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## VOLUNTEERS ENJOY THEIR FIRST MONTHS OF MINISTRY

*By Donielle Dodde, Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator, DVUSA*

The fall has arrived, and Dominican volunteers have settled into communities and ministries across the country. They are busy enjoying the struggles and joys that come with being a year-long volunteer, and have tales of glory and woe from gratifying days in the classroom to misery with poison ivy. In the following pages they have presented the ups and downs of their first months. From Krissie's stories of community life and napkin holders, to Garth's energetic recap of working with children, their stories will bring smiles, hope, and reflection. I invite you to enjoy the first newsletter of Dominican Volunteers USA and encourage you to continue to support our volunteers with your thoughts and prayers. Please...read on and discover the joys of our volunteers...



Pictured from left to right: Dominican Volunteers 2002-03 (site locations) Garth Rose (Chicago, IL), Nicole Brochmann (Atlanta, GA), Paula Sims (Chicago, IL), Kate Lapinski (San Carlos, CA), Pat Burke (Newark, NJ), LaVise McCray (Milwaukee, WI), Sybil Sullivan (Nyack, NY), Lynn Streefland (Milwaukee, WI), Maggie Meier (Chicago, IL), Marcello Lippiello (Chicago, IL), Krissie Koll (Spokane, WA)

**CALLING ALL DOMINICANS!** Do you want to meet the volunteers? We may be in your part of the country coming soon, and we would love to have you join us!

- Our mid-year retreat will be held January 16-19 at the Dominican Conference Center in New Orleans, LA. Join us for our social on Friday, January 17.
- Our end of the year retreat will be held at the Siena Spirituality Center in Watermill, NY from June 6-8. The closing liturgy and social for all Dominicans and friends will be held on Sunday, June 8.

**“If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire.”**

-St. Catherine of Siena

Adrian Dominicans

Akron Dominicans

Amityville Dominicans

Blauvelt Dominicans

Caldwell Dominicans

Columbus Dominicans

Dighton Dominicans

Dominican Sisters of Hope

Grand Rapids Dominicans

Great Bend Dominicans

Kenosha Dominicans

Province of St. Albert the Great

Racine Dominicans

St. Catharine Kentucky Dominicans

Sinsinawa Dominicans

Southern Dominican Communities

Sparkill Dominicans

Springfield Dominicans

## KRISSIE’S CANDIDS ON COMMUNITY LIFE

*By Krissie Koll, Transitional Living Center EduCare, Spokane, WA*

My first month and a half in Spokane, WA has been filled with many adventures. While in Priest Lake, ID over Labor Day weekend, I had the “opportunity” to row around a rather large island. Now, for a girl from the suburbs of Chicago, row boating is not a skill I had acquired before making my trip west. I was stubborn enough to insist rowing first and accomplished making the boat go in circles. I also almost beached us and acquired five blisters within the first ten minutes out. I have gotten lost multiple times in Spokane, along with being invited to visit a house that resembles “The Real World” on television.

My community and I spent hours picking out napkin rings suitable for our various tastes as well as a new garbage can that is more user-friendly for the kitchen. Now, these don’t seem like great accomplishments, but with five women trying to agree on napkin rings when we don’t really know each other yet is quite a task. Anything done here is not done small.

My ministry brings me joy every day. I have learned that at Transitional Living Center EduCare, the title “Lead

Teacher” in the infant/toddler room involves getting on the floor to play with the eight toddlers while feeding and comforting three infants who need attention. Quite a task at first glance, but it is so much fun. The children do new funny things every day and the more difficult jobs of stopping a

biting child and calming a screaming one become easier when you see one take her first steps and another one comfort a classmate that fell down.

I cannot imagine what I would be doing during the fall of 2002, except living in Siena Community with four sisters 2,000 miles away from my family and friends playing with kids all day. I love my volunteer experience so much and would not trade it for anything. The volunteers and I have chatted online many times and often I receive a letter in the mail or a quick note on e-mail asking how my day was or what new things are happening in this part of the country. The bonds we formed in August in Racine have lasted until now and have stretched to cover the entire U.S. We are getting things done and making a difference one person at a time.

**“I cannot imagine what I would be doing during the fall of 2002, except living in Siena Community with four sisters 2,000 miles away from my family and friends playing with kids all day.”**

Krissie Koll

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS AND FAX NUMBER**

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### SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY: House of Connections, Chicago, IL

Dominican Volunteers USA espouses an inter-generational community model for community life, bringing Dominican religious together with lay volunteers for a year. The House of Connections on Chicago’s west side has taken this idea of inter-generational community even broader this year and has welcomed a new generation into the mix. Former Apostolic Volunteers Hud and Julia Funk Hobday live in community with the Sinsinawa Dominican sisters at House of Connections and the current Dominican Volunteers: Marcello Lippiello, Maggie Meier, and Paula Sims. They recently welcomed a new addition to the community: Thomas was born in May, 2002 and brings them a unique flavor. Paula has said, “Tommy is doing well at 4 months and we have fun making him laugh. I think we all get a little jealous because whenever anyone calls or comes home the first thing they ask is ‘How’s the baby?’” Reg McKillip, OP (former Apostolic Volunteer) said of the community, “The experience of living with people who express their vocation in different ways brings my heart hope and energy. It is a wonderful community.”

