



# HUMAN. KIND.

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2005

## A LOOK INSIDE



Volunteers Susan Plissex, Deb Miller and Tim Laux at the Nativity School of Harrisburg.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE.....2

DONOR  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS..2

JANUS.....3

ALUMNI UPDATES.....4

WHERE IN THE WORLD  
IS SR. KATHERINE  
CORR? .....5

403 MARKLAND AVE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21212

410-532-6864  
FAX: 410-532-2418

WWW.NDMVA.ORG

NATIONALOFFICE @ NDMVA.  
ORG

EDITOR: KATIE BRENNAN

*Your World, Your chance to  
make it better.*

## EDUCATION AWARD ONLY VOLUNTEERS WORK HARD IN HARRISBURG

The Education Award Only program is the unsung hero of Notre Dame Mission Volunteers- AmeriCorps. This program currently provides education awards to 86 volunteers working in schools across the country. These volunteers are recruited and supported by the schools for which they work; NDA's role is to make it possible for the volunteers to receive Education Awards for their service.

The Nativity School of Harrisburg is one of 19 schools participating in the Education Award Only Program through Notre Dame- AmeriCorps. Three volunteers, Tim Laux, Deb Miller and Susan Plissex, work at this independent middle school for boys of low-income families from the city of Harrisburg. The school welcomed its first class of students on September 4, 2001. Since then, the school has been busy working to accomplish its mission of providing comprehensive holistic education to disadvantaged students.

Tim, Deb and Susan work with students like Matthew. Matthew lives with his extended family in a small, crowded and cold row home in the uptown part of Harrisburg, PA. Every day, he wakes himself up extra early, being careful not to wake any of his family members, who are still fast asleep. He walks by himself to the bus stop, to catch a ride across town to the Nativity School of Harrisburg.

Matt's day at school does not begin with classes or morning exercises, but rather a morning breakfast during which he catches up with his classmates, including his 8th grade brother who lives across town. After breakfast, Matt walks upstairs from a soup kitchen cafeteria to a long, strenuous day of 7th grade classes, chores, meals, and athletics.

During his day, Matt studies Reading, English, Near Eastern Literature, Technology, Spanish, and Physical Education with three highly dedicated Americorp Interns. Matt has read over fifteen books this year, improved his skills with Microsoft Word and Excel, written numerous narratives about his life and experiences, and conjugated Spanish verbs. He started as center midfielder on the soccer team, played numerous minutes for the J.V. and Varsity basketball team, and runs several events



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Bradley  
 Mary F. Campion  
 Seton Cunneen, SND  
 Astrid Garcia  
 Donald Gillespie  
 Joseph Molyneux  
 Virginia Mulhern, SND  
 Michael Naccarato  
 Patricia O'Malley, SND  
 Barbara Veale Smith  
 Joan Cloherty Sullivan

## CORPORATION

Elizabeth Bowyer, SND  
 Eileen Burns, SND  
 Edith Ann Kane, SND  
 Sr. Kathryn Keenan, SND  
 Anne-Louise Nadeau, SND  
 Patricia O'Malley, SND  
 Marian Schaechtel, SND  
 Mary Suplee, SND

## NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Katherine "Sissy" Corr, SND  
 Executive Director

Terri Cattaneo  
 Finance Director

Kathleen O'Brien, SND  
 Education Award Only

Kimberlee Derhammer  
 Recruitment Coordinator

Shannon Fritz  
 Administrative Assistant

Mary Jean Kirk  
 Administrative Assistant

Katie Brennan  
 Communication and  
 Development \*VISTA

Carrie Kotecki  
 Adult Education Coordinator and  
 Mentor

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Greetings NDA Members, Alumni, Donors and Friends,*

*Around the convent here in Baltimore, Maryland, the flowers have begun to bloom and the trees are sprouting new leaves. The change in temperature can mean only one thing: Recruitment season has begun! I would like to ask for your help. To the Sisters of Notre Dame, our amazing alumni and all our donors and friends, is there anyone in your network who you could see answering to the call of service? Please suggest to them Notre Dame AmeriCorps. To our dedicated members, consider the possibility of doing a second year and/or finding your replacement. Word of mouth is our most powerful tool for recruitment. Thank you for all of your help in finding wonderful new volunteers for next year.*

