



# Social Mission Catalog

## Bellarmino Chapel

### Social Mission Core Team

The mission statement for the Social Mission Core Team is that “social mission is faith in action, an integration of gospel values into our lives through service and education aimed at systemic change.”

The committee promotes and coordinates Bellarmino’s efforts to work for social justice and offer service to others. Membership on the core team involves monthly meetings as well as organizing monthly outreach collections and reviewing grant requests. In addition, the core team offers support to Habitat for Humanity, The AMOS Project, St. Vincent de Paul, Community Care Network, JustFaith and “justice spirituality” in the parish. **If you are interested or have questions, contact Social Mission Director Jeff Campbell at 745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu).**

### The AMOS Project

The AMOS Project is a group of congregations committed to living out their faith through public action. Opportunities for leadership and leadership development for living out our faith in the public arena center on becoming involved in a campaign that addresses pressing community needs, based on different opportunities that change over time.

Part of The AMOS Project mission states: We affirm the value and dignity of every human life and address critical systemic problems at their root causes. We are challenged and impelled by the prophet Amos who urges: "See that justice is done."

**If you would like to learn more about how you can become more involved in systemic change here in Cincinnati, contact:** Jeff Campbell, Director of Social Mission at 745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu).

### The Community Care Network

For twenty-some years, we have been doing what friends and neighbors have always done. We simply pitch in and do what we can whenever someone needs a hand, whether that need lasts just a short while or has a life measured in months or years. Members of the Community Care Network often volunteer to do one or some of the following:

- Prepare and deliver meals
- Provide transportation to church, doctor’s appointments, and stores
- Run errands
- Bring communion
- Visit people in hospitals, nursing homes or their own homes
- Give a caregiver a break
- Offer support to families caring for a newborn

In a parish as geographically far-flung as Bellarmino, communication is the key issue. One of us may get a phone call; more often coordinators for the different types of service send out an e-mail and wait for our response. The exact extent of our commitment is therefore flexible enough to accommodate the circumstances of our own lives.

In a sense, everyone at Bellarmino is a necessary part of our ministry as a communicator. Hospitals once notified churches when a parishioner was admitted. Especially in these days of privacy laws, you may be the first to know that someone is in need of help. We rely on you to let the chapel’s staff know when a friend or neighbor could use our help.

**If you have questions or want to join the Community Care Network, sign up at the parish office or contact:** Jeff Campbell at 513-745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu).



### Douglass School Mentoring Program

In 2001 the Foundation of Rotary Club of Cincinnati embarked on a tutoring program for an inner city K-8 school at The Frederick Douglass School in Walnut Hills. In the school year 2006-2007, volunteers from Bellarmine Parish joined Rotary in tutoring there.

For many students at Douglass, in those formative years before they start school, no one reads to them. No one helps them learn their letters or numbers. Too often, no one at home gives them any encouragement.

How different that is from the world most of us have experienced. It is an unfair disadvantage for a five year old to start school already so far behind. Teachers face classrooms of twenty students who cannot read the simplest words in first or second grade.

Classroom tutors spend about an hour, usually in the morning, working with the children. Some come between 2:30 and 5pm to work with the YOU After School Program; others work as a Character Coach for Winners Walk Tall. Some tutors work one-on-one with students; others work in small groups. There is also a computer lab, and that teacher welcomes tutors who are computer literate.

Our goal is that every child at Douglass School receives a tutoring experience.

Tutoring is a commitment and it takes time, but you can make a real difference in the lives of these children.

For the past two years we have also raised money to assist with the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade annual trip. This year the trip is to Niagara Falls. The Bellarmine Social Mission Core Team awarded Douglass a \$500 grant to help assure the expenses of this trip are covered.

**If you have interest in participating at Douglass School, please contact:** Kathi McQuade at 608-5793 (cell) or email [kmcquade@fuse.net](mailto:kmcquade@fuse.net).

### Shalom XII Habitat for Humanity House

Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to provide simple, affordable, decent housing for all people, one house at a time. Each new homeowner puts in 500 hours of “sweat equity” building their home while learning the skills it takes to be good homeowners. The criteria for becoming new partner families includes housing need and ability to pay the interest free mortgage, among other things. Habitat is not a hand out, but a hand up!

