

## FY 2020 MINISTRY TRUST GRANT MEMBER INITIATIVES

*The Congregation Grants Committee of the Adrian Dominican Ministry Trust approved \$761,300 for the following 32 Member Initiatives for the fiscal year 2020. These projects reflect the Mission and Vision of the Adrian Dominican Sisters.*

### **Angela House**

*Houston, Texas*

*Maureen O'Connell, OP, Board Member*

Angela House provides safe, drug- and violence-free transitional housing and holistic programs for women re-entering society after incarceration. With the 2020 Ministry Trust grant, the staff at Angela House will continue their work. Participants will have access to structured case management to help them address factors that can lead to homelessness and recidivism. Angela House will also provide public transportation support to enable residents to obtain necessary services.

### **Capuchin Soup Kitchen**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Nancyann Turner, OP, Staff Member*

Situated in a poverty-stricken area of Detroit, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen offers services to people in need. The Rosa Parks Children's Peace Garden is in its courtyard. The Ministry Trust grant will give youth the opportunity to deepen their sense of Earth community by emphasizing the nexus between gardening and good nutrition. Participants will develop a sense of Earth community while simultaneously strengthening human community. The project will also teach and reinforce basic job skills such as teamwork, accountability, and mutual respect for the young adult garden coordinators.

### **Catherine Cobb Safe House, Operation Safety Net**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Aneesah McNamee, OP, Board Member*

Catherine Cobb Safe House is the only shelter and safe haven for women and their children

experiencing domestic violence in Lenawee County. The Ministry Trust funds will assist clients in the development of individualized safety plans based on current and future relationship needs. Survivors and their children will learn to build their resilience and re-establish violence-free households on the solid foundation of improved mental, social, and emotional well-being. Participants will also deepen their understanding of trauma and its effect on family dynamics.

### **Catholic Committee of the South**

*Decatur, Georgia*

*Mary Priniski, OP, Staff and Board Member*

Gathering for Mission, a program of the Catholic Committee of the South, seeks to empower church leadership, clerics, and lay leaders to embrace dialogue with voices often unheard and to address social justice issues that often cannot be resolved at the local level. The organization's purpose is to stand in solidarity with those who are struggling to claim respect and human dignity. Gathering for Mission is patterned after Pope Francis' encouragement of the faithful to be a church of the peripheries, a church listening to the voices of those who are marginalized and searching out perspectives beyond those of people who gather for Sunday worship.

### **Centro Santa Catalina**

*Juárez, Mexico*

*Maureen Gallagher, OP, Director of Marketing*

The purpose of the Centro Santa Catalina project is to lift women and children from abject poverty and social marginalization by providing nutritional, entrepreneurial, and life-skills activities that relieve severe economic hardships. Ministry Trust funds will be used to offer educational support for women, to foster independence, and to maintain just wages for Centro staff. The funds will also help to expand the organic garden project and to employ a part-time Assistant Marketing Director. For information, see <http://centrosantacatalina.org/about/our-stories/>

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### **Child Advocacy Center, Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale Counties**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Pam Millenbach, OP, Staff*

The Child Advocacy Center will continue a partnership that provides a collaborative, uniform response to the investigation, prosecution, intervention, and management of child sexual abuse cases, with additional community initiatives related to prevention. The Child Advocacy Center provides a single forensic interview at a child-friendly site, reducing trauma and preventing re-victimization of children suspected to have suffered severe sexual and/or physical abuse. Community prevention initiatives are in initial stages of implementation, using an evidence-informed, internationally acclaimed program, Darkness to Light.

### **Con/Vida: Popular Arts of the Americas**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Barbara Cervenka, OP, Co-Director*

Con/Vida works primarily with Brazilian and Peruvian artists with limited financial resources. The goal is to give voice to the artists and to validate and popularize their work within the North American culture. Con/Vida promotes traveling art exhibits to educate and inform North American audiences about the history and culture of common people of Peru and Brazil. The directors estimate the programming reaches about 10,000 people annually and the “Bandits and Heroes, Poets and Saints” traveling exhibit was viewed by more than 75,000 people. The Ministry Trust grant provides rent for space to house the artists’ works in a central Detroit location. For an exhibit tour, see <https://youtube.com/qramlgqyR5w>.

### **Centro Latino of Shelbyville, Inc.**

*Shelbyville, Kentucky*

*Patricia Reno, OP, Executive Director*

Centro Latino assists the vulnerable and voiceless Latinx community through life-sustaining and hope-enhancing programs and services. During the 2020 grant cycle, Centro Latino will expand the Advocacy Program and the Women’s Meeting programs to directly assist 600 or

more Latinx families by connecting them with professionals who help them meet their specific needs. These programs deal with issues such as management of family resources, child care, school problems, landlord/tenant issues, wage theft, domestic violence, and rape, and provide accompaniment to family court, immigration court, and hospital emergency rooms.

