

SISTER VISITOR CENTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of Sister Visitor Center,

During this time of the year, no matter how hard we try to live in the present season we seem to be inundated by the consumerism of Christmas. No longer can we peacefully celebrate Thanksgiving at our leisure, because at every turn we are looking at Christmas Decorations, or hearing Christmas music. Don't get me wrong - I love Christmas for what it means to me and the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus! However, I get tired of it being pushed in my face.

At the same time this is the hardest part of the year for many people who are struggling with joblessness, a cut in work hours or salary, a lack of education to maintain a higher paying job, and those who are work-

ing but can not meet their basic living expenses. Yet, being like the rest of us, these families want to celebrate Christmas by having something under the tree!

Your support and partnership with the Sister Visitor Center helps to provide a very meaningful Christmas for our brothers and sisters!

In mission with Christ,

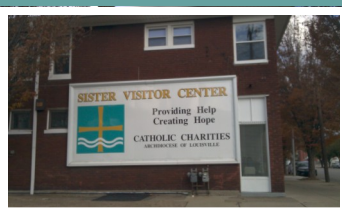
Sister Michele Intravia, OSU



Sister Michele Ann Intravia stands in the expanded food pantry at the Sister Visitor Center.

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EMPOWERMENT FUND

The Empowerment Fund is a new endeavor at the Sister Visitor Center with a goal of raising money to help the working poor who are not eligible for other aid. One of the first donors to this fund was the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

"We have people who are working, but their hours have been cut, and now they can't pay their utility bill," Sister Michele said. "We can only give them \$50

a year. This Empowerment Fund will help them pay for more of that bill."

A parish and an anonymous donor also contributed, but the center is trying to get other parishes and donors involved to build the fund up to help more people, Sister Michele said. "These are working class people who don't qualify for aid. They may make as little as \$10 too much," she said. "We really

need to help these working poor. We are also seeing a lot of grandparents raising their grandchildren."

To donate, checks can be sent to the Sister Visitor Center, 2235 W. Market St., Louisville, KY 40212. Please specify that the donation is for the Empowerment Fund. Donations can also be made online at www.cclou.org.

NEW MEDICAL CLINIC SERVES POOR, REFUGEES

A new clinic — called the Golden Door — has opened to provide free medical care to struggling families. The clinic is the latest addition to the Sister Visitor Center's scope of services. Sister Michele Intravia says the charity aims to become "a one-stop place" where struggling families can receive everything they need — from clothing to food to help with rent and medical care. It's a big benefit to our clients," she said. "They don't always have transportation. If we can provide more services, what better way to serve them?"



Sister Michele Ann Intravia, of the Sister Visitor Center, and Lucio Caruso, director of case management and family support services for Catholic Charities of Louisville.

No money is involved in the clinic's operations because both the practitioners' services and the medical supplies are donated.

"Bellarmino University is contributing the majority of the assistance," said Huggins, a professor of nursing in the university's graduate nurse practitioner program.

As a part of his contract, Bellarmine pays Huggins to practice his

profession one day a week. "So they give 20 percent of my salary to the community," he said of Bellarmine.

In addition, Huggins is assisted at the clinic by students in Bellarmine's nurse practitioner program — students who already are nurses. They're required to log 720

hours of clinical practice each year. And about a dozen students will earn those hours doing rotations at the new clinic under Huggins' guidance.



Nurse practitioner Mike Huggins runs the new Golden Door medical clinic at the Sister Visitor Center.

Source: *The Record*
Photos: www.ursulinesmsj.org

MAKING AN OPTION FOR THE POOR

"To make an option for the poor, is to make an option for Jesus." These words of the theologian, Gustavo Guitierrez, hold special meaning for our volunteer, Sister Elizabeth Wendeln, SCN. Several times a month she comes to Sister Visitor Center to take care packages of various items, - fruit, vegetables, breads, sweets, etc. and visits with 4 homebound, mostly elderly women.

These women are low income and have a variety of health issues. Mattie, 52, has MS and for years has been determined to remain as independent as possible. She is a very courageous and determined woman. She looks for-

ward to Sr. Liz's visits, spending that special time with her sharing and praying.

Jettye, 78, still lives in her own home. She struggles to pay her monthly LG&E bill and still have money for medicine and food. When Sr. Liz visits with a care package it is always a source of joy for Jettye.

Charlotte and Katie, both elderly, always look forward to visits and care packages. Both women have serious health problems and are grateful for the items brought to them. Once a month, Katie holds a bingo for some of her



neighbors, using prizes donated from various people. She promotes community among her neighbors and gets to know them better.

