



Transforming Lives

Sisters Anna Keim, Daleen Larkin and Kathleen Callaway continue the SNJM tradition of transforming lives through education at the Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra, CA.

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Making a Difference at Santee Mission

(Left) Maria Lorena and family

(Right) Sister Mary Becker and Maria Lorena



María Lorena Sánchez de Flores, born in 1970, attended elementary and secondary school in Mexico. At 16, she went to California to earn money for a roof on the family home in Mezquitic, Mexico. After earning the money, she returned home and the roof was built.

She met and married Eduardo in 1991. Several years later, they moved to the Santee area of San Jose, CA, with two children. The family grew to four daughters and now two grandchildren.

When the Sisters moved into the neighborhood, Maria Lorena and her family welcomed them as neighbors. Over time she became an integral part of the faith community, participating in liturgies and religious education programs. She completed a three-year advanced course with the Institute for Leadership in Ministry in the San Jose Diocese.

While preparing young

children to receive the sacraments, Maria recognized the need for counseling services to local families. Maria Lorena enrolled in a four-year high school to learn English and then in community college, earning an AA in psychology. This fall she begins her final year of undergraduate studies at San José State University with a major in psychology. She will

become a family therapist accessible to her community.

“The ‘Hermanas at Santee’ changed my life. Sisters Mary Becker and Miriam Daniel have always been at my side to help me with my studies and Sister Mary’s ministry as counselor to families has made a difference,” she says. “Without their presence and support, it would have been difficult

to follow my dream. Because of the money I received from Our Lady of Refuge Jorge da Silva Scholarship, I am able to buy books and pay the high cost of tuition.”

The SNJM ministry fund contributes to the Our Lady of Refuge Scholarship Fund for university students from low-income families. Your gift makes a difference for people like Maria!

Holy Names Sisters at Santee Mission in San Jose, CA

The Santee neighborhood of San Jose is an area rich in diversity of language and culture. It has also been described as one of the poorest areas of San Jose. The needs are great.

Wanting to make a difference in this community, Sisters Martha Bendorf and Guadalupe Maria moved into the area and began ministry in July 1995 followed by Sister Catherine Irene Thoeni in November 1996, and Sister Miriam Daniel Fahey in January 1997. These “retired” Sisters were transitioning to a different ministry. The Sisters participated in programs at the Homework Center and the Healthy

Start Program, religious education classes at the parish, ESL classes for adults, a library for the children and liturgies for Sunday Masses.

The Sisters were joined by volunteers from St. Mary Parish in Los Gatos, CA and Sacred Heart Parish in Saratoga, CA.

When Our Lady of Refuge Church was formed in 2012, the Santee Mission ceased as a small mission community. The Sisters continued in the neighborhood and today, Sister Mary Becker and volunteer Marcia Green participate in many of the activities in the neighborhood. ■

Hospitality Brings Hope at Rose Haven



Like many other U.S. cities, Portland, Oregon is facing a housing crisis. Amid the dark clouds of homelessness, there exists a light of hope and help. Rose Haven, started in 1997 by Good Shepherd Sister Cathie Boerboom, provides a day shelter and community center for women and children experiencing poverty, trauma, and mental and physical health challenges.

From nearly the beginning, Holy Names Sister Judy Bertoli was a weekly volunteer. She spent several hours most Tuesdays as a welcoming presence of hospitality among Rose Haven guests, listening to their stories with a willing ear, enjoying their company with a gracious smile, and being a spiritual companion with a loving heart. Traveling an hour each way by bus into Northwest Portland, she brought a one-of-kind healing energy to guests and staff alike.

As a regular volunteer, Sister Judy saw the impact of Rose Haven's ID Replacement Program and secured a grant from the SNJM Ministry Fund to support it. The women and children who frequent Rose Haven are among the most disenfranchised in the city. They experience isolation and invisibility on a daily basis. Lack of proper identification makes their problems worse.

Rose Haven guest Lynne knows firsthand how important the ID program is. Living outside, her possessions have

been stolen, sometimes repeatedly. Without ID, she could not check into night shelter, utilize community clinic services or access the food bank. It is a challenge to replace identification, and the fees are more than a person experiencing poverty can afford.

