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Corps Connector

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JUNE RETREAT June 11-13, 2012 Loyola-on-the- Potomac Faulkner, Maryland

With the new bridge now in place, the Loyola Retreat house is once again able to welcome IVC for their annual spring retreat. Last Fall, at the last minute the Retreat scheduled for September had to be cancelled because the only road leading to the retreat house washed away.



Corps Connector

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Send submissions or comments to dbowling@ivcusa.org.

Fr. Tim Brown to Facilitate June Retreat at Loyola

Fr. Tim was a Foreign Service student at Georgetown University

during the turbulent Vietnam War era, and knew he wanted to work at improving justice in the world. Gradually, however, he decided that becoming a diplomat wasn't the best route to achieving that goal.

Fr. Brown, who had always felt he had a religious vocation, developed a deep desire to become a Jesuit.

There was just one problem.

"I didn't really understand how I was going to fit into this order," he said. "I couldn't picture myself in higher education. I couldn't picture myself in a parish or in any of the traditional ministries. But I had faith that whatever God wanted would work."

Early experiences as a Jesuit inspired Fr. Brown to become a lawyer so that he could more effectively fight injustice. It also revealed an unexpected passion for teaching.

"I love the whole dynamic of teaching and learning and exploring ideas and challenging thinking," Brown said. "and when you can tap people's talent, that's terrific. It gives people hope. A lot of people don't think they have talent; don't think they have all these great gifts. Your job is to point them out and give students some excitement about their lives, show them that life is more than a spectator sport and that everybody should play a role.

Everybody should be involved and engaged and excited about what they can contribute."

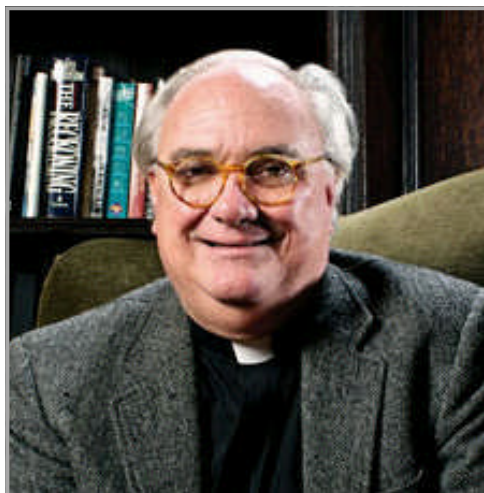


Photo by Cory Donovan

Fr. Brown is now Loyola's special assistant to the president for mission integration, and works with faculty, administrators, and staff to help them develop their own sense of identity within Loyola's Jesuit mission. Fr. Brown says it is a natural progression from his work with Loyola students as well as his earlier work as the provincial for the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. And the work is having striking effects. Yes, he co-founded the Center for Community Service and Justice and helped pioneer service-learning at Loyola University Maryland. He played leading roles in establishing Baltimore's Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Sisters Academy of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Readers and Scholars program, and other educational programs that helped children from low-income families in New York City

get into top college preparatory and boarding schools all along the East Coast.

"I don't think I have any big ideas," Fr. Brown said. "I think I just see something that somebody else has done and I see new possibilities to adapt that."

Insisting that he has never even formed strategic life plans, Fr. Brown added, "I have just fallen into every single thing that I have ever done in life

Louise Finn, chief information officer

and assistant vice president for information technology services, said that Fr. Brown's amazing openness, enthusiasm, and flexibility not only helped her to better understand I.T.'s role in Loyola's mission, but also opened her eyes to a highly effective way to transform a once-struggling department using Ignatian principles. "He also helped me understand that it is very Ignatian to provide great customer service," Finn said. Such service, she said, requires Information Technology staff to have empathy for others, avoid jargon and speak plainly, be patient, and be present in the moment.

