

Congregation of Notre Dame U.S. Province Donations Report 2013 - 2014

“In the spirit of the gospel using our resources in solidarity with others working to transform our world into one that is more just and equitable.”

Grants were awarded for 2013 and 2014 to **45** different projects which support Christian communities, pastoral activity, and educational initiatives that rally resources to transform society or assist the poor in improving their lives.

1) **Aquinas High School, Bronx, NY** *Sr. Marion Andreykovic*

The CND Donations Committee grant supported a program offering each religion class at Aquinas High School a retreat experience beyond the classroom. The retreats are part of the faith community at Aquinas, described by one student as “a warm, loving environment where you are encouraged to look within and find the true you.” The ten students pictured received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Gerald Walsh at Aquinas High School on April 28, 2013.



2) **Appalachian Faith & Ecology Center** *Sr. Jaculyn Hanrahan*

This grant will be used to fund a 10-month project of mutual education and training of local women and men from our S.W. Virginia region (the coalfield counties) in the work of the content and mission of the Appalachian Faith and Ecology Center. It can be considered their training to be ambassadors of the AFEC mission. The main focus is on the AFEC work. But I recognize that this may also be a way to introduce them to the CND vision of things through the ecological/creation lens.



3) **Children's Community School, Waterbury, CT**
Associate: Ellen Lynch

Housed on the third floor of Children's Community School, our library is a bright, sunny spot where our students, grades K through 5, come to read, listen, and work in a spirit of joy and exploration. We are grateful for the support of the CND, which helped us maintain and improve the library.



The Summer Bridges program of CCS offers academic support and enrichment activities to its inner city students and neighbors to avoid "summer slide." A grant from the CND paid for transportation for small group outings in the school's bus (seen here with Ellen Lynch) and bus services hired for outings involving the whole group.

4) **Dismas Ministry**
Sr. Beatrice Baker

This grant is to help provide Catholic scripture, faith and prayer resources to inmates across the United States. The materials offer inmates the opportunity to reconnect with God and the faith they may have lost along the way, as well as to re-think the direction they are heading. Furthermore, our initial survey revealed the lack of Catholic materials on prison shelves. While other denominational resources were plenty, Catholic materials were insufficient. The study also revealed that there were no other national organizations providing these materials free of charge to the incarcerated. Dismas Ministry strives to meet these needs.



5) **Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, New Rochelle, NY**
Sr. Ona Bessette

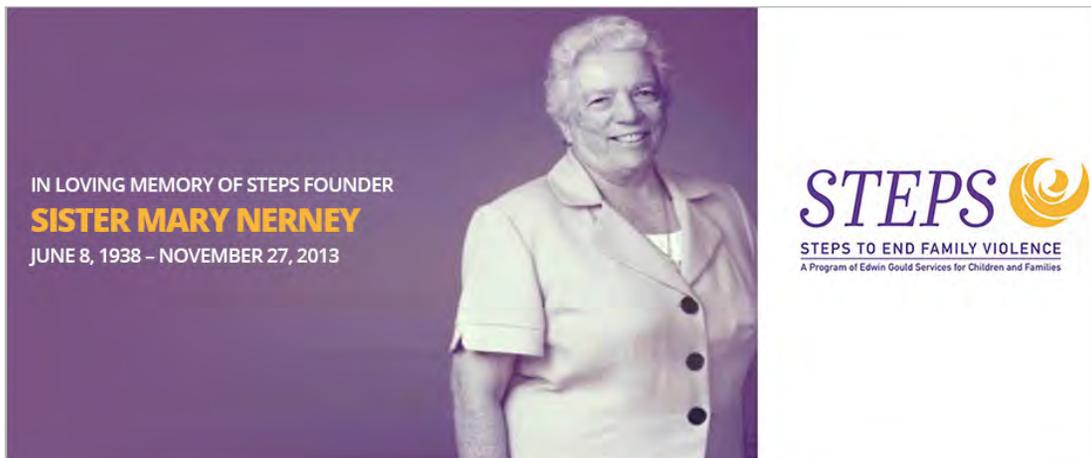


The **Office of Educational Services (OES)** of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in North America works with faculty, school leaders and board directors in 18 schools to enhance their ability to evangelize youth within the mission of the Church; proclaim and witness to Catholic identity; and foster and invigorate a community of faith.