The Shalom Coalition is a group of seven partner congregations and one company who have banded together with Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity to build one house per year. Shalom congregations provide volunteers, a large part of the funding and site construction leadership. Join in the fun and the good work fellowship while we add more houses to the list!

#### We need several kinds of help...

**Fundraisers** to raise money to cover cost of materials.

**Meal preparers** to make lunches for the construction workers.

**People with email and excel skills** to help in contacting the volunteers weekly.

#### Construction workers of various skill levels.

- **No skills** just an able body and a willingness to learn. If you are a minor, there are restrictions.
- **Skilled** with the ability to come to the site, work with volunteers, and learn the Habitat way...You may just get Habitat-itus!!

Your time commitment is as little or as much as you want. We work every Saturday during building season (usually April thru October). Some work most Saturday’s, others work once a season, and anywhere in-between. We have two shifts on Saturday: 8:30 am to 12 and 12:30 to finish (about 3 pm). Some folks work both shifts.

Christi Eisenberg is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Shalom Coalition. **She can be reached at:** 513.741.1629, or at [ceisenberg@fuse.net](mailto:ceisenberg@fuse.net) . To sign up to volunteer, go to this website and complete the vol. form: [www.hydeparkchurch.com/ministries/habitat.html](http://www.hydeparkchurch.com/ministries/habitat.html) .





### Christian Foundation for Children and Aging

CFCA is a lay Catholic sponsorship organization serving the poor at numerous international mission sites. CFCA's mission is to build relationships of love through direct sponsorships between the people of the U.S. and the global poor in developing countries.

Through sponsorship of children and the aging, we build relationships of mutual respect and support while raising awareness in our own country of the needs and gifts of the poor and the Mission outreach of the Church.

Sponsored friends receive supplemental nutrition in the form of: nutritious food provisions and meals; school supplies and tuition assistance; medical and dental care; clothing, shoes and school uniforms; housing repairs, beds and blankets; health and parenting workshops; literacy programs and tutoring; and skills training and livelihood programs.

CFCA works in 25 economically developing countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.

CFCA asks for \$30 a month from a sponsor. The sponsor is also encouraged to write regularly to the sponsored child so the child will have the encouragement of knowing that someone cares. The sponsor, in turn, will receive letters from the child translated into English.

**Informational brochures about CFCA are regularly available in the narthex. CFCA's address is:** One Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, KS 66103. The agency's phone number is 1-800-875-6564. **For more information about Bellarmine's involvement in CFCA, contact parishioner:** Jane Sansalone, 4902 Chalet Dr, No. 8, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1436; or by phone at 242-8538.

### Greater Cincinnati Ignatian Volunteer Corps

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is men and women, age 50 and over, sharing their skills, talents, and life experiences with organizations that directly assist people who are poor, or address issues related to poverty. Ignatian Volunteers serve people in need, work for a more just society, and grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

IVC was founded in 1995 when two Jesuit priests, Jim Conroy, SJ, and Charlie Costello, SJ, gathered a small group of retired men and women to explore ways to minister to those who were materially poor while also gaining spiritual growth through service. Today the Ignatian Volunteer Corps is a national organization with regional programs in major metropolitan areas across the country.

#### The Ignatian Difference

Americans have a long-standing commitment to service with seemingly limitless opportunities to volunteer. So what makes the Ignatian volunteer opportunity different from others? **The reflection experience.**

Ignatian Volunteers are guided through a reflection process based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. This process helps volunteers discover the deeper meaning of their service and to see Christ more clearly as they labor among their brothers and sisters who are poor. Reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition - individually and communally - deepens the service experience as a unique feature of IVC.

#### What We Do

Ignatian volunteers work in direct service, as well as addressing issues related to poverty. With their skills matched to the particular needs of community organizations, Ignatian Volunteers tutor, advance literacy skills, help find jobs and housing, provide healthcare and companionship, and work to overcome poverty. They may also engage in counseling, administrative tasks, fund-raising and more. Contact:

1826 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A, Cincinnati, OH 45225-1992  
(513) 608-5551 [sschloemer@ivcusa.org](mailto:sschloemer@ivcusa.org)





### Fair Trade Coffee

Fair Trade coffee products are sold at Bellarmine on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month after each liturgy. Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate products are purchased from Equal Exchange.

This organization gives a fair/just price for products to small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Equal Exchange has been in existence for 20 years and brings products from small-scale farmer corporations in 190 countries, thus, allowing them a steady income and a better future.

