

Are You a Helper or a Servant?

When I first joined IVC I found the document “Volunteer Criteria” (by Bill Creed, George Sullivan and Barbara Castellano) to be very helpful in discerning a good fit for volunteers and the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. One criterion that stands out to me is, “Able to deliver a service to the poor.” And for each criteria listed in the document there was the antithesis of that characteristic i.e. “Too self absorbed”. It reminded me of something I’d read a long time ago on the difference between a helper and a servant. I can’t trace the original source any more and have added to it throughout the years so let’s just say this is collective wisdom.

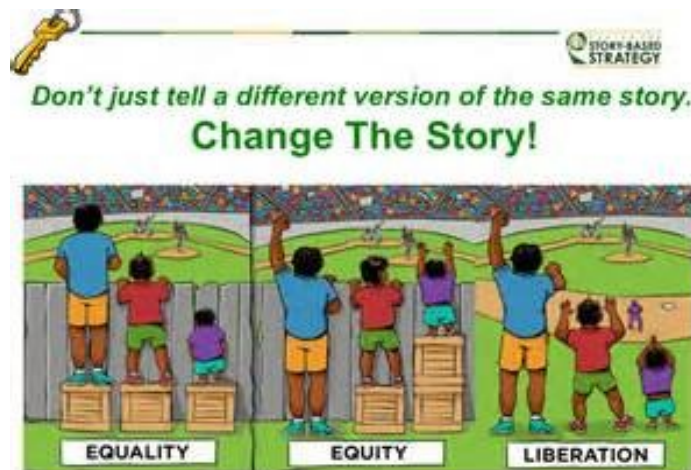
For a “helper” volunteering is about **ego**— “wonderful me helping poor you”. For a servant it’s about **equity**—providing the support for the other to achieve one’s potential (see photo). We are not above the other and know given the same circumstances we might be in the same place as they are; “there but for the grace of God go I.” A helper will often pity others, make **excuses** for the “victim”. A servant will acknowledge challenges faced by the other but raise **expectations**, “victor”. A helper often provides the answers or resources for the other (give a man a fish) **enabling**. The servant will patiently wait for the other to develop his or her own skills and results (teach a man to fish) **empowering!** A helper focuses on the **task**; a servant focuses

on the **person**.

This list of contrasting attributes goes on but the point I would like to make is, this is embodied by women and men, who through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, serving thousands of those in need, enriching the lives of those they serve, and in turn are enriched by the lives of others. In his book, [Pilgrimage My Search for the Real Pope](#)

[Francis](#) Mark Shriver shares a quote from a friend of a friend of Pope Francis. “My spiritual needs are the material needs of the other.” That holds true for all of us in IVC! We find by serving others in need our spiritual hunger is satisfied. And a big part of that is advocating for changes in how “the other” is

empowered to use his or her own character to change the harsh realities they face. Bellarmine & Jesuit Renewal Center recently hosted a retreat, “Practicing Hope in Uncertain Times”. Fr. Dan Hartnett, SJ shared that he learned the most about hope, living and serving in Peru for 20+ years, from the materially poor during savage dictatorial rule. Their ability to be hopeful & radiate hope to him taught him what hope is really all about. (Mark Shriver shares similar experiences of Pope Francis that shaped his contagious hopefulness.) One priceless take away from the retreat is “hope is not optimism”. “Optimism is about externals, wanting something out there to change. Hope is internal, having the imagination, community support & desire to seek and realize the kingdom of God” That’s IVC!!!



Thank You to All of Our Partner Organizations and *Volunteers!*

Churches Active In Northside ([CAIN](#)) Food Bank
and Emergency Assistance *Michael Heinrichs, Sr.*
Carolyn Brink, Don Ottke

[Education Matters](#) GED & ESOL, *Bob Meyer*

[Catholic Social Action Office](#) Cincinnati Archdiocese,
Paula Yerke

[Friends of Batahola](#), *Mariann Dunn*

[Ignatian Spirituality Project](#) Homeless Men's and
Women's Retreats, *Tim Boyle & Anne Shaffer*

