



# PHJC Volunteers

*Make a difference with heart!*

## **Sisters Engage Volunteers in Response to LCWR's Call at the US-Mexico Border**

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ follow in the footsteps of their founder, Saint Katharina Kasper, in responding to the needs of the day. This spring, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), invited members to join Catholic Charities agencies in welcoming refugees and asylum seekers entering the country at the southern border. Sr. Connie, Director of the PHJC Volunteer Program, put out an invitation for other sisters and volunteers to join her in serving families coming across the border as they transition to life in the United States,

Sisters Kathleen Quinn, and Barbara Kuper worked alongside Sr. Connie and ten volunteers both at the Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio where there were 500 teenage boys and at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, TX with over 600 from young families. Volunteers included Susan Ring (now deceased), Glenna Yurgilas, Colleen Scheffer, Becky Anspach, Warren Johnson, Barbara Allison, and Judy Williamson (PHJC Co-workers), and a mother-son-aunt trio made up of Irian and Ian Hornblower and Siria Zapata-Sanchez.



This generous group worked tirelessly serving meals, handing out hygiene supplies, sorting and distributing clothing, cleaning and organizing, going shopping for supplies, and comforting infants, toddlers, children, teens and parents in need. Like Saint Katharina, they quickly discovered that *"no gift is too small."*

*"I feel truly blessed to have been part of such a wonderful experience. I will never forget our time in Texas.. the conversations, the tears, the laughs, the food (it was yummy) and most importantly the amazing people we met and the service we provided. I'm so proud of us all." Glenna*

*"Dear Friends, I'm so grateful that God has given us the opportunity to serve the immigrants together. It's been on my heart for several years and now it is HIS time...I will remember you all with special places of prayer for serving His people." Susan*

*"Thank you for all that you taught me! It was a great lesson in human compassion. My heart is filled! I'm blessed to be a part of the sister's lives." Colleen*

## Attitudes toward the Poor

***“If you can’t feed a hundred people then feed just one.” Saint Teresa of Calcutta***

“If the federal minimum wage tracked productivity, it would be more than \$20/hour, not today’s poverty wage of \$7.25.” Many poor and homeless are caring for elderly parents, cannot afford child care, have disabilities we label as laziness, or are the “working homeless” living in trailers and hotels. Affordable housing is very difficult to come by as well. Many cannot afford their medicine or have lost everything due to medical bills.

“The nation’s economic growth has not led to broad social uplift. Economists call it the productivity-pay gap.” Judge as you wish, but Christ fed the five thousand without asking who was working or who was not, who had an addiction or who did not. Our call is to lift others up no matter their circumstances.

“Today, 41.7 million laborers – nearly a third of the American work force – earn less than \$12 an hour, and almost none of their employers offer health insurance.” Consider these facts when judging whom we should feed or not feed.

*(Based on an article entitled, “Americans Want to Believe Jobs are the Solution to poverty. They’re Not,” The New York Times, by Matthew Desmond (Pulitzer Prize Winner), September 11, 2018.*



**“It is a fact that 35 million people in the U.S. are hungry or don’t know where their next meal is coming from, and 13 million of them are children.” Jeff Bridges**



## ***What Goes Around Comes Around***

Each week Sr. Connie goes shopping for the Food Ministry deliveries in Plymouth on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In months prior, a small family from the trailer court nearby received food, diapers, hygiene products, blankets, etc. from this program.

One day when Sr. Connie was shopping, she brought out two overloaded shopping carts full of food. The food in one began to topple. A young father and his two daughters immediately came over and began to help pick up the items and load the van. To Sr. Connie's surprise, it was the family she recognized from prior deliveries! What a delightful discovery! What goes around comes around!



### **BY THE NUMBERS...Food Ministry (January-June)**

**Sack lunches = 3,280**

**Extra Sandwiches = 1,295**

**Frozen Cultivate Meals = 2,940**

**Grocery bags = 3,928**

**Hygiene bags = 384**

**Impact = Enormous!**



### **Meet the Traveling Volunteer**

Each month, PHJC Volunteer, Luis Blanco flies in from Louisiana and helps families with electrical problems. Luis is an electrical engineer by trade. He was born in Venezuela and came to the U.S. at the age of 15. He is now a U.S. citizen and wants to "give back." Luis is fluent in Spanish, which has helped tremendously in serving our local community in Plymouth. Luis has already changed out breaker panels, replaced light fixtures and ceiling fans, repaired outlets, and grounded sockets. His cheerful disposition and strong work ethic have served him and the local community very well! Thanks you for your selfless giving and expertise!



***Only a life lived for others is worth living. -Albert Einstein***



## **PHJC VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

### **FOOD MINISTRY – DONATIONS NEEDED**

We feed 60 families and other individuals weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Plymouth. Our sisters and brothers live in deplorable trailers and two hotels.

**For sack lunches please consider: (No refrigerator space except for lunch meat)**

Small fruit cups

Variety of small bags of chips

Napkins, Brown lunch bags

Fruit snacks or roll –ups

Individual desserts/granola bars

Sealable sandwich baggies

**For grocery bags, please consider:**

Canned soups/Ramen Noodles

Canned fruits and/or vegetables

Tuna or canned chicken

Cereals

Mac-n-cheese

Pasta or rice packets

Individual oatmeal packets

Mashed potato packets

**Products which cannot be purchased with food stamps:**

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Small or large boxes of Kleenex

Large and small garbage bags

Dish soap

Detergent

**Gift cards to grocery stores, Dollar Tree, etc. are always useful to fill in gaps.**

All items can be delivered to the Motherhouse or  
I can come pick them up in a large load.

**Thank you!**

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