Excerpted from December 2011 Loyola Alumni Magazine, by Linda Strowbridge

TRANSITIONS:

Within The Northern Virginia Region

THE Northern Virginia Region's 2011-12 organization year began with some adjustments of volunteer assignments, and the addition of several new volunteers. The following brief descriptions of the new service assignments are in the volunteers' own words.

Carolyn Burstein

Since late August, I've had the wonderful opportunity to serve the homeless, either directly or indirectly, at Carpenter's Shelter and David's Place in Alexandria. The former is a large transitional shelter for families and single men and women. At the present time the shelter is filled to capacity with about 20 children and 16 adults in families, about 34 single men and about 10 single women.

David's Place is an adjunct to Carpenter's Shelter and serves as a daytime drop-in center for homeless men and women who live primarily outdoors or in hypothermia shelters during the winter months. I help out at David's Place one morning a week, the highlight of my service. I'm the "go-fer" for laundry soap, towels and washcloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste, coffee filters and milk, and all the little needs that people have who come in off the street and need to take showers, do laundry and just spend some time snacking and relaxing in a safe environment. I listen to stories, fold sheets, help guys do job searches online, sometimes calm people down and generally just enjoy the human interchange that makes life a constant mystery and a continual pleasure.

Then I spend a day and a half at Carpenter's Shelter working with the Education and Employment Coordinator (EEC). Residents at the shelter are responsible for getting jobs within about six weeks of arriving at the shelter and therefore have significant needs that the Coordinator and I try to meet. Over the past three months we have developed a new Job Coaching Program that involves about a dozen volunteers from the community; designed and developed a series of workshops on writing effective resumes and cover letters, conducting job search strategies, especially using social media job sites, and preparing for and following up on interviews; and recently delivered the first two workshops. Thanks to the EEC who is adept at all the advanced computer applications, we were able to include video clips from YouTube and DVD segments into a seamless presentation as well as use the more traditional role plays, mock interviews and group discussions that are more common at such workshops. From the feedback we're getting from the participants, it would seem that they are learning quite a bit about what it takes to get a job in these tough

economic times. We are now expanding our efforts by focusing on helping the residents move from dead-end jobs to careers. We are working with the Board to expand the Education Fund to provide money for training and development after residents prove their employability and have taken the Princeton Career Assessment Review. We are also seeking college interns to help with this effort and are embarking on a series of workshops that focus on "soft skills on-the-job," conflict resolution, team building, punctuality, and communication skills. All in all, I'm positive I'll be too busy in the upcoming months to get into any trouble. And happy, too!

Maureen Bader

I teach the ESL program for beginners at St. Martin De Porres in Alexandria, a senior center run by Catholic Charities. St. Martin's provides a wide variety of activities for the senior community in Alexandria. The students in my class come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. There are students from Iran, the Ukraine, China, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Peru, Ecuador and other countries. It is a challenge to be working with such a diverse group of students; however, I am pleased to have this chance to teach these senior citizens. I find it a very rewarding to use the skills I learned so many years ago when I taught school after I first graduated from college.

This work is having a very positive impact on me. In helping other men and women learn some of the basics of the English language I hope I am having a positive impact on them as well. For me this is a worthwhile goal since I started my professional career as a teacher many years ago.

Jean Crowley

I began with IVC in October 2011. Every Wednesday I go to Northern Virginia Family Service and spend my time with three groups of three year olds. We start out with a welcoming song, then I read three stories previously selected from the public library, and we end by singing another song. At the end of the session each class has time to select a book to take home from our small library and return it next week.

The children are wonderful, so enthusiastic and polite. It warms my heart when they clap at the end of each story. Before they leave I get lots of hugs and high fives. They really are a joy. The director, an intern, and someone from the County have been among those who have visited my class.

In addition, our director has asked me to create a list of new books, as she has some money to spend. I have reviewed lists of best children's books of 2011 from the New York Times and Library Journal, I enjoy doing this very much.