*Our recent February Midyear meeting was a success! All of NDA's 14 sites gathered together at Trinity College in Washington D.C. for a wonderful long weekend of speakers, trainings and story telling. It was awesome to see the force of NDA together in one place. Our Keynote Speaker Susan Olson, SND did a wonderful job starting off the event with an inspiring speech. I want to thank all of the national office staff and site directors who contributed to making this event run so smoothly and successfully. I would also like to give a special thanks to Michelle Dubose, the Event Coordinator at Trinity College, who did a superb job of facilitating our stay at Trinity College and Pat McGuire, Trinity's President, for the generous in-kind contribution of reduced rates for the use of facilities. It is my hope that all of our members had a rejuvenating experience that has helped them return to their service sites with renewed inspiration for the work that they do.*

*Once again, I would like to thank all of our members, alumni, donors and friends. Your support has enabled us to continue fulfilling our mission of helping others help themselves.*

*Peace,*

*Sissy*

## MERCI-ASANTE SANA - MOLTE GRAZIE - MUITO OBRIGADO

*Notre Dame AmeriCorps graciously thanks those who contributed from November 1, 2004 to March 31 2005.*



*The following Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur participated in the Dollar-a-Month Club. We offer our extreme gratitude to these sisters who contributed \$1 a month or more*

Christine E Allen	Eileen Finnigan
Mary B. Barrett	Mary Margaret Flynn
Catherine Byrne	Marjorie Gallagher
Mary Patricia Cassidy	Elaine Gentile
Ann Marie Connolly	Ellen Glavin
Bernice Coyle	Ellen Hathaway
Adrienne Curran	Jean M Keesey
Mary Teresa Day	Joan Kelly
Liane Delsuc	Marie Kraus
Mary DiCroce	Cynthia Lowell
Mary Emmanuel Donnelly	Marie Veronica Maguire
Julie Donovan	Mary McFadden
Mary Ann Doolin	Marie Paula McNiff

# JANUS

BY NDA LOS ANGELES MEMBER,  
JAMES HARGRAVE

One Sunday, during my first month as a volunteer in Los Angeles, I was sitting at a bus stop in Torrance, trying to decipher the schedules and find my way home.

“Where you headed?” asked the homeless man who was seated beside me; I couldn’t help but notice that he was missing a leg.

“Umm, Inglewood. Century and Crenshaw.” I was embarrassed. I’d been working at St. Margaret’s Center for just a few days, and still felt awkward and ill at ease around homeless folks. Ashamed by my relative wealth and fortune.

“Oh, that’s easy. Take the Torrance 1 over to Del Amo mall, then the Torrance 8 north to the Galleria mall, then the 210 should get you there. Takes about an hour and a half.”

“Ah. Thanks.” My cell phone rang, and the rest of my journey was spent hearing about the hurricanes back home in Florida. I forgot all about the man with the metal leg. But his directions were good-- they got me back to my apartment.

The next day, the man who gave me directions walked into my workplace, St. Margaret’s, to check his mail and get a sack lunch. I was surprised-- that Torrance bus stop is about ten miles away-- and excited. “Remember me? We waited for the bus together.”

“Oh, yeah,” he smiled through his beard. “So you’re the new volunteer? It’s good work that you’re doing here.”

After asking one of my co-workers, I discovered that no one knows the man’s real name-- all his mail arrives under the moniker “Janus.” He’s a regular but does not come in daily, showing up only two or three times a month. He gets his lunch and his mail, never asks for anything extra, never stays long. But he always makes sure to take me or one of my co-workers aside, and tell us, “Thanks for being here. I really appreciate what you do.”

And then he’s gone-- striding rapidly away on one leg and a prosthesis.

We do a lot at St. Margaret’s. Groceries, English classes, rental assistance-- you name it, we have a program or a referral. But we’ll never be able to do much for Janus. He tells me that he sleeps under bridges or, during the rainy season, sneaks into abandoned buildings. He never asks for anything more than a lunch and his letters.

Some clients demand the world of us. Others ask for a little, do their part earnestly, and with our assistance are able to get their lives back in shape. We don’t expect to be thanked, and we do our best to work equally hard for the folks who never show appreciation. Sometimes a bag of groceries will keep a family together; sometimes a month’s worth of hotel vouchers can’t keep someone off the street. We never know which of our actions are valuable and which trivial, which praiseworthy and which useless.

