

# ANNUAL REPORT

July 2022 - June 2023

**MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS** 

### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Marian Uba Executive Director

Luke Watkins Communications Manager

Brian Reavey Advancement Director

Katie Brown '16 Administrative Coordinator

## **PROGRAM:**

Marie Schultz-Stebel '99 Program Director

Keri Gardner Community Coordinator, Application

Andrea Haller '16 Community Coordinator, Recruitment

Marissa Gonzales '16 Community Coordinator, Alumni

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Pete Castagna '03 Rita Cutarelli Mary Kay Dobrovolny, RSM Robert Fogel (*Vice Chair*) John Glenn John McLoughlin '90, '98, '99 (*Chair*) Miriam Morris Áine O'Connor, RSM (*ILT Liason*) Nancy Turnbull Jenny Wilson, RSM '00, '03, '04 Marian Uba (*Executive Director*) Victor Valenzuela Baltimore, New York City, and Philadelphia volunteers visiting the United Nations.

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Detroit volunteer feeding a llama.

Savannah volunteers going pumpkin picking.

Cincinnati volunteers enjoying their summer.

# WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS

### JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

As you'll see in the next several pages, we could not invite, place, and accompany Mercy Volunteers without you, our treasured partners in mission. The collective support from the Sisters of Mercy, alumni, donors, support teams, board members, staff, and other stakeholders is invaluable. You all help bring our mission of building community through service to life. Without you, we would not be able to carry forth Catherine McAuley's legacy of creating a more just and merciful world in the same unique way that we have for the past 46 years. Thank you all for your continued support, and as the 2022-23 Mercy Volunteer year theme proclaimed, we are grateful to be "In Partnership" with you now and into the future.

When you read the testimonial quotes from Mercy Volunteers and see our financial snapshot and donor names in the next few pages, please know of our immense gratitude for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with us. We also invite you to read about one of our MVC Alumni, Joe Falco '97, '98, who continues to partner with MVC as a monthly recurring donor with his wife, Lisa. Joe served in both Santa Fe, NM and New York, NY more than 25 years ago, and his MVC experiences and relationships continue to impact his life in profound ways today.

We sat down with Joe over coffee at our office last month, and we wanted to share more of his Mercy Volunteer experience with you, our fellow faithful donors.

feature continued on the next page...

# **ALUMNI FEATURE**

Joe's first service placement in Santa Fe was at St. Katharine Indian School. The school was started by Mother Catherine Drexel, and it predominantly served Native American and Hispanic students. There were a lot of different tribes, pueblos, and cultural differences among the students and families. Joe learned a lot about local history and the unique intersection of cultures and colonialism. The different perspectives opened his mind up a lot, and he credits MVC for allowing him and other Mercy Volunteers to experience life in new ways and



explore how other cultures, experiences, and perspectives are intertwined. Joe remembers fondly the different cultural celebrations where food, traditional Native American dance, and fellowship took place in small household gatherings and larger public festivities. He remembers how present the Blessed Sacrament Sisters were to the local community, and the memorable celebrations the Sisters would host. They would ensure that food from all cultures and traditions were represented, and any individualism turned communal for these celebrations would focus on unique commonalities and not differences.

In New York, Joe served at St. Francis Xavier Parish in lower Manhattan. Joe helped with many aspects of vibrant parish life, including the Welcome Table, a soup kitchen started in the West Village on Sundays. Many volunteers helped serve 1,200 – 1,500 meals for the economically poor and senior citizens every Sunday. The parish also provided an ESL program for folks in the city, and an Education Outreach Program that included local volunteer mentors to help students in the neighborhood. It was a very diverse parish with some Sisters of Mercy presence and connections. Joe learned to see God in people different from him by accompanying those from other cultures and backgrounds, as well as individuals experiencing substance abuse and mental health challenges. He also learned that the people they were "serving" were really serving the Mercy Volunteers. Joe recognized how MVC helps Mercy Volunteers move from self to others by providing reflection opportunities

focusing on what's really meaningful and valuable in life. For Joe, his MVC experience continues to serve him well into a lifetime of community, faith, family, and valuable relationships. Joe remembers his Mercy Volunteer experience as a transformative experience overall, and a lot of fun!

