



# DOMINICAN VOLUNTEERS USA

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December 1, 2011

Dear Friend of Dominican Volunteers USA,

As you prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the DVUSA Staff and Board of Trustees offer our sincere and warmest wishes that this Season of Advent has been one of reflection, growth, and recommitment to the relationships in your lives. As we do every December, I am writing today to thank you for your prayers and support of this important Dominican Volunteers USA program that brought us together, and ask again if you will prayerfully consider offering support this year.

Your support is needed more than ever. Not only do we have **four times more applicants** than ever before at this point in December (and sites to place them!), but the DVUSA organization will also now be the central payroll center for the volunteers' stipends, room/board payments, and health insurance. While ministry sites will still make a significant financial contribution to the program, this centralization of functions significantly decreases their administrative burden to host a DV. This means, though, that funds are now needed to cover the volunteer stipends of \$100/month and end-of-year award of \$500. Help us expand to 18 volunteers by this August!

Here's why it is important. The 14 current Dominican Volunteers are improving the academic performance of 150 disadvantaged youth, training 60 unemployed persons to find sustainable employment, and providing casework support to more than 100 low-income families on public assistance. Moreover, the vowed religious mentors like Sr. Marilyn Derr, OP (Sinsinawa) at the House of Connections or Sr. Mary Daniel, OP (Peace) in New Orleans with whom they live are teaching them the value of community, prayer, and study as the foundation by which the preaching through our lives can be sustained. As the volunteers complete their service, they realize that true Christian service is never complete.

If you feel called to give, please be as generous as possible. You can donate simply by clicking the donation link at [www.dvusa.org](http://www.dvusa.org) or by sending a check made out to "DVUSA" to the address above. No contribution is too small, no prayer is unheard, and no effort is unappreciated. Many blessings to you and yours this holiday season, and always remember, "*At the heart of ministry is relationship.*"

In St. Dominic and St. Catherine,

Sr. Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP (Sinsinawa)  
President, Board of Trustees

Adrian Dominicans  
Amityville Dominicans  
Blauvelt Dominicans  
Caldwell Dominicans  
Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Grand Rapids Dominicans  
Houston Dominicans  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Mission San Jose Dominicans  
Province of St. Albert the Great  
Province of the Holy Name of Jesus  
Province of St. Martin de Porres  
Racine Dominicans  
San Rafael Dominicans  
Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Sparkill Dominicans  
Springfield Dominicans  
Tacoma Dominicans