

share your

gifts



FRANCISCAN
MINISTRIES

Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

LIVING joyfully

Sharing Time, Talent and Treasure to Make a Difference

A Time for Hope

We are living in uncertain times. Each day, we hear stories of darkness brought by the pandemic: isolation from loved ones; sickness; job losses, and economic hardships; all with seemingly no end in sight.

Yet, in the face of the uncertainty and discouragement we may feel, *there is still light*. We see it shining every day in our ministries sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago: in our eight senior living communities; at St. Jude House, our domestic violence shelter in Crown Point, Indiana, and in the work of the Madonna Foundation, empowering underserved teen girls through access to education and college readiness programming.

All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.

St. Francis of Assisi

The light of goodness and hope prevails because of our donors, volunteers, friends and supporters. Giving their *time, talent and treasure makes a difference in the world*. We would like to share with you some inspirational stories of giving from our ministries so you may see the impact of their generosity.



Madisyn Wimple with a Spread the Love Project donation for St. Jude House

Giving Their Time

Madisyn Wimple |
St. Jude House's
Youngest Philanthropist

Madisyn Wimple's philanthropy began at the young age of six. "I couldn't figure out what I wanted for my 7th birthday, so I decided to look for a shelter to donate to. That's how we found St. Jude House," says Madisyn, now 12 and a 6th grader in Crown Point. She looked around her room

[Madisyn Wimple Continued] and found toys to donate and asked her birthday party guests to bring an item on the St. Jude House wish list to donate. St. Jude House is a domestic violence shelter in Crown Point, Indiana that serves an average of 600 victims of domestic violence and their dependent children annually in a homelike shelter with comprehensive services for healing and hope. Says Madisyn, "My mom explained to me the kinds of things that happened and why they need help. I just tried to think about the positive things, like they are at the shelter, and they're getting help. I didn't really mind the fact that I didn't have any presents because I knew that I was going to help someone else."

That 7th birthday party was just the beginning. Each year for her birthday, more and more people and businesses have gotten involved, resulting in increased donations of critically-needed items as well as gas cards and cash donations for St. Jude House. With so many donations of toys, personal care and baby care items, microwaves, blankets, cases of water, cleaning products, clothing and more, the Wimple's rent a U-Haul to deliver them to St. Jude House.

Madisyn, with the help of her dad, Ryan and mom, Shaya, established *Madisyn's Spread the Love Project*. They also helped her set up a social media presence, where people are invited to make direct donations to St. Jude House. Ryan Elinkowski, director of St. Jude House says, "What young Madisyn has accomplished with her *Spread the Love* campaign has been such an inspiration for St. Jude House and the community. She is a shining example to all that the willing heart of one person can have a greater impact than ever imagined."

Two years ago, Madisyn was awarded the "Young Philanthropist" honor from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northwest Indiana Chapter. "You are never too young to make a difference, no matter how small of an act, and it's never too late to help change someone's life," Madisyn said.

Madisyn envisions herself starting a not-for-profit so she can continue to spread the love. She knows she will need her mom and dad's help for that, but said she is committed to continuing to amass donations from her birthday party, distributing flyers, and inviting more businesses to participate in her *Spread the Love Project*.



"I want to open a business that does stuff like this all the time—that collects donations for people who need it. It has taught me not to take anything for granted because other people might not have a lot," she said.



Ron and his assistant, Margie, delight residents of University Place with their magic tricks.

Giving Their Talent

Ron Stroup | Bringing His Gift of Magic to Residents of University Place

Ron Stoup, a 15 year resident of University Place, a Franciscan Ministries senior living community in West Lafayette, Indiana, has been intrigued and captivated by magic since he was a boy. When Ron was 12 years old, his older brother bought him a little magic set. His passion for the art lead him to spending hours at the library reading books on the subject and creating little magic shows for family and friends. So began Ron's lifelong pursuit of mastering the world of tricks and illusions.