Bellarmino does not profit from selling these products but endeavors to create awareness and educate people about how their choices can impact small-scale farmers across the globe.

**If you are interested in volunteering your time after Sunday Liturgy once a month, contact:**

- 9AM Liturgy: Pam Venable (793-7301) ([chuckpam@fuse.net](mailto:chuckpam@fuse.net))
- 11AM Liturgy: Jane Friel (825-4366) ([janeufriel@hotmail.com](mailto:janeufriel@hotmail.com))
- 7PM Liturgy: Marie Hill (474-1564) ([mmhill@fuse.net](mailto:mmhill@fuse.net))



### Oyler School HOSTS Mentoring

HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) Language Arts is an academic structured mentoring program that pairs a student who needs help with a volunteer mentor. The program provides one-to-one attention that makes a difference in the life of a student.

**How does HOSTS work?** A mentor works with an individual student on materials and activities prepared by the HOSTS instructor to target specific reading and writing skills. **Time required** is thirty minutes a week. We have seven session each day so that you can choose a time that works best for you. **Please call:** 363-4168 or e-mail [oylerhosts@cps-k12.org](mailto:oylerhosts@cps-k12.org). Oyler School HOSTS mentoring, 2121 Hatmaker Street, Cincinnati, OH, 45204.



### Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

For some time, Bellarmine has explored the idea of joining our sister congregations in Cincinnati in providing hospitality for homeless families. IHN is a comprehensive agency that assists families in rising out of homelessness. IHN operates a day center in Lower Price Hill where case management and other support take place. IHN relies on religious congregations to host families at night and to provide them with food during one week rotations several times each year. Because Bellarmine lacks the physical space needed to house these families, we would be participating as a support congregation working with another church to provide hospitality. Our role would be to help provide the meals—a dinner, breakfast, and sack lunch—and possibly to spend overnight time with the guests. This is a new venture for Bellarmine, but judging from the great response received when we asked for volunteers to cook meals for our own parishioners, it is something we may be ready to undertake.

The individual time commitment could vary somewhat. Preparing meals could take 2 to 4 hours about 3 or 4 times per year. For overnight volunteers the commitment could be 8 to 10 hours 3 or 4 times per year. Skills involved include the ability to prepare meals, make lunches, and to be available as a resource to overnight guests.

IHN is located at 2110 St. Michael St., Cincinnati, OH 45204, 513-471-1100. **The Bellarmine contact is:** Kathy Aerni, [aernicin@yahoo.com](mailto:aernicin@yahoo.com) or 871-7803.



### Tender Mercies

Tender Mercies provides housing and related services to homeless persons with histories of emotional and / or mental disabilities. We serve lunch on the second Saturday of every month from 11-1pm. There are no special skills required, just buying the food and helping to serve it to about 50-60 people. **The parish contact is:** Rita Pritchard 513-325-1579 and the volunteer coordinator at Tender Mercies is Kelly Carr.



**Environmental Team**  
*(“Care for Creation”)*

Encouraged by growing concern for and action on issues of environmental integrity and sustainability, several parishioners began meeting in Fall 2008 to see how Bellarmine Chapel can integrate ecological awareness into Bellarmine’s faith-life and spirituality, while becoming a more environmentally-conscious and “green” parish.

By discussing Catholic social teaching’s rich tradition of concern for God’s creation, team members are identifying ways the parish itself can practice greater environmental responsibility, along with creative and helpful ways for parishioners to do so in their own lives, families and homes.

Initial activities have included:

- selling organic cotton tote bags with the parish logo as an alternative to plastic grocery bags
- arranging for an ecological spirituality focus at the January 2009 parish retreat
- identifying ways the annual Fall parish picnic can “go green” with recycled products and an environmental homily focus

...along with possible upcoming plans and activities:

- promoting faith-reflection and “eco-spirituality” that nourishes a deepening relationship with the environment
- exploring a parish environmental audit
- providing creative and friendly “green-living” tips via the parish bulletin and website
- looking at annual environmental parish celebrations, such as Earth Day

For more information about the Environmental Team, **contact:** Liz Keuffer, parish business manager and team convener, at the parish main office, 745-3398 or [keuffer@xavier.edu](mailto:keuffer@xavier.edu) .