[Lydia's House](#) Women's Shelter, *Janet Ziegler*

[Madisonville Education & Assistance Center](#), *Ellen
Owens, Karen Skillman, Kelly Spataro, Tom
Rebel, Mike Whitney*

[Making Sense of Language Arts](#) Tutoring Winton
Hills & Rothenberg Academies, Cincinnati Public
Schools, *Chris Hils, Bill Mackey, Joyce Donnellon,
Don Ottke, Jean Shannon, Judy Singer, Kelly
Spataro, Diane Sundrup, Linda Wihl, Lou Yauss*

[St. Vincent de Paul Free Pharmacy](#) Bank Street,
Joan Lee, Don Ottke, Dan Payne

[St. Vincent de Paul GED Program](#), Winton Hills,
Sue Ivory

[St. Bernard's Senior Services](#), *Bob Saal*

[St. Bernard's Hospitality](#), *Dave Evans*

More volunteer sites...

V.A. & Drake Hospitals, *Gloria Jean Wallace, Lou
Yauss*

Mary Rose Mission, *Guy Linnemann*

Power Inspires Progress/Venice on Vine Job Skills
Training, *Joan Lee*

St. John's Senior Services, *Anne Holbrook*

City Gospel Mission, *Carolyn White, Anne Shaffer*

Prison Ministry, *Chick Meyn*

*and dozens of other non-profits that serve those in
need throughout Greater Cincinnati that volun-
teers have served even before joining IVC!*

No wonder Pope Francis included in his address
to the US Congress, "*many elderly persons who
are a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience,
and who seek in many ways, especially through
volunteer work, to share their stories and their in-
sights. I know that many of them are retired, but
still active; they keep working to build up this land.*"
He had met several IVC volunteers while here.

You build up this land!

Thank You to All Our Recent Donors!

Barry Aldemeyer

Tim Boyle and Mary Ann Barnes

Fr. Joseph Folzenlogen, SJ

Christine Hils

Anne Holbrook

Karen and Dan Hurley

Peter and Sandra Keiser

Dennis Kinne and Linda Wihl

Gerald and Beth Lea

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Karen Skillman

Caroline "Kelly" Spataro

Jean Marie Stross and Dan Price

Tom Rebel

Paul and Janet Tillman

Michael and Rosemary Whitney

Robert Wihl

Lou and Anne Yauss

Paula Yerke

May you be blessed as you have blessed others!

*'Christ has no
hands
now but
yours.
Teresa of
Avila*



Friends of Batahola

A Circle of Commitment to the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte, Managua Nicaragua

IVC Cincinnati welcomes our new Partner, Friends of Batahola. The Cincinnati Chapter is based at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Anderson. As shared on their website... *Our vision is to live a humane and just lifestyle with preference for the poor and according to the Gospel, rooted in the value of sharing who we are and what we have to help transform society into the Kingdom of God. We promote a culture of gender and generational equity, which enables women and men of all ages to discover and affirm their human rights, self-esteem and the equality of all people.*

In 1983, Sr. Margarita Navarro, CSJ, and Fr. Angel Torrellas, OP, arrived in the new neighborhood of Batahola Norte with the dream of educating children and adults, empowering women, and nurturing community in a safe and faith-filled environment. They began by visiting more than 800 homes, learning the peoples' needs and dreams, recognizing who they were and what they had. Their primary objective was to accompany the people of the neighborhood in their search for new forms of a simple life with dignity and friendship without fear in the midst of deep poverty. Fr. Angel began his work by teaching music and catechism to the children, and Sr. Margie started an empowerment program with the women, beginning with a sewing class.

With the help of the Batahola community and donations from the United States and Spain, Sr. Margie and Fr. Angel built the neighborhood's primary school. After the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, they mobilized resources to build homes and provide vocational education in affected rural communities. The CCBN grew from a 2-room prefabricated house to occupy half a city block with its classrooms, library, auditorium and gardens. These activities created jobs for local people, and the women and children who were educated at the CCBN are now its teachers and administrators, creating new programs based on their transformational experiences, to provide strategic and sustainable alternatives for overcoming the dire poverty and violence facing women and their families throughout Managua. Today, thousands of beneficiaries pass through the CCBN's door each year.