Joe has a special message for Mercy Volunteers and all Alumni: don't forget to talk about MVC. During our conversation with Joe, he mentioned multiple times how he wouldn't have been able to serve at two different sites in two different cities, states, and cultures, and live in community with fellow Mercy Volunteers, if it weren't for the staff and comprehensive framework the program provides. Joe feels that MVC as an organization matters, and without it, he would not have been able to build community through service, nor gain the important life lessons and strong relationships MVC fostered.

Finally, we asked Joe why he donates to MVC. He immediately said, "No money, no mission." He also shared that his contributions feel like prayer in action, and that Mercy Volunteers get more from his investment since it allows others to serve communities in need and helps others see beyond themselves. Joe feels his monthly donations are a worthwhile return on investment, and he sees the proof in MVC's hard work, support for Mercy Volunteers, and the positive organizational impact. We're so grateful for Joe's service as a volunteer, former board member, and monthly donor. We greatly appreciate the contributions of all Alumni and other donors, too!



# **ALUMNI DONATIONS**

\*Denotes Companion in Mercy or Mercy Associate

Jacqueline Abbey '07 Michael Allen '09 Sarah Allen '17 Rodney Atienza '95 Anne Boettcher '05 Margaret Brennan '18, '19 Cara Brindley '12 Molly Buettner '99 Cristina Carrillo '14 Marybeth Connelly '89 Marisa Rogers Cyrus '00, '01\* Jake DeMarais '12 Stacy Konow DeMarais '12 Joseph Falco '97, '98 Marty Farrell '88 Kellie Flanagan '99 Amy Fox '15 Heather Freas-Kostic '99 Alexis Freydenfelt '18, '19 Audrey Marrah Gabriel '10, '11 Dawn Hunter Geoppinger '01 Dottie Glover '06 Skip Glover '06 Jeanette Godlewski '95 Francisco Gonzales '16

Marissa Gonzales '16 Luz Guerra '16 Olivia Hamilton '16 Stephanie Gullotti Heintz '09 Brianne Higgins Roos '01 Julie Ann Sgroi Hodgson '01, '02 Nicole Bendistis Imler '00, '01 Samantha Joerg '17 Amber Johnson '19 Tony Johnson '03\* Rebekah Kornblum '15, '22 Grace Kretschmann '08\* Claire C. Liszkay '04 Kaylan Marshall '22 Catherine McCafferty '12 John McLoughlin '90, '98, '99\* Miranda Melone '17 Susan Baumher Mitchell '83, '84\* Kathryn Wallace Murphy '10 Jo Ann Murray Schluckebier '81 Gisela Otto '06 Sherman Otto '06 Aarika Zarnick Pakulski '11\* Antoinette Payner '96 Mary Jo Pierantozzi '79\*

Alexandra Pierlott '14\* Mary Pulda '05 Raymond Regan, Jr. '93 Sara Roltgen '94 Margaret Satterfield '03 Amanda Schar '19 Marie Schultz-Stebel '99\* Lara E. Scott '02 Missy Sellitto Kleinz '01, '02 Jennifer Stein Sibila '95 William Simmons '01 Amy Skapek '00\* Sonia Soto '14 Ashlev Stewart '13 Lynn Tasca Reed '96 Chris Thompson '22 Cindy Thompson '22 Kathryn Gontarek Timer '01, '02 Ronnie Townsend '17 Anneka Vanderveen '14 Rosalynde Vas Dias '99 Leslie Peterson Wessel '04 Jennifer Wilson, RSM '00, '03, '04 Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap. '08 Linda Youth '10\*

"Learning immigration laws and immigration history has also motivated me to continue learning about the racist history of immigration and to want to continue advocating for the undocumented community!"



Adriana Valerio: New York, New York



"These experiences have embodied a spirit of partnership by showing how progress and change rely so heavily on mutual respect and communication. When both parties see each other as equals, both parties benefit from a new perspective and the gifts of the other."

