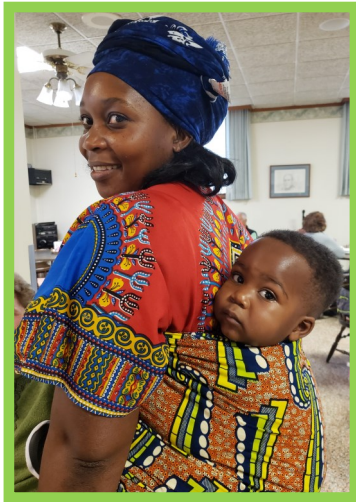


# CDP Associate News

AUTUMN 2019



*Deli and her son, Emmanuel, traveled to Pittsburgh with Sr. Zita Telkamp in October to visit the Sisters at Providence Heights. Deli faced difficult circumstances in her native Zimbabwe and on the journey that brought her to America. She is now working at La Posada and studying for her GED, and she hopes to eventually become a nurse.*



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## “Welcoming the Stranger” in the U.S.

**“Many of our guests arrive traumatized after experiencing sexual and physical abuse and threats to their life.... Then consider that they have fled from the only place they have ever known, leaving behind their belongings and their loved ones. Their circumstances resulted from unimaginable choices they had to make.”**

—“Tuesdays in Texas,” La Posada Providencia's e-Newsletter, December 3, 2019

La Posada, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Divine Providence, has been serving such individuals and families for 30 years. In addition to the CDP Sisters who have lived and worked tirelessly at La Posada during these years, Sisters and Associates have been supporting this ministry with their prayers, monetary and other material contributions, and in-person volunteer activities.

One of La Posada's most faithful volunteers, Associate Marlene McClain, has been spending six months of the year on-site at the ministry's San Benito, TX, facility for the past seven years. During her stays, Marlene does whatever is needed, from teaching ESL to mowing the lawn, earning herself the nickname “Jill of All Trades.”

Marlene, along with Sr. Zita Telkamp and Associate Karen Snyder, recently facilitated a visit to Pittsburgh for a La Posada client — and now employee — Deli, and her year-old son, Emmanuel. Deli spoke to the Sisters at Providence Heights of her difficult journey from her native Zimbabwe to the U.S., and the support and kindness she has found at La Posada.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Marlene McClain is a recipient of the 2019 Ketteler Award for Social Justice for her years of ministry to La Posada.**



## Mission Statement

We, as Associates, proclaim to be a part of the international Community of Divine Providence (CDP). Our participation calls us to live in a spirit of unbounded trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God. We challenge ourselves to an ongoing discovery of the richness of the charism entrusted to us by Mother Marie and Bishop Ketteler. We support each other in our diversity of lifestyles while we strive to creatively confront the problems and issues of our time. As prophetic witnesses, we respond in compassion, holding all life sacred.



## From the Director

Erin Middleton

I am a lot of things ... daughter, mother, grandmother, Associate, friend, believer, extrovert ... and talker. I think I inherited that trait from my dad, a great salesperson who could sell anything to anyone and make any stranger into a friend. Sometimes I am grateful for this tendency, but other times I wish I were more of a "listener" like my sister Nancy. Learning to keep my mouth shut and my ears open is an exercise I am always working on, in both my personal and spiritual life. The Women of Providence in Collaboration (WPC) Conference this year awakened a new awareness and practice for me.

In September, Sr. Donna Marie Gribschaw and I traveled to the CDP Community in Melbourne, KY, for the WPC Associate Leadership Group Conference, hosted by our own Sr. Barbara McMullen, WPC Executive Director, and attended by several of our own CDP Associates, Sisters, and members of other Providence Communities across North America. A refreshing, down-to-earth Sr. Leslie Keener, CDP, spoke on "Providence Spirituality and Contemplative Dialogue."

It was a deeply satisfying introduction to contemplative listening and community dialogue. Whether we used Scripture, articles, or a video to spur thinking and inspiration, I was astonished by the depth of sharing in our group despite the fact that we were brand-new to one another. I definitely felt the presence of the Spirit.

I learned about taking time, quieting myself, and listening with my heart ... without judging, and then speaking without judgment. Since that time I have experienced greater depth in my centering prayer time and greater peace during times of Eucharistic Adoration at my local parish. Finding out that LCWR and other groups are encouraging the practice of contemplation for our future discernment and direction has been a confirmation.

Sr. Barbara will present this topic for Associates in the St. Louis area, and several Sisters have offered to present it for our Associates in other areas in the future. I highly encourage you to consider adding this to your small group practice, even if just once or twice as a learning experience. May your heart hear the new and exciting things God is telling you!



