

## FY 2021 MINISTRY TRUST GRANT MEMBER INITIATIVES

*The Congregation Grants Committee of the Adrian Dominican Ministry Trust approved \$809,000 for the following 29 Member Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2021. Ministry Trust Grant criteria require an alignment between the funded project and the 2016 General Chapter Enactments and the Mission and Vision of the Adrian Dominican Sisters.*

### **Angela House**

*Houston, Texas*

*Maureen O'Connell, OP, Board Member*

Angela House provides safe, drug- and violence-free transitional housing and holistic programs for women re-entering society after incarceration. The grant allows staff to provide therapeutic individual and group counseling for 40 residents. Angela House will continue structured case management to assist residents with goal-setting and will secure resources for all program participants.

### **Centro Santa Catalina**

*Juárez, Mexico*

*Joyce Caulfield, OP, Board Member*

The purpose of Centro Santa Catalina is to lift women and children from abject poverty and social marginalization by providing nutritional, entrepreneurial, and life-skills activities that relieve severe economic hardships. Ministry Trust funds will be used to secure a much-needed truck to transport potable water. The fund will also help to ensure just wages for Centro staff.

### **Community Action Agency of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Joella Miller, OP, Board Member*

County Community Action Agency of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale (CAAJLH) offers Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting By World, a program to help individuals in poverty develop their resources in a productive manner. The grant provides clients with opportunities to change their priorities in

order to move toward self-sufficiency through financial, social, and emotional resources. As a result of the funding, the Migrant Services Program will be able to provide medical, vision, and dental services and prescriptions to seasonal workers in Lenawee County migrant camps.

### **Counseling Center, Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale Counties**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Pam Millenbach, OP, Staff*

The grant will ensure the development of a counseling center for adult residents of Lenawee County. The counseling center will acquire assessment materials that ensure all new/incoming clients will have a thorough evaluation using evidence-based assessment tools. The grant will fund this new phase of the Catholic Charities counseling program.

### **Con/Vida: Popular Arts of the Americas**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Barbara Cervenka, OP, Co-Director*

Con/Vida works primarily with Brazilian and Peruvian artists with limited financial resources. The goal is to give voice to the artists and to validate and popularize their work within the North American culture. Con/Vida promotes traveling art exhibits to educate North American audiences about the history and culture of the common people of Peru and Brazil. The grant provides rent for space to house the artists' works in a central Detroit location. For a virtual tour of the exhibit, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qramlgqyR5w>.

### **Centro Latino of Shelbyville, Inc.**

*Shelbyville, Kentucky*

*Patricia Reno, OP, Executive Director*

Centro Latino assists the vulnerable Latinx community through programs and advocacy work. Centro Latino provides a haven for the Latinx and protects them as they adjust to

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living in the United States, with its different culture, traditions, and way of life. Centro Latino and the marginalized Latinx in rural Kentucky will continue to benefit from vital programs that alleviate poverty and promote the dignity of life.

### **Dominican Hospital Mobile Health Clinic**

*Santa Cruz, California*

*Rita Eileen Dean, OP, Mission Integration*

Dominican Hospital was awarded a grant to support a Mobile Wellness Clinic to improve diabetes management among poor and marginalized people through clinical care and education that meets the standards of the American Diabetes Association. The program is designed to touch the lives of more than 2,500 uninsured or underinsured patients at eight sites in Santa Cruz County.

### **Earth Law Education Initiative**

*New York, New York*

*Elise García, OP, Board Member*

A grant to the Earth Law Center (ELC) will support the ELC Education Initiative to secure the passage of new eco-centric laws and court decisions that recognize the rights of nature and the human right to a healthy environment. The organization will continue to distribute the ELC's first-ever Earth Law textbook and write amicus briefs to support litigation securing the rights of nature.

### **Friends in Solidarity with South Sudan**

*Washington, D.C.*

*Durstyne Farnan, OP, Board Member*

Friends in Solidarity with South Sudan collaborates with the Catholic Health Training Institute to empower citizens in this young African nation. The grant will provide full funding to support six students for one year in a three-year nursing program to train South Sudanese women and men as certified midwives and registered nurses. The comprehensive training includes practical experience in hospitals and local clinics, as well as trauma healing and peace-making.

### **Gianna House**

*Eastpointe, Michigan*

*Theresa Mayrand, OP, Staff*

Gianna House provides opportunities for expectant and new mothers to gain knowledge and support as well as baby items while participating in structured parenting and wellness classes. Gianna House opened its residential program for four to six young mothers-to-be and, eventually, their newborns. The grant will provide partial staff salaries to ensure the full implementation of the outreach program.