For what it’s worth, though, there’s a homeless man, on a bus somewhere in Los Angeles, eating a sandwich that we gave to him.



*NDA member James Hargrave with Alfred, a St Margaret’s Center Client*

Helen Cecilia Miller  
Lillian Morris  
Mary Bridget Murphy  
Alice Julie Myrick  
Mary O’Connell  
Ellen O’Connor  
James Marie O’Donnell  
Mary Florence O’Rourke  
Ruth Quigley  
Jo Ann Recker  
Angelene Marie Rocha  
Helen Ryan  
Anne St. George Satchell  
Marie W Scattergood  
Joan Shea  
Helen Singleton  
Sisters of Notre Dame de  
Namur, Lowell, MA  
Sisters of Notre Dame de  
Namur, Peabody, MA  
Sisters of Notre Dame de  
Namur, Somerville, MA  
Susan Thornell  
Julie Tucker  
Ann Theresa Walsh

*We extend our extreme appreciation to donors who gave the following amounts:*

**Over \$10,000**

SND U.S. Leadership  
Trinity University

**\$1000- \$5000**

Cavanaugh Financial Group  
Christine and John McLaughlin  
Lawrence and Isabel Smith  
Eleanora and Michael Yaggy

**\$500- \$999**

Anne and Thomas Brophy  
MaryCampion  
Christopher and Shannon Fritz  
Regina Kuhn  
- In memory of Sr. Freddy

Michelle and Terence Milholland  
- In Yolande C Gregory’s  
memory  
Albert and Joan Vitalo

**\$200-\$499**

Rita and James Davis  
Roy & Patricia Hiller  
Microsoft Giving Campaign  
Lara & Robert Oerter

**\$100- \$199**

Mary Hartigan  
Julie Knauer  
Pat Parnoff  
Michael R Naccarato  
Ruth Quigley, SND  
Abigail Schumwinger

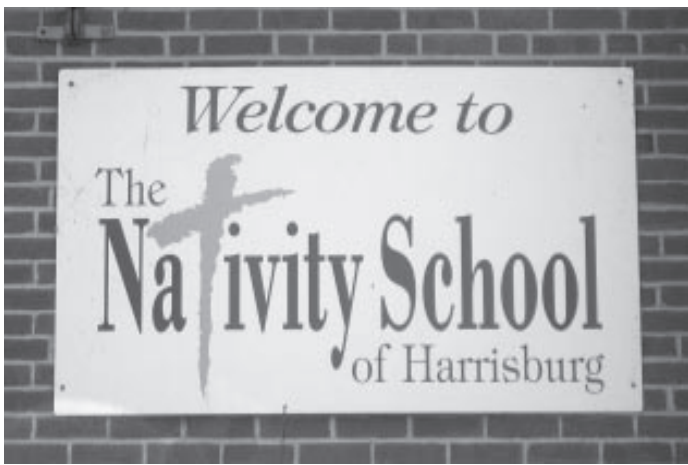
**\$50- \$100**

Tom and Anne Brophy  
Robin Chandlee

Sarah Coffey  
Robert and Joan Gress  
Helen Cecilia Miller, SND  
Christopher J. McCormick  
Safeway.- gift card  
Jan Michael Sacharko  
Barry and Patsy Vogelbacher  
Claire and Francis McCall

**Under \$50**

Joanna Bengel  
Loren Brody  
Marcia Corr  
Michael and Alice Corr  
Richard and Elizabeth Corr  
Angelene DiSanto  
Mary Susan Fortunato  
Barbara-Jean Kubik, SND  
- in memory of Emilia Kubik  
Katherine Nicolosi  
Joseph O’Donnell  
Eugene and Jeanne Paul  
Patricia and James Scanlan  
Gregory W Zilli



CONTINUED FROM COVER

for the track and field squad. Matt even co-owns the current track record with three teammates in the 4 X 100 and 4 X 200 meter relays.

Matt faces many adult challenges for a 14 year old boy. Despite all of his challenges, Matt has not lost his ability to smile, to laugh, and to dream. He seems to almost intuitively know just how different his future life could be from his present world, and he is uncompromising in seeking it out.