### **Covenant Community Care**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Mary Jane Lubinski, OP, Board Member*

Detroit has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country. The Ministry Trust grant this year will develop a Centering Pregnancy Program in southwest Detroit, providing services such as individual health check-ups. Medical professionals will provide additional time and attention in a group setting with women who are pregnant. In 2018, 100 healthy babies were born to mothers in this program. For more information, visit <https://covenantcommunitycare.org/welcome/services-locations/pregnancy-care/>.

### **Earth Law Education Initiative**

*New York, New York*

*Elise García, OP, Board Member*

The Earth Law Center (ELC) is developing an Earth law curriculum to train a new generation of Earth law advocates. The organization will publish the first-ever Earth Law textbook. During the grant cycle, ELC will expand the number of law schools that give students the knowledge and skills to be effective Earth Law practitioners through the newly published textbook. ELC will also empower young people to become effective advocates for the rights of nature by increasing their mock trial initiative in New York public schools.

### **Friends in Solidarity with South Sudan**

*Washington, D.C.*

*Durstyne Farnan, OP, Board Member*

Friends in Solidarity with South Sudan works in collaboration with the Catholic Health Training Institute to support the empowerment of citizens in this newly established African nation. The Ministry Trust grant will provide full funding to support six students for one year in a three-

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year nursing program to train South Sudanese women as certified midwives and registered nurses. The comprehensive training includes practical experience in hospitals and local clinics, as well as trauma healing and peace-making.

### **Gianna House**

*Eastpointe, Michigan*

*Theresa Mayrand, OP, Co-Director*

Gianna House provides a safe residence for pregnant teens and for teen mothers and their newborns. The house serves as a center of comfort and support for all pregnant women. Most women seeking services at Gianna House do not experience freedom, equality, and full personhood because they were denied a nurturing environment and adequate education as adolescents and now lack support from the fathers of their newborns. At Gianna House, young mothers receive support, baby items, referrals, and classes in prenatal care, personal growth, and nutrition. The grant will provide partial staff salaries to ensure the full implementation of the outreach program.

### **Grace House**

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Eunice Drazba, OP, Volunteer*

Grace House, a component of St. Leonard's Ministries, provides safe, drug- and violence-free transitional housing and holistic programs for women re-entering society after incarceration. The Ministry Trust grant ensures that women receive case management services and opportunities for job search and placement. Reuniting the women with their families in a stable environment is the ultimate goal of the program.

### **Habitat for Humanity of Lenawee County**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Sharon Weber, OP, Board Member*

Lenawee County Habitat for Humanity will coordinate its first "Faith Build" project since 2013. Through the Ministry Trust support, the Adrian Dominicans will serve as a leadership sponsor and as a catalyst to inspire tithing and volunteerism from the broader faith community of Lenawee County. Habitat for Humanity's

goal is to complete a safe, affordable, energy-efficient home for a family in the community with the collaboration of five new faith groups. Participation could include financial contributions, volunteer construction workers, provision of lunches for workers, contributed skilled labor, and prayer. Watch a video of the Faith Build of Habitat for Humanity in Nashville, whose program is similar to the one planned by Habitat for Humanity of Lenawee County. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OQVEm\\_SoYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OQVEm_SoYs)

### **HOPE Community Center**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Rosemary Abramovich, OP, Board Member*

HOPE Community Center offers members the opportunity for holistic programs and projects that promote health, wellness, and dignity in a culture of caring and sharing. The center offers excellent programs and support for the life and dignity of marginalized people in Lenawee County. Men and women who are challenged emotionally, physically, or mentally have the opportunity to engage with each other, staff, and volunteers to build meaningful relationships and experience laughter, friendship, collaboration, and a healthy lifestyle. The project makes each day worthwhile for HOPE members and their families in the belief that the community is stronger when HOPE members lead meaningful lives.

### **Hotel Hope MLK**

*New Orleans, Louisiana*

*Judith Zynda, OP, Board Member*

Supportive services at Hotel Hope MLK take the form of intensive case management for each homeless guest, linking her to services and opportunities with the aim of long-term residential sustainability. Supportive services include readiness assessments, individual family counseling, goal setting, advocacy, financial literacy and budgeting, workforce development, drug screening and prevention, health screening, and transportation. During the grant cycle, homeless women and their children will develop skills that allow them to reach self-sufficiency and obtain permanent housing.