As an electrical engineering major at Purdue University, Ron worked his way through school by doing magic shows. He had wanted to be a professional magician, but fell in love and married, knowing he had to get a real job to support a family which would grow to include five children. Ron's career as an electrical engineer necessitated family moves to the Chicago area, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Cleveland. In 2004, Ron's wife of 50 years passed away and Ron moved to University Place in 2005.

Every year since Ron moved in, he has shared his **talent** as a master magician through an annual magic show for 120 residents and invited guests. A major highlight of the year, the show features new and different tricks, including silk scarf, comedy and liquid magic.

This year's show, long-awaited and eagerly anticipated, was especially important given the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, which precludes outside entertainment in order to keep residents safe. Held on a stage in the Great Room of the community with Ron's backdrop and props, two separate shows were held on October 14 and 15 to allow for social distancing.

Ron says the actual performance is the easiest and most fun part. For months prior, Ron spends days planning and rehearsing, working with his assistant of 14 years, Margie Sharples, also a University Place resident and Ron's good friend and companion, to ensure a show that will delight his audience. Says Ron, "I want to make people smile and be happy."

The biggest hits of the show, Ron says, were the tricks featuring playing cards and dollar bills, disappearing/reappearing milk and finally, one where Ron and Margie produced a magic table out of thin air. Ron's only regret was that he, because of the social distancing requirement, could not ask for volunteers from the audience, which always adds to the fun.

Ron's enormous generosity of spirit and his talent make a difference at University Place, bringing joy to residents and associates. Ron participates in the community's Secret Prayer Partner group and recently he received a card with a note inside from his secret prayer partner, which sums up the wonderful gift he brings to all those around him: "God tells us to plant the seeds of the spirit and you are always ready with a smile and a joke."

Patti B. | Handmade Cards Bring the Light of Joy to Franciscan Village Residents

During these unprecedented times of social distancing and limited physical contact, we struggle to maintain connections with family and friends. We may often feel alone and isolated. Feelings of loneliness and isolation have been especially hard for residents in our senior living communities who, because of Covid-19 health restrictions, miss the physical closeness of visits from loved ones.

Patti is a "Franciscan family" friend who, through her artistic **talent**, brings the light of hope, friendship and joy to the residents and staff of Franciscan Village senior living community in Lemont, Illinois. Patti, an adult with some special needs, came to us through contacts at a



A beautiful handmade fall greeting card made by Patti with love

Chicago parish. She creates greeting and note cards handmade with love and decorated with a caring, friendly message. Distributed to our residents, Patti's unique, beautiful cards make every day bright. Franciscan Village is honored to provide a showcase for Patti's wonderful artistic talents and grateful to have her as a member of our Franciscan family. Residents and staff alike are looking forward to the coming holiday season with the promise of more beautiful cards from Patti!

Giving Their Treasure

Rosa DeLuna-Frede | Paying it Forward

Rosa knows what it's like to overcome obstacles. A certified public accountant and managing partner at Andersen Tax since 2012, Rosa credits her Catholic high school education with much of her success. A 1991 alumna of Madonna High School, run by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, Rosa went on to college at DePaul University.

As the oldest of three children of an immigrant family, Rosa held down part-time jobs while studying at DePaul to help cover her educational expenses. Earning her degree took Rosa six years as she juggled work and school. Through her perseverance and hard work, she graduated from DePaul in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She held accounting positions at

Kraft Foods and Grant-Thornton before moving to her senior role at Andersen Tax in 2012.

The Madonna Foundation connected with Rosa several years ago at a Madonna High School reunion. The school closed in 2001 and from the proceeds from the sale of the building, the Madonna Foundation was established to carry on the legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago through the creation of the Madonna Scholars Program. The program provides scholarship support and college readiness programming to an annual average of 60 underserved teen girls who attend our partner schools: all six remaining all-girls Catholic high schools in the Chicago area.