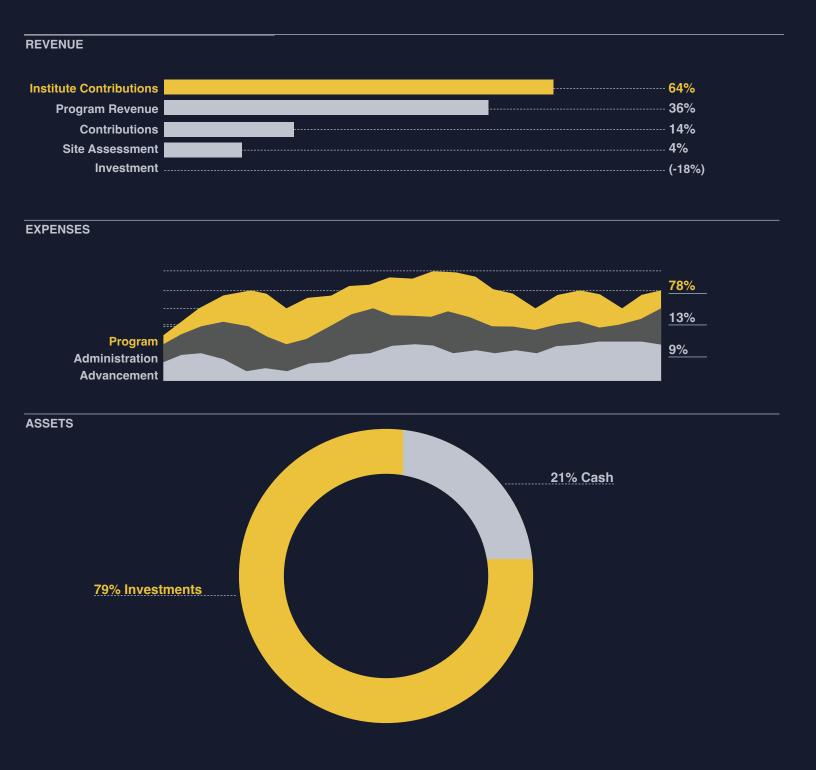
Lucila Radke: Savannah, Georgia

# **MVC IN NUMBERS**

Total hours served 18,952

# Total individuals served 4,682

# **13** volunteers, **6** service cities, **12** service sites



# **DONOR NAMES**

### **2022 - 2023** \*Denotes Companion in Mercy and Mercy Associate

Anonymous Sal Alba Barbara Allaire, RSM Marino Angeloni Caroline Bailey\* Anne Marie Berenato, RSM Rosellen Bracken, RSM Dennis Brehm Michel Brennan, RSM Mary Jeanne & Robert Broderick Eileen Burke Helen Marie Burns, RSM Lindora Cabral, RSM Patrick Cahill Cathleen Cahill, RSM Betty Calfapietra, RSM Eileen M. Campbell, RSM Regina and John Campo Judith Cannon, RSM Lori Carlin\* Jo Ann & James Chilakos Eugene Chiulli Eileen and Joseph Cipriani Brian J. Clarke Barbara and Michael Clements Joy Clough, RSM Holly Cloutier, RSM Thomas Coffey Rosemary and Robert Connor\* Joe Convey Patricia Cook, RSM Joi Cooney Kelly Corcoran James Corry Donna Marie Coward, RSM Frances Crean, RSM Ermelinda Cuono\* Anne Curtis, RSM Mary Brigid Danaher, RSM Francine Davis-Savage Linda & Lloyd Decker Fran Demarco, RSM Anne Devaney, RSM Joan Devens Maria DiBello, RSM

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"I'm continuously touched by the generosity and kindness and patience that has been extended to me by those I serve alongside, despite navigating difficult scenarios themselves. This so beautifully embodies this sense of partnership and mutuality that has remained a recurring theme throughout the year."

