

St. Mary Student Parish

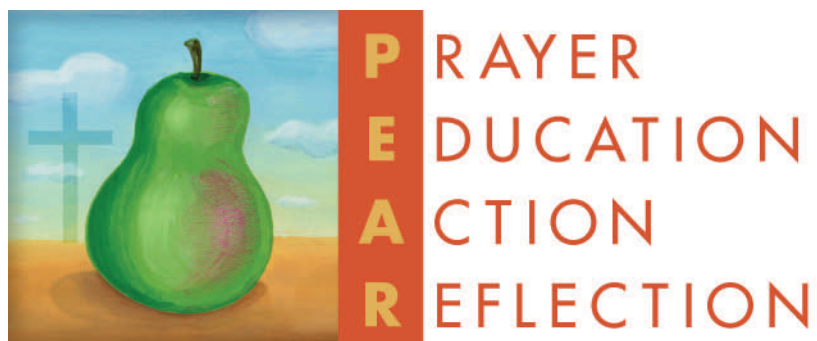
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND
ADVOCACY AGENCIES
2008—2009**



*"Whatever you do for one of these least
brothers and sisters of mine,
you do for me."*

Mt. 25:40

Social Justice Ministry Mission



The St. Mary Student Parish Social Justice Ministry supports the parish in our Christian obligation to have social justice become an integral part of our faith.

To receive a monthly e-mail newsletter of Social Justice Ministry meeting dates, upcoming events, and local and regional social justice news events, please contact:

Fr. Dan Reim, S.J.
dreim@umich.edu

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Opportunities (Local)

Ann Arbor Community Center
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County
Children of Abraham
Community Action Network
Delonis Community Kitchen
Foodgatherers Warehouse
Interfaith Hospitality Network-Alpha House
Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
Motor Meals of Ann Arbor
Neighborhood Senior Services
Neutral Zone
Ozone House
Salvation Army
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County
SOS Community Services
Ten Thousand Villages
VA Ann Arbor Health Care System

Type of Service

Youth services
Various
Medical supplies for world
Tutoring
Meals for homeless, poor
Food "rescue," distribution
Family shelter
Arboretum upkeep
Meals for the homebound
Home repair, upkeep for elderly
Teen Center
Shelter for homeless youth
Food pantry
Homeless shelter
Homeless children services
Fair Trade store
Veterans in hospital

Additional Student Volunteer Opportunities

The University of Michigan Ginsberg Center

Volunteer Opportunities (Detroit)

Capuchins
Crossroads

Volunteer Opportunities (Long-term)

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Advocacy Organizations

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ)
Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative
Pax Christi
Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Washtenaw Housing Alliance

"I am the servant of the Lord."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (LOCAL)

Ann Arbor Community Center

625 N. Main St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-3128

Contact: Helen Crigler

The mission of the Community Center is to provide a range of services designed to improve the quality of life for persons of all ages, ethnic groups, and genders in Washtenaw County. We adapt our priorities and programs in response to changing circumstances that affect the lives of those we serve. Services include Youth Services, Senior Adult Programs, Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Services.

Volunteer Activity:

Volunteers assist with the various programs:

After School Tutorial and Enrichment - This program provides educational assistance for elementary and middle school students.

Recreation - Activities include pool, ping pong, video games, sports, holiday and cultural events, and outings.

Other - With more volunteers, previous programs can be reintroduced and new ones added. (e.g., youth dance, singing, plays)

Volunteer Commitment:

The youth tutoring program requires 1-2 hours/week per volunteer. However, if certain programs were staggered (music night the first Wednesday, dance the second Thursday, etc.), volunteers would only have to come once/month, once/every two weeks.

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

4925 Packard Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 971-9781

Website: www.csswashtenaw.org

Contact: Jan Wisniewski

Building on the values of Catholic social teaching, Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County responds to community needs, respects the dignity of all individuals and families in all their diversity, and works to improve their quality of life.

Volunteer Activity:

CSS coordinates many volunteer programs. The following are recommended for St. Mary Student Parish members:

"The Oaks" Adult Day Service: Offer care and assistance to adults with progressive dementia. Contact Greg Perkins at (734) 662-4001, the-oaks@csswashtenaw.org. Located on S. Main Street, near Busch's Grocery Store.

