



# IN Ministry Today

## *Adrian Dominican Sisters*

Summer 2005

### Effecting Change in Our World

Thank you for your interest and support of ministries that effect change in our world. This is not only heartwarming but forward-thinking. Your gifts continue to bring hope and a sense of community to those who struggle for basic needs. Highlighted below are examples of housing ministries supported by grants from the Adrian Dominican Ministry Trust Fund. In three distinct areas of the country, these programs are aided by your generosity. In particular, these ministries give special attention to helping women and their families gain much-needed stability. An Adrian Dominican Sister is involved in each ministry, in collaboration with many others who also reach out to those in need. Your gift to the Ministry Trust Fund enables this kind of life-giving support to continue.

### Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Imagine working two full-time jobs at minimum wage just to pay the rent on a two-bedroom apartment for you and your family. What little money you have left goes toward food, utilities and other basic necessities. Suddenly you're faced with a medical emergency, and as a result, get behind in your rent payments and end up being evicted.

This hand-to-mouth existence is harsh reality for many of the clients helped by the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (WLCH). WLCH was founded in Washington, D.C. in 1986 to provide direct legal services to people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, and to address the systems that continue to drive people into homelessness. "We stand with people who have the least in society, believing that they should have as much as anybody else," said Sister Mary Ann Luby, OP, the clinic's outreach worker.

Clients are seen at 10 intake sites set up at day centers, soup kitchens, shelters — wherever the homeless tend to go. WLCH helps clients secure benefits, avoid eviction, access shelter or subsidized housing, improve their credit, or secure mental health or substance abuse services. WLCH attorneys also advocate for welfare reform, accessible mental health services, and affordable housing.



*Sister Mary Ann Luby assists the homeless of Washington, D.C. in getting off the streets and into permanent housing.*



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## Retirement Plans/IRAs

Many of our friends want to further the work of the Adrian Dominican Sisters by making a substantial bequest for charitable giving — either a will or a trust. By taking advantage of important tax deductions for charitable bequests, you create a fund to partner in our work that could be larger than any outright gift you make during your lifetime.

One suggestion is to name the Adrian Dominican Sisters as the beneficiary of your IRA/retirement plan. Aside from benefiting our ministries, the advantages are that all taxes on these assets would be avoided and there would be little cost to heirs — no taxes.

Your gift may also be in the form of a trust. The IRA/retirement account would be left in a trust; Adrian Dominican projects would benefit when the trust ended. In addition, your estate would be entitled to a deduction that could greatly reduce “death taxes.”

It is easy to arrange your gift: Instruct the custodian of your account to name the Adrian Dominican Sisters as the death beneficiary. The custodian can provide the appropriate forms.

For more information, please contact Janet Hudspeth, OP, at the Development Office at 313-882-6307 or DevOffAD@aol.com.

## New Life Women’s Center and After-school Program

The New Life Women’s Center and After-school Program in Flint, Michigan, is a safe haven, a caring place where mothers and grandmothers receive the help they need to be self-sufficient providers for the children they are raising. “We help them become more sustainable and self-sufficient, not dependent,” said Carol Weber, OP, director.



The New Life Women’s Center gives women the necessary skills to be self-sufficient parents for their children.

Each Wednesday the women gather for daylong activities designed to build their parenting and homemaking skills as well as their self-esteem. Their children participate in tutoring and day-care programs. The women are taught proper nutrition and how to prepare well-balanced meals, how to clean and sew, and how to budget their finances — skills they never learned from their own

parents or caregivers. Most of the women in the program had unstable upbringings and were raised in single-parent homes. Group counseling offers the women a supportive environment in which to discuss any issues they are facing in their daily lives. At the day’s end, the women join their children for a family dinner at the center.

Although this structured program occurs once a week, the women and children are free to visit the center anytime they wish.



Home is where the heart is, and Katharine’s Place is a new home for low-income families in Seattle, including refugees.

## Katharine’s Place

A new 25-unit housing project in Seattle recently opened its doors to homeless and low-income families. Katharine’s Place, a cooperative project of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority of Western Washington, provides services to families in crisis during their period of transition to a more stable condition. Michele Kopp, OP, serves on the Board of Directors.

Most residents come from homeless shelters. Katharine’s Place provides them with transitional housing as they prepare for permanent housing. A Ministry Trust

grant provides funding for an on-site case manager who is helping to stabilize the families, coordinate their health and social services, and address concerns that are barriers to their gaining permanent housing, such as unemployment, child-care needs, and counseling. Special attention is given to providing children with meaningful, after-school activities.



Many applicants are refugee families. One Somalian mother and her five children were in a refugee camp in Kenya for 14 years before the Refugee Assistance Program led her to Seattle and Katharine’s Place. This mother and her children now have their own place, and with direction, will receive the resources and encouragement needed to fulfill their dream of becoming self-sufficient citizens in the U.S.