## Meet an Associate — Colleen Price

This year's Assembly included an inspiring Ketteler Award Ceremony to honor four Sisters and one Associate who have made La Posada Providencia a vibrant ministry and their life's work. But did you know there is another Associate who puts her HEART and SOUL into her full-time job for La Posada?

In 2011, Associate Colleen Price started serving as Database and Information Manager for the Community, Room at the Inn, and La Posada as a volunteer. This service has grown into a full-time position, focusing now on La Posada Providencia. Do you get "Tuesdays in Texas" email blasts? Colleen would be glad to sign you up for these great weekly stories on LPP clients and how staff and volunteers make a difference — email her at [cprice@lppshelter.org](mailto:cprice@lppshelter.org). She views her job as her ministry of Providence.

In addition, every other weekend Colleen serves as activities director at a memory care unit near her home. She also volunteers for the Alzheimer's Association and facilitates discussion groups for patients and family members, another instance of "work as ministry" and using that heart and soul God gave her.

You have probably seen Colleen and her warm smile at Assembly. She has attended eight times, since her job allows her to work from home and gives her the flexibility to travel from her hometown of Troy, MO. Colleen has been an Associate since 1996, and she loves the opportunity that Assembly provides to reconnect with the greater CDP Community and Associates from all areas. Resisting her introverted nature, Colleen says "I always try to pick a table where I don't know people so I can meet new people on a deeper level." One of the big highlights for Colleen this year was "the information on the campus master plan, and I was so glad to see the Community planning for the future."

*(Continued on page 5)*



## **"Welcoming the stranger" in the U.S.** *(continued from page 1)*

Since the summer of 2018, the CDP Sisters in Pittsburgh, along with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, have been hosting refugee families at Charity House, where they receive basic services while waiting for legal asylum approvals. In that time, 10 families (25 people), some assisted by other local refugee assistance groups, have found temporary shelter at Charity House.

Baby Victor and his parents, refugees from Ghana, currently live at Charity House while waiting for an apartment. Associates Tish Donze and Karen Snyder help with babysitting little Victor during the work week. Other Associates have donated baby equipment, household items, and clothing for the family.

***Tish Donze and Karen Snyder with little Victor at Charity House.***



## **Making Providence Visible Around the World**

***Mission Uganda.*** When Associate Jane Kerr leaves for Uganda in March 2020, it will be Jane's 7th mission trip to the area. And when she and her grandson Tyson Ronel make the trip again in July 2020, it will be Tyson's 4th trip. With an ecumenical Christian group of volunteers called Healthy Communities Unlimited, they will continue to work with the residents of Hoima, Uganda, and surrounding villages to "support Christian-educated citizens who are equipped to develop a healthy and productive future for their Ugandan communities."

Since Jane's first trip in 2003, the group has opened a medical clinic, started a coffee farm, helped drill for clean water, built two dormitories, a kitchen building, and a classroom building, and started an animal farm and a 17-acre plot for growing crops. They have distributed Bibles and initiated Bible study, taught women sewing skills and how to cook on solar boxes, and taught good nutrition and hygiene, among numerous other projects.

Tyson was 11 when he made his first trip with Jane in 2016, not knowing what to expect. The local children were excited to see Tyson, and he became for them the face of the Healthy Communities team. During his three mission trips there, he has learned to adjust to life in Uganda and has participated in many of the projects listed above.

He has distributed soccer balls and played with the children, taken part in classroom skits, and helped students with math. He helped the construction team dig gutters for the buildings so they can collect water, worked on the coffee farm, and assisted in caring for the farm animals.

When Tyson noticed that the kids did not have eggs for breakfast, he contributed money to buy 100 chickens and build the first chicken shed. The chicken yard was called "Tyson's Farm," and Tyson got to hold the first chicken they harvested. Tyson also bought a cow — named "Tyson" — for Joseph, their local driver. The cow had a calf which was named "Hope."

Asked why he would want to go back, Tyson, now 15, replies, "It's fun every time," and he enjoys helping with "whatever project they are working on."

***Three photos at left taken in Uganda: Top: Jane and Tyson pose with Pastor Francis, leader of a local church, who also serves as their interpreter. Middle: Tyson helps construct a kitchen building, which enables the women to cook indoors. Bottom: Tyson and their local driver, Joseph, demonstrate the well Healthy Communities constructed at the school so the students could have clean water.***

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Making Providence Visible Around the World *(continued from page 3)*

**Mission Colombia.** At the end of September, I made my fourth trip to Colombia and my third visit to Cartagena. Our mission group included a pastor, a musician, and four others from Texas to help with Christian outreach, as well as myself and another nurse to provide medical mission assistance along with prayer and Christian support to students and families.