Hugh Feehan

In early fall I made my way to northeast Washington DC to start my volunteer tutoring program at the Washington Jesuit Academy (WJA). WJA is a middle school for talented adolescent boys from historically under-served and low-income families regardless of religious denomination. WJA provides these young men a disciplined and rigorous learning environment. Their day begins

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January Day of Reflection

“Jesus, Fully Human, Fully Alive”

Sister Rea McDonnell

The rain came crashing down when we arrived but inside the Retreat house it was warm and cozy and dry and the coffee was hot. In the chapel, Rea began her talk, *Jesus is our Pioneer*. But it wasn't a talk but rather a gentle conversation, a dialogue to help her construct, as she said, what she wants to share, from what her listeners think and care about, “With song, prayer, interactive dialogue and presentation, Rea advanced the substance of her theme with skill, insight and passion.” commented one of her listeners.

“The dialogue was good. Rea was eliciting what we had experienced, not trying to give from her expertise. This is what good religious formation is about. She resisted the temptation to try to impress us,” said another. I “enjoyed hearing about Jesus’ humanity and have a deeper level of awareness of our connection (through grace) with him in pain and joy; I liked the idea of large group dialogue to build on input from the audience.” Rea was “very animated and has a gift in directing dialogue between us and Jesus,” others remarked .

She conveyed to her audience how Jesus forged the way for us, as a pioneer blazes a trail; manifesting in his own life what it means to fully be human. “She made me look at Jesus with a new eye.” “I came away with a new understanding of Jesus, the man.” “I loved her presentation style and her sense of humor,” said others.

At the session after lunch, Rea began the same way as the morning with a preliminary sharing of thoughts and ideas on the theme *Fully Human, Growing in Wisdom and Grace*. Using many examples from the gospels she demonstrated how Jesus learned about his mission, about his relation with God, and even about how to overcome prejudice in dealing with his non-Jewish neighbors.

“Enjoyed hearing more about Jesus’ humanity and growing in understanding through our life experience and learning from our mistakes; and how our capacity for grace increases over time as we grow spiritually.” “Liked the idea of how Jesus is like us—in disappointments and in joy—gave me more a sense of Jesus as human as well as divine.” “We need more and more to see Jesus as fully human, with us at all times.” Rea “made Jesus’ humanity come alive.”

At the end of the day, so many came away fascinated with Rea and impressed with what she had shared: “She is very knowledgeable and she appears to speak without notes or a prepared talk. Very impressive.” “So many of the thoughts she developed were new, deep and wonderful to reflect on.”

Rea “doesn’t set self or her own experience as the expert but encourages the reflective, dialogic, prayerful, for us to come to own insight.” “She had so many insights that can only come through prayer, reflection and study (and experience!).” “So warm, inviting to the day’s program. She demonstrates her approach so well! A map, maybe, would help make visual the places she talked about.” “I thought most about: what is God’s will? (It) comes down to the “ordinary”—to be more with and for those I see each day—to give my full attention to them—not always easy to do.”

(The day was the Day of Reflection, January 17, 2012; the Retreat house was the Dominican Retreat House, McLean, VA. Rea is Sister Rea McDonnell of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The quoted responses are from the evaluations the participants handed in at the end of the Day of Reflection; used with their permission. —Ed.)



JOE JONES TO RETIRE AS DC/METRO MARYLAND REGIONAL DIRECTOR



IN A LETTER to Executive Director Mary McGinnity dated March 12, Joe Jones announced that he would retire as DC/Metro Maryland Regional Director effective at the end of the 2011-12 organization year—probably the end of June or July, whichever

best suits IVC.

Citing as the primary reasons, challenging health issues, both his and his wife, Julie's; the desire to spend more quality time with Julie; and his advancing age, (he'll be 77 in June). He noted "it is difficult to accept that now is the best time to retire because I'm dedicated to IVC's mission and simply and sincerely love the people involved. It's truly the best job I've ever had."

