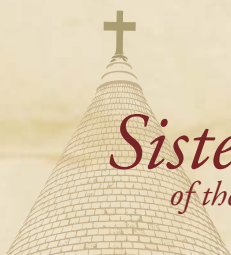


2011-2012

BVM Sisters & Associates Volunteer Opportunities



Sisters of Charity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Freed by Love, Acting for Justice

www.bvmcong.org

BVM Sisters & Associates Volunteer Opportunities

Have you wondered how you might use your gifts and talents for volunteering, but were not quite sure what to do or where to go? Do you want to give service with others who share Christian values? Do you want an opportunity to prayerfully reflect about your experiences?

Each year the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary sponsor volunteer opportunities in the United States and Ecuador that integrate service, community and prayerful reflection. We invite you to join us in reaching out in love to people in need for an afternoon, a weekend or more.

Who can participate?

Persons over the age of 18 who have the desire to make a difference in the lives of others and give of themselves freely in service are invited to volunteer.

Volunteers agree they receive much more than they give during service experiences. Read their reflections throughout this booklet or visit:

www.bvmcong.org

BVM Mission:

We are the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a community of Catholic women called to live the mission of Jesus through our core values of

FREEDOM, EDUCATION, CHARITY & JUSTICE.

Compelled by the example and word of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke in her sensitive response to critical human situations, we strive to seek out and attend to those in need whatever this may require of us. —BVM Constitutions

*"I learned
what it means
to be part of
something
bigger than
myself."*



Ministry & Social Justice Opportunities

Dubuque, IA

Share time and energy with people at Teresa Shelter and Maria House who provide hospitality and opportunity to women who need emergency/transitional housing; Presentation Lantern Center, a drop-in center that offers hospitality, translation, educational opportunities and advocacy for women and children; Dubuque Rescue Mission which serves those who are less fortunate than others; and Hills and Dales Residential Center that ministers to individuals with mental and physical handicaps.

Ecuador

Travel to Ecuador where BVM sisters and associates have been ministering for over 40 years. Stay and give service at the Working Boys' Center in Quito; learn about Yachay Wasi, an indigenous school that BVMs help support; travel to Guayaquil to visit Damien House, a BVM ministry for Hansen's disease patients. While in Guayaquil, spend time at the Nuevo Mundo Foundation that operates medical clinics and a school for the poor.

Los Angeles, CA

Volunteer organizations continue to be faithful to the call to feed those who are homeless and ensure that at least some have food for a day. Join us for a weekend of building relationships with our sisters and brothers who are trying to survive. Spend a Friday evening in prayer, reflection and learning about how people have been affected by the economy. On Saturday make sandwiches and then go out into the streets to bring food, companionship and compassion to those living on the margins of our society. Conclude with liturgy, prayer and reflection of the day's activities.



"Sharing such an intense experience with other BVMs and associates has braided our lives together in a permanent way."

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. —1 Peter 4:10

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

These BVM sisters and associates invite you to volunteer with them in the following locations:

United States

Location: Glendale, CA

Description: Volunteer to tutor students at Holy Family Elementary School.

Contact: BVM Associate Cheryl Hannah – dearcheryl@hotmail.com

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Description: Work with Mother Teresa's Brothers of Charity to help prepare food and distribute to the homeless in downtown Los Angeles.

Contact: BVM Associate Eli Lopez – belopez0662@sbcglobal.net

Location: San Jose, CA

Description: Volunteer to teach English, health education, financial and employment skills at the Day Worker Center, a nonprofit organization that helps people find daily employment.

Website: www.dayworkercentermv.org

Contact: Elizabeth Avalos, BVM – eavalos@bvmcong.org

Location: Arcadia, FL

Description: Serve in Catholic Charities outreach ministry to immigrant workers.

Contact: Ann DeNicolo, BVM – adenicbvm@comcast.net

Location: Berwyn, IL

Description: Volunteer with Project IRENE (Illinois Religious Engaged in Nonviolent Endeavors), a statewide powerful, collective voice for systems change on behalf of women and children in Illinois. Advocacy issues include trafficking, poverty and domestic violence. The Capitol in Springfield is the center of this advocacy.

Contact: Rose Mary Meyer, BVM – projectirene@aol.com

Location: Chicago, IL

Description: Assist the staff at 8th Day Center for Justice, a coalition of Catholic religious congregations which commits to act as a critical alternative voice to oppressive systems and to work actively to change those systems.