Timothy, Deb and Susan all believe that young men like Matthew make being an AmeriCorps Intern incredibly rewarding. When asked about their experiences as volunteers, they commented: "It would not be an understatement to say that we have reaped at least as much as we have sowed in working with our students. This is not to deny that this is

hard, trying work, but this is only to affirm just how convinced we are where God has called us, and that His/Her Will is being done in the lives of boys like Matt and his classmates."

For more information on NDMVA's Education Award Only Program please contact Kathleen O'Brien, SND at 410-532-6864 ext. 16 or at sndkate@aol.com.



## ALUMNI UPDATES!!

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING AFTER NDA BY VISITING OUR ALUMNI WEB FORUM AT [WWW.NDMVA.ORG/ALUMNI](http://WWW.NDMVA.ORG/ALUMNI)

**Ethan Stanton (2002-03, Boulder, CO)** is currently living in Querétaro, Mexico, two hours from Mexico City, where he is teaching English with the Shamrock English School. His students work in companies around Querétaro. He has just finished a semester teaching English to college students at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, also in Querétaro.

**Janice Goode** served at Saint Francis School in Lumberton New Mexico from 2002-2003. Currently she is in Boston finishing up her second year of service through the Urban Catholic Teacher Corps. She is busy working towards her Master's degree while volunteering as a third grade teacher at Saint Mary's School. She comments that her teaching experience with NDMVA in New Mexico "made me realize that I wanted to be a teacher."

After two years of service, **Scott Stuart (1999-00, Cincinnati, OH)** used his Education Award to fund a Masters degree in Music Therapy at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. He completed his clinical internship at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL. He is now working as a full-time music therapist for a hospice program in the south suburbs of Chicago, providing music therapy to people with terminal illnesses as a complement to the physical, psychosocial and spiritual care offered by the hospice team. He feels that his two years as a member of Notre Dame-AmeriCorps were truly instrumental in his personal and professional development.

After serving 2 years at the John Gill School in **San Francisco, CA** from 2002-03 and at St. Michael's Elementary School in Los Angeles, CA from 2003-04, **Kristin Grothe** moved from LA back up to Northern California to live in Redwood City again. She is currently working at Beechwood School in Menlo Park as their Intern Teacher. She teaches Science & Reading to 1st grade and Social Studies & Reading to 2nd grade. She is also working part time for her first AmeriCorps Site Supervisor as an assistant. She volunteers in the Middle School Youth Group and the College Group at her church in Redwood City.

**Genevieve Oei** worked at the Trust House in **Hartford, Ct** from 2002-2003. She is currently attending Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA and is working on a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting.

**Patrick Jones (2002-03, Baltimore, MD, 2003-2004 San Francisco, CA)** currently lives in San Francisco. He is enrolled at San Jose State University in pursuit of a Master's degree in Library and Information science. He plans to be "an activist revolutionary librarian." He writes: "I really enjoyed my last two years with AmeriCorps. I hope all of my fellow members are doing well."



**Jaclyn Donahue (2003-04, St. Jerome's Head Start Service, Baltimore, MD)** sent us this picture of herself and fellow Baltimore "conventeer" Mary Sikora (formerly Liptak). Mary was wed in her and Justin's (her husband's) hometown of Cleveland. They got engaged the summer

during their year of service. Jaclyn's own wedding is planned for November.

She reflects on her year of service commenting: "My year at St. Jerome's was one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life to date. I worked with amazing people, both at my site and through NDMV and I simply fell in love with the kids, who I miss dearly. My greatest area of growth was most definitely my political awareness. My passion of advocating for children and those living in poverty greatly increased, particularly in the Head Start community. That is why upon completing my year with NDMV and moving to St. Louis to be with my fiancé, I took a job with Head Start! I'm doing primarily the same work, except with just one title and a real pay check :) I plan to start grad classes again in the spring; potentially getting a Master's in Public Policy Administration. It's a stretch from my counseling background so we'll see how it goes. I hope my all of my fellow convent roomies and other co-volunteers are doing well!"

# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SR. KATHERINE CORR?

NDA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHARES HER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Over the past ten years Notre Dame Mission Volunteers has grown from a local organization with only six volunteers to a program with nearly 300 volunteers in 15 states nationwide. Now, after spending over ten years striving to help people help themselves in the United States, NDMV has set its sights on reaching its helping hands across the oceans to Africa.