Joe was chosen Regional Director in August 2008 after serving three years as a volunteer at the DC

Central Kitchen. He feels his primary contributions during his four-year tenure as Regional Director were strengthening the volunteer base and consolidating partner agency support during the severe economic recession. "It became harder to find qualified volunteers willing or able to make the 'IVC commitment'" he says, "and, for our agencies, funds were not always readily available to accept new or additional volunteers." He also points to the expansion of IVC into Montgomery and Prince George's Counties as among his ongoing contributions.

As to other works in progress, Joe notes with pleasure the development of an increasingly dynamic four year working relationship with his counterparts in Northern Virginia —Jim Kelley and Patty Holley — and their combined efforts to enhance the role and responsibilities of the Joint Regional Advisory Council and the significant growth of the joint "Evening of Gratitude" annual fund raiser that have resulted therefrom.

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FR. CHARLES L. CURRIE, SJ TO BE CELEBRANT/ HOMILIST AT IVC'S APRIL 29 EVENING OF GRATITUDE

A native of Philadelphia, Fr. Currie is former President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). Previously, he served as President of Wheeling College and Xavier University. His extensive international experience includes time as special assistant to the President of Georgetown Univ. to coordinate the institution's response to the murder of the Jesuits in El Salvador. Fr. Currie has also been a Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center and Rector of the Jesuit Community at St. Joseph's Univ. in Philadelphia. He holds graduate degrees in philosophy and theology and a doctorate from Catholic Univ. in physical chemistry. In addition to serving on the IVC Board, he is currently U.S. representative on the International Committee on Jesuit Higher Education and is helping develop the *Jesuit Commons* which endeavors to link Jesuit education with Jesuit efforts with poor and marginalized people worldwide.

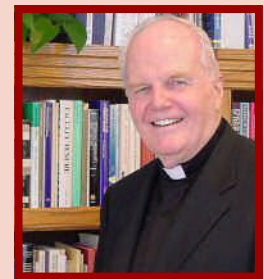


Photo by AJCU

This Most Amazing Day III: A NEW BEGINNING

by Dick Bowling

Let me tell you what it is like being back writing my journal. It's like writing a very personal letter to someone you care about a lot. You don't have to stop and think: what am I going to say?

Did you ever have the experience of getting together with a friend you haven't seen in a long, long time? I have; with my friend Larry whom I used to room with in theology at St. Meinrad Seminary. Larry is a very funny guy and we used to have some great conversations back at school. Larry is now a priest in the Fort Wayne diocese so I don't get to see him very much. A couple of years ago I invited him to come on vacation with me at Bar Harbor, Maine. As soon as he got into the car we started talking, it was like we just picked up where we left off.

This is what it is like writing my journal again. What I find so amazing is that this conversation is with Jesus! And I have found that as the days go by this relationship just keeps getting deeper, the more I consistently write.

Marty Walsh is my spiritual reflector and has had a profound influence on my journal writing. Marty suggested that I tell you when it was I began to speak so directly to Jesus as I do in my journal. So a couple of weeks ago I went through my first journal and found out that it began on the very first day back in September, 2005! And that by the end of the first week, the pattern was firmly established. I guess it just came so naturally to let my heart flow out to him.

I would like to share some of my recent journals and I hope maybe you will find what I found: that you can lay your journal aside for a while as I have done and return to it later, even years later, with renewed vigor. I hope these entries and the way I speak to Jesus inspire you to begin or continue your own journal in a way that is deep, close and personal:

Sometimes truly amazing things happen when you talk to Jesus. On Saturday the fourth of February I wrote:



Bo-Billie, my cat

I was just inspired: It was one of those instantaneous, quickly passing, immediately evaporating flashes; but I saw it clear as day, you are real!! You were here, Lord, real as Bo-Billie.

(After I shared this entry with Marty he said to me: "We are often too busy to allow an experience like you just had to sink in. If we don't write it down, the experience vanishes into our unconscious. Keeping a journal allows the experience to reemerge into consciousness, surprising us.")

