


JPIC Work Alive in Northeast Ohio



Fall 2021
Network

*One Heart.
One Hope.
One Mission.*

JPIC Work Alive in Northeast Ohio



The Sisters of Notre Dame are involved in activities across northeast Ohio to help people who are marginalized, particularly women and children. Of course, this is nothing new. “The Sisters of Notre Dame have been doing justice work from the very beginning,” states Katie Drager, Co-Director of the SND USA Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office. “It’s part of who they are.”

Ann Clark, Co-Director of the JPIC National Office, explains that the JPIC staff works to educate SND USA Associates, partners, donors, and collaborators while offering suggestions on how everyone can become involved in these efforts. “JPIC advocates for the marginalized, the elderly, the human-trafficked, migrants and refugees. Their situations and problems are so vast that unless we focus on particular issues, it can be overwhelming,” Clark says.

This issue of *NETWORK* showcases a broad variety of local social service programs and agencies that reflect many of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and also includes information on how you can get engaged or learn more. While this is not an all-inclusive

list, the Sisters of Notre Dame welcome all to join in their many ministries, as well as others within your local parish or diocese.

Human Trafficking

The United Nations International Labor Organization estimates nearly 21 million people are trafficked globally. An estimated 11.4 million women and girls, and 9.5 million men and boys are affected by this crime which generates approximately \$150 billion a year around the world. Two-thirds of these profits are generated by forced sexual exploitation.

The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking is a group of concerned people and organizations in Northeast Ohio whose mission is to educate and advocate for the prevention and abolition of human trafficking, while connecting services on behalf of trafficked persons. The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking was founded by members of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Congregation of St. Joseph, and Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland. Today, more than 40 organizations participate in the Collaborative

including representatives from the hotel and restaurant industries, law enforcement, health care and the courts.

The Collaborative shares expertise in education, health care, law, and social services, providing a multi-disciplinary foundation for this initiative. Additionally, they sponsor educational awareness events, provide speakers for diverse audiences, connect with local and national organizations working with victims, advocate for supportive human trafficking legislation, and build

“Collaboration is key to ending human trafficking in the Cleveland area and across the United States.”

— Sister Kathleen Ryan, SND, Co-Chair of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office Advisory Council

partnerships to provide services for trafficked persons.

“Collaboration is key to ending human trafficking in the Cleveland area and across the United States. This crime requires a victim-centered, multi-disciplinary response by every local community,” says Sister Kathleen Ryan, SND, Co-Chair of the SND USA Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) National Office Advisory Council.

Send correspondence to:

Network

Sisters of Notre Dame

13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH 44024

www.sndusa.org

440.286.7101

Katie Drager says, "It can happen anywhere, whether it's Gates Mills, Chardon, Mayfield Heights, Westlake or Solon. It is a crime that's hidden in plain sight. We want everyone to know this crime is not the fault of the victims who are lured into sex work."

Ann Clark says, "Life after being trafficked can also be scary. Victims have been held captive, traumatized, and are unable to make their own decisions. Many survivors are addicted to drugs and have criminal records that include prostitution or drug possession. That makes rebuilding their lives difficult."

Sister Kathleen recalls, "What started as a small group of sisters and other professional colleagues in a room, brainstorming around the table, has already achieved systemic change. Due to the efforts of the collaborative, there are now magistrate courts especially for victims of trafficking."

If you suspect human trafficking, please call the local CLE hotline at Cleveland Rape Crisis Center's Project STAR (Sex Trafficking Advocacy & Recovery) at 855.431.7827.

Voter Voice

The *SND USA* magazine includes an explanation of Voter Voice which is designed to help SNDs, Associates, partners and collaborators advocate for JPIC issues on national, state, and local levels.

There are three primary objectives:

- To educate both citizens and policy makers about issues that are relevant to Church teaching;
- To create a platform for creating new policies that benefit the common good; and
- To advocate for those who do not have the power to be heard.

If you are interested in subscribing to our Voter Voice Action Alerts, email Katie Drager at kdramer@sndusa.org. You will be added to our database and will receive approximately one alert per month. With each Action Alert, you will be provided with the background information on the issue and Church teaching. If you choose to take action, your response will be directed to the appropriate legislator based on your zip code. The choice is always up to you!