Rose Haven helps guests like Lynne replace lost or stolen ID. The reinstatement of her ID quite literally reaffirmed her existence and transformed her life.

Thanks to the Sisters of the Holy Names and the support of donors to the SNJM Ministry Fund, Rose Haven provided 194 IDs or vital records in 2018 for women and children experiencing homelessness or abuse.

Sister Judy's impact is felt by the women who can take their rightful place in society thanks to the center and its ID replacement program. ■



(Top) Families are regular guests at Rose Haven, which offers a clothes closet, a food pantry and a noontime meal Monday through Friday as well as private shower facilities. Programs for children include an annual back-to-school fair that provides school supplies and a holiday gathering that distributes brand-new gifts to hundreds of children in need.

(Middle) Lynne has been a beneficiary of the ID replacement program at Rose Haven. Restoration of her ID documents has helped to stabilize her life.

(Bottom) Sister Judy Bertoli has been sowing the seeds of hospitality and welcome at Rose Haven from its early days. She has championed SNJM support for the ID Replacement Program.

Holy Names Education **INSPIRED** ALUMNA to Push Boundaries



As a child, Kathy Dooley (now Dr. Kathleen Dooley Stokes) lived in Key West, FL. Her parents chose to send her to the Convent of Mary Immaculate (run by Holy Names Sisters) for elementary school, seeking the best education for their daughter who wanted to become a doctor.

When her father was transferred to Washington, D.C., they looked for another school run by Holy Names Sisters.

They chose Silver Spring, MD, where they could enroll their daughter in St. Michael the Archangel school and the Academy of the Holy Names (AHN).

Looking back, Kathleen values how the Academy made it possible for students to study the things that they wanted to learn, whether it was typing or biology. She particularly remembers two teachers who encouraged her love of math and

science. Math teacher Sister Ann Cecelia “was very understanding, but tough.” As for science teacher Sister Frederick Joseph, Kathleen says, “I thought she

knew everything there was to know about science.”

While at AHN, Kathleen earned an honorable mention in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. She also volunteered at Georgetown Medical Center, where she had the opportunity to work in the operating room during her junior and senior years. She recalls memorizing all the instruments on the operating table, which drew the surgeons’ attention. When she asked their advice about how to get into medical school, she was told, “You understand, you would be taking a man’s place.”

Despite encountering resistance time and again, she held on to her dream of becoming a doctor. In 1988, at the age of 45, she achieved her goal and graduated from medical school.

She has been a practicing pediatrician for 31 years and plans to continue as long as she is able. “I think medicine is a wonderful field – I can make a difference in a family’s life, and today, I am treating the children of my former patients,” she says. “That is such a special experience.”

She and her husband Bob now live in Plano, TX. They raised three children and have five grandchildren. She keeps up with changes in medicine by reading an hour every night, and has been recertified in her specialty every five years, most recently in 2018 at age 75. To this day, she is grateful for the support of the Sisters and for the preparation she received through her Holy Names education. ■

**“At Holy Names,
I was allowed
to blossom.”**



Top: Kathleen Dooley, AHN Silver Spring Class of 1960.

Above: Some of the teachers who inspired young Kathy Dooley at the Academy of the Holy Names were Sister Ann Cecelia (left) and Sister Frederick Joseph (right).

Below: Kathleen D. Stokes, M.D., Ph.D. today.



Sisters CALLED TO HELP in Watsonville

In 1990, responding to a request from church and local leaders to work with farm workers and their families in the Pajaro Valley, Sisters Mary Ondreyco, Inez Sherwood and Mary Margaret Mulgrew moved to Watsonville, CA.

During the next 20 years, these Sisters visited families and provided after-school tutoring, English language and literacy classes for adults and youth, summer programs, women's groups and small Faith Community meetings at the various Farm Worker Housing Communities, often referred to as Camps.

The Sisters moved from Watsonville in 2010, but many of these programs continue in the capable hands of the Housing Communities and the many experienced volunteers.

In 2018, Sister Mary moved back into the county. She is reconnecting with families and volunteering in education programs.