Before Sr. Margie's death in 2001, a few Sisters of St. Joseph conducted training for a core of local women to assume CCBN leadership. Fr. Angel died unexpectedly in January 2002. In 2001 Friends of Batahola was founded to support the CCBN and help it continue through regular visits, dependable financial support, times of spiritual sharing and planning.

Friends of Batahola are inspired by the mission and vision of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte of "sharing who we are and what we have to help transform society

into the Kingdom of God". So we are committed to support them through prayer, financial assistance, solidarity and building community, thereby responding to the call of the Gospel. In the same way we ask you to support this community in need of friends and partners in living the Gospel of God.

The Cultural Center's priority is to work with the women and children who most bear the weight of social and economic inequity, to break the cycle of poverty and restore hope in a better tomorrow. That objective is at the heart of the Center's mission to empower and transform its students and community through access to education, arts and culture. Since 1983, the Center has helped thousands of women, children and youth to defend their rights, finish their schooling, find and develop new sources of income, and improve their standard of living.

The role IVC Volunteer, Mariann Dunn serves at F.O.B is development coordinator. She worked in fund development at Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, KY, and has served administrative roles at senior centers in northern Kentucky. She looks forward to applying her skills with Friends of Batahola!

This is our first service site involving international outreach so IVC Cincinnati looks forward to having an impact in Nicaragua!



Breaking News

It's official! Paula Yerke, who has served JustFaith as her IVC placement, will officially begin working with Catholic Social Action Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati the first week of February! As a JustFaith rep she contributed to the Gather & Send initiative of the Archdiocese during the Year of Mercy and introduced JF to many new parishes. Paula serves 2 area hospitals as a Eucharistic Minister, teaches a prison ministry Bible Study, and RCIA. She is a beacon of light to all she encounters in challenging situations. Thank you Paula; you are a woman for and with others! Welcome Catholic Social Action to our Partners!



Linda Wihl, Regional Director
Ignatian Volunteer Corps
4714 Chickering Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Tel: 513 477-3428
Email: Lwihl@ivcusa.org
Website: ivcusa.org

Thank you to those of you receiving this by email. Not only are you empowering us to “Care for Our Common Home” as Pope Francis urges, you save the expenses we would incur.

To support the Ignatian Volunteer Corps Cincinnati with a tax deductible donation you can do so online at <https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=2033&AID=1984> (Be sure to designate Cincinnati in the drop down menu.)

Or send your donation to:
IVC Cincinnati
4714 Chickering Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232



♪ *Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free.
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.* ♪

It seems we spend a lot of time these days consoling one another. It is so life giving to be community and share our joys and challenges, encourage

one another to hope!

Pope Francis recently spoke these words: *Those who, in faith, entrust themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit come to realize how God is present and at work in every moment of our lives and history, patiently bringing to pass a history of salvation. Hope is the thread with which this sacred history is woven, and its weaver is none other than the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Hope is the humblest of virtues, for it remains hidden in the recesses of life; yet it is like the yeast that leavens all the dough. We nurture it by reading ever anew the Gospel, “reprinted” in so many editions in the lives of the saints who became icons of God’s love in this world. Today too, the Spirit continues to sow in us a desire for the Kingdom, thanks to all those who, drawing inspiration from the Good News amid the dramatic events of our time, shine like beacons in the darkness of this world, shedding light along the way and opening ever new paths of confidence and hope.*

I read the “reprinted Gospel...editions” in the lives of IVC volunteers. A tutor teaches a child to read, write and understand. A “shopping companion” helps a hungry person obtain groceries and get them home. An Ignatian Spirituality volunteer listens to someone tell his story of despair and transforms it into hope. A nurse gives a homeless person glasses and a case to carry them in the meager possessions she carries with her at all times. A tutor encourages the 16 year old to put in the time he needs to study and finish a GED to open the door to other opportunities. A caregiver checks on the meals provided by the hospital and ensures that restrictions are adhered to. A Eucharistic minister shares communion with the sick throughout the hospital. A therapist gives a stroke patient ways to communicate, gives voice to the voiceless. A volunteer ladles soup into the bowl of a hungry man. You are hope for the hopeless, the goodness of God!