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## **Housing Help of Lenawee, Homeless Prevention**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Angela Susalla, OP, Board Member*

Homeless Prevention in Lenawee County provides support to families and individuals in housing crisis who need assistance to overcome barriers to housing and self-sufficiency. Through the Housing First and Transitional Housing Projects, Ministry Trust funds will provide housing counseling, referrals, and financial assistance to help families maintain their housing or to provide families with minor children with safe, secure, and clean transitional housing units in Adrian, Michigan. During this grant cycle, Housing Help of Lenawee will provide shelter for at least four families with minor children. This includes safe, quality housing and continuous work with a case manager to ensure adults achieve benchmarks in their personal goals.

## **Lenawee County Community Action Agency**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Joella Miller, OP, Board Member*

Lenawee County Community Action Agency (LCCAA) offers Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World, a program to help individuals in poverty to build their resources in a productive manner. With Ministry Trust funding, the workshop will assist individuals to deepen their understanding of the causes of poverty and its impact on individuals and communities. By investigating their own experiences, individuals will have the opportunity to design plans for their own economic improvement. LCCAA has added a new component to its Ministry Trust grant for this grant cycle. For the first time, the Ministry Trust, in collaboration with University of Michigan medical schools, will provide funds to assist in the provision of medical, dental and vision services, and prescriptions to seasonal workers in Lenawee County migrant camps.

## **Maketai, Inc.**

*Tucson, Arizona/Amazon Rainforest*

*Judith Bisignano, OP, Founder, Board Member*

The Achuar Ecotourism Project is intended

to directly reduce human impact on climate change and ecological degradation by supporting ecotourism as an educational tool for conservation and sustainable development for the Achuar people in Ecuador's Amazon Rainforest. Maketai will conduct four ecotourism workshops led by the indigenous people of the region to promote engagement in environmental projects. Maketai will also develop and implement a curriculum that will allow 25 young Achuar men and women to learn ecotourism practices, including hospitality, tour guide strategies, rainforest ecology, topography, and use of natural resources.

## **Mercy Housing Northwest**

*Seattle, Washington*

*Judy Byron, OP, Board Member*

Mercy Housing Northwest (MHN) enables low-income immigrant and refugee families to gain stable housing, to find employment, and to remain healthy. The Ministry Trust grant will support educational programs and workshops, as well as a wide variety of job readiness and workforce development programs in locations accessible to three affordable housing properties in South King County, Washington. The Ministry Trust funds will also support MHN in racial equity work at statewide properties. MHN will engage in 560 hours of Language Liaison work and translation services at property events to build an inclusive community for immigrants and refugees, with the goal of promoting resident engagement. Staff will provide one-on-one housing stability outreach to all residents and provide eviction prevention coaching in language-appropriate service provision as identified and requested by residents.

## **Meta Peace Team**

*Lansing, Michigan*

*Ellen Burkhardt, OP, Board Member*

Meta Peace Team is a resurgence of the Michigan Peace Team, one of the first recipients of Ministry Trust funds, which aims to train and place peace teams throughout Michigan. The present project is wider in scope, planning to fortify Meta Peace Team hubs with additional training and team deployment education and equipment. It will also implement coordinated communication and feedback networks to develop

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a strong connection between Meta Peace and the local peace sites as the program grows.

### **Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Ellen Schmitz, OP, Board Member*

The Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition sponsors two month-long summer camps for youth ages 5 to 16. The Ministry Trust grant provides funds for a part-time staff person to coordinate and manage the summer camp programs for children living in Detroit neighborhoods that suffer from blight, drugs, and violence. Camp experiences offer participants the opportunity to learn skills and experience the value of reverencing life and respecting one another. During this grant cycle, urban children will have the opportunity for supervised outdoor physical activity and for learning anti-bullying coping skills.

### **Peace Education Foundation**

*Miami Shores, Florida*

*Anne Liam Lees, OP, Board Member*

The Foundation's Peace Education Initiative with Dominican Family in Latin America works in collaboration with the Confederation of Dominican Sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to teach conflict resolution techniques and violence prevention strategies to Dominican teachers and pastoral leaders in Argentina and the Dominican Republic. The skills include community-building, anger management, communication, and peer mediation. During this grant cycle the Peace Education Foundation will train 200 teachers in conflict resolution/mediation and provide a "Peace Works" curriculum for implementation of the program.

### **Plaza Comunitaria Adult Education Center**

*Mount Vernon, Washington*

*Judy Byron, OP, Volunteer Liaison with Northwest Collaboration of Religious Communities*

The Plaza Comunitaria Adult Education Center is a program of the Catholic Community Services Farmworker Center that provides basic adult education opportunities for Indigenous and Latinx immigrant community members.

During the grant cycle, resources will be used to help participants to strengthen their Spanish literacy skills. Many participants will have completed the initial level exams and started the intermediate level course work. Other courses include sewing and basic computer skills.