Contact: Joellen McCarthy, BVM – joellenmccarthy@sbcglobal.net

Location: Chicago, IL

Description: Volunteer at Blessed Sacrament Parish to help in the food pantry, work in the community garden, or tutor in the adult learning or youth centers.

Contact: Pat Kerz, BVM – patkerz@aol.com

“The BVM service weekend allowed me to fuel my passion for serving by being with others who desire to change the world, impact lives, challenge themselves, and share love with those in need.”



“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

–Mahatma Gandhi

Location: Chicago, IL

Description: Offer your service at Taller de José, a community resource center that helps people navigate the often complicated social service system through the ministry of accompaniment.

Contact: Kathy Brazda, CSJ – srkathy@tallerdejose.org

Location: Chicago, IL

Description: Volunteer to assist people wishing to increase their basic education skills at Westside Employment and Education Center, or bag and distribute groceries at Holy Family Parish Food Pantry.

Contact: Marion Murphy, BVM – mcm3828@aol.com

South America

Location: Guayaquil, Ecuador

Description: Work with Ann Credidio, BVM at Damien House, a caring place for persons with Hansen's disease.

Contact: Elizabeth Avalos, BVM – eavalos@bvmcong.org

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Description: Volunteer at the Working Boys' Center in Quito.

Contact: Miguel Conway, BVM – miguelcbvm@hotmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities at Mount Carmel

Location: Dubuque, IA

Description: Volunteers in the Dubuque area and beyond are welcome to come and be present to the retired sisters in the Mount Carmel Continuing Care Retirement Community. You may be interested in visiting with sisters, reading to them, or transporting sisters in wheelchairs. The Activities Department welcomes assistance with weekly planned events and special projects.

Benefits: Meaningful contact with retired sisters, opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Mount Carmel along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, and a feeling of well-being that comes with helping others.

Contact:

Angele Lutgen, BVM

Coordinator of Support Services

1100 Carmel Drive

Dubuque, IA 52003-7991

alutgen@bvmcong.org or 563.588.2351

"Volunteering taught me the value of letting go of tangible results and just being with someone in need."



"It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing."

—Mother Teresa

2012 Volunteer Opportunities

If you wish to stand in solidarity with those who are struggling, if you want to help others take a step in a more positive direction, if you want to explore volunteer opportunities with BVM sisters, associates and friends, sign up for one of these opportunities and make a difference.

Ecuador | March 12–21, 2012

Description: See Ministry and Social Justice Opportunities

Contact: Lou Anglin, BVM – langlin@bvmcong.org

Registration Deadline: Feb. 1, 2012

Milwaukee, WI | April 27–29, 2012

Description: The weekend will include serving and learning about the needs of those who are poor and marginalized in Milwaukee County. It is an opportunity to work with BVM sisters and associates, sharing prayer and community as they live out their core values of freedom, education, charity and justice. Room accommodations provided.

Contact: BVM Associate Mary Ann Krems, – jmak@charter.net

Phone: 715.344.2453

Registration Deadline: March 27, 2012

Volunteer Opportunities may become available throughout the year. Visit www.bvmcong.org/join_volunteer.cfm for an up-to-date list.

For more information about volunteer opportunities or to register, contact:



BVM Associate Office:

Elizabeth Avalos, BVM

eavalos@bvmcong.org

1220 Tasman Drive #571

Sunnyvale, CA 94089-2434

408.569.7222



Initial Membership Office:

Lou Anglin, BVM

langlin@bvmcong.org

Kathy Carr, BVM

kcarr@bvmcong.org

1100 Carmel Drive

Dubuque, IA 52003-7991

563.588.2351



If you have a location idea or suggestion for a volunteer opportunity, we would love to hear about it. Feel free to contact us.

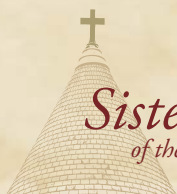


"As is so often the case, much more significant than any service we gave, were the new insights and realizations we gained."

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"

—Rev. Martin Luther King

*"I recommend
this service
experience to
anyone who
lives, breathes,
loves."*



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There is no better exercise for your heart,
than reaching down and helping to lift someone up.

—Bernard Meltzer