
2021 MINISTRY APPEAL

“A generous person will *prosper*;
whoever *refreshes* others will be refreshed.”

— PROVERBS 11:25



THE MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTED

in this year's appeal provide a glimpse of our involvement and continued commitment to serve the poor and marginalized in society. We are grateful to the many benefactors who support us in our mission.

SISTERS VAL KNOCHE and **ELIZABETH WALTERS** minister to those in need in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Sister Val serves the Hispanic community in the North Macomb Vicariate. Sister Elizabeth is Soup Kitchen Supervisor at Crossroads of Michigan in Detroit. She helps individuals and families living in extreme poverty.

Please consider a gift to the Ministry Appeal as a way of joining the IHM Sisters in making a positive impact in our world. Together, we can carry out Jesus' mandate to care for those most in need.

Your support *inspires* our work in ministry

As Hispanic Minister for the North Macomb Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Sister Val Knoche cares for the spiritual and material needs of Latino families, organizing Spanish language liturgies and preparing children for baptism, Communion and confirmation. “I work with parish leaders organizing a regular grocery distribution at St. Clement Parish. We respond to families desperate to pay rent, buy food and medicine and cover other emergency costs. I also reach out to the neediest of the parish. Many have been here for 10-20 years and are undocumented with seasonal jobs. I help them by writing letters of support, translating documents and accompanying them to court for hearings on deportation or asylum,” said Sister Val.



Sister Val serving Communion at St. Clement of Rome in Romeo, Mich.

In 2017, *Sister Val co-founded* Strangers No Longer (SNL), a network of southeast Michigan Catholics responding to Pope Francis’ exhortations to treat immigrants as brothers and sisters. SNL is a network of parishes and congregations made up of Circles of Support to provide assistance to immigrants and to advocate for a comprehensive and humane immigration policy. SNL has grown to include Circles of Support in 22 parishes and a high school. “Our SNL Accompaniment Task Force coordinates distribution of donations given for the support of families in crisis. I belong to the SNL Circle of Support called ‘Seekers of Justice,’ along with St. Clement, St. Kiernan and SS. John and Paul parishioners. We have visited the county sheriff, local police chief and our United States Congressperson to advocate for more humane policies and practices toward immigrants.” said Sister Val.



Sister Val provides counsel and support through her ministry at Strangers No Longer.

While teaching at Catholic schools in Detroit, Sister Elizabeth Walters worked part-time at Crossroads of Michigan on weekends for nine years. After retiring from teaching, her ministry, as a full-time staff member, is the work of Crossroads. Founded in 1971, Crossroads is celebrating 50 years of service as a community-based social service outreach agency helping individuals and families in dire need and living in extreme poverty.



Sister Elizabeth (far right) pictured with a team of volunteers who hand-crafted and distributed mats for the homeless.

“To do this mission we are committed to listen deeply and respect the dignity of each person who comes for help; assist people in need to be able to identify root causes for the problems they face, whether personal or systemic; and provide quality services and opportunities that empower those in need to move toward greater well-being and stability. In addition, seminarians from Sacred Heart Seminary have been coming to Crossroads to learn to effectively and respectfully work with impoverished people,” said Sister Elizabeth.

“I’m also a grant writer, seeking funding for the programs, services and resources so desperately needed. We respond to the people’s needs seven days a week. We meet one-on-one to discuss their emergency situations and look for possible solutions. Generally, we can provide help with emergency food and clothing, prescription assistance, employment, transportation and assistance with identification documents. Parenting sessions, early childhood development classes and employment services are also part of what we offer.”



Crossroads cooking class

All photos were pre-pandemic.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL TO SERVE OTHERS

Your partnership allows us to serve in 13 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, South Africa and South Sudan.

Consistent with our mission, we also offer grant opportunities to our IHM Sisters and Associates and their ministries. These grants offer assistance to those deeply affected by injustice and poverty. Ministry grant funding for 2020-2021 totaled more than \$67,000. The ministries awarded are:

- All Saints Literacy Center, Detroit for “Cultural Conversations: Accumulated Knowledge & Experience” – submitted by Agnes Anderson, IHM
- Akoma Educational Charity Foundation, Ghana, Africa for “Collaboration Space for Community Engagement” – submitted by Gloria Rivera, IHM
- Alverno College, Milwaukee for “Referencing the Spiritual Life of Low-Income Latina Students” – submitted by Andrea Lee, IHM
- Aquinas Literacy Center, Chicago for “Support for English-Language Learners” – submitted by Mary Ann Penner, IHM
- Crossroads of Michigan, Detroit for “Emergency Material Assistance to Individuals and Families in Need” – submitted by Elizabeth Walters, IHM
- Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance for “Friends of Returning Citizens” – submitted by Alice Baker, IHM
- Holy Trinity High School, Chicago for “Campus Ministry Program” – submitted by Mary Ann Penner, IHM
- Ignatian Spirituality Project, Detroit for “Overnight Retreat for the Homeless and Those in Recovery” – submitted by Betty Leon, IHM
- Institute of Geography for Peace, Juarez, Mexico for “Hospitality Parishes for Migrants” – submitted by Maureen Kelly, IHM, and Maria Antonia Aranda Diaz, IHM, on behalf of the IHM Sisters’ Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico mission
- Monroe County Learning Bank, Monroe, Mich. for “Peer Mentoring Program” – submitted by Kathleen O’Brien, IHM
- Native Institute for Research and Action, San Antonio, Texas for “Get Ready 2 Get Well” – submitted by Teresa Nira, IHM Associate
- River Raisin Institute, Monroe, Mich. for “Changing Minds; Transforming the Planet; Building Sustainable Community” – submitted by Anne Wisda, IHM
- Selah’s Center of Hope, Monroe, Mich. for “Empowerment Education Project” – submitted by Judith Bonini, IHM
- Strangers No Longer, Detroit for “Built to Last” – submitted by Valerie Knoche, IHM



IHM Development Office • 610 West Elm Ave. • Monroe, MI 48162
734-240-9860 • ihmsisters.org