

## Lending a Helping Hand

Each year, the Congregation of St. Joseph partners with and supports ministries and non-profit organizations that make a real difference to so many people in our community. This past year, the needs were even greater due to pandemic-related issues such as job loss, health crises, income and food insecurity, mental health issues, and others. Here are just a few of the organizations we supported this past year that provide critical services in the Tipton/Kokomo areas:

### Kokomo Rescue Mission

The Kokomo Rescue Mission has served under-resourced and homeless in our community for over 60 years. The Mission has adapted to meet the changing needs among the poor to provide, food, clothing and resources to help prevent homelessness. In 2020, the Mission provided over 97,000 meals to the public and distributed over 2,600 bags of groceries containing approximately 50,000 lbs.. of food. Below, Van Taylor, Director of the Kokomo Rescue Mission, receives the Congregation's donation from Associates Carolyn Perry, Sara Bliss, Germaine Tackett, Marsha Dunkin and Rosemary Haynes.

To learn more, visit [KokomoRescueMission.org](http://KokomoRescueMission.org)



### St. Vincent de Paul Society

This ministry provides food and clothing and helps with rent and utilities, and prescriptions and doctor bills for the under-resourced in Kokomo and Howard County. Monetary donations are used to purchase milk, bread, meat, butter and other perishable items. Three of our Associates from the area are regular volunteers of this ministry - Germaine Tackett, who is also President of the Board, Sara Bliss and Barbara Taylor.

Above, they gathered with St. Vincent de Paul Society Director Marcia Eckstein to present the congregation's donation. From left to right are Associate Carolyn Perry, Marsha Eckstein, and Associates Marsha Dunkin, Rosemary Haynes, Germaine Tackett and Sara Bliss.

To learn more, visit [StPatrick-Kokomo.org](http://StPatrick-Kokomo.org)/  
[St-Vincent-de-Paul-Society](http://St-Vincent-de-Paul-Society)

## Welcoming the Stranger Sisters volunteer at the border

This spring, a group of our sisters headed south to serve our dear neighbors at an intake facility at the U.S./Mexico border. For two weeks, Sisters Rita Ann Teichman, Mary Pung, Marianne Race, Jackie Schmitz and Mary Jo Curtsinger volunteered at Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, where thousands of refugees pass through each year.

While there, our sisters duties included organizing and finding clothing for incoming families in the Ropa (clothing) Room, distributing toiletries, baby formula and medicines at the "Hygiene Bar/Pharmacy," and other work that addressed the essential needs of arriving refugees.

"We saw families with many beautiful children and an amazing number of pregnant women," said Sister Rita Ann. "Imagine walking the distances they did while pregnant! Sometimes we helped simply by holding babies or occupying toddlers for their mothers while they took showers, visited the Ropa room, or just to give them a break."

The refugees stay at the center approximately 2-3 days while waiting for their sponsors to be contacted. Once they are and a bus or plane ticket has been purchased, they are on their way to the next leg of their journey.

"This ministry was both heart-breaking and heart-warming," said Sister Marianne. "We were honored to be able to offer care, respite and simple comforts to these incredible, brave people."

**To learn more, visit [CatholicCharitiesrgv.org/RespiteCenter](https://CatholicCharitiesrgv.org/RespiteCenter)**



*From left, Sisters Rita Ann Teichman, Mary Pung, Marianne Race, Jackie Schmitz and Mary Jo Curtsinger.*



*Sisters Mary Pung and Rita Ann Teichman sort clothing in the Ropa (clothing) Room.*

## Jubilee 2021

The following sisters from the founding community of Tipton are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sisters' entrance into religious life. Congratulations to all our sisters who are celebrating their Jubilee this year!



**Sister Karen Van De Walle, CSJ**  
*(formerly Sister Miriam)*

**60 Years**



**Sister Wanda Wetli, CSJ**  
*(formerly Sister Frances)*

**60 Years**



# Legacy of Caring

Dear Friends,

As part of our Congregation of St. Joseph family you are an integral part of our efforts to bring the message of God's love to the world in ways that inspire action on behalf of others.

In a year unlike any other in recent times, your support has enabled us to take risks to broaden our lives, expand our ministries and partnerships, and live out our promises in an active and inclusive way. This includes our commitment to care for our sisters and at the same time, more fully respond to the emerging needs of our neighbors and our world. New initiatives, ministries, and partnerships, new uses for some of our buildings and land, along with new ways and places for our sisters to live in community are all a part of our efforts today. They reflect our vibrancy, compassion and commitment to staying attentive to the needs of a world in desperate need of our care.

We celebrate the generosity by which you and others in our communities across the country have embraced us and have continued to support our mission, ministries, lives and needs. Thank you for helping bring God's message of unifying love to our communities. We pray for you in gratitude.

## Ways You Can Help

- > Use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at **CSJoseph.org**
- > Make monthly gifts and become a member of our **Circle of Friends**
- > Make a legacy gift through your will or estate and join our **Heritage Society**

For more information, contact, Pat Milenius, Director of Advancement [pmilenius@csjoseph.org](mailto:pmilenius@csjoseph.org) or 216.252.0440



## St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Reunion Update

While we will not be able to gather to celebrate this year due to continuing COVID-related restrictions, we would like to remember and honor the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1971, and all those having special anniversaries during this time! We hope you will sing (or hum) the school song... and feel the strength and love of all your SJA classmates!

Next year, we will gather for a culminating celebration of the life and legacy of St. Joseph Academy! Since 1972 was the last graduating class, we find it an appropriate time to conclude the annual gatherings. Because 2022 will be the last year to gather and celebrate in a formal way, we hope to make it extra special. We encourage you to make plans to be with us for our closing St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Gathering. We will announce the date as soon as we can reserve St. Joseph Center in Tipton, so stay tuned for details!




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Cleveland, Ohio 44111

## Spotlight Photo



*To remember, celebrate and thank our sisters from the founding community of Tipton during Catholic Sisters Week this past March, Tipton Associates delivered floral bud vases to them. Above are sisters from Tipton who currently reside at our Nazareth center in Kalamazoo.*

 This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

What will you do  
with your one *wild* &  
*precious* life?  
- Mary Oliver



Sisters of St. Joseph live their lives in service to God and others. If you have a heart for God, ministry, justice and Church, and want to make a real difference in our world, we invite you to learn more about us. We would love to talk to you!

Visit us at [CSJoseph.org](http://CSJoseph.org)