

## When You Join Us

Volunteers work in a wide variety of ministries, including:

- campus ministry
- youth ministry
- working with the elderly
- health care
- AIDS ministry
- homeless shelters
- housing development
- social justice
- community organizing
- parish ministry
- education
- immigration and refugees
- soup kitchens
- Spanish-speaking ministries

Claretian Volunteers serve for a period of one year with an option to renew for an additional year.

They receive:

- room and board
- transportation to and from ministry site
- health insurance
- a monthly stipend
- retreats, spiritual direction, and other resources
- student loan deferments for most positions
- Americorps Education Awards
- assistance with readjustment and transition at end of service

Placements are in Chicago, Illinois; Perth Amboy, New Jersey; and Springfield, Missouri.

## Our Mission

**T**he Claretian Volunteers strive to live the values of the Gospel, emphasizing ministry, community, and spirituality. Coming from a diversity of faiths and backgrounds, we share the missionary spirit of Claretian men and women throughout the world.

We minister with creativity and flexibility to varied populations, with an emphasis on serving the poor and oppressed. We seek to empower people, always aware that we learn as well as teach, that we are served as well as serve.

Our common mission binds us as a Christian community and calls us to active participation in the world around us. Yet community can only be sustained by a sincere commitment of time, energy, and presence by each one of us.

Ministry and community life are expressions of our spirituality. The spirituality of the individual and the community enrich and strengthen each other as we come together in common prayer. It is the integration of ministry, community, and spirituality that allows us as Claretian Volunteers to work toward the advancement of peace, justice, and compassion in our world.



The Claretian Volunteer Program was founded in 1983 and is affiliated with the Claretian Missionaries of the Eastern United States. The Claretians are a Roman Catholic religious community founded by Saint Anthony Claret in 1849. Claret was a preacher, a social reformer, a servant of the poor, and a pioneer in encouraging and developing lay ministers for evangelization, community-building, and service to the church and world.

Join the  
**Claretian  
Volunteers**





# Take the Claretian Challenge . . .

## Ministry

*Prior to volunteering with the Claretians, Donna worked for the Defense Department, teaching English as a Second Language. As a Claretian Volunteer she teaches ESL at an inner city parish in Chicago.*



“I decided to become a Claretian Volunteer because I wanted to give back some of the blessings I have received. I was drawn to the Claretian spirit of serving the oppressed and the poor. Because my basic needs are met as a volunteer, I have been free to see to the needs of others and extend myself to them. It is wonderful to take my career skills and use them in this way.

This year of service has been an awakening. Working with my students has not only been about teaching English to them; it has been about learning about life from them. These relationships have extended

far beyond the classroom setting. We take walks together, we go out to dinner together, and we see each other at Mass. They have invited me into their homes and into their lives. This is what has become so special to me, the relationships.”

## Community

*Ann started volunteering immediately after graduating from college. As a Claretian Volunteer she works at a homeless shelter in Springfield, Missouri.*

“One aspect of volunteering I was attracted to was living in community. I live in a diverse community with four people—men and women of different ages and racial backgrounds.

Our common purpose as volunteers draws us together. We are all motivated by our faith and our desire to minister to others and learn from the people we encounter. As a community we support and challenge each other to live out this purpose.

I have experienced many surprises living in community. One is the joy I find in the simple things: taking a walk, eating together, or playing cards. Another is how much I have been stretched to respect others’ differences. Most important has been the richness I have found living a simple lifestyle which creates room for me to focus on those around me.”



## Spirituality

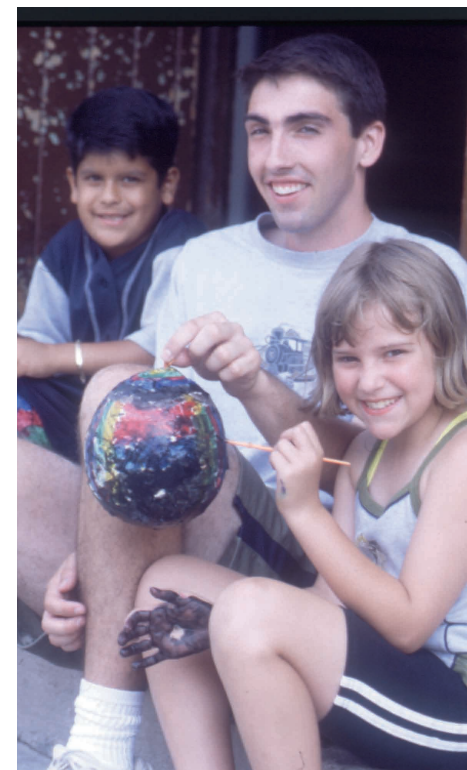
*Carlos worked in a variety of jobs after graduating from college, but was looking for more meaning in his life. As a Claretian Volunteer, he works as a teacher’s aide in a Catholic elementary school in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.*

“I have gone to Mass regularly all of my life, but I haven’t always been able to connect what I heard on Sunday to what I did the rest of the week. Joining a volunteer program with a faith component was exactly what I was looking for.

One great thing about the Claretian Volunteer Program has been the opportunity to look at the spiritual side of what we do. There are four retreats during the year when we take time to reflect upon our service and how God is with us. These have been moments of deep spiritual renewal for me as I have had time to reflect, pray, and hang out with other volunteers.

I also see a spiritual director once a month. Together we explore how God has been a part of my experience.

Community prayer has been a real gift to me, too, as I have learned about different styles of prayer. As a community we go to Mass together at our local parish, which has connected us to the broader faith



## Claretian Volunteer Program

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