



PHJC Volunteers

Make a difference with heart!

April 2022

2022 Starts Off on a Great Note!

Despite the continuing pandemic, 2022 has gotten off on a great foot for the PHJC Volunteer Program! Three awesome volunteers joined us at Sojourner Truth House in Gary, IN to serve homeless women and children in this very well-known PHJC Ministry.

Dimitra Adams was born and raised in Athens, Greece but came to the USA in 1970 and became a citizen in 1974. She joined us from New Jersey and quickly learned the ropes as a PHJC Volunteer living at the new Emmaus Volunteer House. She continues to serve with us, extending her three-month stay to at least six months. Dimitra states that she loves working with the people at Sojourner Truth and getting to help the women who come through for food and clothing. She also enjoys bringing little treats to share with the other workers and building relationships with them. Dimitra enjoys connecting with the Sisters at St. Catherine's and Visitation Convents in East Chicago for community. God bless you, Dimitra, for your selflessness, friendly presence, and Poor Handmaid hospitality!



Anna Gosling is a junior at Winona State University in Wisconsin. She came to serve for a week over her spring break. She is studying Communications – Leadership and Advocacy. She is a great advocate for recycling! Anna was a very energetic, enthusiastic hard worker who put her heart and soul into her time in the food pantry and clothes closet at Sojourner Truth House. She has deep faith and enjoyed living with Dimitra at Emmaus Volunteer House. They prayed together and went on many walks. She stated that she was grateful for the opportunity to learn from other adults, to see how generosity works miracles in the lives of the poor, and that living at Emmaus Volunteer House was ideal for her. Blessings on you, Anna, as you continue your studies and seek God's path for you in your life! We are praying with and for you!

Rosemary Dew lived and served three months at Sojourner Truth House. She came with an extensive resume in management and international development in the political and military arenas. Rosemary has worked and volunteered all over the world through the Department of Defense and FBI as well as a retired nurse in Africa, Bangkok, and Cambodia. She has published articles and holds many honors for her service in the military, as a civilian, and as a nurse at John Hopkins. Rosemary did an impeccable job of re-organizing the clothes closet but also



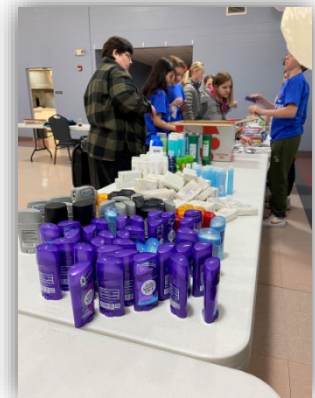
created a referral list when contacting homeless, trafficked, and underserved persons in the Gary area as she also assisted Sr. Loretta Schleper in social justice activities. Rosemary enjoyed worshipping with the Koinonia Missionary Baptist community during her time with us and swam in her spare time to prepare for the National Championship in San Antonio with 2,000 swimmers! We are honored by and grateful for your time and presence with us, Rosemary! Thank you for your energy, passion for the poor, and service to Sojourner Truth House!

Confirmation/Service Retreat Provides Hygiene Bags for 65 Residents in Local Hotels

Sr. Connie was invited by her friend, Lori Richards, to speak at a Confirmation/Service Retreat at Our Lady of the Lake in



Edwardsburg, MI. Afterwards, the students put together gallon-sized hygiene bags given to 65 residents at the local hotels in Plymouth where the PHJC Volunteer program's food ministry serves each Tuesday and Thursday. Hygiene bags are given out each month and are always so gratefully received by the residents. We thank Lori Richards and the Confirmation students at Our Lady of the Lake for their generosity, time, enthusiasm, and dedication to putting their faith into action! We also thank Kelly Goodzey of South Bend for all the donations of hygiene products! What an incredible gift! God bless you!



(Donations are essential to our ministry. If you would like to donation, please contact Sr. Connie Bach at cbach@poorhandmaids.org.)



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PHJC Volunteer Program's Food Ministry Continues to Impact Lives

Already through the month of March, the following totals have been distributed to the men, women, and children living in two local hotels in Plymouth. This only happens with incredibly dedicated volunteers who tirelessly make sandwiches, pack lunches and grocery bags, break down bulk items into individual baggies, help grocery shop, help load/unload/organize groceries for packing, stay late to clean up, open baggies for quick use, double grocery bags for packaging, unload the bus, etc. Our PHJC kitchen coworkers have made cookies for special occasion, cooked donated chicken quarters, ravioli, and rotisserie chickens, and donated needed items. Our facilities men are so gracious to bring up frozen meals from cold storage, and bring the bus up and load it for deliveries.



Our Maria Center residents and co-workers are dedicated sandwich makers and lunch packers! Sisters from Catherine's Cottage either help with packing or help keep our grocery bags doubled for us on a regular basis. Associates and friends come out to help deliver, no matter the weather! So many others from the Motherhouse come in and lend a hand whenever they are able. It truly takes a village!