For a long time, the leadership of NDMVA, the late Sr. Fredericka Jacobs and Sr. Katherine Corr, have dreamt of sending volunteers to work alongside the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur stationed in Africa. Until recently this idea was nothing more than a dream. However, this dream has started to materialize. This past summer, Executive Director, Sr. Katherine received a letter from the SND leadership, Sr. Masheti Wangoi, in Kenya asking her to visit Kenya and speak to the assembly about the possibility of bringing volunteers overseas.

Sr. Katherine visited Africa for a few weeks in October. During her trip, she visited many of the service sites that the SND's in Africa feel would most benefit from volunteers. Most importantly, Sr. Katherine attended the Kenya SND assembly, to discuss the opportunities available in Kenya for Notre Dame Mission Volunteers to serve. When Sissy asked the sisters in Kenya: "Do you want to bring volunteers to Kenya?" the answer was unanimous. "Yes we want volunteers!" This was a great moment for Sr. Katherine, who felt that she had finally taken the first step towards realizing the dream of NDMV and of Sr. Freddy to bring volunteers to Africa.



*St. Julie Center, Malava Kenya - The waiting room.*



*Songa (center), his sister, neighbors and Sisters of Notre Name.*

## *Excerpts from Sr. Katherine's Travel Diary...*

*On Monday, Oct 25, we went with the health team from the St. Julie Center to visit Songa, a multi-handicapped teenager. Songa can't walk; he slides around on a little piece of board. Somehow he goes on the board to do his gardening and grow some food for himself and his sister. So how do you help? Sr. Judy teaches Benedict how to apply for funding for this child to have an operation. We leave Songa with a promise that we will be back with some help.*

*On Tuesday, Oct 26, I go to the Julie center. I watched handicapped children and their relatives pour into the center. In the course of the day there were about 21 children with special needs. There were children who couldn't walk, a number of children had club feet, some had speech problems, etc. It was overwhelming to me, yet it was consoling to see the good work that was being done. I stayed most of the day and was able to see clearly how helpful VOLUNTEERS could be at the Julie center.*

*On Wednesday October 27, I go the rounds with Judy from the St. Julie center. The plan is to pick up the children and their parents to go to the hospital in Kakamega. They need to be seen by the doctor and get their next round of medicine for their epilepsy. The conditions of the children arise in some cases from malaria or malnutrition. It is unbelievable to see these children's suffering. They look about 5 years younger than they are and then their parents often need to carry them because they can't walk. I see parents carrying 12 year old children like "they are babes" in their arms.*

*On Friday October 29, I had the opportunity to visit the Starehe Boys Center and School. I got a great tour of this wonderful school that began in 1959 for homeless boys. About a thousand students attend Starehe. Eighty percent of those students are low income who have demonstrated academic potential. The students who attend there attain the highest grades in the country. It was very special to meet the founder, Jeffrey Griffin ... a man with a dream and the courage to implement it. Jeffrey Griffin gave me a book which tells the history and development of Starehe. I will quote one story from one student which captures the essence of what Mr. Griffin provides thru Starehe:*

*"When I came to Starehe, I couldn't read or write, I had no food, no clothes, nor anywhere to rest. People beat me and spat on me--I wept, but all was in vain. One man, a stranger, shouted to them: 'Leave the boy, he is innocent.' Mr. Griffin, interested in my life, helping boys who suffer, taking unfortunates, creating a family, giving food, education and all that we need -- we who had nothing are safe in his hands, he has brought us a future."*

*So I am informed beyond my capacity to absorb about the great needs in Kenya. I am also deeply inspired by the efforts of a relatively small Unit. No matter how small, this group of twentysome sisters have courage and vision. They proceed step by step. I did have a chance to go see the new novitiate house that is being built. This of course, is very symbolic of the growth that is taking place and the audacity of young Kenyan women to believe and to follow God's call in the spirit of St. Julie. I am blessed to see this amazing grace.*

# NOTRE DAME MISSION VOLUNTEERS- AMERICORPS

403 MARKLAND AVE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Unless someone like you  
cares a whole, awful lot .  
Things aren't going to get  
better; they're NOT!  
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



## NDMVA COMES TOGETHER!

THE NOTRE DAME- AMERICORPS TEAM CAME FROM  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO CONVENE AT TRINITY  
COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON D.C. FOR THE ANNUAL  
FEBRUARY MID YEAR MEETING.

