a staff, we come together for prayer and contemplation for ourselves, the students, and the community around us. And the ever-evolving, ever-present gift of Ignatian discernment helps me to recognize the quiet, eternal inner murmur of God at work in the world.

From Nora

It’s hard to quantify the contribution of Ignatian Volunteers, but here’s an attempt—and, WOW!

At the start of the 2019/20 service year, Baltimore boasted 29 Ignatian Volunteers working at 18 service partner agencies. Together, they seek to positively impact some of Baltimore’s most difficult social ills—poverty, public health disparities, educational achievement gaps, etc.—that impact the vulnerable; women, children, and refugees most acutely.

According to IndependentSector.org, the value of volunteer time in Maryland is \$28.65 an hour—IVC is saving our partner agencies \$572,000 in personnel costs this service year alone! But IVC and our partners like Caroline Center believe the contributions of Ignatian Volunteers exceed the value of “walk-in” volunteers. Ignatian Volunteers are reliable, bringing expertise and a vast array of skills to their placements. In addition, 80% of Ignatian Volunteers remain at a single placement site five years or longer—a huge benefit to both the sites and their clientele.

IVC is enjoying meaningful growth, in Baltimore and nationwide. Our IVC Baltimore strategic plan aims to support 50 Ignatian Volunteers at 25 partner agencies by the 2022-2023 service year. That’s 60% growth in three years, saving IVC service partners \$739,000 per year. WOW! WOW!



We have—and we can do—all this only through the hard work and support of the Volunteers and our benefactors. Thank you! Together with our service partner agencies, IVC makes a difference for Baltimore!

Nora Collins, Director,
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Making a Difference for IVC Baltimore

October 30 2019—February 11, 2020

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$1,000-\$5,000 | Michael Byers |
| Mary Catherine Bunting | Alice & Paul Case |
| Evelyn Frederick | Paul & Kathleen Casey |
| Louise Wright | Tom & Pat Cosgrove |
| \$200-\$999 | Thomas & Ann Gannon |
| Pat & Robert Barron | Kate Haser |
| Melanie Schnoll Begun | Dennis & Kathleen Narango |
| Tom & Mary Agnes Cotter | Charles & Eileen Tydlacka |
| Carl & Pamela Freidhoff | \$1-\$99 |
| Ted Hart | AM Brennan-Zelenka, |
| Gerard Hergenroeder | H Bryson, MA Burke, |
| Mary Hines | R. Chang, R&M Evans, |
| Ed & Robbie Sabin | T&C Fitzgerald, R Lynch, |
| Michael & Toni Wiest | J&R McGee, E Meadows, |
| \$100- \$199 | C Metzger, M O’Brien, |
| Jan & Ron Allen | M Patzschke, K Philliben, |
| Michael Bielefeld | M Sheehan, M Strahan |