



End of Year 2023 – Food Ministry Report

	2021	2022	2023
Sack Lunches	8,851	12,364	13,330
Extra Sandwiches	3,027	3,000+	1,801
1 lb. Hamburger Pkgs.	-	201	260
Vegetables-Greenhouses	-	3 deliveries	5 deliveries
Davis Lunches	-	1,680	1,440
Boomershine Sandwiches	-	644	1,016
Grocery Bags	6,168	6,635	6,740
Cultivate Frozen Meals	8,236	12,945	12,795
Hygiene Bags	616	600	294
Volunteer Hours	2,154.25	2,481.25	2,623.75

Other Items Delivered Frequently:

65 Easter Meals*75 Thanksgiving Meals (Donated)
 77 Christmas Meals (Donated)77 Christmas Adult Bags/17 Children’s Bags
 Toilet Paper*Kleenex*Napkins*Feminine Products*Detergent
 Cleaning Supplies*Work Clothes*Work Shoes/Boots
 Winter Coats/Boots/Hats/Gloves/Scarves
 Pots/Pans/Cooking Utensils/Plates/Bowls/Cups/Flatware/Can Openers
 Crock Pots*Hot Plates*Utensils*Assistance with Medications/Rent/Deposits/
 3 Families-NIPSCO Bills/Gasoline/Minor Car Bus Repairs/Passes
 Diapers*Wipes*Baby Clothes*Baby Food*3 Give-away Days
 Helped gentleman get on Medicaid/Indiana Hip/Treatments for Cancer/Feeding
 Tube*Two men - Cataract Surgeries*Minor Medical Equipment

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER OR SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS!!!

PHJC Volunteer Serves on Three Continents!

By Returning PHJC Volunteer, Pat Rader

(December 2024) I'm writing from my room in North Bangalore, India with my door wide open to capture the lovely 70-degree weather and sounds of the birds. I'm on yet another amazing volunteer experience with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Here I'm teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) in their adult skills program. That program reaches young people 18 – 35 who haven't had the benefit of education/training. They receive a number of skill and related classes, as well as conversational English. Another duty is to monitor a study hall for 15 girls who live in a boarding school. The sisters are raising these girls who come from family situations where the parents are absent, sick or impoverished.



Pat recently served in India.

Earlier this year, I spent a couple of months with the Poor Handmaids in Mexico, visiting all four of their locations. I saw the sisters in action through a variety of mission work: feeding the hungry, taking care of the sick and homeless, and ministering to the elderly and infirm. In that experience, I was honored to provide ESL tutoring to the sisters who wanted to improve their English skills.

You see, I'm kind of a Poor Handmaids Volunteer "junkie" and have lost count of the number of times I've had the privilege to collaborate with these incredible women of faith. I've worked at their motherhouse providing administrative support, teaching ESL, and helping with the food distribution program in Plymouth, Indiana. Gary, Indiana was another location where I volunteered at Sojourner Truth, and I also joined Sr. Connie on a trip to El Paso to provide assistance at the border. When home in Sheridan, Wyoming, I get to Zoom with a few of the Mexican and Brazilian sisters for ESL tutoring.



Pat serving at the border in El Paso.



Pat with girls she taught in India.

Along the way, I've learned a few things from these experiences:

*The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ walk their talk. They live a simple, environmentally-friendly life and work tirelessly to follow in the footsteps of their foundress. And believe me, I know firsthand that they welcome the stranger!

*I'm definitely a person of privilege. Only by luck was I born into a family that could provide all my emotional and physical needs, and was there to support me throughout my life. Only by chance was born into a

country where access to healthcare, education and basic needs is a little easier than in a developing country. I realize this and wonder: “What do I do with this privilege?” “How do I help now, as well as work for long-term solutions so people are no longer in these situations?”

*The best way to share your belief is through your actions. I struggle with my faith, but as I see these brilliant, active, beautiful women live their charism and follow the example of Jesus, it makes me want to be more like them.



Pat teaching English to Sr. Ilsy in Mapa Chapa, Mexico.

*Culture matters. Maybe the reason some cultures look at time differently is because they do not have access to an individual car, they have to walk or take a bus, traffic is unpredictable, or it has rained buckets and their road is flooded. Time-conscious me had to take that into consideration after waiting in Mexico for an hour for a church service to start. Also, it took me a week to realize that the Indian people who moved their head diagonally when I talked were not saying “I don’t care” or “that doesn’t matter.” I now know that this head gesture means “yes,” “probably,” or “I’m listening.” Living in a different culture has made me be more mindful of why people are different...and helped me not jump to conclusions.

I often think how fortunate I was to learn about the PHJC Volunteer Program several years ago while making a random search for service activities via the Catholic Volunteer Network. How lucky was I to meet Sr. Connie Bach, who facilitates these experiences, as well as the other Poor Handmaids I’ve encountered along the way. I hope they know how much I appreciate them. These volunteer adventures are rare, priceless gifts, and I’ve benefitted greatly from each one!

Note: Pat Rader comes to us from Wyoming and has also volunteered at the former Ancilla College and Nazareth Home. Pat currently serves as a member of the PHJC Volunteer Program Advisory Committee.



Pat with her intentional community of Libby Riggs (Associate), Sr. Mary Baird and Sr. Nancy Raboin.



“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” -Albert Schweitzer

The PHJC Volunteer Program and Marian University's Ancilla College Join Forces for Impact

One effort among many under way to strengthen relationships between the Poor Handmaids and Marian University is regular monthly meetings between Sr. Connie, Dr. Natalie Tucker, Vice-President, and Staci Bolakowski, Campus Minister.

During the Fall semester, Sr. Connie met with a Theology class at the college and talked with several professors and coaches, inviting faculty and students to volunteer. Students gained required service hours working alongside Sisters, Maria Center residents and other PHJC Volunteers making sandwiches, packing lunches and grocery bags and helping to deliver food at two local hotels. Great intergenerational relationships were developed! Dr. Tucker volunteered several times as well! 27 students and the entire baseball team joined forces throughout the semester, many surpassing their required hours and returning frequently! Two students still often help load the bus and deliver to the hotels!

On January 18, 2024, MUAC celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a prayer and service led by Sr. Connie and guest speaker, Jessica Harding, Assistant Director for Study Abroad at Notre Dame who addressed a large audience in Ancilla Domini Chapel. Later, students, faculty, staff, Sisters and other volunteers gave service across the PHJC campus lending a hand with the food ministry and at MoonTree, Lindenwood, Maria Cener, and Catherine's Cottage, packing food and hygiene bags, making fleece blankets for children at the motels, and making birthday cards for a soon to be 100 year-old Maria Center resident.

Miss Bolakowski engaged the students and staff in small group conversations about their experiences and shared a closing prayer to end the day. Special t-shirts provided by the PHJC Volunteer Program were shared with students for their service!

*112 Participants * 290 Sack Lunches * 130 Grocery Bags * 130 Frozen Meals
50 Hygiene Bags * 9 Fleece Blankets * 64 Birthday Cards * Bookstore Cleaned Storage Room
Cleaned...and More!*