On January 5th, I wrote the following which helped me express my sense of wonder:

Tomorrow, Lord, is the feast of the Epiphany. I try to celebrate this awesome mystery of God becoming human. I'm just standing in awe of this unbelievable reality. Of course, the whole cosmos is unbelievable. That we human beings have evolved to know and understand the awesomeness of this cosmos is unbelievable.

I often share with Jesus my stresses and hopeless feelings

Lord, I just realized that my writing to you about my stress level is itself creating stress. I think I'm sort of like Joe Btfsplk in Li'l Abner who walked around with a black cloud raining in his face wherever he went; bringing hard luck.



I wrote this to and about my Mom on the 26th of January:

Good morning, dear Jesus. Today is Mom's birthday. She is 107 years old. I speak of her as being this old instead of saying it is the 107th anniversary of her birth as you do when someone is dead. I

This Most Amazing Day (continued)

still think of her as being alive. Happy Birthday, Mom!

It seems I spent my whole life wrestling with my Dad and with the anger and rage this bond between us engendered. I find myself returning to this theme over and over when I talk to Jesus. On January 5th I wrote:

Maybe I should rethink and reimagine what went on in that the conflict with my Dad. That it may have been a conflict of egos. I remember him now even as an old man, unable to let go of his ego; his need to be in command. It's like he could never change; never let go.

I often end my journal telling Jesus I love him as I did this day:

Lord, I love you. I love telling you about what's going on with me, both inside my head and what I am actually doing. Often these two don't get along together very well.

Writing a journal is a marvelous way of listening to Jesus/God speaking to me in my life.

And besides I have a record of what I wrote. I was forcefully reminded of the beauty of having this record when I went back to my first journal, like I told you, and relived those earliest experiences of talking with Jesus.

After I finish my journal each day I sometimes realize my life is a grace. Some days what I write is boring and painful yet I discover that I am touching, tasting, smelling my way to the holy as Frederick Buechner says:

Listen to your life.

**See it for the fathomless mystery that it is.
In the boredom and pain of it no less than
in the excitement and gladness;
touch, taste, smell your way
to the holy and hidden heart of it
because in the last analysis
all moments are key moments,
and life itself is grace."**

Frederick Buechner
Now and Then

These are the Most Amazing Days!

Evening of Gratitude Liturgical Music Presented by The Choral Arts Society of Washington, April 29

WASHINGTON'S PREMIER SYMPHONIC CHORUS, will headline this year's Celebration. Renowned Founder/Music Director **Norman Scribner**, in his legacy season at the helm, will lead a Choral Arts Chamber Chorus in presenting the Liturgical Music at the Mass, including a special Choral Prelude.

Maestro Scribner is one of Washington's most versatile and respected musical figures. He founded Choral Arts, currently an ensemble of over 160 voices, in 1965 and it has been one of the nation's leading symphonic choruses ever since – for more than four decades – presenting an acclaimed annual subscription series at the Kennedy Center; performing with leading symphony orchestras and under the batons of the world's most distinguished conductors; producing 18 acclaimed recordings; touring nationally and internationally; and participating in numerous special events, both live and televised, including the Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and serving as the chorus for The Kennedy Center Honors, A Capital Fourth and the recent Andrea Bocelli Concert.

We ask all attendees to be in their seats at St. Aloysius that day by 3:45 pm

Word Games at Byron House

For over two hours, more than ten seniors in their eighties and nineties under the gentle guidance of IVC volunteer Tom



Tom Hogan (r) with some of his players

Hogan enjoyed themselves playing a word game using the letters from the word:

“Outmaneuverings.”

How many words, we wonder, could we have come up with in that time period? These intrepid seniors chalked up an impressive 383 words and found such wowzers as Meringue, Tangerine, Sovereign, Souvenir, and Mountain (see chart Tom used, below). They had to be persuaded to finally stop because it was lunchtime.

