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- Akoma Educational Charity Foundation, Ghana, Africa for “Collaboration Space for Community Engagement” – submitted by Glória 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 Maternal Assistance to Individuals and Families in Need” – submitted by Elizabeth Walters, IHM
- Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance for “Friends of Returning Citizens” – submitted by Valerie Knoche, 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 Lean, IHM
- Institute of Geography for Peace, Juárez, Mexico for “Hospitality Parishes for Migrants” – submitted by Maximiliano Kelly, IHM, and María Antonia Acuña-Cho, IHM, on behalf of the IHM Sisters’ Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico mission
- 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 Valerie Knoche, IHM
- Stranger’s No Longer, Detroit for “Built to Last” – submitted by Kathleen O’Brien, IHM

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RESPONDING TO THE CALL TO SERVE OTHERS

THE MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTED

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THE IHM DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

• 610 West Elm Ave. • Monroe, MI 48162

734-245-8300 • ihmsisters.org

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- Crossroads of Michigan, Detroit for “Emergency Abnormal 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 Leary, IHM
- Institute of Geography for Peace, Juarez, Mexico for “Hospitality Parishes for Migrants” – submitted by Maureen Kelly, IHM, and Maria Antonia Acosta-Chaz, IHM, on behalf of the IHM Sisters’ Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico mission
- Native Institute for Research and Action, San Antonio, Texas for “Get Ready 2 Get Well” – submitted by Teresa Niza, IHM Associate
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- Selah’s Center of Hope, Monroe, Mich. for “Empowerment Education Project” – submitted by Judith Bonini, IHM
- Stranger No Longer, Detroit for “Built to Last” – submitted by Valerie Knoche, IHM
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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, Confirmation 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.

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.

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Write 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.

"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."

All photos were pre-pandemic.

Crossroads cooking class
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- 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 Niza, IHM Associate
- River Raisin Institute, Monroe, Mich. for “Changing Minds; Transforming the Planet; Building Sustainable Community”—submitted by Anne Visda, IHM
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