**Bellarmino Dismantling Racism Team (BDRT)**

The Bellarmine Dismantling Racism Team (BDRT) formed after a number of parishioners attended a 2007 conference focusing on faith, justice and overcoming racism. The theme of that conference was “From Racism to Reconciliation”.

Inspired by that conference to do something locally, BDRT members have met regularly to study, discuss and discern ways to overcome racism (interpersonal and institutional), while helping Bellarmine Chapel become an even more welcoming, inclusive and multi-cultural community of faith.

BDRT members are also working on several exciting parish initiatives for 2009:

- a parish anti-racism and cultural competency training for up to 40 parishioners
- scheduling occasional guest speakers/homilists
- encouraging greater parish involvement and collaboration with nearby lower-income neighborhoods and congregations

Any parishioner is welcome to join in this effort!

If you have any questions about BDRT or have interest in working on issues of racism and diversity, **contact:** Jeff Campbell, Bellarmine Social Mission, at 745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu) .



**Alternative Gift Fair & Holiday Fair Trade Sale**

Just before Advent in 2007, Bellarmine Chapel began its first-ever Alternative Gift Fair/Holiday Fair Trade Sale to promote charitable giving and fair-trade purchasing as positive ways to catch the spirit of Christmas.

Various nonprofit organizations and fair trade groups are invited each year to provide parishioners a fun way to support local charities and shop fair trade.

To learn more about the Alternative Gift Fair or join the planning team, **contact:** Jeff Campbell, Bellarmine Social Mission, at 745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu) .





### JustFaith

We are called to be compassionate as our God is compassionate. (Luke 6:36) What does the compassion of Christ look like in the modern world? How do I become a more compassionate person?

Meet Jesus again for the first time in the prayer, contemplation, education and dialogue of the JustFaith experience. JustFaith provides a lively and challenging format to read, view, discuss, pray, experience and be formed by the justice tradition, which changes lives, inspires faithful witness, and transforms the world through love and service.

JustFaith meets weekly for 30 weeks and affords the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life giving and challenging. **For more information, contact:** Jeff Campbell at 745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu).

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### JustFaith II

Attention JustFaith Graduates, those involved in Outreach Ministries, and those concerned about human suffering in our own country and around the world: JustFaith II is coming to Bellarmine in September. JustFaith II combines a spirituality of compassion with the practical skills of social ministry on behalf of those who have no voice, no power, no home, no food and no health care. If you've completed JustFaith or you have a solid understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, please consider joining us for JustFaith II. We will cover the following strategies: social analysis, community organizing and strategies for building local and global solidarity within the parish.

JustFaith II meets weekly and includes a one-day immersion and two retreats. **For more information, contact:** Jeff Campbell at 745-1908 or [campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu).

### St. Vincent de Paul

The Bellarmine Chapel Conference of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul is one of the newest social mission organizations here at the Chapel. Since getting underway in 2006, approximately 15 parishioners are involved in this outreach program. Our mission is to assist people in the neighborhoods surrounding Xavier such as Evanston, Avondale and Norwood, who are in temporary need, by providing clothing and furniture vouchers along with financial assistance. This group is part of the larger charitable organization The Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SVDP).

Teams of volunteers make visits to the homes of people in need who contact Bellarmine seeking various forms of assistance. Home visits are done each week on Saturday mornings, from 9am-Noon. The number of home visits varies from week to week, but on average the group collectively makes about 4-8 visits per week. Regular participation is beneficial but there is no mandatory weekly commitment. Spirituality is a significant portion of this service work. As a result, in addition to Saturday mornings, members of the Bellarmine SVDP conference meet once a month here at the chapel on the third Monday of each month at 7pm for spiritual development and sharing. Some business is also conducted at these meetings which are about 2 hours in length. Other opportunities for fellowship and spiritual formation are available quarterly.

People interested in learning more about SVDP and possibly becoming involved in the ministry should have a desire to help the poor and be willing to meet people in a variety of life's circumstances. **Interested persons should contact:** Ray Hilvert (513) 533-2351, Fran Niehaus (513) 891-4345, or visit SVDP's weekly service meetings at the chapel on Saturday mornings at 9am.

**For more information about Social Mission opportunities at Bellarmine Chapel, contact:**  
Jeff Campbell  
Director of Social Mission  
(513) 745-1908  
[campbellj5@xavier.edu](mailto:campbellj5@xavier.edu)