Our medical team included 3 to 5 Colombian dentists, 2 to 4 Colombian physicians, a Colombian pharmacist, and at least 6 nurses. We were able to measure heights and weights for every school child in all grades on Days 1 and 2. The government mandates that this be done every six months to ensure that all children are progressing and thriving physically. Day 1 also included vision tests.

On Day 2, we began seeing students and family

members for medical issues: pregnant women, people with blood pressure issues, and infants with problems. It was apparent that medical help was not ordinarily readily available, as we were inundated with so many clients. Day 3 began much the same as Day 2, until there was a water line break; the school was shut down and our medical work was finished for the day.

In the afternoon we were able to visit two families, bringing them rice, oil, and other staples. We ended each visit with everyone standing in a circle and offering prayer for each family.

On the final day, we were blest to see over 165 people in a community church facility. Also, dental, pharmacy, well- baby, and manicure services were provided. It was so rewarding to be able to assist these people. — by Linda Hoefflin



**Linda Hoefflin and colleague check a child's weight.**



**Day 4 at the triage table.**



**Last patient (center) on Day 4 with Linda and two other nurses.**

## St. Louis/Nashville Associate Reception/Renewal

St. Louis and Nashville area Associates and Sisters gathered to welcome new Associate Kathy Cunningham. She had reconnected with her 2nd grade teacher, Sr. Barbara McMullen, and through Sr. Barbara, Kathy made a connection with the Associates.

Kathy, with family and friends in attendance, committed to being a peacekeeper and spreading love across this chaotic world. Linda Reynolds and Erin Middleton witnessed Kathy's signing of her Covenant statement. Sr. Donna Marie Gribschaw represented the Provincial Leadership Team.

After Kathy was presented with the Associate symbol, the current Associates moved to the altar and made their renewal statement in unison. Pat Alsop was recognized for her 15th year as an Associate

and Mary Hassler for her 30th year. Cathy Cassy, Diane Klimo, and Linda Hoefflin were honored as Wisdom Associates. — by Linda Hoefflin





## New England Associates Renewal

On September 29, the foundation day of our Congregation, the Associates of New England gathered to renew their commitment to the Vision and Mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence. This was a time for celebration and sharing

the ways Providence is alive in our lives. Anna Mae Perrault has been an Associate since 1983. Anna Mae's mother, Margret Kuhn, was also an Associate, and Anna Mae's four children attended Sacred Heart School. We were blessed to be able to teach them. The Sisters here in Kingston have many happy memories with the Perrault family. —*Sr. Emma Jean Middendorf*



**Kingston area Associates Mary Ann Wusenich, Anna Mae Perrault, Ruthanne Curran, and Ann Moberg renew their commitment to the CDP Community.**



**Anna Mae Perrault writes her commitment statement in the library of Providence House.**



**Sr. Rosemonde Deck provided some of her original music as background for the Renewal celebration.**

### Meet an Associate

*(continued from page 2)*

In speaking of her own future, Colleen envisions a "dream trip" to Ireland, as she has family members living there. And in-between work and more work, she fills her time with family and three darling little dogs named Zoe, Kaylee, and Princess, who are Shih Tzu, mini-Dachshund, and Chihuahua respectively. To relax, she enjoys a good book and is currently reading the "Outlander" series by Diana Gabaldon, and the "Nocturne Falls" series by Kristen Painter, which are "magical" and lighter in nature. But her all-time favorite is none other than "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White, certainly a story to pull at those heartstrings.

I am proud of this long-time Associate and her service to the Community, our sponsored ministry, and the greater world! Thanks for putting your HEART into it, Colleen!

—by *Erin Middleton*

### May They Rest in Peace



**Pat Rampolla** passed away on September 27, 2019. In her Covenant statements to the Community through many years, Pat promised to give her all to attain greater spiritual growth and a closer personal relationship with her God.

On Christmas Day in 1993, Pat and her husband Don saw in the Post-Gazette a photo of a mother and two very young children, victims of the war in Bosnia who had just arrived in Pittsburgh from Sarajevo. They immediately set to work to help the family get housing and health care and learn English.

This incident was a major turning point in the lives of Pat and Don and their six children. Pat believed that Providence surrounded her and embraced all the people and events in her life. She was attracted to the holistic approach to spirituality which she saw lived by the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Shortly after Pat became an Associate, she was asked by Community leadership to become an assistant to the Director. She visited each of the 10 small groups of Associates who met monthly for faith-sharing and prayer and helped Associate leadership initiate and plan activities. Pat also attended yearly Assemblies and shared ideas on planning committees.