## PICTURE OF THE QUARTER

*Submitted by Lynn Streefland, Dominican High School, Whitefish Bay, WI*



Lynn Streefland and LaVise McCray live in community together with two Sinsinawa Dominican sisters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lynn is on the Campus ministry team at Dominican High School and LaVise teaches adult education at the Adult Learning Center.

This picture was taken of them on a day trip to Racine, Wisconsin.

## LESSONS FROM LAVISE

*By LaVise McCray, Adult Learning Center, Milwaukee, WI*

My experience as a volunteer has been positive as well as uplifting and joyful. I have grown emotionally and spiritually. I grew up in the inner city around some of the conditions that I am being subjected to, but I am still in awe of the stories I hear. The students I work with have a great source of strength that has allowed them to continue their life positively despite the fact that they may be struggling. I admire them for their commitment to trying to better their education. I was featured in an article for being apart of Dominican Volunteers USA, but the people who deserve credit and praise are my students.

I am very lucky that God has given me an opportunity to help people who are less fortunate than I am. I am ecstatic that I can help them achieve what I already have. Education

is a gift that some of us take for granted. In some cases, education is a privilege or has to be sacrificed for life situations. Some people last two days, some two months, and some two years. Sometimes I get really sad especially for the young women in the program. Six of the eight of my students range from the ages of 19-32 and between them they have 10 children. I have realized how blessed I really am through my volunteer experience, and this is just the beginning. There is so much more to learn and experience. Everyday that I go to work is happy and sad. I am happy for the simple fact that my students learn something new, but I am sad to have to let them go home to live in their situation.

**“Education is a gift that some of us take for granted.”**

-LaVise McCray

## CALIFORNIA KATE

*By Donielle Dodde*

I recently had the opportunity to visit Kate Lapinski as she moved in and joined her community in San Carlos, California. What a beautiful place to live and work! I got to visit Kate one day at the St. Francis Center where she was already hard at work. She spends her time sorting clothes in the small clothing shop, organizing food in the food pantry, and teaching Spanish-speaking mothers to use computers and to learn English.

The center is home to a small school for immigrant children and their parents, as well as the food and clothing pantry. Not only does Kate get to live in community with two amazing Sinsinawa sisters, but she gets to work with them too! Christina Heltsley, OP is the Director of the Center, and Sue Ostrowski, OP teaches the children in the school. Don't worry about her working too hard, though, because on lazy days she gets to spend her time in San Francisco, taking trips to Tahoe, or just relaxing in the sun.

**GARTH IS GRATIFIED**

*By Garth Rose, St. Pius V Youth Center, Chicago, IL*

I am really connecting with some of the kids here, especially in tutoring! I've got a small cadre of kids (2nd to 11th grade) who will actively seek me out for help. (Gaaaaaaarf! I need HEEEEEEEEELP! :)

When you've got two little kids all but coming to blows over who gets your attention next, you can't help but be flattered. :)

One of them, a third-grader named Jorge who has severe problems with Math told me a couple days ago, "You help me think about the numbers," which was really gratifying. (I never give out answers; I make the kids think. Some like it, others don't.)

**"You're a really good friend."**

I'm also teaching a fourth-grader named Cristian to play chess, and he's getting really good! Came close to beating me the other day. And I play all sorts of games while here. (I still can't believe I get paid to do so!) He told me the other day, "You're a really good friend."

**PAT GETS POISON IVY**

*A humorous excerpt from an email by Pat Burke, Link Community School, Newark, NJ*

Everything at the Link Community School so far has been great. The faculty and staff are both tremendously talented and very helpful. Thus, my transition to education has been pretty painless. I do stress "pretty," however, because I've fallen victim to a few maladies since moving to New Jersey. Last Monday, the whole Link staff spent an overnight at the Princeton/Blairstown Retreat center in New Jersey. Well, it figures that I would go diving into a patch of poison ivy to retrieve a basketball that was going out of bounds. Really stupid, Pat. If you had told me that I would need to go to New Jersey in order to get poison ivy, I'd have called you crazy two weeks ago. But hey, it's the Garden State.



Paula Sims is working at Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly in Chicago, IL and recently had the opportunity to take a trip with some of her new friends.



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VOLUNTEERS  
USA**

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