

From the JPIC Commission—2025

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As you know, the One Heart Project, which we have been doing for more than a decade now, is our opportunity to do some giving together at the time of Valentine's Day. We pick three recipients and invite you to choose one or more of them to receive your donation. In keeping with our Chapter directional statement, to care for *all* creation, this year we have designated groups who represent local, national, and international needs...caring for God's people for whom life is a struggle:

- *Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project* — Local project. Works out of Bolingbrook.
- *Casa De Misericordia* — National Project for immigrant support in San Diego.
Sr. Marianne Saieg works with this group.
- *Water By Women* — International project. Formerly *Water with Blessings*.
See reverse side for project descriptions.

How it works: Choose one or more of the three projects researched and chosen by the JPIC commission. (The form is in this mailing.) Decide an amount for each of your choices. Nothing is too small. Send in the form and your donation to the address below.

This is our joint act of love for Valentine's Day!

Make any checks out to : *Sisters of St. Francis.*

Due date is Friday, February 14, 2025.

Mail your form and donation to:

JPIC, One Heart
1433 Essington Rd
Joliet, Il 60435-2873



Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project, Bolingbrook

The Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project (SSIP) was founded in 2010 by immigrant residents in the Northern Will County/Southern DuPage County area. What started as a goal to push for Comprehensive Immigration Reform developed into an organization that works to empower the immigrant community in the suburbs through initiatives on education, civic engagement and advocacy. Since its beginnings, SSIP has been a key player in successful statewide campaigns such as the Illinois Dream Act, Temporary Visitor Drivers Licenses for undocumented immigrants, and preventing the construction of private detention centers in Crete, IL, and Joliet, IL. SSIP has built and implemented programs of direct assistance such as the Parent Mentor Program, the New Americans Initiative, and the Community Navigators Program. José Vera, the Executive Director, was one of the amazing panelists in the presentations, "The Migrant Journey- Our Humanitarian Response," sponsored by ARC.

Casa De Misericordia; San Diego, California www.casademisericordiasd.org

Casa de Misericordia, is the umbrella name for the intentional live-in community and for programs they run in service to the people of Logan Heights/Barrio Logan in San Diego, CA. Mary Waskowiak, RSM, is the Founding Director. Our Marianne Saieg, OSF, has been assisting Mary in her ministry to migrants and her work at the Border. She has created PowerPoints of the work, flyers to invite volunteers to help, booklets of the 5 ministries and archiving the inception of Casa de Misericordia to the present time with digital photobooks. Marianne has visited San Diego to see the ministry in action, working with migrants, serving dinners and visiting the Tijuana Border facilities that are set up to house and assist migrants in obtaining legal documentation/ asylum/citizenship, as well as other needs.



Casa De Misericordia offers service to and with immigrant persons/families including offering informational sessions on obtaining legal documentation/ asylum/citizenship. Ninety percent of persons in these two districts of San Diego are of Hispanic heritage; 30 percent of them live under the poverty level. Casa de Misericordia works to find immigration attorneys to work with the people. They accompany individuals to their court hearings and continue to work with them in the follow-up.

They continue to seek the basic necessities for those in need of food, clothing, housing and are currently collaborating with others in the search for a building that could become a shelter for women and children.

Water By Women www.waterbywomen.org

A Simple Bucket And a Small Filter: Using technology inspired by our own biology, the Sawyer PointONE filter system functions much like kidney dialysis does to filter out impurities in the water, leaving clean, drinkable water.



This effective filter can be set up in five minutes. It requires only a 5-gallon container and the filtration kit. Water by Women trains women in countries of most need. One filter can give 4 families clean water for a life time if the system is maintained. Water Women may be found in 48 countries, many of which came about through limited, small-scale



church mission efforts. Every \$75 they receive becomes another water woman, within a few weeks.