A Life Changes

The Castillo family arrived at San Andreas Camp in Watsonville, CA in 1991. Maria, the oldest, took care of her younger sisters and brothers while her parents worked long hours in the fields. The children were enrolled in the local public schools but Maria, 16, did not have the requisite credits to enroll as a junior in high school.

Visiting the family one day, Sister Mary Margaret Mulgrew met Maria and discovered her desire to learn English and pursue education as an independent study student. While Maria took care of the children in the house, Sister Mary Margaret taught her basic English vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

In 1992, Maria passed the Spanish GED and enrolled full-time in ESL classes at the Adult School in

Watsonville. After six months, she stopped attending classes to work in the fields picking strawberries but continued in-home teaching with Sister Mary Margaret. She worked to save for a car so that she and two friends from the camp could attend classes at the Adult School. After receiving her ESL certificate, she enrolled in Cabrillo College and worked part time to help her family buy a home in the Watsonville area. The Sisters gave her a "recycled computer" that she used for years to complete her college assignments. Maria received her AA degree at Cabrillo and enrolled at Cal State University Monterey Bay, earning a bachelor's degree and teaching credential. Maria has been teaching for 17 years in Salinas and says, "This is the work that God wants me to do."

When Maria reflects on her life,



(Above) Sr. Mary Margaret celebrating at Maria's wedding, dancing with the bride and groom.

(Below) Maria and her daughters visit Sister Mary Margaret at Villas at Saratoga.



Sister Mary Margaret is a significant part of those reflections. She attributes her education and career as a teacher to the presence of Sister whose care and dedication helped her from her first days at camp. Maria describes her relationship with Sister as "mentor, friend, role model and 'grandmother.' She is one of the special people who touched my life and, thanks to her, I became who I am today – a role model and teacher reaching out to migrant students and their families." ■

Transforming through PARTNERSHIPS

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ost people connected with Sisters of the Holy Names know about our sponsored ministries, which are mostly schools. The Sisters of the Holy Names also co-sponsor four different ministries with other communities of women religious. Co-sponsoring includes having Holy Names Sisters on each ministry's board and providing financial support.

Seven women religious communities in the Seattle Archdiocese co-sponsor the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, and Mercy Housing Northwest.

In Spokane, Holy Names Sisters, Providence Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia and Sinsinawa Dominicans co-sponsor Transitions, which includes six different ministries. The goal of

Transitions is to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane – no small task!

Transitions ministries evolved over the last 33 years. The story

began when Holy Names Sisters Cathy Beckley and Peggy Kennedy and some Dominican Sisters started living with homeless women, helping them transition to a life free of addictions. This ministry, called Miryam's House, continues today.

Around this same time, after talking with women on the streets in downtown Spokane, Sister Cathy started a drop-in center for women, now called Women's Hearth. This Transitions ministry provides a safe place for women while also meeting their basic needs. For years, Holy Names Sisters have worked and volunteered at Women's Hearth.

In the early 1990s, as Spokane's lack of housing for single-mother families became evident, the Transitional Living Center and EduCare were established to house and support women and their children. In 2008, Transitions founded New Leaf Bakery Cafe to provide job training.

As women in these five programs become more independent, they need access to affordable housing. Recently Transitions built the Home Yard Cottages, which provide permanent supportive housing for families and individual women in 24 cottages.

The Sisters of the Holy Names are proud to be one of Transitions' four co-sponsoring women religious communities, providing board leadership and financial assistance. With this broad support, this set of amazing ministries achieves more than any of the communities individually could accomplish. ■



A Women's Hearth volunteer provides first aid and essential supplies to a visitor to the women's drop-in center in downtown Spokane.

Children enjoy the Educare program, designed to help the littlest victims of poverty and homelessness recover, heal and reunite with their families.

Young people learn about healthy snacks during their after-school Educare program.

Transformation through VOLUNTEERISM

Five rising seniors from Holy Names Academy in Seattle spent the first two weeks of their summer vacation volunteering with Sister Kay Burton in Jonestown, MS. HNA calls this experience a “Shared Mission Trip” as it is an opportunity to partner in mission with the Sisters of the Holy Names through this trip and beyond.