[illegible]

Serving Seniors

by Tom Hogan

“Tom,” many people ask, “what do you do at those assisted living places where you volunteer?” A few IVC volunteers ask me: “How does what you do there qualify as service to the poor?” I have been volunteering for the past three and a half years at two assisted living residences established by Victory Housing under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Washington. One day a week I’m at Byron House on the campus of Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, MD, and one day at Bartholomew House on the campus of St. Bartholomew’s Parish in Bethesda, MD.

Although I have no idea whether the residents at these homes are financially poor, I definitely know that they are all poor in lots of other ways. All of the residents are elderly. They are in declining health and need some type of physical aid and assistance on a daily basis. Many have poor hearing or eyesight; almost all have poor short-term memories. Many can no longer walk, and even those who can need walkers. A few seem to suffer from depression.

And almost all enjoy the group entertainment, which is a big part of what I do. At each House I lead three regular group activities. I also try to offer some personal attention whenever I can, particularly to those who don't regularly attend the group activities. In the morning I lead a word game (see the sidebar and accompanying photo at left). On a large board I write a word that has all 5 vowels and 7 or 8 consonants. I then ask the residents to think of any common English word using any of the letters from the word that I posted. This word game is a big hit at each House. The residents can usually suggest anywhere from 275 to 550 words, and some don't even want to stop playing at lunchtime!

In the afternoon, I lead a group Rosary, usually attended by 12 to 16 residents; there are even a few non-Catholics who come. To me it is especially heartwarming when a new resident, perhaps with a little reluctance, joins the group and I realize that he or she probably hasn't said the Rosary for a long time and begins to relearn the prayers that he or she may have forgotten.

The third group activity is different at each House. In the afternoon at Byron House I lead a group crossword puzzle, while at Bartholomew House I have recently been reading Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation* (which I constantly remind them is *their* generation: the ones who lived through the Depression and fought and won World War II).

The personal attention I give to some of the residents may consist of private discussions, or some small encouragement like when someone says “I can’t do this,” or whatever other requests I can respond to within my abilities.

The IVC service I perform at Victory Housing is greatly rewarding spiritually. For two days every week it allows me to fulfill one of the morning prayers I usually offer:

Lord, let me see you in every one I meet today,
And Lord, let me *be* you to every one I meet today.

Transitions: Cont. from page 3

early at 7:30 am and the boys do not return to their neighborhoods and their predominantly single parent households until the school day ends at 7:30 pm.

I entered the building with trepidation, uneasy about how my interaction would go with the boys. After all, it had been fifty plus years since I was their age, and I knew that they knew more about technology than I did. I wasn't sure I could actually help them fine tune their academic skills, and I worried that perhaps I couldn't make an impact. One of my first challenges was when I couldn't remember the formula for finding the circumference of a circle. So, I Googled the formula and reviewed some YOU TUBE snippets. This put me back on course.

Helping with organizational skills came easily and listening and caring was automatic. Before I knew it, I was looking forward to my mornings with these young men. One of those "moments" came right after Christmas. After the holiday concluded, and school was in full swing again, the boys actually seemed glad to see me. Always greeting me with respect, I was moved by their attitude and sincerity. I was aware that I was divinely placed at WJA and I hope to continue contributing in some small way as these boys develop confidence and self-assurance in this emotionally safe academic environment

The goal for all students is that after 3 years at the Academy, with first-rate teachers and facilities, the boys will gain spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical confidence and will be able to succeed in a college preparatory high school..

Bob Thomsen

My assignment is with Turning Points in Dumfries, Virginia. (Turning Points is administered through Action In Community Through Service (ACTS), a private nonprofit human services agency, serving Prince William County.) ACTS mission is to a) eliminate domestic violence by empowering victims to build their lives free of violence through shelter, resources, and education; b) provide batterers with alternatives to violence classes; c) educate youth about healthy relationships; and d) communicate to the larger community the impact that domestic violence has on its citizens.