### **Grace House**

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Eunice Drazba, OP, Volunteer*

Grace House, a component of St. Leonard's Ministries, provides safe, drug- and violence-free transitional housing and holistic programs for women re-entering society after incarceration. The grant helps to provide residential services for 30-40 women and to ensure they receive guidance and skills for work force development and employment, where appropriate. The grant also ensures that women receive case management services and opportunities for job search and placement.

### **Habitat for Humanity of Lenawee County**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Sharon Weber, OP, Volunteer*

*Joanne Peters, OP, Board Member*

Lenawee County Habitat for Humanity will raise funds and raise hammers to build an energy-efficient home and ensure stability of ownership for a family in Lenawee County. The Faith-Build project will be done in collaboration with other faith communities in the county. The goal is to use the grant to build a safe, energy-efficient home using skilled volunteers from various faith groups. For more information, view [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OQVEm\\_SoYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OQVEm_SoYs).

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### **HOPE Community Center**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Rosemary Abramovich, OP, Board Member*

HOPE Community Center offers participants the opportunity for holistic programs and projects that promote health, wellness, and dignity in a culture of caring and sharing. The Center offers excellent programs and support for the life and dignity of marginalized people in Lenawee County, men and women who are challenged emotionally, physically, or mentally. The expansion of the “Touch Pad” initiative, funded in 2020, offers participants the opportunity to learn creative expressions using various digital tools.

### **Hotel Hope MLK**

*New Orleans, Louisiana*

*Judith Zynda, OP, Board Member*

Supportive services at Hotel Hope MLK take the form of intensive case management for each homeless guest, linking her to services and opportunities with the aim of long-term residential sustainability. The grant allows staff to assist homeless women and their children as they develop resiliency, personal and financial skills, and resources, as measured by the 10 Hotel Hope Benchmarks. This is with a view to transitioning them to safe, permanent housing in 30-45 days.

### **Housing Help of Lenawee, Homeless Prevention**

*Adrian, Michigan*

*Angela Susalla, OP, Board Member*

Homeless Prevention in Lenawee County provides support to families and individuals in housing crisis who need assistance to overcome barriers to housing and self-sufficiency. Through the Housing First and Transitional Housing Projects, Ministry Trust funds will provide safe, affordable transitional housing and support services for four low-income households with minor children. The agency also plans to provide housing for 15 homeless households that are not currently

eligible for other assistance. For more information, view [www.H2Lenawee.org](http://www.H2Lenawee.org).

### **Maketai, Inc.**

*Tucson, Arizona/Amazon Rainforest*

*Judith Bisignano, OP, Founder, Board Member*

The Achuar eco-tourism project grant will be used to develop and operate an integrated and sustainable ecotourism program in the Achuar region of the Amazon jungles of Ecuador. The project provides training for 50 indigenous people in each of eight villages in regenerative agriculture, reforestation, rewilding, and community resilience. More than a thousand Achuar participants will take conversational English classes. The project is designed to directly reduce human impact on climate change and ecological degradation by supporting ecotourism as an educational tool for conservation and sustainable development of Ecuador’s Amazon Rainforest.

### **Mercy Housing Northwest**

*Seattle, Washington*

*Judy Byron, OP, Board Member*

Mercy Housing Northwest (MHN) enables low-income immigrant and refugee families to attain stable housing, find employment, and remain healthy. The grant will provide basic adult education opportunities for Ethiopian and Somali immigrant community members. MHN will work toward racial equity at its statewide properties by engaging in 560 hours of Language Liaison work and translation services to build an inclusive community for immigrants and refugees, with the larger goal of promoting resident engagement.

### **Meta Peace Team**

*Lansing, Michigan*

*Ellen Burkhardt, OP, Board Member*

Meta Peace Team (MPT) trains and deploys local and regional peace teams when warranted to civil disturbances. The grant provides funds to purchase safety and telecommunications equipment for Unarmed Civilian Protection that will enhance peacemaking coordination. MPT incorporates

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local peace team strategies for peaceful solutions in a violent world.

### **Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Ellen Schmitz, OP, Board Member*

The Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition sponsors two month-long summer camps for youth ages 5 to 16. The grant provides funds for a part-time staff person to coordinate and manage the summer camp programs for children living in Detroit neighborhoods that suffer from blight, drugs, and violence. During this grant cycle, urban children will have the opportunity for supervised outdoor physical activity and for learning coping and peace-making skills.

### **Peace Education Foundation**

*Miami Shores, Florida*

*Anne Liam Lees, OP, Board Member*

*Mary Ann Caulfield, OP, Board Member*

The Foundation's Peace Education Initiative with the Dominican Family in Latin America works in collaboration with the Confederation of Dominican Sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to teach conflict resolution techniques and violence prevention strategies to Dominican teachers and pastoral leaders in the Dominican Republic. The skills include community building, anger management, communication, and peer mediation.