Sister Kay’s Durocher Volunteer Service Program, which encourages voluntary service by local residents through strong educational activities, has been operating in Jonestown for more than 30 years. One project invites volunteers to live in a small rural Mississippi Delta town, learning about the cultural values of people in that area while also working with them to provide educational enrichment or other needed services. Holy Names Academy students have volunteered in Jonestown almost since the beginning! This year, Sister Nancy Anderson shared her expertise during the first week while Sister Kay traveled to Vietnam to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross.

Jonestown-area 6th, 7th and 8th grade students spent the month of June enrolled in Sister Kay’s summer school program; HNA students worked as volunteer teachers for two of those

weeks alongside local high school and college volunteers. HNA students and chaperones taught subjects including science, math, writing, history, reading, health and goal-setting.

In addition to planning lessons and teaching, these energetic young women helped with Sister Nancy’s tennis lessons and accompanied students on swimming outings to nearby Clarksdale. Gardening with Sister Kay was a daily activity shared by the HNA students and Jonestown community members alike, proving a wonderful way to start and end those hot and humid June days.

One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson with the summer school students and teachers. At the museum, the group delved into the history of oppression and resilience during slavery, Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Era.

Holy Names Academy is proud of these young women and grateful to have a partnership with Sister Kay in Jonestown! ■



Sister Kay Burton (4th from the left) with volunteers.

“Jonestown was an amazing, eye-opening experience that completely shifted my perspective on the world. I learned about the simplicities of life and how loving a community can be.”

—Emma Velling



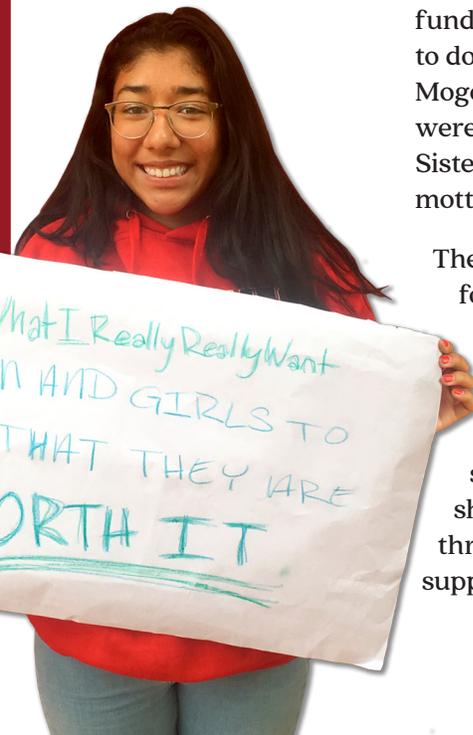
Holy Names High School's ADVENTURE in Tanzania



In June 2019, 11 Holy Names High School (HNHS) students traveled to Morogoro, Tanzania, to participate in an immersive cross-cultural program. HNHS partnered with Powerful Beyond Measure (PBM), whose

mission is to educate and empower underrepresented girls from the San Francisco Bay Area to become leaders in their communities. PBM's African partners are committed to investing in the female experience and empowerment, allowing young women to imagine a larger identity for themselves that is not limited by their gender.

The Education for Life Department at SEGA Girls' Secondary School, together with PBM, organized a leadership training workshop for students. Based on the East African Girls Leadership



#What I Really Really Want
WOMEN AND GIRLS TO
KNOW THAT THEY ARE
WORTH IT

Summit training and experience, the goal was to develop the leadership skills of girls and young women and support them in becoming effective change-makers in their communities while building gender equality and a network in East Africa. The workshops involved discussions about gender-based violence, self-confidence and leadership empowerment. The girls were also encouraged to take leadership roles in community groups and wherever they were needed to lead.