Rose DeLuna-Frede (back row, fifth from left) and the Madonna scholars during the program's Career Day visit to Andersen Tax in Chicago.

[Rosa DeLuna-Frede Continued]

Rosa has generously supported Madonna Foundation scholarships through her **treasure**. She also contributes her **time** by attending Madonna fundraising events and hosting the Madonna scholars at Andersen Tax as part of the Madonna Scholars Program *Career Day* event. Rosa is grateful for the help and support she received in high school and college. She considers herself fortunate and is committed to "paying it forward," helping our Madonna scholars to succeed in high school, college and beyond!

Ginny Engler | "Giving to help others brings joy."

Ginny has lived in a Franciscan Village coach home since 2012. She keeps busy with her children and grandchildren, has dinner every night with her sister Sue who lives in a nearby coach home; and cooks and bakes. Says Ginny: "This is my community. This is my home. We are family here. *And we are supposed to help people.*"

And Ginny does exactly that. She loves baking for members of her Franciscan family. It makes her happy and brings joy to those who are the recipients of her wonderful cookies, cakes, and pies.

Franciscan Village has also been a most grateful recipient of Ginny's mission of spreading joy by giving treasure. Each year, Ginny has generously contributed to the community's

Gift of Care program. The *Gift of Care* is a fund that helps Franciscan Village residents who find themselves in financial difficulty and need help to offset the cost of their care. Ginny's steadfast support eases the financial burden and provides peace of mind for long-time Franciscan Village residents whose resources are dwindling.

This year, because of challenges and unanticipated needs brought by the pandemic, Ginny designated her contribution "to be used for whatever is needed." Ginny knows what it's like to live under quarantine and restricted activities. She was a child at the time of the polio epidemic and remembers having to remain indoors throughout the long summer. No swimming,



Ginny (left) and her sister, Sue

no sports, or anything that children look forward to for a summer of fun. Ginny has always believed that "happiness is a choice." About the pandemic restrictions, she says, "We have no choice. You just do it. And not grudgingly. It doesn't help to be that way."

Ginny is a gentle soul whose kindness and generosity of spirit are felt by everyone in her Franciscan family. She is an inspiration and shining example of one who gives of their treasure from a deep place in the heart.

Inaugural Issue

Winter 2020 | We are
Happy to Share

We are happy to have been able to share with you these inspiring stories of those who give gifts of time, talent and treasure to help us serve so many across our ministries.

Every day, we are thankful for our donors, volunteers, friends and supporters who contribute to our mission of caring for seniors, helping victims of domestic violence and their children to move on to lives free of violence and empowering underserved teen girls through education.

If these stories have inspired you and you have time, talent or treasure that you wish to share to make a difference, you may visit our website at www.franciscanministries.org/donate. Or, if you prefer, you may call Christine Zielke, Director of Philanthropy and Planned Giving at 331.318.5168.



Margie and her daughter, Jeanette

Jeanette and Annette | Giving in Memory of Their Mom



Margie Jindra loved to take walks, laugh, and most of all, to sing. A long-time resident of Mount Alverna Village, Franciscan Ministries' senior living community in Parma, Ohio, Margie passed away in March 2020 from Alzheimer's disease.

Her daughters, Jeanette and Annette, visited their mom several times a week at Mount Alverna Village. They often took her for walks and sang to her. Margie's favorite song was "You Are My Sunshine," her face lighting up whenever she heard it.

Jeanette volunteered for many years in the memory support wing where her mom lived, making songbooks for all the residents and leading a weekly sing-along group. Each year, Annette brought a group to the community to perform scenes from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* for all the residents to enjoy.

After their mom passed away, Jeanette and Annette made gifts to Mount Alverna Village to honor her memory. Because of their generosity, the community was able to purchase a rocker-glider for residents to enjoy on the outdoor patio as well as brand new dining room tables in the memory support wing.

Margie would be happy and proud of her daughters' thoughtfulness and generosity.



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