



Mark Goebel, Charis board member and co-organizer of the event, Jenéne Francis, director of Charis, and Leigh Hartley, Charis board member and co-organizer of the event, receive the award for their Outstanding Day of Service from Deborah's Place.

Charis Ministries Receives Award from Deborah's Place

Charis, an outreach of the Chicago Province that offers retreats, days of prayer, service opportunities, and spiritual direction for men and women in their 20s and 30s, was given an award on April 27 by Deborah's Place for an Outstanding Day of Community Service. "This is an exciting honor for Charis and its volunteers, especially as committed Charis board members work to expand our community volunteering programs," says Charis member Jodie Laughlin.

In January of this year, as part of a Charis Ministries' Day of Service, 11 of Charis' young adult volunteers united with 25 residents of the Rebecca Johnson location of Deborah's Place—a facility that offers permanent housing for formerly homeless women—for an open gym and bingo. The day provided an opportunity for Charis members to spend time with the women, hear their stories, and learn from their experiences. For the residents of Deborah's, it was a much needed time to relax and to socialize with their neighbors.

"I attended an orientation last year at Deborah's and realized just how much they do for homeless women in Chicago," says Leigh Hartley, Charis board member and organizer of the event. It struck her as a perfect place for a

Charis service project. Deborah's Place is Chicago's largest provider of supportive housing for homeless women and seeks to provide services so the women can become empowered to take back and maintain control over their lives. They are always looking for small activities, like the Charis event, to continue to encourage these women to become a vital part of the world.

The highlight for many of the Charis volunteers was the opportunity to simply sit and talk with the women, "Maybe the conversation only consisted of talking about bingo, maybe it was about the women's family, or maybe it was about their work," says Leigh. "The details of the conversation don't necessarily matter. Community was being built and an understanding of different people and different ways of life was being shared."

Following the day with the women of Deborah's Place, the volunteers had a chance for personal reflection and small group discussion, which was an integral part of the service project. Since Charis is an outreach of the Jesuits, they attempt to keep the Jesuit mission in mind as they plan their activities. Leigh, who organized the event, said, "We tried to make this more than just a day of volunteering by focusing on two things."

First, they organized discussions which, according to Leigh, focused on the specific Catholic Social teachings of service and social justice. "By focusing on these teachings, we hope to lay the groundwork for people to realize how and why each component of service and social justice is important and how they as individuals can make a difference."

Second, time for reflection followed the volunteers' discussion period. Contemplating or reflecting on one's actions is a central part of the Jesuit way of life. The exercise is designed to allow the person to take a step back, and focus on the grace and presence of God.

"This event allowed volunteers to make a difference in the lives of the women at Deborah's place," says Leigh, "but hopefully it also moved these young adults into thinking more about future ways they can continue to be involved in service."
—AMY HUDEC

Upcoming **Charis** Events

July 16–18 Gifts of the Holy Spirit Weekend Retreat
Bellarmine Retreat House, Barrington, IL

July 19–25 Silent Individually-Directed Retreat
Come for a day, a weekend, or a week, whatever your schedule allows. Bellarmine Retreat House, Barrington, IL

For more information on these events and Charis in general, please visit www.jesuits.net/charis, or call 773-508-3237



Lay Partner

Pat Kluzak

For the last two and a half years, Pat Kluzak has served as director of operations at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, IL, which offers retreats based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. Coming to Bellarmine for her, however, has been a much longer journey. "I think I've been gently led here," she says. "I feel like this is where I am supposed to be."

After raising four kids, Pat earned an MBA from Roosevelt University and took a management position at a textile firm. But she says she soon realized that mass producing decorative towels wasn't going to make the world a better place. She left the textile industry to begin her career of service at a residential facility for developmentally disabled adults. Three years ago, her husband was reading their Church bulletin and saw that Bellarmine was looking for a director of operations. "He turned to me and said, 'this job has your name written all over it,' yet I was still hesitant, because I didn't think I had a chance of getting the job." After two interviews, she was offered the position and feels everyday since has been a blessing. "So much of this job is rewarding," says Pat. "I get to come to work and have the opportunity to go to Mass everyday, and be in the presence of other people who are living out their Ignatian spirituality, and who share the same values and beliefs as me."

As director of operations at Bellarmine, Pat is in charge of overseeing the retreat house, its business office, the staff, the kitchen, and housekeeping. "Fortunately I have a wonderful staff, which makes my job a lot easier," she says. Pat managed much of Bellarmine's recent 25,000 square foot addition, and is now overseeing the landscapers who are putting the finishing touches on the building. She also serves as editor of Bellarmine's newsletter, and consultant to Bellarmine's advisory board.

"This is a great job; there is so much to do, and so much variety. I have the chance to be around wonderful, faith-filled people everyday, Jesuits and lay-people alike. I couldn't ask for a more wonderful place to come to work." Not only are her job and her duties rewarding, but more important she says are Bellarmine's many retreatants, both young and old. "The people who come here are a great inspiration to me. When retreatants say what this place means to them and how much it has done for them and their Ignatian spirituality, I feel truly humbled and blessed to be a part of Bellarmine."

—AMY HUDEC

LAY COLLABORATION

Dr. Catherine Karl Named Principal at SICP



Dr. Catherine Karl

St. Ignatius College Prep has appointed a new principal, Dr. Catherine Karl, effective July 1, 2004. Dr. Karl worked at SICP from 1978 to 1987 as an English teacher and English department chair, and says, "In those nine years, I was very much a part of the emerging St. Ignatius that exists today."

Throughout my experience then and since then, I've valued the principles of Jesuit education. The Jesuit commitment to a life of service to others, academic rigor, lifelong spiritual development, and leadership sets a context for leadership within which I have lived my own life."

Dr. Karl is not new to Jesuit education, having received her B.A. and Ph.D. from Loyola University Chicago. She also taught at Immaculata High School and St. Martin DePorres High School, both in Detroit, MI, before her years at SICP. After her tenure at SICP, she served as principal and later president at Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, IL, and in 1999, became the first female president of Queen of Peace High School. —AMY HUDEC

IGNATIAN CHARACTER of Our Schools

New Director of Ignatian Programs at Xavier University

Dr. Debra Mooney has been appointed Xavier University's director of Ignatian Programs. After participating in XU's AFMIX Program (Assuring the Future Mission and Identity of Xavier), Dr. Mooney became a regular on XU committees dedicated to fostering mission and identity. When Fr. George Traub, SJ, who'd previously served as director of Ignatian Programs, announced he'd be stepping down, Dr. Mooney, a clinical psychologist by trade, was tapped for the job. She said about her new work: "There are characteristics and values that encompass Jesuit identity—care for the whole person, women and men for others, Ignatian spirituality, and discernment—that have withstood the test of time, hundreds of years. Some of those values are very challenging in modern times, particularly in contemporary university culture, both from a student's and a university employee's perspective. But as people understand them and learn about what they mean in some depth, they find that they're values that they want to maintain."

—GEORGE KEARNEY