Near retirement age Pat moved to California to be closer to her family. She continued to be Providence to others, and recently, even lived in a retirement community named Providence Meadows. She and Don committed themselves to be Providence wherever they lived and to maintain a trusting spirit regarding the unknown, proclaiming the Providence belief that "God will provide." —by *Sr. Janet Schaffran*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## May They Rest in Peace (continued from page 5)

**Eileen Sheck** passed away on October 5, 2019, at the age of 94. Born in Massachusetts, Eileen moved to Pittsburgh with her first husband, Jack Schran, and their three children were born there. Unfortunately, the marriage failed and Eileen found herself on her own with three small children. She moved back to MA and procured a job as a bookkeeper for Western Union during the day and sang in nightclubs at night. Eileen was gifted with a beautiful singing voice and even performed with the Pittsburgh opera.

During the children's teen years Eileen met Grant Sheck, who became her faithful companion and husband. Grant loved spending time outdoors and the family spent time camping, fishing, and traveling. Eileen and Grant bought their dream home in Buzzards Bay, MA.

In 1984, Eileen joined the Saints & Singers chorus, where she met Associate Ruthanne Curran, and the two became fast friends. Ruthanne introduced her to the Associates, which Eileen joined in 1991. Eileen was called upon to solo at many Saints & Singers concerts. A generous hostess, she graciously opened her home to the entire chorus on many occasions to celebrate various holidays.



**Eileen Sheck surrounded by grandchildren.**

Eileen's last five years were spent in South Carolina near her daughter Alice. She requested to remain an inactive member of the Associates. She was always very pleased to receive any correspondence in regard to Divine Providence.

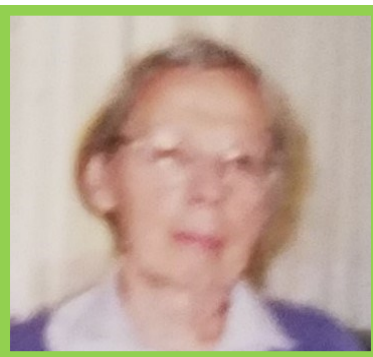
—by Jack Schran (Eileen's son) and  
Ruthanne Curran



**Patricia Srigley** passed away on November 17, 2019. She was born and raised in Warren, MI, near Detroit. For most of her adult life, she worked at a Detroit bank in its mortgage division. Patt was also an active member of her parish church. Patt's cousin, Gloria Burakowski, and her husband, Hank, her closest living relatives, visited and cared for her throughout the seven years of her nursing home confinement.

Patt was a close friend of Alice Lamont, who introduced her to the Associates of the Sisters of Divine Providence 30 years ago. They attended Associate events together and, for several years, spelled one another as members of the Associate Leadership Team of the Pennsylvania-Ohio-Michigan group. They would drive from Michigan to Allison Park at least four times each year for meetings. Together, they attended many activities sponsored by the CDP Community over the years. They remained dear friends to the end and died within three days of each other.

—by Pat Montgomery



**Alice was physically tiny in stature, but she was a giant in valor, common sense, love, caring and serving. She had a wit and an ability to cut right through to the core of an issue, not hesitating to label it as she saw it.**

**Alice Lamont** passed away on November 20, 2019. She lived and worked in the heart of Detroit during the many years when it was one of the most impoverished and downtrodden cities in the country. Her professional life was a ministry: full professor at Wayne State University School of Social Work; CDP Associate for 30 years; active and involved member of her parish, St. Peter and Paul's; friend and counselor to men and women, young and old, whose lives she touched in all of these arenas. Alice was a relatively soft-spoken yet dynamic person. She was a woman of faith that consistently expressed itself in action.

During her time as an Associate, she served on the Associate Leadership Team. She regularly attended annual Associate Gatherings, annual retreats, days of recollection with Sr. Marilyn Bergt, and the monthly meetings of scripture reading, faith-sharing, potluck dinners, and outings. Alice traveled to Germany with the Michigan Associates' group in the late 1980s to visit the Cathedral of Mainz, Mother Marie's novitiate house, and other Community "shrines." Her life was spent living Providence out loud.

Alice introduced her friend, Patt Srigley to the Associates; they attended events together more often than not; they were golfing buddies and symphony attendees together. Alice passed away just three days after Patt.

—by Pat Montgomery





Pictured above are 11 Associates who were among the 47 attendees at the **Advent Brunch Fundraiser for Kearns Spirituality Center** in November. Speaker for the event, Fr. Francis Gargani, CSsR (back row), gave a lively, inspiring talk, and Ellen Carlins provided Advent reflection activity kits for each person to take home.