In the words of one participant:

"My experience does not end here. I owe it to you all, my sisters back at SEGA, and all of the other people who have supported me on this journey to pay it forward." – Sa'mya Wilson '20, Student Body President

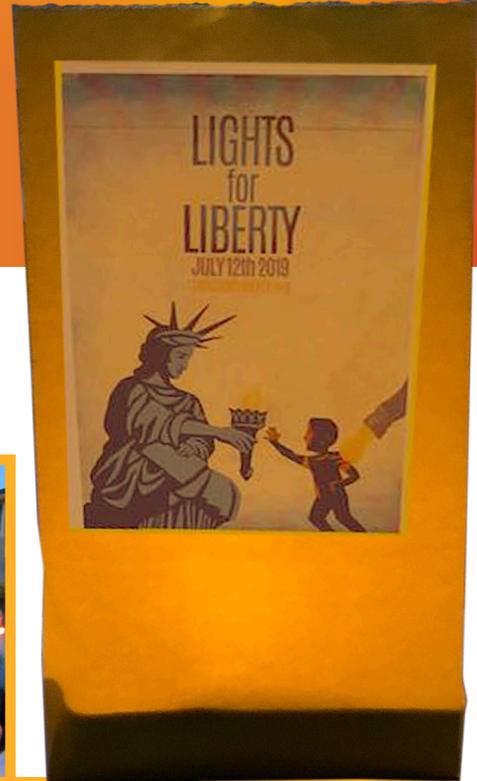
In addition, Holy Names students experienced a safari at Mikumi National Park, hiked in the Uluguru Mountains and most importantly, met their new African sisters. Students held fundraisers throughout the year in order to donate toys, food and supplies to the Mogolole Orphanage. HNHS students were carrying out the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names and the HNHS motto of Noblesse Oblige.

The trip was a life-changing experience for students. They gained the self-knowledge, confidence and skills they need to take concrete action to bring about social change. These exchanges help shrink the world as the students share stories and build sisterhood through empowerment, education and supporting one another. ■

Lights for LIBERTY

9n July 12, Sisters of the Holy Names participated in Lights for Liberty events across the country. They gathered in groups large and small to pray for migrants detained by the United States at the southern border.

In Santa Cruz, CA, (at right and below) Sisters Mimi Maloney, Mary Ondreyco, Cheryl Milner and Miriam Malone gathered with about 75 neighbors of the Villa Maria del Mar. They stood in a candlelit circle at sunset as the Sisters led them in song and prayer.



In Portland, OR, (above) Sisters and Associates gathered in locations across the city, including around an ICE detention facility, at the Sophia Center and at one of their homes, praying for an end to the detention camps.

In the Washington, DC area, (two photos at left) Sisters Ann Marean and Kathleen Keller gathered with community friends for song and prayers.

In Toppenish and Spokane, WA, small groups of Sisters gathered with Associates to pray for immigrants and refugees.

WHY THEY GIVE: Partners in Mission

We know people have many reasons for being our Partners in Mission. We will tell a donor's story in each issue of SNJM Now. If you'd like to share your story, contact us at development@snjmuson.org.

In 1941, 12-year-old Leo Conkle walked up the steps to the Chapel of the Holy Names in Marylhurst, OR to serve as an altar boy for the Sisters' Mass. He never forgot the peace and comfort he found there. Seventy-five years later, Leo and his wife Maria returned to the Sisters and became residents of Mary's Woods at Marylhurst. "I always feel like I'm coming home when I walk up those steps to the Chapel."

Life was not easy for Leo in his early days. He was the youngest of eight children whose father drowned when Leo was just two years old. "I always felt unwanted, like I didn't belong," until he met Marie Therese.

Marie grew up in Olten, Switzerland. As a child, she showed her mother a picture of the Statue of Liberty. "I will go there when I grow up," she said. She was 22 when she arrived by ship in New York City, speaking very little English. Somehow she found a bus to Detroit, MI, where her sister lived.

Seven years later, now known as Maria and living in Portland, OR, she met Leo at a Chancellor Club meeting for single Catholics. It was love at first sight. He asked her to a dance the next Saturday, they were married in May and Leo found the love he'd always yearned for.

In 2017, Maria passed away on her 85th birthday due to complications from a fall. Through this loss, Leo has found that "you don't get over it, you just get on with it."

