

Espirit de Corps Winter

Meet our newest IVC Volunteers!

Sharon Rebar

Sharon is new to IVC, but has had IVC Volunteers working in the service sites that she has supervised. She called us so she could become an IVC Volunteer when she retired!

Sharon has a BA in Sociology from the College of St. Benedict, a Master of Social Work from Tulane University and Graduate Certificate of Gerontology from Tulane University, also. She is a licensed Graduate Social Worker.

She moved to St. Paul in 1997 from Juneau, Alaska, where she headed up Catholic Community Services and was recruited by Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis to lead their aging services. She retired from Little Brother: Friends of the Elderly 18 months ago.

Sharon has lived on an Apache, Cheyenne River Sioux and Shoshone-Bannock reservation in Arizona, South Dakota and Idaho and has supervised Tlingit Indian senior programs in villages in SE Alaska. Always ready to expand her knowledge, her latest endeavor is to learn Spanish!

Joe Betz

Joe became an IVC Volunteer in May after picking up a brochure at Demontreville. He is very interested in an assignment that works around his work as a Guardian ad Litem. Although this service certainly qualifies as supporting the vulnerable, the program would need a sponsor for him. Joe has a BS/BA in marketing/mechanical engineering from Northwestern University. He has done additional computer science studies at New York University.

Joe has an extensive managerial background that includes major corporations such as Prudential Financial, Inc., TEKsystems, PRISM Solutions, LLC., and PeakSolutions, Inc. He has been very instrumental with the merging of Holy Trinity Church and Our Lady of Grace during the last two years. The parish administrator describes him as wonderful to work with during this interim.

He feels that his strength is concern for the poor and disenfranchised, especially youth. He has a desire to grow in faith while applying his creativity, strategic thinking/planning and managerial skills to seek solutions that will ease pain and give hope.

Robert Tunning

Bob learned about IVC during a retreat at Demontreville, also. He served in the United States Marine Corps and in 1973 he started a sales and marketing agency which he owned and expanded for 38 years until retirement.

He considers his strengths to be leadership, serving others and a patient listener. He is open to social justice issues, homelessness and prison ministry and he has volunteered for AMICUS in the past. Bob has had employees that were Muslim, people of color and different ethnic backgrounds and they are long standing friends. You will enjoy getting to know this soft spoken man who very sincere, compassionate and committed.

Thomas Foley

Tom is a parishioner of St. Williams and came up to me after I spoke at the weekend Masses. He graduated with a BA in Liberal Arts and BS in Civil Engineering from Notre Dame and completed a Master of Science in Civil Engineering at the U of M. He has had extensive senior level experience in planning and civil engineering, finance, development and administration with over thirty years for profit and public organizations.

Tom spent three years in Antofagasta, Chile in the Peace Corps where he was responsible for organizing low income families to build self-help housing and served as a university professor in civil engineering.

His volunteer activities include four years providing free tax preparation at Accountability MN and 17 years at the Homeless Shelter at St. Williams. Tom would like to work with high school youth in math and science where he can use his knowledge of Spanish.

Check Out Our New Service Site-

"Imagine waking up every day knowing that life is on your side"

The Minnesota Internship Charter School is a new service site for the Twin Cities IVC. Its mission is to partner with communities and learners to achieve academic, career and life success. It is open to all, but seeks to enroll students who have not fared well in traditional high schools and alternative settings.

Their target age is 16 through 20 and is the only charter school certified in Minnesota to offer Adult Basic Education at their Sabathani Community Center Adult Life Skills Program. Cheryl Dugan', IVC Volunteer, spent her paid career working in corporate America in the pharmacy benefit management and healthcare industry. She is working to develop a process and system that supports the Sabathani volunteers through development, training and scheduling.

MNIC is built on the principles of small learning communities. By developing learning plans within the context of their own personal/career interests their students have renewed hope for the future. It is thriving with 770 graduates since 2003.

Regional Council Notes-

The Regional Council met on Thursday, November 10— with two new members in attendance, Marilyn Peller-Nelson and Kevin Byrne. The Regional Council Goals for 2011-2012 include:

- Increase the number of sites, particularly ones that can support volunteers financially. Also, sites that are scattered across the metropolitan area.
- Increase the number of volunteers.
- Increase the visibility of IVC in the Twin Cities—always using Jesuit connection.
- Seek funding for service sites that cannot afford even the partnership fee

Marilyn Peller-Nelson and Kathleen worked on setting up the **Give to the Max Day** in five days! We collected \$650 through this site and it can be used for any fundraiser throughout the year. Pretty cool!

IVC Monthly Meetings

The IVC Volunteers meet from 9:30 – 11:30 am on the third Friday of the month at St. Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN. Our monthly meetings center around prayer, sharing and reflecting on the work that we do as IVC Volunteers and a lively discussion of our current book “Tomorrows Catholic: Understanding God and Jesus in a New Millennium” by Michael Morewood. We will include a Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 16th.

Visitors are always welcome and an information session follows each meeting at 11:30 am.

Final Thoughts-

Our first snowfall has softly covered our Cities and I encourage you to take time to discover and savor your own exquisite Minnesota winter scene. Take time to pause and pray a prayer of gratitude for the mystery of its beauty comes from God. Let Robert Frost help you...

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.