Colleen Swanhart: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Kathleen and Ralph Schultz Kay Schwenzer, RSM Jill and William Shaddock Dawn Shebelock Mary Sheehan, RSM Sisters of Mercy Red Bank Jeannine Smith\* Betty Smith, RSM Eileen Smith, RSM Melissa Spillane Kathleen Steele\* Mary Cabrini Taitano, RSM Kathy and Dick Target\* Carole Temming, RSM Honey and Michael Theogene\* Frances Thomas, RSM Jodi Thyen **Tisbest Philanthropy** Rose Tomlinson, RSM Nancy Turnbull Daniel Uba Katherine Ulinski Jane and Joseph Vacca Victor Valenzuela Robert Van Tassell Anna Van Wert The Vanguard Group Robert Vignola Eileen Walsh, RSM Susan Walsh, RSM Barbara Waruszewski Elizabeth and Dr. Joseph Werner Suzanne White, RSM Susan Wieczynski, RSM Denise Wilke, RSM Joan & Todd Wilkinson Lori and Michael Williams\* Mary Lou Williams Rose Mary Williams\* Regina Williams, RSM Karen Yarkosky, RSM Gina Yocum Dolores Zurek, RSM

#### **Screener & Interviewer Committees**

Lauren Tatanus Baer '13. '14\* Brandi Bos '17 Claudia Brock '16 Kimberly Casey D'Albenzio '03 Jake DeMarais '12 Salena Clohisy '15, '16, '17 Katie Wilberding Cross '07, '08 Jason Downer, SJ '03 Claire Feller '20 Rachel Gerton '18 Patricia Grace '07 Ashley Hendzell '13 Colleen Hudak '19 Caroline Magee '17 Nicole Panza '15 Erika Nelson Pazian '06 Victoria Niedzielski '14 Jessica Riker '18 Rebecca Rybaltowski '11, '12 Catherine MacLean Scanlan '10\* Kristin Salloom Simmons '95, '96\* Alli Steiner '12 Symone Stephens '16 Ronnie Townsend '17

#### **Support Teams**

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### 500+

Pauline E. Blake\* Mary Jeanne & Robert Broderick Michael Carr Cigna Bonnie Coons Maria Garcia Diana and Paul Ghize Sonva and John Glenn Enrico Hernandez Samantha Joerg '17 Tony Johnson '03\* John McLoughlin '90, '98, '99\* Johanna Milot Antoinette Payner '96 Jonathan Quigley Sherri and Robert Stauffer Carin and Jerry Voors

# 1000+

Anonymous Archdiocese of Philadelphia Barbara & Peter Coyne Rita E. Cutarelli Lisa & Joseph Falco '97, '98 Marion Grimes\* Anthony Mifsud Gisela & Sherman Otto '06 Brian F. B. Reavey Margaret Satterfield '03 Frank Seidman Jennifer Stein Sibila '95 Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Marian Harrison Uba\*

## **IN-KIND**

Paul & Gretchen Agresti Eugene & Tracey Chiulli Aaron & Sheila Marshall Dorothy & James Radke

# GRANTS

Bon Secours Mercy Health Mercy Fund for Ministry Metzger-Price Fund, Inc. The Patricia Kind Family Foundation Philadelphia Foundation

# **IN HONOR**

Lisa McGarry

Barbara & Peter Coyne

Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap. '08 Michael Carr

# **IN MEMORY**

#### Rita Mary Olszewski, RSM

Rosanne & Gerrard Gumbleton

Mary Stanton, RSM Marie Schultz-Stebel '99\*

#### Stephen Uba

Jonathan Quigley Deborah & David Uba Marian Harrison Uba\*

#### Mary Vignola

Denise Beauchamp Kay Coup Jo Marie Guastello Joanne McKee

"The people that come are a part of my community. They have taught me so much about myself. Their stories have allowed me to find self-confidence in unexpected ways."

Devarsh Desai: Detroit, Michigan





Applications for a year of service with MVC, starting in August 2024, are now open! Opportunities to serve in a spirit of mutuality are available throughout the United States and in Guyana, South America.

www.mercyvolunteers.org/appply



The application is now available for Mercy Volunteers to compassionately serve this summer! Volunteers spend 8 weeks volunteering to care for the earth in Vermont or working with children along the Texas/Mexico border.

www.mercyvolunteers.org/short-term-volunteers



Check out MVC's website for exciting updates to our organization and service programs. Don't forget to follow us on our socials to watch the latest news about the Mercy community.

Did you know that more and more donors are choosing to make recurring gifts? Your monthly support will help our timely mission of assisting vulnerable populations.

www.mercyvolunteers.org

www.mercyvolunteers.org/donate