The **ACTION Student Leadership Workshop** - Each year, a new cohort of sixty-five student leaders join together for three exciting and intensive days of learning, praying and playing. A key focus of the workshop is to develop student leaders who work together to be advocates for the marginalized and those made poor in our world.

6) **Edwin Gould Services/STEPS**
In Memory of Sr. Mary Nerney



7) **Empire State Coalition of Children and Family Services**
Sr. Nancy Downing

This group needs a grant for the administration, facilitation, and activities of the Association of Homeless and Street Involved Youth Servicing Organizations of NYC. The Association is organized, administered and facilitated by the Empire State Coalition (ESC). On a monthly basis, the Association brings together 25 organizations which directly serve homeless youth in New York City to share information and to leverage resources in order to more effectively serve our youth.



8) **Holy Cross Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Chicago, IL**
Associate: Maria Vazquez

Several years ago there was a survey done in our neighborhood (Back of the Yards) to see what was the average number of books per family. It was one. Families know that reading is important but the cost of books and the lack of space in their homes prohibit them from owning books. The parents were excited as the children looked over the books they were interested in at the workshop that was provided.



9) **Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, New York City**
Sr. Dorothy Collins



As the largest emergency feeding program in NYC, our primary focus is to provide a healthy, nutritious meal for the poor, and often, homeless. Last year, we provided over 1,000 meals every weekday, and saw those numbers rise over the summer as many children were without access to school meal programs.

10) **Homeless Services United, New York City**
Sr. Nancy Downing

Through your support, HSU works to ensure that NYC's nonprofit shelter providers have the resources they need to continue to meet each new crisis. We advocate on City and State levels to make certain that homeless services and homelessness prevention programs are fully funded and that housing and homelessness policies are the best they can be.



11) **Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants**
Sr. Marilyn Medinger



The Marie Joseph House for Hospitality for Women opened May 8 and already four women have moved in. The residence is located on the fourth floor of a dormitory building on the campus of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago's Hyde Park. Sr. Marilyn Medinger resides with the women in this courageous adventure.

12) **Mary House Ministry / St. Teresa of Avila Food Pantry**

Associate: Susan Connery



Olneyville Food Center (St. Teresa of Avila Food Pantry) in Providence, Rhode Island, serves over 4,300 people a month, nearly half of them children. Multi-national immigrants, low income working poor, and the elderly shop from the shelves. Families can shop twice a month for fresh produce, meat, canned goods, rice and other nutritious items, free of charge, providing food security to their families. St. Mary's Church on Broadway has become a major donor, sending food and money. Another grant was given to the Mary House Food Pantry at St. Patrick Church in Providence, RI.

13) **Mother Cabrini High School, New York City**

Sr. Alyn Larson

Mother Cabrini High School was a Catholic high school located at 701 Fort Washington Avenue between Fort Tryon Park and West 190th Street, with a facade on Cabrini Boulevard, Hudson Heights. During its last year of operation they received a grant for Campus Ministry. They also needed a grant so that they would be able to fund a week-long service trip to Syracuse to assist with the L'Arche community and the Franciscan Sisters ministry with refugee children at Camp Alverna.



14) **Prayer Shawl Ministry, CT**

Associate: Vicki Remson



The St. Thomas Prayer Shawl Ministry was founded in May of 2005 and to date we have given away over 1,374 shawls to those who are sick or suffering, have lost a loved one, or just need to feel God's love. Our group meets bi-monthly at our parish center, where the shawls that we made pass through many praying hands and are blessed by many loving hearts.

15) Prayer Shawl Ministry, Chicago, IL

Sr. Julia Lydon

The Shawl Ministry of Our Lady of Loretto is a very active ministry of our parish. The ladies meet once a month to make lap shawls, baby bonnets, and baptismal shawls for christenings. The cost of yarn is expensive and this grant helps provide for the incidentals that go with presenting these gifts.

16) Project Appalachia at the Benedictine Grange

Associate: Jackie Greenfield

This program provides food to children and families. "Kids First" is open every Wednesday night. It also feeds children on weekends and operates in four schools.



17) St. Martin de Porres Academy, New Haven, CT

Sr. Louise Finn



At the core of the mission at St. Martin's is the spiritual development of the entire school community. All students go on separate class retreats each year with the 8th graders and Peer Ministry Team going on two retreats. The entire staff goes on retreat four days each year.