At present, I am implementing and coordinating a Job Readiness Training Program for the women who have been victims of domestic violence. We use the resources at the Virginia Employment Commission and the Skill Source Center in Woodbridge, Virginia. The Job Readiness Training Program is a pilot program and if it is successful we hope to expand it to other client groups served by ACTS.

Mary Ann Cummins

It is fascinating being on the "inside" of a small nonprofit, working with the dedicated staff and seeing their challenges first-hand. I am working as an office receptionist at Pathway Homes in Fairfax County. Pathway Homes provides housing and support services for individuals with mental illness.

I greet people who come to the office and answer calls from our clients as well as from people looking for housing. Sometimes I can help with information about our programs, the application process or the waiting list. Sometimes I can refer the call to a counselor or the property manager. And sometimes I just listen. Listening, I feel, is a real privilege—to accept their trust and hear their story. Pathway Homes has a variety of programs which span a spectrum of needs from group homes to semi-independent apartment living. Many of our clients have been homeless.

One of the added perks of my job site is that I am just down the hall from the IVC NOVA office, so I get to see Patty and Dick working away at all they do for us! Thanks, you two!

Eileen Friedman

"The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round" No matter how many times we sing that well-loved preschool song, the children never seem to get tired of it. No matter if we're playing, taking walks, singing songs, giving bottles, or helping a restless baby fall asleep working at the Bryant Early Learning Center (BEL) is a joyous and happy experience. What more could a volunteer ask? The Bryant Early Learning Center is a program managed by United Community Ministries (UCM)

The center provides a safe, affordable, multi-cultural learning environment for up to 92 children aged 6 weeks to 5 years and I am lucky enough to work with some of the youngest. Many of them have teen parents who participate in Fairfax County's Project Opportunity, so the parents receive support to strengthen their parenting skills.

My other IVC assignment is more challenging: working as a Basic Needs counselor at UCM. The program helps families in crisis address their most immediate and pressing needs: food shortages, eviction, utility cut-off prevention, emergency medical and dental assistance. We are often stymied in how much support we can offer on any given day given the ever increasing demands on finite resources. I often feel a sense of frustration about the needs we cannot meet. But the people who come say they are glad we are here and do what we can, even when what we can do is limited. They feel a sense of hope and community concern.

UCM is a well-respected social service agency that operates in south Fairfax County. As a new IVC volunteer, I am glad I can work near where I live. This way I get to know people who live in my own community -- a community that is generous to and supportive of UCM. I am grateful for the opportunity IVC provides, to support the hardworking staff and, by extension, the people for whom they so tirelessly advocate.

JOE JONES TO RETIRE AS DC/METRO MARYLAND REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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In acknowledging Jones' departure, Executive Director Mary McGinnity stated "It is difficult to see IVC losing the wisdom and sage experience of someone of your intelligence, professional skill and faith. However, we all can feel much pride in the wonderful program you have developed and caringly shepherded these past several years...." Mary said that IVC will greatly miss his leadership, his spirit and his gift for leading others to live as Christ asked us to: in service to others. "There are few who know how to not only live in service themselves but to also encourage that selfless service in others", she states.

Patty Holley, Joe's counterpart in Northern Virginia remembers her first conversation with Joe when he asked her if she could work with an old grey haired guy like him. Little did she know what a blessing he would bring to her new work and life with IVC. "I will miss him tremendously on an every-day basis but know that he will always be a part of my life. He is a wonderful teammate and his sense of humor lights up the room. He will be sorely missed."

Tom Ulrich, IVC's new Director of Program Operations and Regional Development, stated "After knowing Joe for a very short time, my reflection is...a man with the heart of an angel and a voice to match! He is a gift to IVC that will keep on giving because we won't let him 'retire', just re-tool!!"



Which Joe do you know?