



Collaboration for Ministry Initiative

We Are Many Parts, We Are All One Body

insights

Issue One
Winter 2012

Welcome to the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative newsletter!

Since 2002, the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative (CMI) of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland has focused on collaboration as a way to help strengthen the ministries of women religious in Northeast Ohio.

With grants to plan and implement collaborative ministries, CMI has supported women religious as they respond to calls to prevent human trafficking, provide housing to low income women and children, care for religious in their older years, develop faith and vocation in young adults, and other emerging needs. In this newsletter, we will announce available grants and provide the links to our website – www.socfcleveland.org – on proposal guidelines and recent grant history.

Progress & Promise: Sisters Serving Northeast Ohio is part of our effort to build awareness of the work of women religious. It began with the collaboration that brought *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood, Ohio in 2010. Now both a traveling exhibit and book, *Progress & Promise* offers abundant opportunities to educate and inspire people of all ages.

CMI also sponsors research to learn where sisters are in ministry, whom they serve, the needs of those ministries, and the role of collaboration. We also look for opportunities for women religious to gather, reflect, learn, and share knowledge and vision about their work.

With this quarterly newsletter, we will update sisters and ministry partners on each of these efforts. We will announce recent articles on ministries in *Good News on Ministry*. We will include a *Grantee Spotlight*, and recognize other funders, *In Gratitude* for the support they give to women religious in ministry.

In *Share Your Insights*, we welcome your suggestions for our CMI work. Do you recommend a topic for a workshop? Should we consider research on a need in our community? Does your ministry need volunteers? Feel free to give us news on your ministry that we can share with others.

We want to express our thanks to our Program Committee, staff, Board, and consultants at the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. We also are grateful to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine for their heart-felt commitment to the shared mission of women religious in Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,
Susanna H. Krey, President
Lynn Berner, Program Officer

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Grants

Proposal Guidelines Available for Collaboration for Ministry Initiative Grants

New and existing collaborations of women religious in Northeast Ohio (serving within the Dioceses of Cleveland and Youngstown) may apply for grants to support the planning or implementation of their collaborative ministry.

Application Deadlines

February 6: Grant application submission deadline for potential award in March 2012

July 9: Grant application submission deadline for potential award in September 2012

Criteria for eligibility and proposal requirements may be found at: www.socfcleveland.org/OurFocusAreas/ReligiousCommunities. The Religious Communities section of our website also contains a list of 2011 grants under CMI, as well as the Saint Ann Legacy Program.

Grant guidelines for the Saint Ann Legacy Program will be available on February 6th.

In Gratitude

"The Sisters feed my soul."

— Sister Joyce Meyer, PBVM

Sister Joyce Meyer, a sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, retired this summer after 12 years as Executive Director of the Hilton Fund for Sisters. Her adventures in this worldwide ministry are featured in *The Tidings Online*, Southern California's Catholic Weekly www.the-tidings.com/archives (September 23, 2011). She is succeeded by Sister Marcia Sichol, a Sister of the Holy Child of Jesus. A former leader of the American Province of her order, Sr. Marcia's interests include reducing global poverty and promoting peace.

Conrad Hilton created the Hilton Fund for Sisters to support the apostolic work of Roman Catholic sisters. While most grants go to ministries in developing countries, sisters' ministries in North America also may apply, and some in Northeast Ohio have received grants. Prior U.S. grants have gone to ministries that serve the homeless, the incarcerated, and those in poverty who also have HIV/AIDS.

Grant requests must be made by the sister, for a ministry where she works for 30 hours or more, and which directly serves the poor. Funds may be used for operating expenses. The application process has two parts: (1) submission of a Project Proposal, which is reviewed for eligibility, and (2) a Grant Application. There is no specific proposal deadline. For more information, go to www.hiltonfundforsisters.org.

Grantee Spotlight

Joseph's Home



Joseph's Home is a 2011 grantee of the Saint Ann Legacy Program

"Joseph's Home gave me the opportunity to take some time off for myself to heal, both physically and spiritually," says Milton Hurtt, who had no place to live when a hospital discharged him after multiple surgeries.

In November, Joseph's Home was selected as a participating agency in the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Holiday Spirit Campaign. (See November 24, 2011 article, found at www.cleveland.com/holidays).

Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Joseph's Home provides transitional housing to homeless men recuperating from illness or surgery. With a small staff of ten, Joseph's Home helps these men with their medical, emotional, and spiritual needs so they can recover and find stable housing.

Joseph's Home was recently awarded a two-year grant by the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation in its "Health of the Urban Community" focus.

To donate, volunteer, or purchase greeting cards created by the residents, please email: info@josephshome.org.



Building Awareness

PROGRESS & PROMISE SISTERS SERVING NORTHEAST OHIO



Progress & Promise

The local exhibit that was created as part of *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* is its own traveling exhibit, with visits in 2011 to River's Edge (Cleveland), Jennings Center for Older Adults (Garfield Heights), Light of Hearts Villa (Bedford), St. Michael's Church (Canton), Notre Dame Educational Center (Chardon), Walsh University (North Canton), Cleveland Public Library (main branch), and Regina Health Center (Richfield).

