As an IHM community, we believe the Spirit is inviting us to enter more deeply into the liberating mission of Jesus Christ as we come to understand it anew through the mystery of the Sacred Universe. Our spirituality and our shared humanity compel us to respond collaboratively with others to the challenges of our beautiful yet fractured world especially through our commitment to social, economic and ecological justice.

IHM Chapter Direction 2018

Elizabeth Walters, IHM, and Jane Aseltyne, IHM Novice, are involved with Crossroads of Michigan. Ann Oestreicht, IHM, and Kate O’Brien, IHM, work with U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. The ministries highlighted in this year’s appeal provide a glimpse of our involvement in the lives of poor and marginalized children and adults. They are a part of our commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

When you support the IHM Sisters, you help us change lives. Your partnership allows us to serve in 12 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, South Africa, South Sudan and Canada. We serve in such diverse ministries as:

- elementary and secondary education
- colleges and universities
- literacy and tutoring services
- religious education
- spiritual direction
- justice, peace and sustainability
- chaplaincy
- pastoral ministry
- health care
- prison ministry
- outreach to the poor
- mental health
- social and retirement services

Additionally, we partner with other organizations and religious orders to broaden our reach and further enrich the lives of so many more of God’s people.

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 serve the least of those among us.

Contributions provide resources to support both ministries of IHM Sisters and ministries that give evidence “… that with Mary of the Magnificat we stand with and for the poor … working with others to eradicate the causes of injustice and oppression.”

IHM Constitutions, Articles 11 and 13

As a 501(c)(3) organization, our legal name is Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, Michigan, Inc. Our tax identification number is 38-1359581.

Responding to the call to serve others

“To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us.”

— Pope Francis
For more than 48 years, Crossroads has been trusted to help individuals and families living in extreme poverty and dire need. Acting in partnership with many other agencies, parishes, hospitals, companies and organizations in the metro Detroit area, Crossroads offers assistance in the form of a hand-up. Elizabeth Walters, IHM, and Jane Aseltyne, IHM Novice, find great joy in ministering at this special place.

Sister Elizabeth serves as coordinator for the soup kitchen where 500–800 nutritious meals are prepared and served each Sunday in a welcoming, clean and safe environment. She also coordinates 1,800–2,000 volunteers each year in providing food for the hungry. Additionally, she is a grant writer, seeking funding for the programs, services and resources so desperately needed. Sister Elizabeth says, “At Crossroads, 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 identification assistance. Parenting sessions, early childhood development classes and employment services are also part of what we offer. This is a place where we provide help and hope with respect and dignity.”

Sister Jane’s work includes answering phones, scheduling appointments, meeting people and anything else that may come her way. “There is rarely a dull moment,” she says.

Volunteering at Crossroads has been an eye-opening experience. Working with the poor has taught me about the misery that poverty brings to individuals and families. I am honored to be a part of this outreach because we do our best to help everyone who walks through our door.” — JANE ASELTYNE, IHM NOVICE

Ann Oestreich, IHM, and Kate O’Brien, IHM, are involved in human trafficking ministry and dedicated members of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. Until 2000, we were unaware of the millions of people being trafficked globally and within the United States. Sister Kate took up this work in 2016 and is also active with the Monroe County Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Both Sister Kate and Sister Ann state, “This ministry has opened our eyes and touched our hearts. Together we have met survivors, heard their stories and adopted a survivor-informed approach to anti-trafficking ministry.”

The organization partners with educators, social workers, health care providers, law enforcement, businesses and government at all levels. We are most aware of victims of forced labor and sexual slavery and less familiar with child brides — sold online, organ harvesting, forced begging and child soldiers. The International Labor Organization estimates that globally, 40 million people are enslaved, enriching their traffickers by $150 billion annually. One in four victims are children. People who have been trafficked need time to heal. They also need education, advocacy, social services, medical care and jobs along with love, care, patience and encouragement to enable them to survive and thrive.

Sisters Ann and Kate agree that, “This work is a vital part of our IHM mission to participate in the liberating mission of Jesus. In this ministry, we are supported financially, spiritually and wholeheartedly by the IHM congregation.”

“Working on behalf of poor and abandoned people is at the heart of the liberating mission of Jesus and who we are as IHM Sisters. In this spirit, it is a great honor for me to minister at Crossroads. Each day I thank our loving God that I am able to meet, learn from and serve impoverished people.” — ELIZABETH WALTERS, IHM

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Crossroads of Michigan

AN ORGANIZATION PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICE OUTREACH IN DETROIT

Women Religious Vow Solidarity in Fight Against Human Trafficking

Ending trafficking is everyone’s work. If you believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking, report your suspicions to law enforcement by calling 911 or the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.