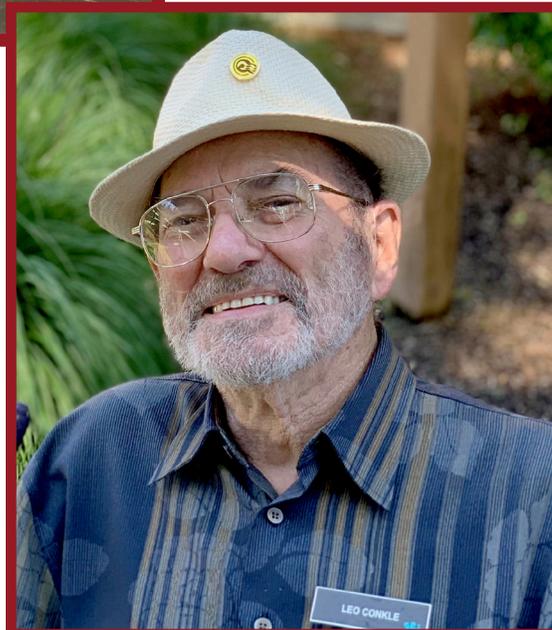
For a number of years, Maria worked with Catholic Charities and the International Refugee Center. "She put thousands of people to work in that placement center," Leo noted.

When Leo heard of the Sisters' work with immigrants and refugees, he realized immediately how he could honor his wife and the Sisters he'd known for so many years. Leo says, "My gift to the Immigrant and Refugee Fund continues the legacy that Maria left behind." Through the SNJM Immigrant and Refugee Fund, Leo's gift will provide Sisters with resources to resist racism, advocate for human rights and create welcoming communities by partnering with organizations helping immigrants and refugees. ■



(Above) Leo Conkle and his wife Maria on their wedding day in May, 1961.

(Right) Leo Conkle attends the Chapel of the Holy Names where he served as altar boy so many years ago. He now serves as sacristan and eucharistic minister.



Saying Goodbye to the Albany Provincial House and St. Joseph Chapel

The former Provincial House in Albany, NY served as home, infirmary, school, sacred space and center for Sisters of the Holy Names of the New York Province for more than 50 years. Adjacent to the Academy of the Holy Names-Albany, it has been a constant for the school community as well.

Last year, a committee of Sisters and consultants considered possible future uses of the space that would be best for the Sisters and for the Academy. After much prayer, research and discernment, they decided to take down the buildings and return this area of the campus to greenspace.

The work to decommission the building started with repurposing anything that could be of use, particularly in educational settings or nonprofits serving people in need. Furnishings from the Sisters' residences, school desks and oak shelving from the library have all found their way to good homes. Anything that could be recycled was carefully removed from the building.

In June of this year, more than 140 alumnae, friends, parents, students and Sisters gathered at St. Joseph Chapel to celebrate, pray and reminisce. The theme of "Remembering, Giving Thanks and Moving On" inspired memories of



weddings, funerals, graduations and Sisters' vow ceremonies.

The ceremony closed with the blessing of one other, the symbolic extinguishing of the Easter Candle and the slow dimming of the lights during the procession out of the chapel. Following the ritual, reunions, stories and memory-sharing continued at Academy of the Holy Names Student Commons as all gathered for more time together and a delicious meal. ■



"May the memories of this holy place that shaped the lives of many continue to compel each of us to be bearers of peace and justice in the footsteps of Blessed Marie Rose."

(From souvenir card)



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Sisters who entered the SNJM community after 1970 gathered at the Villa Maria del Mar in Santa Cruz, CA this summer. They prayed, shared, played and spent time reflecting on the role of women religious in today's church. They were joined by Sisters of the Holy Family who entered their community after 1970 and by guide dog Earhart, who won the prize for Miss Congeniality.

Acknowledgements

SNJM Now is a publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, PO Box 398, Marylhurst OR 97036. We gratefully acknowledge contributions by writers Mary Becker, SNJM; Adrianna Carr; Megan Diefenbach, M.Ed.; Sarah Harris; Kathryn Ondreyco, SNJM; Mary Rita Rohde, SNJM; and Carole Strawn, SNJM; and graphic designer Blynda Barnett. For more information, contact (503) 675-7111 or development@snjmuson.org