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers: Provide relief to caregivers. Volunteers commit to approximately two hours a week. Training is provided. No skills required. Contact **Connie Hoffman** at **(734) 712-3625** for more information.

Tax Assistance: Help seniors and disabled persons with their taxes. Training is provided. Volunteer work is seasonal. Contact **Joe McCadden** at **(734) 712-3625** for more information.

Emergency Food Program: Sort, stock and package food for individuals and families in need. Contact **Soni Buda-Thornburgh** at **(734)622-0894**. Located at the Northside Community Center, 815 Taylor Street, Ann Arbor.

Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC): Currently, seeking volunteers to staff the waiting room. Duties include greeting families when they arrive at the Center, answering the phones, and supervision of children while the caretakers meet with WCAC staff. All volunteers will receive training on a variety of child sexual abuse issues, WCAC policies, and other topics specific to the volunteer duties. Contact **Kathy Kelly** at **(734) 544-2925**. Located at 555 Towner, Ypsilanti,. See www.washtenawcac.org

Children of Abraham

4750 Venture Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Website: www.umich.edu/~coa

Contact: Albert George, St. Mary Student Parish Member
algeorge@umich.edu or (248) 982-5035

Children of Abraham is an interfaith philanthropic student organization at the University of Michigan dedicated to providing medical supplies to areas of need throughout the world. Children of Abraham sorts surplus medical supplies and sends them free of charge to health clinics and hospitals around the world.

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers sort and inventory medical supplies at the Children of Abraham warehouse.

Volunteer Commitment: There is no volunteer commitment required. Volunteer opportunities are available every day.

"Love ought to show itself in deeds over and above words."

St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*

Community Action Network

2724 Hikone Dr.

Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0076

Phone: (734) 973-1183

Website: www.hvcn.org/info/can/canhikone.htm

Contact: Aaron Pressel at hikonedirector@gmail.com

Community Action Network's mission is to serve families from public housing communities in Washtenaw County. CAN helps them lead successful lives by providing educational and life skills programs for children and teens, and supportive housing services for families.

Volunteer Activity: Needed service is mentoring and after school tutoring. The mentoring would be a semester long or year long individualized commitment to a child. The tutoring would be part of our regular after school programs, which run from Jan. 14th until early June. We are open Monday-Thursday 4-7pm, and we do our tutoring from 4-5pm.

Delonis Community Kitchen

312 West Huron

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Website: www.annarborshelter.org

Contact : St. Mary Student Parish coordinator: Sheila Marcus, M.D. at smmarcus@umich.edu

Delonis: Missy Orge at (734) 761-2796 or missy@foodgatherers.org

The Delonis Community Kitchen, located in the Robert J. Delonis Center in Downtown Ann Arbor, provides breakfast for shelter guests (7days/week), weekday lunches and dinners (for anyone in need) and weekend mid-day meals (for anyone in need). Food Gatherers volunteers help with weekday lunches (M-F 11-2), weekday dinners (3-5 cook/set up 5-7:15 serve/clean up), and the weekend mid-day meal (Sat/Sun 12:00-5).

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers help prepare and serve meals, as well as set up and clean up. St. Mary Student Parish volunteers serve meals at the *Delonis Community Kitchen* on the first and fifth Fridays of every month. Volunteers serve in one or two shifts: 3-5 pm and 5-7:15pm.

Volunteer Commitment: Volunteers can serve with other St. Mary Student Parish volunteers on the first and/or fifth Fridays of the month by contacting Sheila Marcus and/or other days of the month by contacting Missy Orge.

Foodgatherers Warehouse

1 Carrot Way

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Website: www.foodgatherers.org

Contact : Missy Orge: missy@foodgatherers.org or (734) 761-2796

Food Gatherers exists to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in our community by: reducing food waste through the rescue and distribution of perishable and non-perishable food, coordinating with other hunger relief providers, educating the public about hunger, and developing new food resources.

Volunteer Activity: Work on-site (at Food Gatherers Headquarters on Carrot Way) doing inventory, sorting produce and canned goods, packing food orders, repackaging bulk foods, salvaging products, and keeping the warehouse clean and food-safe.

Volunteer Commitment: Volunteers can work once a week, once a month, or once in awhile, depending on your schedule and our needs. We don't often know what type of foods we will be rescuing, so this job is different every time! Warehouse help requires light lifting, but the most important requirement of this job is that you not be afraid to get a bit dirty.

