

# 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 **six non-profit service agencies** who would like to add IVC volunteers this spring/fall. They are:

- Catholic Charities –1. Advanced Excel computer skills 2. Legal and marketing skills
- CommonBond - Administrative Experience - Office and computer skills needed
- 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](http://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!

... IVC Service Site continued from page 1

the Student Support Services Team consists of staff members who focus on non-academic student needs. The Students Support Services Team includes two school Social Workers, the Housing Liaison, the Health Advocacy Coordinator, the College and Career Access Coordinator, and Director of Student Support Services. The Student Support Services Team works directly with students and staff to connect community resources to the school mission and student need. Cheryl Dugan and Babara Flom, IVC Volunteers, will be serving at this site in the 2013-14 school year.

... Redemption in Nine Days continued...

during mass. When I mentioned that I would be missing two days, I was told that the prayers of the community would carry my intentions forward to the end of the Novena even if I wasn't there. Now that's Jesuit compassion at it's very best!

I am ready for spring and Easter. The sight of running water in the ditches, the sounds of early morning birds in the woods and the Burgess seed catalogue that appeared in the mailbox are all hopeful signs that the cold, ice, and dirty snow will melt away soon. It also tells us that it is time to shed our linens of unmet Lenten expectations and joyously welcome the promise of new life in the Resurrection, too. We are all Easter people and "Alleluia" is our song.



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.

## Redemption in Nine Days!



Minnesotans are having a difficult time with our traditional winter weather this year that has stretched into March. We have been spoiled by a number of short, relatively warm winters these past few years and didn't expect snow this late in the season. Spring has not sprung loose from winter's grip when we have 7-10 inch heavy, wet, snow-filled days that still challenge us. Don't get me wrong, we like the snow, but enough is enough!

That is how it has been with Lenten practices for many, too. We started off with the best of Lenten intentions heading to Easter, but distractions, unexpected appointments and long, dreary gray days got in the way and it became a chore to endure rather than an enlightening way to renewal.

I was mulling over my lack of preparation when I discovered the Novena of Grace offered at our Jesuit parish in St. Paul. I thought now here was a chance to redeem myself in nine days! Every evening I drove in to the city to participate in a quiet time of prayer and reflection on the life of St. Francis Xavier.

The gentle peace of the participants and genuine welcome to me, a stranger, was a gift. I was especially moved by the Eucharistic minister who smiled with her entire face as I was offered the Cup

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## An IVC Service Site Profile Minnesota Internship Center High School

**Over 900 High School Diplomas awarded since 2003!!**

MNIC is a Minneapolis-based charter high school that targets low income populations who have left other schools and face multiple barriers to achieving their academic, career and other important life goals. It is sponsored by Pillsbury United Communities and opened in 2003 with the goal of providing high-quality educational and career development experiences.

MNIC offers a great way to get a real high school diploma with extensive tutorial services at all sites, as well as graduation standard-based classes and individualized programs.

Today MNIC serves nearly 400 learners at four sites, and employs 58 full and part-time staff.

### What Makes MNIC Unique?

#### Focus on Relationships

MNIC focuses on building strong professional relationships with their students. Students stay with the same one or two teachers all day. This minimizes transitions during the school day which is helpful to their students. All MNIC staff and volunteers play an important role in creating an environment where everyone is valued and understood.

#### Safety Net

The MNIC school mission speaks to academic, career, and life success for our students. All MNIC staff focuses on this holistic mission,

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Esprit de Corps - Spring 2013

# IVC Volunteer Stories

A New Volunteer Profile: Barbara Flom

I met Barbara Flom on a sunny morning in Stillwater last summer to talk about her interest in doing her sabbatical from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with the IVC. It was just a dream at that point as she would have to do a convincing job with her presentation to the School of Education that this is the best way to spend her year working with young people in an urban area in 2013-14.

Barb succeeded at not only convincing UW-Stout, but we are pleased to announce that she will be working at the Minnesota Internship Center High School (MNIC), a decentralized high school that targets low income populations that have left other schools and face multiple barriers to achieving their academic, career and other important life goals. She will be joining Cheryl Dugan who has been an IVC Volunteer at MNIC for two years.

Professor Flom brings to MNIC and their students a B.S. in special education (Penn State University) and current WI teaching license for learning disabilities and emotional/behavioral disabilities; an M.S. in school counseling (UW-Stout) and current WI licensure for same; and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology (University of Minnesota), with current WI licensure to provide psychotherapy as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Barb states: I am intrigued by the opportunity to serve low-income young people with an agency that has a social justice focus. I especially hope to serve impoverished youth directly; although I value my work in higher education, I miss greatly the chance to have regular encounters with young people. I love helping children and adolescents open their minds to learning, build personal and interpersonal skills for living, and consider their future paths.

I am also drawn to the spiritual component of IVC. I have received spiritual direction and attended retreats through the Loyola Center in St. Paul, so I am somewhat acquainted with Jesuit practice and perspective. I want to explore Ignatian Spirituality more deeply during this service opportunity.

With all those credentials, Barb is also an outdoor lover who hikes, skis, canoes, camps, bikes, rollerblades, and snowshoes with youth. She lives on a farm with her husband, Eugene, and has a large vegetable garden, so canning and food preservation are skills she has developed. Along those lines, they strive to live sustainably so have become users of renewable energy and practitioners of simple living. This couple has recently plugged into "citizen science" and environmental efforts like birding surveys and habitat restoration, both in public parks and on their farm.

Amy Libman, Director of Student Support Services at MNIC, sent me this message after they completed the interview: Thanks so much for sending Barb our way. We had a great meeting yesterday. We would like to move ahead with having Barb serve at our school next year. We are very excited to work with both Cheryl and Barb!

Welcome, Barb, and may your sabbatical experience with us be a blessed experience for the MNIC students, the IVC Volunteers and you!

## Ignatian Volunteer Corps Minneapolis and Saint Paul Region

### 2013 Regional Council

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

# 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.

## SAVE THE DATE - Thursday, May 9th!

Please join the Regional Council of the Twin Cities Ignatian Volunteer Corp and Special Guest **Mary McGinnity, IVC National Executive Director** for Cocktails and Conversation as we launch our Magnify Campaign!

Magnify will be our year-long effort to expand IVC operations in the Metro area by recruiting more volunteers, servicing more nonprofits who meet the needs of the poor and raising enough funds to support our local mission.

We will be bringing together our Volunteers, Spiritual Reflectors, Service Site Directors and Staff, Jesuit Partners, Donors, and Council members to take a closer look at our mission and ministry over the past ten years and share our vision for the future.

So **SAVE THE DATE** and join us for Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer at a beautifully restored, historic home in St. Paul.

*If you have any questions, would like to volunteer or know of someone whom we should invite to this special evening, please be in touch with our Regional Director, Kathleen Groh, at 651-777-0991 or by email at [kgroh@ivcusa.org](mailto:kgroh@ivcusa.org).*

Visit IVC - Minneapolis - Saint Paul on the Internet  
[www.IVCUSA.org](http://www.IVCUSA.org)