### **PREPARES**

*Yakima, Washington*

*Sharon Park, OP, PREPARES Liaison for Diocese of Yakima*

PREPARES, the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Initiative, enables parishes in Washington State to enter into relationships with women and their families struggling to meet their children's needs. PREPARES helps marginalized households become more resilient through direct service, vital support, and the opportunity for parents to strengthen their skills. The grant funds PREPARES en Español in the Yakima Diocese, allowing expanded outreach to pregnant women and

their families in the Hispanic community in parishes in rural Spanish-speaking communities and to develop a support group for teen mothers.

### **Resurrection Home, Inc.**

*Beattyville, Kentucky*

*Mary Katherine Drouin, OP, Board Member*

Through the Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers program offered by Resurrection Home, Inc., grandmothers who are raising grandchildren receive support and encouragement from one another. The grant funds a monthly support group of grandmothers that nurtures, assists, and enriches their lives and the lives of those in their charge. The program is a major means of support for the grandmother child-care-givers who have been assisted by Resurrection Home for many years.

### **River Raisin Institute**

*Monroe, Michigan*

*Patricia Benson, OP, Board Member*

A goal of the River Raisin Institute's Climate Literacy Program is to educate young people about care of Earth. Support from the grant ensures that youth living in the Great Lakes region will have educational resources on the effects of climate change so that they can bring awareness to their families and the community. The program provides animal armatures and curriculum materials linking culture, local history, the environment, and the threat of climate change to more than 450 students in the classroom climate literacy program.

### **St. Ann Place**

*West Palm Beach, Florida*

*Patricia Leonard, OP, Associate Director*

Staff members at St. Ann Place provide access to safe and secure temporary housing for men and women who are homeless and preparing for or recovering from surgical procedures and for those requiring emergency placement due to injury. The grant helps provide accommodations and prescription

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medications, as well as the assistance of a health advocate for uninsured clients with prescriptions not covered by District Cares.

### **St. Kateri Center of Chicago**

*Chicago, Illinois*

*JoAnn Fleischaker, OP, Leadership Circle Member*

St. Kateri Center serves as a meeting place for a Native American youth leadership group that comes together with a good mind, *kahiwiyoy*, to make a positive contribution to the urban Native American community and to work for the betterment of all urban Native Americans. The grant will allow the Center to continue the Youth Mentor position and to prepare students to present a program at St. Benedict's in Spring 2021.

### **St. Margaret Mary Parish**

*Winter Park, Florida*

*Rosemary Finnegan, OP, Staff Member*

Sustainable Initiatives for Haiti is a project of St. Margaret Mary Parish to enrich the lives of the Haitian parish communities they serve. During this grant cycle, the parish team will establish a sustainable agriculture program to train farmers who are members of Our Lady of Assumption Parish.

### **St. Rose Dominican Community Outreach**

*Henderson, Nevada*

*Victoria Dalesandro, OP, Program Coordinator*

St. Rose Dominican Community Outreach was awarded a grant to train, supervise, and retain senior peer counselors to provide confidential and personal support to seniors

facing the challenges of growing older. The program is designed to touch the lives of 60 seniors through 600 peer counseling sessions. The project ensures protection of the most at-risk people during this time of unprecedented vulnerability.

### **St. Suzanne Cody-Rouge Resource Center**

*Detroit, Michigan*

*Cheryl Liske, OP, Board Member*

The St. Suzanne Cody-Rouge Resource Center was awarded a grant to educate and employ 12 to 15 low-income residents in green techniques to manage storm water systems and in the adult workforce development program. The program, offered in the St. Suzanne Cody-Rouge Resource Center, offers participants on-site, wrap-around services such as day-care and tutoring, as well as community connections.

### **Southwest Chicago Homeless Services**

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Norine Burns, OP, Volunteer*

Southwest Chicago Homeless Service (SCHS) is committed to helping people who are homeless or housing-insecure, and advocating for those who are homeless. The grant will allow SCHS to continue to assist clients in creating a path to permanent, stable housing. The goal is to provide housing placement assistance to 20 individuals and families seeking rental assistance or housing application fees for permanent housing. SCHS also collaborates with All Chicago to modify the housing application process.

## **FY 2021 MINISTRY TRUST GRANT CHAPTER INITIATIVE**

*A grant of \$18,400 was approved for the following Chapter Initiative for FY 2021.*

### **Dominican Midwest Chapter**

The Restoring Dignity Immigration Initiative offers support for more than 500,000 undocumented immigrants in the Chicago metropolitan area and in Adrian, Michigan. Dominican Midwest Mission Chapter retains its commitment to walk with immigrants through court watching and in peaceful

prayer outside Broadview Detention Center. The Ministry Trust grant makes one month's rent available to houses of hospitality where immigrants are welcomed and where Chapter members often volunteer. The program now includes participation in the Chicago Immigrant Transit Assistance program, which provides transportation necessities for post-detention immigrants attempting to connect with their families in the United States.