There is much wisdom to be learned from these women as Sr. Liz will attest. She brings to each one words of comfort and encouragement, sharing her own wisdom and praying with them. This makes their day a little brighter, a little more hopeful.

Indeed, it is true that to make an option for the poor is to make an option for Jesus.

*Sister Grace Simpson, OSU-MSJ
Case Manager*

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

DECEMBER 20TH THROUGH 23RD

Every year at the Sister Visitor Center we host a Christmas Give Away! Through the generosity of donors like you, our goal is to provide each child a new outfit, a pair of socks, underwear, a hat, a pair gloves and a couple new toys! When we have them, new coats are also given away. These items always result in big happy smiles on the faces of these young children! A gift of a sheet set, blanket or a set of towels puts even bigger smiles on the faces of parents or grandparents.

Paraphrasing the gospel when Jesus said, “when you saw me naked, you clothed me,” the Sister Visitor Center’s donors, volunteers and staff live these words daily as we serve our brother and sisters.

To offer more room this year’s Christmas Giveaway will be held directly across the street from Sister Visitor Center in the gym of the former St. Anthony school.



If you are interested in volunteering please call the Center at (502) 776-0155. Volunteers are needed to help organize and distribute items.

If you are interested in donating items, please call the Center at (502) 776-0155 to arrange deliveries. For deliveries on or before December 15th please bring items to the Center at 2235 W. Market St. **Please note that we will be closed on Friday December 16th at noon.** For deliveries made on Monday December 19th or later, please take them to St. Anthony’s Gym at 2234 W. Market St., directly across the street.



WINTER WISH LIST

COATS & BLANKETS! HATS, GLOVES & SCARFS!

It is that time of year again! Temperatures are dropping and the need for warm items is increasing. Please consider donating coats, blankets, or other items to help keep someone warm. Below is a list of other items especially needed as well.

- Sweat shirts and pants any sizes
- Hats and gloves
- Outfits for small children
- New toys & games for children
- Puzzles
- Coloring books and crayons
- Coats
- Long underwear
- Laundry Detergent
- Shampoo
- Tooth paste
- Deodorant
- Dishwashing liquid
- Bar soap
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Towels and wash clothes
- Body wash
- Bed linens
- Kleenex
- Feminine Products

“Knowing that JESUS is the reason for the SEASON, may the coming of the Christ Child reign in your hearts for a Happy Healthy New Year!”



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About Sister Visitor Center

Sister Visitor Center serves as Catholic Charities' distribution center for material assistance and houses staff who provide emergency and case management services to people in need. In collaboration with the Community Ministries of Louisville, it serves the Portland, Russell and Shawnee neighborhoods for the network.

Mission:

Catholic Charities of Louisville, Inc. as members of Catholic Charities USA and an apostolate in the Archdiocese of Louisville, provides services to people in need, advocates for justice in social structures and calls the entire church and others of good will to do the same.



SISTER VISITOR CENTER
2235 W. MARKET STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY 40212
(502) 776 - 0434



For more information:

Contact Sr. Michele Intravia at
(502)776-0434 or mintravia@archlou.org

Find us online at www.cclou.org

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: "THE THURSDAY CREW"

The Sister Visitor Center is blessed to have such dedicated volunteers. Since the 1970s, one special group of women began their week as members of the Jefferson County Creative Homemakers Club. Over the years, they have added a few more volunteers to form what is affectionately known as the "Thursday Crew."

"We can always count on the Thursday Crew," says Sister Michele Intravia. In addition to their hours of service, the Thursday Crew also donates to Sister Visitor Center monthly by subsidizing items like shampoo, toothpaste and toilet paper which are not covered by food stamps.

Most of these women have a special connection to the neighborhood's served by Sister Visitor Center. Four of eight women grew up in the west end of Louisville and attended St. Columba grade school.

The experience has been especially rewarding for these women, not only because they

are building fellowship with each other, but also because they are able to give back to the community they feel a close connection to.

"We thoroughly enjoy being at Sister Visitor Center helping the poor," says Jane Beach.

"We keep the clothing moving," she adds, as the Thursday crew mainly works in the clothing room sorting clothes by gender, size and season and sometimes helping the clients locate suitable clothing for themselves and their children.



Sister Visitor Center's "Thursday Crew" of volunteers at a summer Catholic Charities' potluck held across the street on St. Anthony's campus. In the back row, from the left is Lenora Karem, Juanita Riehl and Mary Rose Krebs, & Jane Beach. In the front row, from the right is, Dottie Steinmetz, Catherine Duddy and Mary Schmidt. Joann Miller is missing from this picture.



Former St. Columba Grade School