(Caption: The 7th grade class on retreat at the Caritas Christi Center in Hamden, CT)

18) Habitat for Humanity, Staten Island, NY

Sr. Anne Seeley

Notre Dame students once again had the opportunity to be a part of Habitat for Humanity, a wonderful experience of going to Tennessee and lending a hand to a family in need. During the month of July, fifteen students and six chaperones made the journey down to Tennessee to make a difference. This journey was mentally, physically, and spiritually rewarding. Every day volunteers woke up at 5:30am to put on their work outfits, eat breakfast, and get on the road to the worksite. The temperature averaged 102 degrees every day. The volunteers received a dose of southern hospitality from the Habitat community.



19) **Matt's Ministry, Clay County, NC**

Sr. Therese Martin

Matt's Ministry is a faith-based effort by the Congregation of Ledford's Chapel UMC and other faith-based groups to meet some of the needs of the community by providing food bags at schools and other learning centers to deliver food to those who do not have transportation, offering a food pantry on Saturdays, and offering the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to all the children in Clay county up to age 5.



20) **GreenFaith, Highland Park, NJ**

Sr. Kathleen Deignan



GreenFaith Certification Program: A 2 year environmental leadership program for houses of worship. GreenFaith provides congregations with extensive resources, one-on-one coaching, support and networking opportunities to help you do holistic & successful environmental programming.

21) **Thomas Berry Forum, Iona College, New Rochelle, NY**

Sr. Kathleen Deignan

The Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue: Founded by Iona faculty members, the forum honors the late geologist Fr. Thomas Berry, who envisioned that colleges and universities could play a critical role in educating others on the interconnectedness of all life. The forum brings together educators, activists and environmental experts to continue Fr. Berry's legacy of work in ecological awareness and progress towards a more sustainable world for all living creatures.



22) **Texana Summer Camp, Texana, NC**

Sr. Therese Martin

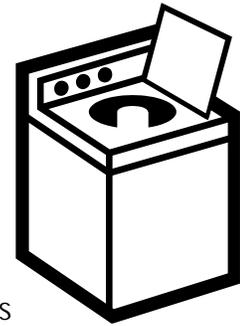


The grant money provided funds for a summer camp for children in an impoverished area of North Carolina. Children had snacks, crafts and field trips.

23) **Homestead Recovery Residence for Women, Clarksville, GA**
Sr. Elizabeth Davies



Homestead Recovery Residence for Women provides a stable and beautiful living environment for women recovering from the disease of addiction. It helps women learn to interact responsibly in a community setting and develop and enhance life skills as they re-enter the work force and become self-sufficient, building a strong foundation for a life of sobriety. The grant was for a washing machine and van repair.



24) **St. Teresa, St. Patrick & St. Martin Teen Group, Kankakee, IL**
Sr. Theresa Galvan



Our youth ministry serves every summer in Pembroke Township, the poorest area in the state of Illinois. They work with the youth and offer activities and aid programs for the seniors of the community.

25) **Rockhaven Ecozoic Center, MO**
Sr. Maco Cassetta

The grant was used toward developing and offering the Caring for the Sacred Community Program. Through the grant, Rockhaven will offer affordable workshops, retreats, and gatherings that embody mutually enhancing human-Earth relationships. The goal is two-pronged: the deepening of one's understanding of "right relationships" in the "whole-earth community" and evoking the participants into a state of 'blessed unrest' – a condition of being awake and aware of the critical challenges of our times and at the same time being optimistic and committed to taking action.



26) **Covenant House, New York, NY**

Sr. Nancy Downing

The grant is used for homeless youth who are being trained as Peer Advocates. The program will provide these youth with leadership skills including public speaking, knowledge about legal rights, an understanding of state and local legislative bodies, and listening, interviewing and mentoring skills. They will identify one or two legal issues on which they will receive training. An NY law student under the supervision of an attorney will provide the training. The peer advocates will then teach other homeless youth about their legal rights through presentations, legal resource tables and the creation of educational material.



27) **Restorative Justice Project**

Associate: Mary Haugh

The Restorative Justice Project has begun its work to create a video about restorative justice which will be used in presentations to lawyers, educators, law students, public officials and community representatives, including the elderly. The restorative justice concepts to be explored and included in the video will be techniques and tools of dispute resolution, peer juries, peace circles, negotiations and mediation.



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Blessed Sacrament Province

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