Blessing House

A Children's Crisis Care Center
6115 Olivet Ave., Elyria, Ohio 44035
440-240-1851
Sr. Mary Berigan, SND
Blessinghouse.org

Blessing House is a crisis care center for children from birth through 12 years whose parents or caregivers are facing an emergency that might put their children at risk. More than 1400 children have received shelter here. Blessing House is open every day of the year and is staffed by trained employees who care for the children in a safe and loving environment. Blessing House is currently licensed to care for up to 20 children at a time. They are always in need of food, gas cards, diapers, and girls' and boys' mid-size bicycles. Volunteers are always needed; opportunities are available by emailing info@blessinghouse.org and completing the online volunteer form.





Women's Outreach Center

The River's Edge, a Ministry Center for the Sisters of St. Joseph
3430 Rocky River Dr.
Cleveland, Ohio 44111
216-688-1111

www.riversedgecleveland.com/womens-outreach

The Women's Outreach Center is housed in Franklin Circle Christian Church in the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland. This daytime drop-in center creates a cozy, welcoming environment where women can feel safe, grow in self-esteem, and realize their potential.

Co-Director Sr. Patti Gentile, SND, has worked for years at the Women's Outreach Center, a program of the River's Edge Ministry Center. The Women's Outreach Center serves to accompany and empower women transitioning out of homelessness as they strive to realize their potential and attain self-sufficiency. Donations of hygiene products and yarn are appreciated. Volunteers are needed

to teach an arts/crafts session, join in prayer with the women, and help keep the ministry moving forward.



Women's Outreach Center Co-Directors (l-r) Sr. Carrie Vall, CSJ; Sr. Felicia Petruziello, CSJ; and Sr. Patti Gentile, SND

House of Champions

2066 West 47th Street, off Lorain Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio
216-630-7368

houseofchampions.org

Children in second through fourth grade from Metro Catholic School and Urban Community School attend this after-school program, Monday through Friday. This ministry is accomplished through the collaborative effort of the

Sisters of Notre Dame, the Ursuline Sisters, and the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity, as well as many community volunteers. The young "Champions" practice respect for adults and appropriate social skills for home and school, and achieve improved academic grades across the school curriculum.

House of Champions follows the day school calendars of Metro Catholic and Urban Community Schools. Volunteers are needed, particularly current or former teachers, who can tutor children and help these young ones build self-confidence. Volunteers play a vital role in bringing prepared meals to serve each evening, assisting children in establishing good study skills, helping with homework, modeling basic table manners, engaging in dinner conversations, and providing opportunities to build social skills. Volunteers may share their hobbies and interests such as arts/crafts, cooking, baking, gardening, music, reading, and more with the children. Volunteer sign-up is flexible and can be selected by specific days of the week or month. Visit houseofchampions.org/get-involved to learn more.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland has three Family Centers located on the city's East Side. The centers provide programs based on community needs. They all offer programs which focus on youth and young adults, families, and seniors, providing education, tutoring, recreation and arts and crafts activities as well as empowerment skills and training for individuals.

Volunteers are needed to help with various activities:

- Early childhood education programs
- After-school programming and summer camps
- Teen leadership and mentoring services
- Parenting classes and mentoring services

For more information on how to volunteer, contact:

Fatima Family Center

6600 Lexington Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44103
216-391-0505

Fatima Family Center's 26,000-square-foot facility, located in the Hough community, provides programs and services for all ages, including summer camp, a senior program, youth activities and a food pantry. They provide cultural,



leadership and development activities as well as homework assistance, summer camps, field trips, and recreational programs for children and teens. In 2002, Fatima was recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as one of the top five family centers in the United States. Volunteers are appreciated.

St. Martin de Porres Family Center

1264 E 123rd St.
Cleveland, OH 44108
216-268-3909

Located in the Glenville neighborhood, this center provides an array of services to meet the needs of all individuals within the community. Emergency assistance is a large part of the programming at the Center. Parishes,

church groups, book clubs, and organizations can help by supporting the Center's services with household supplies, cleaning supplies, health and hygiene products, baby and children's products, as well as food and clothing donations.

St. Philip Neri Center

799 E 82nd St.
Cleveland, OH 44013
216-391-4415

St. Philip Neri Center, located in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood, offers a variety of programs and services meant to empower all individuals to become self-sufficient. From senior programs to job and career training, the focus is on educating individuals so they may develop the skills they need to strengthen their family and their community. Volunteer programs include the Hot Meals Program, Senior Programs, Emergency Assistance, and the Food Pantry.