Interfaith Hospitality Network-Alpha House

4290 Jackson Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

(734) 822-0220

Website: www.alphahouse-ihn.org

Contact: St. Mary Student Parish coordinator: Mary Kate O'Meara at mcomeara@hotmail.com
Alpha House volunteer coordinator: Heidi Beck at www.alphahouse-ihn.org

The mission of **Interfaith Hospitality Network** at Alpha House is to respond to the immediate needs of homeless families by providing temporary shelter, food and support services in a caring atmosphere of dignity and safety. More than providing just a bed and a roof for families, our goal is to support them in securing and maintaining their own home. Further information on *IHN-Alpha House* can be found at:

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers help with meals, visit with the children and/or their parents, and support the staff.

Volunteer Commitment: St. Mary Student Parish will serve *IHN* during the weeks of October 27 (Monday) to November 2 (Sunday), 2008 and January 19-25, 2009. Volunteers may serve at any time by contacting Heidi Beck at www.alphahouse-ihn.org. (734) 822-0220 x 214.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

1800 N. Dixboro Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

734-647-7600

Website: www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg

Contact : Tara Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator (734) 647-8528

The University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum are about connecting people with nature. We're about sustaining the earth. We're about caring for our natural heritage. We're about sharing knowledge and promoting learning.

Volunteer Activity:

Join *MBGNA* staff in working to remove invasive plant species from the Arb to promote native plant growth. We typically mix a little bit of hard work with education about the Arboretum and restoration ecology work here and in the local area. Dress to work outside! Snacks and tools provided, but you are welcome to bring your own loppers or pruners. Dates: Second Saturday of Every Month (can be scheduled at other times for groups). Time: 9 am to 12 pm.

Motor Meals

2025 Traverwood Dr., Suite F
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 998-6686

Website: <http://www.med.umich.edu/chs/services/meal.htm>

Contact: Rhonda Rogowski at (734) 998-6686 or aamotormeals@umich.edu

Motor Meals of Ann Arbor is a non-profit community service program of the University of Michigan Health System whose mission is to promote the dignity and independence of the elderly, disabled, and other homebound persons by delivering nutritious meals. *Motor Meals* provides two nutritiously balanced meals (a hot entree and a cold box supper) Monday through Saturday and an additional cold meal on Saturday to be used for a Sunday meal. A liquid nutritional supplement is available for those at nutritional risk. The food is prepared by U-M Health System's Patient Food and Nutrition Services.

Volunteer Activity: Deliver meals to and socialize with homebound Ann Arbor area residents. Application required. Contact (734) 998-6686.

Neighborhood Senior Services

(734)712-7259

Website: www.nssweb.org

Contact: Katie Olex at kolox@nssweb.org

The mission of **Neighborhood Senior Services** is to provide support, services and advocacy for older adults living in their homes, so that they may do so safely, comfortably and with dignity. Volunteers travel to local Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti homes.

Volunteer Activity:

Ongoing:

Companion Program: Older adults with a limited support system often experience loneliness and isolation in later years. Visits from Neighborhood Senior Services' volunteers may be the only social contact they have. Volunteer are matched one-on-one for friendly visits, telephone reassurance and social outings.

Medical Transportation: Every ride makes a difference in the health and well being of our senior neighbors! Volunteer drivers provide more than "just a ride" to the many frail older adults who need the emotional support to follow through with appropriate medical care. Volunteers also offer a more affordable and supportive option for seniors who are unable to drive or utilize public transportation. Mileage reimbursement is available upon request.

Projects:

Seasonal home help: If you are looking for some "hands-on" work, we've got just the thing for you. Individual and groups are needed in every season to perform a variety of indoor/outdoor chores. Projects may include washing windows, one-time house cleaning, snow shoveling, trimming bushes, gardening and raking leaves at our Annual Fall Chore Day.

Wheelchair Ramp Building: Having a safe pathway to enter and exit the home is critical for seniors with limited mobility. Individuals and small groups can help in this effort by lending a hand with ramp construction. No previous carpentry skills are necessary. NSS staff will provide step-by-step instruction at the site of each ramp installation

The Neutral Zone

310 E. Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 214-9995

Website: www.neutral-zone.org

Contact: Marja Lankinen at marja@neutral-zone.org

Description: The *Neutral Zone* is a diverse, youth-driven teen center dedicated to promoting personal growth through artistic expression, community leadership and the exchange of ideas.

