

A Bountiful Harvest

Harvesting has always been a most important event. The gathering of things planted is a natural way of reaping in joy what has been sown and produced through hard labor.

Since June 28, seven women have graced the PHJC Motherhouse community with their presence, vitality, energy and selfless



giving. Under the direction of Sam Tepes, manager of the greenhouses, these women have spent endless hours harvesting, preparing beds, composting, planting, and weeding. From three varieties of peppers, tomatoes, garlic and lettuce to kale, cabbage, green onions and more, each brought an endless generosity!



But it didn't stop there! Moving the chicken pen every two weeks, feeding slop and cleaning the buckets, scrubbing the water troughs kept our chickens and rooster quite happy over the

summer months. We did landscaping, weeding, trimming, and hedging the grounds around Catherine's Cottage, Catherine Kasper Home, Ancilla College, Moon Tree and the Motherhouse. There was never a dull moment! When there was down time, we cleaned the grotto and chapel in the woods. When it was too hot to work in the greenhouses or outdoors, we washed windows at the Little House and cleaned walls and ceilings of the first and second floors as well as Visitation Chapel in the Motherhouse!

Still the generosity continued! Steffanie Evans worked in Communications and provided many hours of organizing cabinets, giving input into team meetings and lending a hand to projects along the way. She also led an exercise class with a short video clip of a routine with some of the residents at Maria Center.



They also enjoyed a spa day with feet soaking, leg massages, facials and manicures! And like

harvesting, there was always joy in looking back and seeing the accomplishments!



“Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.”

We caught a break by only working five days, but we certainly enjoyed relaxing together in a variety of ways! Pontoon rides, picnics behind the Villa, trips to the beach and town of Culver, walking the Stations at the Shrine of Christ’s Passion in St. John, tours of Notre Dame, hiking at Potato Creek State Park and the National Shoreline of the Dunes regenerated our energy! A visit to the Menno-Hof museum in Shipshewana and some good homemade Amish cooking offered education and nourishment as well!



Unexpected surprises also came our way with Wendi Lei, an immigrant from China who discerned becoming Catholic and was baptized on September 13 back in New York. Amy Wallace, a returnee after volunteering with Sr. Connie in El Paso, is completing her application to become an Associate!

All in all, a group of seven from Oregon, Idaho, Indiana, New York, Florida, Iowa and Arizona came together to “*Make a difference,*” each in her own way with generous hearts and an outpouring of service. The accomplishments were many, but the *RIPPLES* were abundant!



Dear Sisters Connie and Joetta:

I want to share good news and express my gratitude to both of you. When at PHJC, I was really struggling with the decision of becoming Catholic. God must have known because He sent me there to learn from you two... Thank you so much for the time to listen to me and guide me and to reflect and think. Today I was finally baptized and am proud to be on the journey that God has planned for us...My heart is filled with such gratitude for the experience I had at PHJC and all the wonderful people I met there...Thank you both again.

Wendi

Meet PHJC Volunteer/Intern, Felicia Keller

Felicia Keller began working as an intern at PHJC's Visions Midwest (HVM) in Fort Wayne on September 14, 2020 under the supervision of HVM Director, Sharon Tubbs. Felicia will work with Sharon and HVM's Community Health Care Workers developing programs and initiatives for vulnerable and underserved populations giving presentations and offering services to help combat health disparities that minority groups experience disproportionately.



Felicia is working towards her Bachelor of Human Kinetics and Kinesiology at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, Canada. She is currently a Certified Behavior Technician and has served as the Track and Field Student Athlete Therapist. She has also planned two mission trips as the Spring Trip Coordinator.

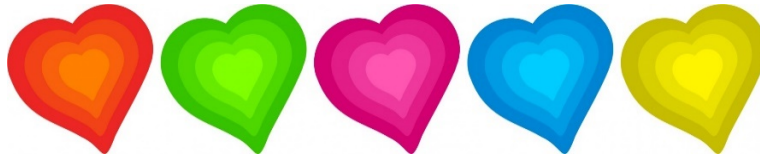
Felicia served as the Director of Summer Internship Program where she developed programs for Burmese refugee children. She has a long history of volunteering with the Burmese in Fort Wayne through her father, Pastor James Keller of New Life Lutheran Church, a well-known grantee of Saint Joseph Community Health Foundation. Felicia was also a member of Youth for Christ City Life in Fort Wayne.

We welcome Felicia and wish her all the best in her many endeavors at HVM! We also thank Paula Wills, Executive Director at HVM and Sharon Tubbs, HVM Director in Fort Wayne, for this wonderful collaboration with the PHJC Volunteer Program.

Long-Standing PHJC Volunteer Shares Her Gifts Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL)

Pat (Brackley) Rader is well-known and loved by Poor Handmaids! Pat is serving her fourth term with us as she teaches ESL to Sr. Yulma who lives in Mapa Chapa, Mexico and serves as a dentist in the children's commodore (soup kitchen) of Guadalupana in the city of Coatzacoalcas. Sr. Yulma has been working with Pat three days a week since mid-May, 2020. She is a faithful and dedicated student – as is her teacher! Thank you, Pat, for your tireless efforts!





A “Heart-y” Thank You!

*Sam Tepes – Greenhouses
Grounds Staff*

Paul Mach and Lindenwood Staff

Sr. Mary Baird & Sr. Nancy

Alicia Hammonds & Communications Staff

Kristy Olson – Sojourner Truth House

Sr. Roberta Christianson – Chapel Tours

PHJC Sisters

Dietary Services

Joyce Roberts

Julie Coldiron & Receptionists

Geoff Williams, Arlene Peterson

Bonnie and Sr. Marlene Ann - Catherine’s Cottage

Sr. Deanne Blume – Catherine Kasper Home

Freida Conn, Christina, Debbie - Envmt. Services

Safety and Security Staff

Tom Nowak – Ancilla College

Bev Richard & Transportation Staff

Sr. Cathy Schwemer & Sr. Pat Peters – Hospitality

Maria Center Staff and Residents

Sr. Sharon Marie Fox – Medical Services

Maintenance Staff

Sr. Mary Ellen Goeller, Susie Black

(Apologies if anyone has inadvertently been forgotten!)

We say Farewell to PHJC Volunteer, Loretta Kazanecki

From August 14 through October 2, Loretta has provided faithful service here at the Motherhouse and at Sojourner Truth House. Whether 94 degrees outside or 120 degrees in the greenhouses, Loretta and other volunteers:

- *pruned trees and bushes*
- *aerated, raked*
- *prepared beds for planting*
- *seeded starter plants*
- *transferred plants*
- *harvested foods*
- *mowed, blew leaves, weeded, weedwhacked*
- *watered hydrangeas*
- *organized greenhouses*
- *organized cabinets and cupboards in Communications*
- *washed ceiling fans and walls on the first and second floors as well as Visitation Chapel*
- *prepared items for move-in for a family/did bookkeeping at Sojourner Truth*
- *shoveled compost*
- *landscaped*
- *gathered and washed eggs*
- *moved electric fencing for the chickens*
- *picked up branches*
- *washed windows*
- *cleaned classrooms*
- *removed expired food items in pantry*
- *created spreadsheet for Lindenwood*
- *swept, mopped, vacuumed, dusted Cottage and attic*
- *moved furniture out/ back in Activity Room*
- *purchased food for employee pantry*
- *cleaned chapel in woods*
- *helped with Hermitage/Cob Cottage*