Sister Nanette Zeimet, SND, helps a child with her homework at House of Champions.



House of Champions' new home



Catholic Charities Serving Persons with Disabilities

Since the late 1800s the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland has offered ministries to persons with disabilities. This ministry provides a variety of educational, social, and recreational programs, as well as spiritual, pastoral, sacramental, and catechetical services for persons of all ages and abilities. Special events are also celebrated throughout the year, such as the annual Walk of Hope in October and the Journey to Bethlehem Mass in December. These events always need volunteers.

Information on programs, services and events can be found by contacting the individual centers at the following locations:

OLA/St. Joseph Center

2346 W 14th St.
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-481-4823

St. Augustine Church

2486 W 14th St.
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-781-5530

Catholic Charities Meals and Pantry Programs

Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Services sites and programs collaborate with local organizations, public and private agencies, and religious institutions to ensure that the basic needs of the most vulnerable are met.

Catholic Charities staff and a large network of volunteers provide food,

shelter, and clothing to individuals in need, and currently offer support in Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit and Wayne counties.

Here are a few examples of Catholic Charities outreach programs:

Bishop William M. Cosgrove Center

1736 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114
216-781-8262

At the Cosgrove Center, guests have access to many fundamental services:

- Daily hot breakfast and lunch
- Shower facilities
- Mail distribution
- Birth certificates and state identification cards
- Rent and utility assistance

Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland offers employment services to prepare refugees to enter the workforce. They also provide affordable legal counseling and representation in a wide range of immigration matters. Through a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, Catholic Charities offers four levels of on-site ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) classes taught by Tri-C Aspire teachers and classroom volunteers.



There are many volunteer opportunities, such as teaching or tutoring English as a second language; serving as an interpreter to assist with in-person or over-the-phone meetings; helping set up an apartment for a refugee family; coaching life and employment skills; and many more.

To volunteer for any Catholic Charities missions, please email: ccdocle.org/volunteer/volunteer-application

The Notre Dame College Abrahamamic Center

Carol Ziegler, SND., Ph.D.
*Executive Administrative Assistant,
Executive Director of the Abrahamamic
Center and Co-Chair Office of
Institutional Effectiveness*
Notre Dame College
4545 College Road
South Euclid, OH 44121
216-373-5238
Toll Free: 877-NDC-OHIO
NotreDameCollege.edu

The Abrahamamic Center provides space for dialogue, prayer, study, and social activism, particularly through the Annual Abrahamamic Lecture delivered in November. The Center supports interfaith conversation and commitment to the common good. Abrahamamic values such as leadership, hospitality, and compassion are a focus of the Center's on-going educational opportunities.

To learn more or sign up for a class or program, contact NotreDameCollege.edu.

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

2929 Richmond Road
Beachwood, OH 44122
Phone: 216.593.0575
Fax: 216.593.0576
www.maltzmuseum.org

The Mission of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, which attracts students, adults, and groups alike, is

to introduce visitors to the beauty and diversity of the Jewish heritage in the context of the American experience. The staff hope that visitors will leave with an understanding of Jewish history, religion, and culture. The Maltz Museum builds bridges of tolerance and understanding with those of other religions, races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds, serving as an educational resource for Northeast Ohio's diverse communities.

The JPIC Office has many resources if you are looking for books, articles, films, etc. on the topic of Catholic Social Teaching. Members of the JPIC staff can offer guidance and make appropriate recommendations.

For more information about the Sisters of Notre Dame Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation National Office, please email jplic@sndusa.org. †

A Lasting Tribute

May our deceased sisters rejoice in God's everlasting love.



SISTER MERITA STRAHLER

September 24, 1926 - July 10, 2021

Loretta Mary Strahler was born in Suffield, Ohio, the fourth of seven children of Raymond and Stella Oakes Strahler. With three older brothers and later, three younger sisters, Loretta described her childhood as "very happy." She enrolled at Notre Dame Academy, Cleveland, as

an aspirant, and entered the novitiate as a postulant on February 2, 1945. Her sister Dorothy (Sister Mary Doreen, SND) was also a Sister of Notre Dame, and the youngest, Edna (Sister Sylvia, MMS) is a Medical Mission Sister who spent many years in Pakistan.

Sister Merita was professed on August 16, 1947 and began her ministry of teaching in 1950 at St. Benedict School, Cleveland. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from St. John College, Cleveland. Over the next 36 years, she taught primary and intermediate grades at 16 different schools in the Cleveland and Youngstown Dioceses, as well as in Arlington, Virginia and Winter Haven, Florida.