Grandma **Peggy Huwe** with granddaughter Violet at Violet's first-ever visit to the pumpkin patch in October. Violet was born to Peggy's daughter Emily and her husband Andrew on July 12, 2019. Peggy is Director of Kearns Spirituality Center.



**Beverly Camper** announces at the St. Louis area **Turning Leaf** party that her lungs show no signs of cancer after her treatment.



Pictured above at the **Ketteler Day** event are the three Lindas from the St. Louis area: **Linda Hoefflin**, **Linda Reynolds**, and **Sr. Linda Hylla**.



**Srs. Jacklyn Pritchard** and **Ann Pairn** share a laugh at the St. Louis **Ketteler Day** celebration, as Sr. Ann is welcomed back from her stay in Korea.



At left, Associate **Kathy Nellis** with husband Kraig and grandchildren Eleanor Kathy and her brother Roman Emmanuel; baby Roman was born on September 18, 2019, to Kathy's daughter Emily and her husband, Jared.



**Santo Domingo Associates** pause for prayer as they gather in December to celebrate and share a meal.

**Please send your news—births, weddings, growth, new positions or places—to Karen Snyder at [ksnyder@cdpsisters.org](mailto:ksnyder@cdpsisters.org)**

## Book Discussions for Strategic Intent: Partnering as Sisters and Associates

The development and implementation of this intent has been ongoing through discussions of the book "True Partnership: Revolutionary Thinking About Relating to Others" by Carl Zaiss. The committee's research of sources on true partnership found this volume to be particularly meaningful for the purposes of this Intent. The book focuses not only on connection and inter-relationships, but on OPEN communication. It includes clear explanations and examples that we can relate to our personal and communal experiences, and shows ways to practice being aware of how we communicate as individuals.

Particularly relevant to our goals as a community, the author articulates that this manner of communication is important in terms of our responsibility as co-creators of our world. He also emphasizes the importance of non-dualistic thinking. While it is not a specifically a spiritual book, the principles it outlines are clearly applicable to the spiritual life.

Small groups have been meeting to discuss the book, the most recent of which met at Kearns in November. Julia Lynn, Chair of the intent committee, acted as facilitator. In attendance were Sr. Janet Folkl, Sr. Lisa Paffrath, Erin Middleton, Karen Snyder, and Sally Shamalla. Small group discussions have proven to be a good format for learning the concepts. Chapter by chapter summaries and reflections are in the "Documents" section of the [cdpsisters.org](http://cdpsisters.org) website. Copies of books can be borrowed by contacting Julia Lynn at 412-241-3694 or [jlynn@cdpsisters.org](mailto:jlynn@cdpsisters.org). Books are available online from [abehbooks.com](http://abehbooks.com) or Amazon.

## Governance Committee Report

The Associate Governance Committee is reforming, with Sandy Stevenson as Chair. Current members are Cathy Cassy, Ellie Fields, Julia Lynn, Pat Montgomery, and Gil Weyhaupt. The committee will convene after the first of the year. The goal of the committee priority will be to review all aspects of Associate governance.

## Mark Your Calendar

### January 2020

**3-5 Women's Christmas**

Kearns Spirituality Center

**5 Christmas Celebration**

Providence Heights

### August 2020

**2-4 Assembly 2020**

Providence Heights

## CDP Memorial Cards Available

Enrollment in the Providence Book is a way to remember a loved one, friend, or Associate who has died, or to honor a birth, graduation, marriage, anniversary, or healing intention for someone who is ill. Enrollees are remembered on the second Sunday of each month in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel and are held in prayer by CDP Sisters throughout the Marie de la Roche Province. Enrollment cards are available from the Mission Advancement Office or online at [cdpsisters.org](http://cdpsisters.org). **If you are sending a check, please write "Associate Relationship" on the memo line.**



## Notes & Reminders

- \* **You can become a sustaining contributor** by making monthly recurring donations to the **Associate Relationship**. To set up your monthly gift, use the donation form at [cdpsisters.org](http://cdpsisters.org) or call 412-635-5401.
- \* **Do you have a smartphone, laptop, or tablet you are no longer using?** Consider donating it for an Associate who may not have one but needs to access CDP email. Call Erin at 724-594-4606.
- \* **It is urgent that Associates with email set up their [cdpsisters.org](http://cdpsisters.org) email account as soon as possible** to prevent hacking. Contact Sr. Margie Walsh at [mwalsh@cdpsisters.org](mailto:mwalsh@cdpsisters.org) or 412-290-5526.

## Special Thanks

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