Volunteer Activity:

Tutors: Assist High School Students with academics, college applications, and career research at the Public Library. Tuesday and Thursday 6-8pm.

College info: Contact colleges to collect information. Display and disseminate information to teens.

Ozone House

1705 Washtenaw
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-2265

Website: www.ozonehouse.org.

Contact: Michelle Jones

Ozone House is an agency dedicated to improving the situations of runaway, homeless, and at risk youth age 10-20 and their families. The organization provides free and confidential services to these troubled youth.

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers serve as crisis hot line counselors.

Volunteer Commitment: Students must complete 40 hours of intensive training to be eligible to be a crisis line volunteer. They volunteer for the crisis line approximately 4 hours per week following training.

*What does the Lord require?
"...to act justly, to love goodness, and
To walk humbly with your God."*

Micah 6:8

Salvation Army

100 Arbana Drive (corner of Huron and Arbana)

Ann Arbor

(734) 668-8353

Website: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Contact: Janice Nelson at Janice_nelson@usa.salvationarmy.org

The **Salvation Army**, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. It's message is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Volunteer Activity:

Christmas Application Takers - (sign up for time slots during a 3 week period mid November through the first week of December)

Christmas Distribution - Ann Arbor; Sort Food, Clothing & Toys; Individuals and Groups needed to help bring these items together for a special Christmas to hundreds of families.

Good Organizers need to help with this 2 month long project (volunteers needed for one or several days - you choose!).

Data Entry Person - Ann Arbor.

Corps Kitchen Coordinator - Ann Arbor.

Office Assistance - Multiple Locations.

Pantry Worker - Ann Arbor.

Quilters Needed to make quilts for our homeless shelter...this is an on-going project for a group, or a single quilt can be donated Soup Kitchen - Ypsilanti.

Corps Yard & Building Project Helpers - Multiple Locations.

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (S.A.W.C.)

Robert J. Delonis Center

312 W. Huron

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Website: www.annarborshelter.org

Contact: Rosangel Cruz at (734) 662-2829, ext. 226 or volunteers@washtenaw.org

The Mission of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County is "to end homelessness one person at a time." We will achieve our mission by providing temporary shelter and supportive services in a safe and caring environment and by working with the community to allocate the necessary resources to meet the needs of individual adults who are homeless.

Volunteer Activity: Opportunities range from assisting staff with front desk check-ins, laundry, showers, breakfast serving, and other on-site duties. Clients appreciate the opportunity to talk to someone and be listened to genuinely and respectfully. Five shifts available, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week.

SOS Community Services

101 South Huron

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

(734) 485-8730

Website: www.sosca.org

Contact: Donna Vigilant at (734) 961-1210 or volunteersos@aol.com.

SOS, with locations in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, serves the entire Washtenaw County community by working to end homelessness. SOS offers services to families and individuals in the community who are homeless or who are experiencing housing-related crises, including a large number of children. Founded in 1970 by students at Eastern Michigan University, SOS has evolved from its roots as a peer-counseling program into an agency whose comprehensive services assist families in their move from homelessness to self-sufficiency and permanent, stable housing.

Services include Housing Crisis Services, Homeless Family Services, and Homeless Children's Services.

Volunteer Activity: SOS offers an after-school program for homeless children that addresses their needs in a stable and nurturing environment. The program includes a tutoring program for 7-12 year olds that pairs each child with a community volunteer for one-on-one academic assistance, and a tutoring program for teens that pairs each student one-on-one with a community volunteer. They also have professional staff on board to provide therapy to these children.

The "Telling It" program offers both an after-school opportunity for homeless children and an educational experience for college students rooted in community service. For 10 weeks, elementary-school children, ages 7-10, who live in area shelters gather weekly with University of Michigan students and use dance, poetry, visual arts and drama to create their own stories.

They usually have 70-80 individual volunteers helping at any given time. Groups in various ways such as landscaping, mailings, painting.....

Volunteer Commitment: Individual volunteers working directly with consumers go through training. The training varies from program to program. Volunteers come 2-4 hours per weeks for a minimum of 4 months depending on the program.

Potential volunteers should contact Donna at (734) 961-1210. She would keep them informed about upcoming trainings that would be most likely to fit their interest and schedule.

"... and love your neighbor as yourself."