### **PREPARES**

*Yakima, Washington*

*Sharon Park, OP, PREPARES Liaison for Diocese*

PREPARES, the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Initiative, enables parishes in Washington State to enter into relationships with women and their families struggling to meet their children's needs. PREPARES helps marginalized households become more resilient through direct service, vital support, and the opportunity for parents to strengthen their skills. The Ministry Trust grant funds PREPARES en Español in the Yakima Diocese, which has a very large Hispanic community, disadvantaged by lack of education, unemployment, and migrancy.

### **Resurrection Home, Inc.**

*Beattyville, Kentucky*

*Mary Katherine Drouin, OP, Board Member*

Through the Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers program offered by Resurrection Home, Inc., grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren receive support and encouragement from one another. The grant funds a monthly support group for the grandmothers that nurtures, assists, and enriches their lives and the lives of those in their charge. Group activities for the children normalize their lives and provide respite for their grandmothers. These activities include field trips for the grandchildren and opportunities for bonding among the grandparent caregivers and their young charges.

### **River Raisin Institute**

*Monroe, Michigan*

*Patricia Benson, OP, Board Member*

A goal of the River Raisin Institute's Climate Literacy Program is to educate young people regarding care of Earth. Support from the Ministry Trust grant ensures that youth living in the Great Lakes region will have educational resources to teach them to protect bird habitats,

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remove invasive species, preserve wildflowers and prairie grasses, and maintain a healthy watershed region. Youth in southern Michigan counties will learn positive responses to the challenges and needs of creation in crisis. The funding for this grant cycle will ensure the employment of a sufficient staff to continue teaching about sustainable living and climate change in Monroe and Lenawee County schools.

### **St. Ann Place**

*West Palm Beach, Florida*

*Patricia Leonard, OP, Associate Director*

Staff members at St. Ann Place provide access to safe and secure temporary housing for men and women who are homeless and preparing for or recovering from surgical procedures, or for those requiring emergency placement due to injury. The Ministry Trust grant helps provide the accommodations and prescription medications for those who are ill, as well as the assistance of a health advocate for uninsured clients with prescriptions not covered by District Cares.

### **St. Kateri Center of Chicago**

*Chicago, Illinois*

*JoAnn Fleischaker, OP, Leadership Circle Member*

St. Kateri Center serves as a meeting place for a Native American youth leadership group that comes together with a good mind, *kahiwiyoo*, to make a positive contribution to the urban Native American community and to work for the betterment of all urban Native Americans. Community members with expertise in beadwork and traditional dance assist the youth in preparing for powwows and other cultural presentations. Youth are also trained to educate non-Native students and teachers about current Native topics. The Ministry Trust grant will allow St. Kateri Center to maintain the part-time Native American Youth Mentor position, and contribute to funding for the 2020 Urban Native Education Conference.

### **St. Margaret Mary Parish**

*Winter Park, Florida*

*Rosemary Finnegan, OP, Staff Member*

Sustainable Initiatives for Haiti is a project of St. Margaret Mary Parish. With the Ministry Trust

grant, the parish supports two initiatives. One project will establish two additional women's banks. The other will strengthen the Seniors Food Program by purchasing, storing, and delivering nutritional food to remote locations where people live without refrigeration and provide storage sites for bulk foods. During this grant cycle, the Haiti Project will establish a new women's bank consisting of 20-25 members.

### **Southwest Chicago Homeless Services**

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Norine Burns, OP, Volunteer*

Southwest Chicago Homeless Service is committed to helping people who are homeless or housing-insecure and advocating on behalf of those who are homeless. A generous portion of the grant is allocated to female-headed households. During the grant cycle, Southwest Chicago Homeless Services will provide financial assistance to 20 individuals seeking rental assistance or housing application fees for permanent housing.

### **Voices for Earth Justice**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Janet Stankowski, OP, Board Member*

Every year, humanity puts 1.3 billion tons of food in landfills. The Voices for Earth Justice (VEJ) project seeks to make people of faith aware of the issue and show them how to eat for the good of people and planet. Since sharing a meal is one of the traditions all people of faith seem to hold in common, VEJ believes food also has the power to build good will among people of various faith traditions. During the grant cycle, VEJ plans to "reach and teach" 350 people who are residents of VEJ's Hope House and Gardens, and 350 from surrounding houses of worship, religious organizations, and schools in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

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## FY 2020 MINISTRY TRUST GRANT CHAPTER INITIATIVE

*A grant of \$15,600 was approved for the following Chapter Initiative for the fiscal year 2020.*

Dominican Midwest Mission Chapter Chicagoland is home to more than 511,000 undocumented immigrants. Members of the Dominican Midwest Mission Chapter retain their commitment to walk with immigrants through

court watching and peaceful prayer outside Broadview Detention Center. The Ministry Trust grant makes one month's rent available to houses of hospitality where immigrant people are welcomed and where Chapter members often volunteer. The ministry has expanded to include a new migrant ministry at St. Joseph Church in Adrian, Michigan.