As a traveling exhibit, *Progress & Promise* has been viewed by middle school and college students, parishioners, and long term care residents and their families, many of whom did not see it at *Women & Spirit*. Many thanks also go to Walsh University, where sisters were invited to present at educational sessions on health care, education, and the call to vocation.

In 2012, we plan to find venues in places where it has not yet been, such as Lorain and Akron, before it travels to Youngstown State University this summer. If you are interested in coordinating a venue, please contact Lynn at lberner@socfcleveland.org.

The Foundation also produced *Progress & Promise: Sisters Serving Northeast Ohio*, a book adapted from the local exhibit in November 2011. To date, we have given over one thousand copies to women religious, colleges, the media, funders, public officials, and ministry partners.

If you would like to order additional copies of the book, please contact Dave Kelly at associate@socfcleveland.org or call 216-241-9300. Donations of \$10 per copy are suggested. Funds will be used to support the ministries of women religious.



"I learned that there were so many nuns with the same goal to teach the way of God."

– Adam, age 12, Saint Michael School, Canton

Research

In 2010, CMI sponsored research on women religious in ministry in Cuyahoga County, with demographic information on sisters, the location, size, and focus of ministries, the populations served, the needs of those ministries, and the role of collaboration. The research was led by Rob Fischer, PhD, Co-Director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at Case Western Reserve University.

Both the full report – *Women Religious in a Changing Urban Landscape: The Work of Catholic Sisters in Metropolitan Cleveland* – and the summary ("Briefly Stated") can be found at:

www.socfcleveland.org/OurFocusAreas/ReligiousCommunities.

In 2011, Dr. Fischer, with Sister Mary Ann Murphy, OSU, performed focus groups of sisters in ministry as a follow-up to this research. The report on that research will be available on our website in February.



Gatherings

In April, 2011, the Women With Spirit...NOW steering committee gathered over 200 sisters at Magnificat High School to pray, reflect, and discuss how they might collaborate to strengthen existing ministries and form new ones to meet the needs of the people in and around Cleveland. The steering committee meets regularly, most recently on December 1st. Working groups have been meeting on adult literacy, education, ecology, human trafficking, and responding to needs of people on Cleveland's east side. For more information, or to learn more about a working group, please contact:

Sister Mary Pat Cook, HM
mpcook@hmministry.org

Sister Beverly LoGrasso, OSU
blograsso@ursulinesisters.org

Sister Mary Ann Baran, SND
mbaran@ndc.edu



The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina also has a Collaboration for Ministry Initiative to support women religious serving in that state. In October, the two initiatives co-sponsored an annual convening in Myrtle Beach, SC called *Opening Doors: Embracing Our Brothers and Sisters*. Christine

Pohl, Ph.D., Professor of Church and Society at Asbury Theological Seminary, presented the perspective in her book: *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* (available at amazon.com). Sister Catherine Walsh, CSA, one of five Northeast Ohio sisters who attended the event, found the theme especially helpful to her work at Catholic Worker of Akron. The event was featured in South Carolina's Catholic newspaper, *The Catholic Miscellany*, November 22, 2011: www.themiscellany.org.



Cross covered by notes of handwritten words representing hospitality or barriers to hospitality such as "welcome" and "grace" or "fear" and "busyness" written by participants as part of prayer service.

Good NEWS On Ministries

The Universe Bulletin (www.catholicuniversebulletin.org) featured several sisters and grantees of the Foundation in the last two months. For reprints by email, please contact lberner@socfcleveland.org.

- *Thriving in the city, Ursuline nun inspired by Thea Bowman, people of Mount Pleasant neighborhood*, November 11, 2011
- *Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine honored with Insignis Award, by Lakewood Catholic Academy, because of their extraordinary commitment to the school and their 160 years of service in the region*, November 25, 2011
- *Ignatian Spirituality Project transforms lives of homeless, with support from the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland*, December 9, 2011
- *Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland announces \$20,000 grant for reading room, scholarships for Promise Neighborhood*, December 9, 2012
- *Religious sisters celebrate history, ministries in Cleveland Diocese, announcing Progress & Promise: Sisters Serving Northeast Ohio book*, December 23, 2011

Share Your
insights

If you would like to join with other sisters to learn about and discuss a particular topic, contact Lynn at lberner@socfcleveland.org.

Please also share with us any news about your ministry or special needs for volunteers or other help.

Your Help Is Needed

Tutoring Opportunity

The 3rd graders at Carl & Louis Stokes Academy need reading tutors. Unfortunately, nearly 70 percent of the students can't pass the third grade state reading proficiency tests. Stokes Principal Fatima Wright is asking for assistance in recruiting reading tutors to help improve the 3rd graders ability before the April testing. A half hour, three times a week for each student would be optimal. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joan Mazzolini at: jmazzolini@socfcleveland.org.

