

*New England Region, continued from page 1*

he says. Fundraising and friend-raising events, for example, are held in all three cities.

The launch was the culmination of three years of planning, says David Hinchey, who chaired the planning committee. The first formal meeting was in January 2006, and the regional director was hired in January 2009. Success was the result of cooperation among what he calls “a three-legged stool: the New England Province of the Jesuits, the IVC board and national office, and the planning committee.”

A former Jesuit and founder of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) – East, he arranged for the executive directors of JVC and IVC to jointly send a letter to former JVC volunteers approaching retirement age, suggesting they consider volunteering in IVC. “I think it’s a natural transition,” he says.

Four of the members of the planning committee have remained active as members of the Regional Council, which will be responsible for guiding the region to financial self-sufficiency in coming years. This is not without challenges. “Thousands of nonprofits are competing for attention,” says Steve Jubin, “and we’re the new kid in town. But I think we have a great mission—helping the poor—and it’s important that we accomplish our mission in cities where the poor live in great numbers.”

## Meet Mary McGinnity, Executive Director

The new Executive Director of IVC, Mary McGinnity, is no stranger to the organization. For the past five years she has been active in the Northern Virginia and Washington, DC/Metro Maryland regions as a spiritual reflector and member of a regional council. More recently, she joined the National Board of Directors, and worked closely with board and IVC staff to develop a vision, plan, and strategy for addressing IVC’s challenges. She assumed her new position in February, replacing Suzanne Geaney, who left to enter a period of personal renewal.

Mary brings to IVC 25 years of leadership experience in faith-based nonprofit organizations. She founded and served as executive director of several social service organizations. For the past seven years, she has been Executive Director of the Department of Charity and Justice for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Mary has an M.S. degree in pastoral counseling, specializing in systems psychology, from Iona College and a B.A. degree from the College of the Holy Cross. She also has earned certification in mediation.



“I took this job because I saw the incredible love and dedication of the staff, of remarkable volunteers, and of a remarkable Board of Directors,” she says. “I know that in this economy, more people will need social services. I see no better way to help social service agencies help those in need than by providing them highly skilled volunteers. This organization offers a solution at a time when it is needed most.”

***“We are very excited about our effort to decentralize and feel certain it will ultimately increase the value of IVC to all our constituents and result in more volunteers assisting the poor.”***

Chuck Krambuhl, Chairman,  
IVC Board of Directors



# Love in Deeds of Service

The Newsletter for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps • Summer 2010

## IVC Shifts Focus to Regions

The IVC Board of Directors has voted to make a major shift in the organization’s direction, a move that gives the leadership of each region more responsibility and ownership over their programs.

“This change is exciting for the future of IVC,” says Executive Director Mary McGinnity. “It will constitute a strong Regional Director and Council team, which will result in regions providing more volunteers in service to the poor. This model will foster local energy, commitment, and creativity and build on the strong spiritual foundation of Ignatian spirituality.”

The decision, which came after months of deliberations, was guided by the belief that the strength of the organization is in the relationships that form at the local level between IVC and social service agencies, agencies and volunteers, and volunteers and the people they serve. “The whole focus of the organization will be on making that constellation of relationships at the local level as fruitful and productive as they can be,” Mary says. The national office has redirected its efforts to strengthening the regions, so that each region can be self-sufficient in the near future.

An important initiative this year will be strengthening regional councils. The board’s evaluation found that the regions with the most success were those with strong regional councils, providing support to the regional director in

such areas as marketing, fundraising, and recruitment.

Mary feels the new direction is a sign of IVC’s strength. “In the last year, a significant number of nonprofit agencies reduced their services or closed entirely because of the economy,” she says. “IVC suffered, too, but remarkably, the volunteers continued to serve, regional councils stepped up to the plate, and our fundraising efforts increased.”

“The staff made personal sacrifices, yet they worked even harder,” she adds. “The soul of IVC is people’s incredible generosity.”

## New England Region Launched

The New England Region, IVC’s newest, is off to a promising start in its first full year of operation.

Br. Steve Jubin, the Regional Director, says that by September 2009, a dozen volunteers were on assignment to social service agencies in the cities of Boston and Worcester, Mass., and Providence, R.I.—double the first-year goal. The region has also recruited nine reflectors.