Mk. 12:31

Ten Thousand Villages

303 S. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1133

(734) 332-1270

Website: www.tenthousandvillages.com

Contact: Charisse Elkins, volunteer coordinator: villagesaa@hotmail.com

Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America.

Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed, providing sustainable income through fair trade. This income helps pay for food, education, health care and housing. Thousands of volunteers in Canada and the United States work with Ten Thousand Villages in their home communities.

Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit program of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the relief and development agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in North America. Ten Thousand Villages has been working around the world since 1946.

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers serve as sales clerk, manager, carpenter or janitor, to name just a few options.

Volunteer Commitment: Volunteers are asked to commit to 2-4 shifts a month and 3-4 hours a shift.

Training: Contact Gerda Paschal or Charisse Elkins for information on volunteer training.

To check the online volunteer schedule from home go to: <http://calendar.msn.com/villagesaa@hotmail.com>

*"A basic moral test of a society is how its most vulnerable members are faring.
This is not a new insight; it is the lesson of the parable of the last judgment.
Our tradition calls us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first."*

US Catholic Bishops, *A Century of Catholic Social Teaching*, 1990

VA Ann Arbor Health Care System

2215 Fuller Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

(734) 761-7995

Website: www.va.gov

Contact: Beverly Lenesi at Beverly_lenesi.med.va.gov

St. Mary Student Parish contact person: Mary Bailey at (734) 747-8363

The **VA Voluntary Service Program** operates the largest volunteer program in the Federal Government, supplementing staff and resources in all areas of patient care and support in order to serve our nation's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion. Their motto: "Serving those who served."

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers are needed to help in the following areas:

Palliative Care (contact St. Mary Student Parish member Mary Bailey for details)

Programs for Homeless Veterans

Administrative/Clerical

Chapel Escort

Volunteer Ambassador

Van Drivers for Toledo and Grand Rapids

Guest Services

Patient Sitter

Exercise Leader

Volunteers are needed during the holidays for various programs

Volunteer Commitment: Anyone wishing to volunteer on a regular basis must participate in a VA training program.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Michigan Ginsberg Center

The Ginsberg Center coordinates many volunteer opportunities.

SERVE coordinates many co-curricular service and social justice projects including alternative weekends and domestic and international service trips.

Project Community allows University of Michigan students to do community service work in a variety of venues and receive classroom credit through Sociology 389. Students may work in educational, health, housing/homelessness/criminal justice and community development settings. Students choose a community service location and work there 3-4 hours per week, in addition to keeping a journal of their experience, and attending a section seminar. Up to 8 credits in Sociology 389 may be counted toward graduation. This is a wonderful way for St. Mary's students to serve their community.

More information about the Ginsberg Center can be found at www.umich.edu/~mserve.

DETROIT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Capuchins

The **Detroit Capuchins** have three main weekend volunteer opportunities:

Saturday soup kitchen: needing 8-10 volunteers for breakfast and lunch. Volunteers arrive around 8:00 a.m. and serve breakfast, then clean up and prepare and serve lunch, leaving around 1:00 - 1:30. This kitchen is on Connor near the City Airport. George said they serve lots of kids. George said volunteers really have good experiences and the volunteer slots fill up quickly. Contact information: Roy Hoelscher (kitchen volunteer coordinator) (313) 822-8606 X10.

Capuchin service center: George Gaerig at (313) 925-1370 x100 works with these volunteers. The service center can accommodate 35-40 people, but can also work with fewer. Guests do not come to the service center on Saturday, so volunteers wouldn't be interacting with guests. Volunteers pack boxes with food for the pantry program, which allows folks to pick up a box of food and prepare it at home. Volunteers also hang clothes, otherwise organize the clothing program and do other miscellaneous warehouse stuff.

Community garden: Brother Rick has an organic garden (He's also the beekeeper) and is always scrambling around for volunteers. He will soon start planting in the green house, then will start outside as soon as the weather breaks. Brother Rick can work with 5-50 volunteers. The garden's produce supplies the Capuchin soup kitchen and goes to WIC moms. Once again, volunteers would not have much if any direct interaction with those using the garden's produce. Brother Rick's telephone number is (313) 579-2100 x211.

Finally, George Gaerig said Gleaners (it's like FoodGatherers) has a big operation near one of the Capuchins' soup kitchens and they always need help. The Gleaners' contact information is: (313) 923-3535 X0, ask for Fred Anthony.

