



PHJC Volunteers

Make a difference with heart!

What is the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Volunteer Program's Plymouth Food Ministry All About? (Sr. Connie Bach, PHJC)

WINTER 2021

It's not just a bus full of food, hygiene products, coats and other necessities. It's more than things! It's about wellness checks, getting to know the people, and helping them with self-esteem.

With the new PHJC Vision, we are called to be catalysts. We are called to collaboration for the common good. We serve the "houseless" (rather than homeless). Sure, we deliver food to doors. But just like Meals on Wheels and other such programs, it's more than just this!

PHJC Volunteers offer a smile, a kind word, a caring gesture, a bit of listening, and a positive response when times are tough and persons feel lost and broken.

Our volunteers keep a watchful eye on those we serve and offer supportive links to information and resources in the community. We offer compassion and hope when the poor and marginalized feel abandoned and forgotten. We bring laughter and the deep assurance that others are remembering and praying with and for them.

Beyond all this, we offer children life lessons in caring for others as they help deliver items to residents. They in turn, share their toys with one another. Who knows where this lesson will take them as they become adults of society!

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Volunteers develop trust and keep our word when the residents have too often experienced broken promises and dreams. We become a bridge to social services and programs provided to lift them up. We offer a way to hold on through a tough time along with tips to get their voices heard.

And in return, we receive the best gift of all – hearing words like: "You don't know how much this helps us get through" or "I would not have made it this far without all of you." Better yet, "I am moving out of here and am moving into a place of my own! I can't believe I made it this far!" How about, "I found a job! I am working and getting a paycheck!"

We are a hand up, not a handout! We are collaborators whose aim is to partner in assisting residents in becoming self-reliant, able to make their own decision and address their own needs for a better life.





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Goodbye to Our Friend with a Heart of Gold

Lilly Braun went to God on November 24, 2021 surrounded by her family. She was of deep faith and served the PHJC Volunteer Program's food ministry devotedly and conscientiously. There was no task too small for Lilly. Besides helping to set up and clean up, making sandwiches and lunches, she would be waiting for us to return to help us unload the bus and put everything away. We are most grateful for her contributions of time, energy, service and friendship! May she now enjoy the fruits of her labor as a good and faithful servant!

"The highest distinction is service to others." King George VI

Goodbye to Volunteer: Anita Claricoates (2 months)

Anita came to us from Bloomington, IN. She is a former high school teacher and worked in finance for 13 years. Anita brought wonderful energy, charisma, and laughter to our Sisters at the Cottage, assisted Sr. Jolise and their homemaker, Bonnie, with many tasks. Anita also assisted with the food ministry in Plymouth. She wanted to stay longer, but her daughter is expecting a baby very soon and Anita is moving to Michigan to be with her family. Thank you to Mary Hunt for her warm welcome and hospitality.



"Service to humanity is service to God." – Lailah Gifty Akita

Anything but "a bad penny"

Pat Rader (Brackley) is anything but "a bad penny!" This faithful PHJC Volunteer keeps showing up and, in fact, has committed to serving three months a year going forward! In the meantime, she still teaches ESL to some of our Sisters in Mexico. Pat was the "driving" force of the food ministry while here three months. Her contagious smile and laughter are already missed! We thank Libby Riggs and Sisters Nancy and Mary for creating a "community in communion" with Pat in her time with us!



"Beauty is a heart that generates love and a mind that is open." Thich Nhat Hanh



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Collaborative Efforts Lead to Crockpots for Hotel Residents

Long story short, conversations between Sr. Nora Hahn, PHJC and Michelle Peterson of Saint Joseph Health System led to conversations with Sr. Connie, who sits on the Plymouth community round table, around crockpots and Tip Sheets for residents of local hotels served by the PHJC Volunteer Program;s food ministry. A grant from the health system provided 27 crockpots, Donations to the food ministry added another 30 with additional cooking utensils! Now we are providing additional food items to help residents eat healthier meals!