The region is one of the first to encompass three dioceses. “Each has a character of its own that has to be considered in recruiting volunteers, raising awareness and planning events,”

*New England Region,  
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## The Value of Volunteers

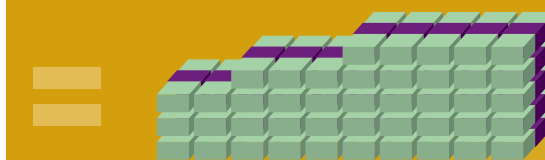
Nationally, the IVC has **279 volunteers**



providing almost **153,000 hours** of service,



with a value of over **\$3.4 million**



Hourly rate courtesy of Independent Sector:  
[www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)

***“I believe in the multiplier effect—a gift to IVC is multiplied countless times because of the volunteers that serve those most in need. For IVC, a \$100 gift is worth so much more than that.”***

Randall Hallett,  
Chair, IVC Board  
Development  
Committee





## IVC Mission

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a national community service organization of volunteers and for volunteers, and is affiliated with the Society of Jesus. IVC works to meet the most urgent needs of people who are poor through the experienced service of mature men and women—Ignatian Volunteers.

## Board of Directors

Chuck Krambuhl (North Carolina), *Chair*  
Sheila Smith (Illinois), *Vice-Chair*  
Sharon Browning (Pennsylvania), *Secretary*  
Bill Whitaker (Washington, D.C.), *Treasurer*  
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## National Staff

Mary McGinnity, *Executive Director*  
Michael Kenealy, *Director of Development*  
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Meg Mannix, *Director of Programs and Operations*  
Jennifer Anthony,  
*Director of Finance & Administration*  
Cecilia Weber,  
*Database and Administrative Assistant*

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## Giving Back, with a Bonus

When she retired, Mary Himrod sought an opportunity to volunteer—but she hoped she might also find a spiritual component in her new line of work.

While she was considering various alternatives, a friend asked whether she had ever heard of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC). The suggestion was literally an answer to a prayer—and “the rest is history,” says Mary, who is entering her third year as an IVC member.

IVC is a national program active in 16 metropolitan areas, including two in the Wisconsin Province (Minneapolis/St. Paul and Omaha). It offers men and women age 50 and over opportunities to serve the needs of marginalized people, work for justice, and grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition. Volunteers are placed in various nonprofit partner agencies throughout a community.

Mary’s volunteer assignment is visiting with and arranging events for seniors through Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly, an organization committed to reducing social and emotional isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, while promoting well-being and independence among older adults.

She visits twelve seniors—six per week, every other week. Because IVC members commit to serve at least two days per



Mary Himrod (right) and friend, Kathryn Wilke, at an April birthday gathering sponsored by the Little Brothers.

week, six to eight hours a day, for ten months each year, Mary’s visits are more frequent and lengthy than the commitment required by Little Brothers—and she feels this has enhanced her relationships with those she visits.

There are other ways IVC has enriched Mary’s volunteer experience as well.

For example, she says, “Previously, I was fairly private with my faith journey, but I think my connection with IVC has helped me to be more open.”

Such openness is facilitated by the IVC model which offers volunteers regular opportunities to reflect on the meaning of their experiences and contemplate the impact of their volunteering and God’s presence with them.

“IVC community members come together monthly to share our stories,” Mary explains. “The sharing also can be a call for assistance or guidance with problems

we may encounter while volunteering. In addition, we see other avenues for volunteering through the eyes of our IVC sisters and brothers (as we have the choice of changing our volunteer area at the end of our fiscal year). Finally, we pray and study together, we pray for one another, and we support each other.”

*This article first appeared on the website of the Wisconsin Province of the Jesuits (www.jesuitpartners.org) and is reprinted by permission.*

## Family and Agency Recognized with 2010 Della Strada Awards

IVC presented the 2010 Della Strada Award to recipients on opposite coasts in April.

In San Diego, the award was presented to the San Diego Catholic Worker in recognition of the agency’s outstanding service, at an afternoon gathering on Sunday, April 18, at St. Catherine Labouré Parish.

And in Washington, DC, at the fourth annual Evening of Gratitude following mass at St. Aloysius Church on Sunday, April 25, Mike and Kathleen Curtin and their son, Mike Curtin Jr., received the award in honor of lives that reflect Ignatian values.

Both events were also successful fundraisers for their regions, with both events exceeding their targets for contributions.

The Della Strada Award is named after Santa Maria della Strada, the first church

“IVC offers an educational and prayerful arm to volunteerism,” she adds. “Christ has charged us to love one another; that was His greatest commandment. The Jesuit community has become a model of Christ’s teaching for me, and it has helped me in my aim to be a lifelong student of that teaching.”



Mike, Kathleen, and Mike Curtin, Jr.

used by St. Ignatius and the early Jesuits to serve the urban poor in the center of Rome. The award honors an individual or organization whose life or mission reflects Ignatian values of service to the poor, and of working and educating for a more just society.



## IVC Regional Programs

To find out more about IVC Programs or to become an Ignatian Volunteer, please contact the Regional Office in your area or visit the IVC website at [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org)

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