In 1988, she accepted an invitation to become a certified teacher of the ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) program in Cleveland. Working with adults as a literacy tutor proved to be a perfect match for her skills and advocacy. Extending her ministry beyond the classroom through Catholic Charities, Sister Merita addressed the practical needs of refugee and immigrant families, accompanying them to medical appointments, performing job searches, and familiarizing them with grocery shopping and public transportation.

Ten years later, Sister Merita returned to Florida, where she assisted at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Dunedin and continued her work as an ESOL tutor and moderator of weekly conversation classes at local libraries in Clearwater. In 2012 she was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas County. Working one-on-one with six students per week, her persevering efforts helped them to complete GED and citizenship requirements. Sister Merita retired and joined the Chardon community in 2018.

2021 Reunions

Most of the reunions for this year will take place later in the summer and early fall. We'll have news and pictures of them in the next edition.

Class of 2007

Gina Maglionico wants to know if anyone is interested in having a 15-year reunion. Gina can be reached at 216-403-8918 or maglionicog@gmail.com

Class of 1972 – anyone interested in planning a 50th?

Class of 1982 – 40th?

Class of 1997 – 25th?

If any of these classes have started planning reunions, please let the alumnae office know so we can pass the information on to classmates when they inquire.

The alumnae office will be happy to furnish you with whatever information we have on your classmates and help in any way. Contact us at rhsalum@reginahigh.com or 216-905-4851.

If you have moved, gotten married, or changed your email or phone numbers in the last 10 years, please let us know at rhsalum@reginahigh.com.

Regina Alumnae Retreat 2022

When: February 25 – 27, 2022

Where: Bethany Retreat Center at Notre Dame Center

Cost: \$60 which includes meals and materials plus a “good will” offering.

Each participant will have a private room.

Retreat will begin on February 25 at 7 p.m. and end on Sunday at noon.



This year Sr. Melannie Svoboda '62 will be the retreat director. A former teacher, she now writes, gives talks, and directs retreats internationally. To learn more about her, visit her blog at <https://melanniesvoboda@snd.org> titled **Sunflower Seeds**.

Reservations are due February 11, 2022.

More information will be following.

Regina Spirit

These thoughts were recently posted on Facebook by a Regina alum in the Class of '09.

Regina High School was in existence over 55 years, produced more than 7000 graduates, and had hundreds of teachers working there and the spirit continues.

“That feeling when a teacher you had in high school remembers you so fondly, that she finds the time to ask about you at her health checkup. Even though she went through a surgery so life changing, was at her most vulnerable, and hasn't seen you since high school, she still finds time to ask about you, a student she had 13 years ago.

Working in the operating room, you never know when someone you know might need your care, and it's hard to think of them needing the type of surgery you're so used to doing everyday. That being said, it is such an amazing feeling knowing that your people helped save their life. That teacher remembers me, and she knows that she helped influence me to get to where I am today. You go through so many years of education, and every teacher finds a way to impact your life. Because of them, you are who you are today, and thanks to teachers like her, I am a nurse providing the same care she received herself. Such a touching moment knowing the one who helped shape your life allows you to care for others just like her every day.”

2021 Regina Legacy Scholarship Winner

This year's scholarship winner is **Dorothy Nosse**, a senior at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School. She maintained a 4.0 or higher GPA through grade school and high school, and participated on the volleyball, swimming and track teams at NDCL.

Dorothy is a Eucharistic Minister, member of the Kairos retreat team this year, active on the Student Activities Board, a Certified Peer Ministry Educator, and part of the campus Peer Ministry Team and Student Ambassador Leadership Team. In her city, she has worked with the Euclid Police Department Safety Town for 4 years. At her parish, Our Lady of the Lake, she worked Vacation Bible School and is a cantor in the parish choir. In the summer she is a lifeguard at the Kirtland Country Club and Shoreby Club to earn money for college. Her goal is to become a trauma or pediatric surgeon “in order to help as many people as possible and continue to save as many lives as she can.”

Dorothy is the niece of Maureen McShane Breen '58, JoAnne Nocero Scaminace '72, Margaret Nocero '73 and Cathy Nocero Carballada '86.



Dorothy Nosse, Margaret Nocero '73 and Cathy Nocero Carballada '86