



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES



JANUARY 2018

Radical Hospitality!

by Sister Janet Stelken

Radical Hospitality! What does that mean? As I reflected upon those words, I began realizing how I experience great hospitality each week as I make my way through the halls of Symphony Bronzeville Nursing Home in Chicago or visit other shut-ins in the St. James neighborhood. These folks who have so little, give so much. Their hospitality and love spill out in their smiles, warm hugs and in their sincere concern for the needs of others.

My first stop is the activity room on first floor in the nursing home. Naomi Christmas is sitting in her wheelchair. She knows it is Tuesday and so she is expecting me. Naomi is blind, but she recognizes my voice immediately and always greets me with a loving welcome and a big hug. Her next words are, "And how is the baby?"

It has been almost two years that my little grandniece has struggled from birth with serious health issues. Although she has made great progress, there is still need for prayerful concern. A part of Naomie's prayer is always for little Baby Eve.

I arrive on second floor and greet Edna. I ask how she is doing that day. She gives me a big smile and says, "Just fine now that you are here."

Down the hall, I meet Terry who has picked up the skill of knitting. He delights in showing me his newest projects and asks me to pick out something I would like. It is his gift for me today.

The simple responses of these folks are just a few examples of hospitality that I experience regularly. What greater hospitality is there than the selfless, loving gift of all one has to offer. Could we not call that radical hospitality?



Sister Janet Stelken

¿QUÉ TAL, BOLIVIA?

[WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOLIVIA?]

In the Good Old Summertime

It is January – summer vacation for the students means time to gather the family for celebration and relaxation, as well as to enjoy the beauty of creation while planting and weeding corn and other vegetables, with good breaks for swimming in the river. Praised be the God of Creation.

Between family activities, the coordinators of the various programs make time to evaluate 2018, prioritize parish needs and dreams, celebrate together and pray for the wisdom to risk something new. At the end of the meeting captured in these photos, the something new is still elusive. There is always the desire to invite new people into the circle of leadership, explore ways to reach out to those on the margins, deepen the relationships within the parish and encounter the God of Life who is present in all who gather and all that happens.

In the coming weeks, the various groups will meet to put feet on their dreams. On Sunday, February 3, all the participants in the various groups are invited to the sharing of ideas and the prioritization of goals. Something good to eat and the Sunday liturgy will close the gathering.

The coordinators are creative, responsible and know how to make church happen. We are a pilgrim church learning as we walk along the streets of Entre Ríos and the roads of O'Connor. Gracias for keeping all in your prayers.

*Hermanas Therese Corkery, Suzanne Takes,
Mery Cari Paz and Marge Healy*



Beatriz Verathe, coordinator of the pre-marriage team, the pastor and Mario Flores.



Padre Javier with Mario Flores and the coordinator of music.



All the coordinators of the various parish groups.



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The Lantern Center in the Season of Returning Light

By Sara Millhouse, Business Coordinator

It was a great joy to share the joy of Christmas and the holiday season with the immigrants we serve and all those who contribute to our mission! The season of giving meant we connected families with the Toys for Tots program and distributed coats donated by the Knights of Columbus to warm immigrant children. Diapers, toys, books, clothing and baby supplies donated by five sixth-grade classes of Mazzuchelli Middle School students helped at least eight families. We also held a baby shower for an expectant mother and father who study with us. We were awed by the generosity of attendees!



Lantern Center students and volunteers enjoy chicken biryani brought in by a student. Biryani is a popular dish in Bangladesh and neighboring countries.

Our community is thrilled to welcome new life to our midst, as students who study English with us have welcomed (and are expecting!) babies. Unfortunately, the circle of life means at least one member of our circle has lost a loved one in the past weeks. We ask you to keep our families in your thoughts and prayers when they navigate the hardest part of the life cycle, especially with the added complications of distance and borders.



Sixth graders at Mazzuchelli Middle School brought in seven boxes of diapers, more than 30 packages of wipes, more than 25 baby sleepers and outfits, more than 30 toddler clothing items, toys, books and blankets for student families during the holiday season.

The center closes between Christmas and New Year's, a time for reflection and rejuvenation as well as family and spiritual celebration. Now that the light is returning (a little more each day!) and our holiday treats have settled around our middles, we're back in the regular swing of weekly English-language and citizenship tutoring. It's wonderful to see the faces of our friends again, even after that short break!

We also welcomed a new helper, Jess Brown, a Loras College student interested in immigration in Dubuque. She will be with us approximately half-time through May. Welcome, Jess! We're grateful to have her smiling face, skills and assistance here at the center.

On January 17, we are hosting a financial literacy class by one of our bilingual volunteers, who works at Dupaco Community Credit Union. These classes can help immigrant students get a grip on their finances, get ahead of their bills, save and gain strategies for investing in their community's and families' future. The class is open to all and, as always, we welcome you to visit us at the Schmidt Innovation Center, 900 Jackson St. in Dubuque or online at www.thelanterncenter.org and our [Facebook page](#).



Jess Brown

Blessings to you and yours!
The Presentation Lantern Center Staff



December 2018 was a month for generosity from volunteers, friends and family for La Luz Hispana. As another year comes to a flourishing end, we give thanks and appreciation to many of our volunteers. La Luz Hispana with heavy hearts said goodbye to many of our volunteers that have given their heart, time and energy to this organization. As the year closed, we said goodbye to a few board members as they were ending their term with us. What these board members did for the organization is without comparison. They made decisions with their hearts, they wanted to make a difference and they wanted to help people. On behalf of La Luz Hispana, we want to say thank you for all you did to help us make changes and for helping us bring our community together.

We want to recognize the board members that represented the Sisters of the Presentation, that without the Sisters of the Presentation we would not have the organization we have today. This year Sister Rita Menart ended her term on our board. She was a wonderful resource to the organization. The community looked to her for guidance and counseling, and she was well-known for her dedication and commitment. Because of her knowledge and dedication, she helped in the transition with her wonderful ideas. Another board member that left us is Joann Gullickson, an associate of the Sisters of the Presentation, who was committed to the inner workings of the organization by making sure everything was transparent. She is always willing to help, even if she is trying to stay away. We lost great board members, but they left their lasting effect, and we will continue to honor their legacy. We hope to see them in La Luz Hispana as volunteers for future events.

Volunteers are the backbone of any organization. They help us grow and bring services and events to people, and for that, volunteers need to feel love and appreciation. To all the volunteers that help La Luz Hispana, we say, "Thank You."

Our volunteer appreciation night was a celebration for volunteer services. Some of our volunteers came to enjoy coffee and dessert and received their gift as our appreciation for all the hours they had volunteered. La Luz Hispana has many volunteers that have dedicated an immense amount of hours to ensure the success of our programs. Our citizenship volunteers help individuals who are ready to become citizens, but need help studying for 100 civic questions and need the extra help with reading and writing in English.

Volunteers for Gran Festival committee spend many hours making sure our fundraiser is a success. Without their help, knowledge and assistance, the festival would not become what it is today, seen as a beautiful presentation of cultures and is very well attended.

La Luz Hispana has unique opportunities for volunteering because we serve the underrepresented Spanish-speaking community. Anything we do is a learning experience for the staff and the volunteers, but it also has its challenges because of the language barriers, and it surprises me that volunteers accept these challenges because they are fearless.