Crossroads—Detroit

2424 West Grand Blvd.

Detroit, MI 48208

(313) 831-0213

Website: www.crossroadsofmichigan.org

Contact: Mary Honsel, Executive Director

Crossroads is a non-profit, ecumenically-based social service organization under the auspices of the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. An integral part of the ministry of the Church, *Crossroads* exists to give support to any member of the community at large, regardless of race or creed or any of the other classifications which divide our society.

Volunteer Activity: Mary Honsel, *Crossroads*' Executive Director, said their biggest volunteer need is for counselors. This is not psychological counseling, but helping clients find practical solutions to various problems. For example, if a client needs help getting food, the counselor will try to help with (1) the immediate need (e.g. by helping the client get food from *Crossroads*' emergency pantry), and also (2)

a plan for handling the problem in the future (e.g. talking to the client about what types of food they're buying, budgeting, etc.). "The client isn't supposed to leave without a plan." Similarly, if a client needs prescription meds, the counselor can help pay for the client's immediate needs, but also try to hook the client up with a pharmaceutical company or other program which can help with this same problem when it recurs in the future. These counselors help clients with budgeting, advocacy, refer them to *Crossroads'* employment office and generally help trouble shoot. The emphasis is on: (1) solving the immediate crisis and (2) planning for the future.

Crossroads' counselors meet with clients on Saturday mornings, until Memorial Day. During the summer, *Crossroads* is closed on Saturdays. Saturday hours resume in September. During the summer, counselors meet with clients on Wednesday evenings, rather than Saturday.

Crossroads trains prospective counselors, then does some on the job training by sitting with the new counselors as they work with their first clients.

In addition to client counseling, other Saturday morning volunteer opportunities are also available.

Volunteer Commitment: *Crossroads* asks its new counselors to commit to volunteer 1 or 2 Saturdays a month for six months, though this can be negotiated.

LONG-TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

"Your Most Important Work May Begin After You Retire"

IVC Detroit, Gesu Church

17180 Oak Drive

Detroit, MI 48221

(313) 862-4400

Website: www.ivc.org

Contact: Terri Nelson, Detroit Regional Director, tnelson@ivcusa.org

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a national organization of men and women age 50 and over, founded by two Jesuit priests, to give an opportunity for persons to share their talents, skills, wisdom and life experience in service to the poor. Volunteers live at home, volunteer in local service organizations and prayerfully reflect on the deeper meaning of their service to find the presence of Christ in their midst.

"Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation."

Justice in the World, Synod of Bishops, 1971

ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good

Headquarters Address

1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20036

202-429-9680

Website: www.catholicsinalliance.org/

Contact: Brian Peck, e-mail: bpeck@catholicsinalliance.org

Our mission is to provide information to Catholics about Church Social Teaching as it relates to public participation in our society, and to advance the prophetic voice of the Catholic Social Tradition.

We envision a society shaped by the values of justice, human dignity and the common good, where faithful American Catholics can embrace the fullness of the Church's social justice teachings when participating in democratic society.

As Catholics, we inherit a rich tradition whose inspiration reaches well beyond our own faith community. The papal encyclicals and letters that make up this tradition are based on Jesus' call to love one's neighbor and serve the least among us, and the Hebrew Scriptures' prophetic commitment to justice and righteousness.

Our Catholic tradition calls us to participate actively in public life in the service of human dignity, social justice and the common good. These teachings – to put community before self, principle before profit, and the public interest before political expediency – are central to our Catholic tradition. Catholics in Alliance is committed to creating the necessary conditions for a culture of life that reverences the life and dignity of the human person over greed, materialism and the politics of division.

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ)

730 Tappan

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Contact: Chuck Warpehoski at info@icpj.net and (734) 663-1870.

The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice is a nonprofit education/social action organization that helps members of the local religious community put their faith into action on issues of peace and justice for all people.

Advocacy Issues: ICPJ members participate on one of more of the following task forces:

Disarmament

Globalization

Hunger

Latin America

Middle East

Racial and Economic Justice

Members of St. Mary Student Parish participate in the Congregational Call Campaign, making calls once a month on social justice issues to members of the Congress and Senate. For information and to participate in this program contact Helen Simon at Helen@gocoho.org.

Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative

Contact: Erin Moran, Community Coach and Volunteer Coordinator
(734) 929-6509
e-mail: erin.mpri@gmail.com

The primary goal of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) is to promote public safety by increasing the success rates of prisoners transitioning from prison to the community. The vision of the MPRI is that every prisoner released from prison will have the tools needed to succeed in the community.

Volunteer Activity: Volunteers can engage with the MPRI Washtenaw as public education presenters, office assistants, event assistants, individual mentors, or participants in a group mentoring process. *Public education presenters* will be responsible for presenting a prepared Powerpoint and script to community groups. These groups may include churches, business groups, non profit organizations, or community classes/clubs. The presentation takes approximately 30 minutes, and is designed to help educate the public about MPRI and to attract volunteers, mentors, and donors/sponsors to the program. A short training will be provided prior to presentation. The total number of hours available for this work can vary from approximately 1-4 hours per month, and can be divided among several volunteers.

Office Assistants are needed to conduct follow-up calls to potential volunteers and coaches whose names are gathered through public presentations and other community events. Training will be provided prior to making contact. The total number of hours per week available for this work is approximately 2 hours.

Event Assistants are needed to staff information tables at community events and plan/set-up/break down for mentorship dinners and mentorship trainings. Training will be provided prior to service. The total number of hours available for this work per month is approximately 12 hours, and can be divided among several volunteers.

Individual Mentors are needed to meet one-on-one with MPRI participants in a mentoring relationship for a period of 6 months. Intensive training and on-going support and supervision is provided. The total minimum number of hours for this work is 1-2 hours per week.

Group mentors are needed to participate in monthly mentorship dinners and/or engage with MPRI participants and other group mentors in positive activities such as running, music, biking, bowling, yoga, etc. Group mentorship leaders are also needed to facilitate group activities. Intensive training and on-going support and supervision is provided. The total minimum number of hours per month for this work is approximately 2-8 hours.

Pax Christi

Pax Christi Michigan
815 Sparrow Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

Contact: Arun D'Souza, St. Mary Student Parish member, adsouza92@yahoo.com.

Pax Christi USA strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation.

Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. Through the efforts of all its members and in cooperation with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

Pax Christi is a section of Pax Christi International, the Catholic peace movement. Further information can be found at www.paxchristiusa.org

Advocacy Issues: Pax Christi priority issues include:

Spirituality of Nonviolence and Peacemaking
Disarmament, Demilitarization and Reconciliation with Justice
Economic and Interracial Justice in the United States
Human Rights and Global Restoration

Washtenaw Housing Alliance

PO Box 7993 110 North Fourth, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
(734)222-6553

Contact: Diane Davidson at: davidsond@ewashtenaw.org.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA) is a unique coalition of ten non-profit organizations that serve the homeless or those at risk of homelessness. All ten agencies are dedicated to improving the continuum of shelter, housing, and supportive services for homeless and at-risk people in Washtenaw County. For further information, see the website at www.whalliance.org.

Advocacy Issue: The Washtenaw Housing Alliance has created a "*Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County*." On September 21, 2004, this community launched *A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint to End Homelessness* along with an Implementation Guide for the first three years of the plan. In this guide, the community lists sixteen strategy areas, workgroup conveners, community champions and a charter outlining the group's priorities.

Advocate with your federal and state representatives to help make housing affordable for everyone.

Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR)

immigration-coalition@lists.riseup.net

Contact: Margaret S. Harner: margaret@studentadvocacycenter.org

All who care about immigrant rights, and want to turn words into action, deeds and compassion regardless of faith, religious belief, or personal political persuasion.

In a now famous address to alumni of Jesuit schools in Europe (July 31, 1973), Fr. Pedro Arrupe, the Superior General of the Jesuits, painted a profile of what a graduate from a Jesuit educational institution should be. Admitting that Jesuit schools have not always been on target here, Arrupe called for a re-education to justice:

Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for others . . . people who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; people convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for human beings is a farce . . . All of us would like to be good to others, and most of us would be relatively good in a good world. What is difficult is to be good in an evil world, where the egoism of others and the egoism built into the institutions of society attack us . . . Evil is overcome only by good, egoism by generosity. It is thus that we must sow justice in our world, substituting love for self-interest as the driving force of society.



St. Mary Student Parish
331 Thompson St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

www.stmarystudentparish.org