And the impact shows! We continue to feed 65 individuals, couples and families every Tuesday and Thursday. Residents are showing an increase in obtaining jobs. Children are receiving the shoes, coats, and other necessities. Babies are getting

diapers, formula, wet wipes, etc. A homeless woman was able to get help storing her belongings while temporarily living with our Sisters in Catherine's Cottage. Some are finding affordable apartments and moving into Serenity Place in Plymouth! God is good and HOPE abides!

Sack Lunches	Extra Sandwiches	Cultivate Meals	Grocery Bags	Hygiene Bags
2,660	116	2,600	1,475	115

Other assistance given includes help with job applications, trips to the eye doctor and physician, children's shoes and coats, rent, cooking utensils, raincoat for worker who walks to work, knee brace, phone card minutes for amputee to stay connected with her doctor, work clothes for someone obtaining a new job, a cot and bedding for young boy sleeping on motel floor, epilepsy medication, etc.

We thank God for generous persons and the Poor handmaids of Jesus Christ who help make all this possible through donations and a grant. Thank you to all 47 volunteers these three months for "fostering gospel values and (building) communities in communion." (PHJC Vision Statement 2021)

Marian University-Ancilla College Students Join the Efforts to Feed the Hungry

MUAC students, Lauren Cox and Aubrie Werner, are enjoying their time volunteering to deliver food and other necessities with the PHJC Volunteer Program's food ministry in Plymouth. They say, "It makes us feel great to be able to help other people and we think volunteering is very important!" We are quite happy to welcome their enthusiasm and generosity!



Bishop Noll Institute and St. Michael's Grade School Students Support the PHJC Volunteer Program's Food Ministry through Lenten Projects

We would like to thank Ms. Stacia Bolakowski, Campus Minister at Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond, IN, and Mrs. Amy Weidner, principal at St. Michael's Grade School in Plymouth for their support of the food ministry program in Plymouth.



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Bishop Noll was founded by the Poor Handmaids one hundred one years ago and maintains a wonderful relationship with the Sisters. They raised \$300 through their Lenten collection to support our feeding of those residents living in two motels in Plymouth. In addition, St. Michael's Grade School provided paper products and an assortment of food for delivery at the motels.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, 'I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..." Mt. 25:35



I do not know how to love God except by loving the poor. I do not know how to serve God except by serving the poor.... Here, within this great city of nine million people, we must, in this neighborhood, on this street, in this parish, regain a sense of community which is the basis for peace in the world.

— Dorothy Day —

AZ QUOTES

For more information on the PHJC Volunteer Program, please visit

www.phjcvolprogram.org

or contact

Sister Connie Bach, Director

9601 Union Road

Plymouth, IN 46563

574-340-6409

cbach@poorhandmaids.org

The following actions have been taken on behalf of the residents of two motels in Plymouth in this regard.

- ✓ Passed out flyers for the Marshall County Health Department/United Way for COVID-19 **vaccine clinics** and **Tobacco Cessation**
- ✓ Passed out flyers for the Plymouth School System for **Head Start** (free Pre-School/Transportation)
- ✓ Passed out flyers for **Link to Hope**, a faith-based organization in Plymouth that offers temporary rental, utility, and prescription assistance as well as transportation to and from shelters.
- ✓ As a goal of the Marshall County **Food Council** and in addressing food insecurity, we developed and passed out flyers for local food pantries. Working with farmers to share leftover produce.
- ✓ Obtained permission and placed a bulletin board in the lobby of one of the motels for display of **information and educational materials**.
- ✓ In collaboration with St. Joseph Health System, passed out 23 of theirs and 27 of the PHJC Volunteer Program's **crock pots** and **safety tip sheets** to provide another means of cooking besides small microwaves. The PHJCV provided cooking **utensils** for all 50 residents.
- ✓ Developed and passed out flyers with information on accessing **transportation** through the Council on Aging.
- ✓ Passed out flyers with important **emergency phone numbers**.
- ✓ Passed out flyers listing 10 **shelters** in St. Joseph, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, and Whitley Counties as well as Ft. Wayne.
- ✓ Working with LIFT (Lending Inspirational Friendship Together) to **teach life skills, share resources, mentor, and support women** who need a "lift."
- ✓ Passed out flyers with information on places for **food assistance and free meals** in Plymouth, Bremen, Knox, Grovertown and Argos with meals.
- ✓ Surveyed persons at motels for **diabetes** and passed out **glucose monitoring** strips to four residents who could not afford them. Informed them of Link to Hope for assistance with medications.
- ✓ Passed out information on Marshall County/**Trustee Contacts for rent, gas, and energy assistance**.

"All that is done in God's love is great. Nothing done for God is small." -St. Katharina Kasper

