

Meet the RSHM Volunteers!



Riley Duggan graduated from St. Anselm University where she majored in Peace and Justice Studies. While at St. Anselm's Riley worked with the Office of Community Service and Campus Ministry. She participated in a service immersion experience in Honduras. Riley currently tutors at Village Oaks Elementary School and serves at Guadalupe Social Services.



Thomas Ginch graduated from Fordham University where he majored in Psychology and History with a concentration in Catholic American Studies. Thomas led a Global Outreach service immersion trip to Immokalee, Florida. Thomas serves with Legal Aid Services of Collier County, tutors at

Immokalee Community Middle School and works with Immokalee Housing and Family Services.



Wanda Medina graduated from Fordham University where she majored in History and Latin American & Latino Studies. Wanda participated in a Global Outreach service experience in Immokalee, Florida in 2012. Wanda serves at Legal Aid Services of Collier County and Catholic Charities teaching ESL.

Fall Retreat in Florida by Susannah Bourbeau

We gathered in Fruitland Park, FL October 16-18 for a weekend retreat with the Catholic Volunteers in Florida. On Friday we heard from *Crossroads*, trainers who led us in a full day workshop on cultural competency, further deepening our understanding and need for social analysis. Friday night we shared stories around a campfire. On Saturday, we participated in a team-building ropes course activity. We were challenged to communicate effectively to solve puzzles. We then challenged our fears and physical abilities by zip lining and climbing poles and ladders. The weekend ended with Mass where we were all called to find our passion and use it to meet the world's needs; therein we will find our happiness.



RSHM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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RSHM VOLUNTEERS MISSION

The RSHM Volunteers participate in the RSHM mission by collaborating in ministries that foster personal development, empowerment and liberation so that *'all may have life.'*

RSHM Volunteers are called to serve with a sense of humor, zeal, & a generous heart.

THE SACRED HEART OF MARY
Religious
of the
Sacred Heart
of Mary
1849

Legal Aid in Collier County by Wanda Medina

Working at Legal Aid allows me the opportunity to conduct research on country conditions. I have been able to learn about social, political, and economic unrest in Latin American countries, which forces many individuals to seek asylum in the United States. I become actively engaged in a world outside the perimeters of the US. I am part of the client's journey and able to witness the end result. I work primarily with U-Visa Clients, individuals who have been victims of a crime. Their affidavits focus on issues about violence and domestic abuse. It is very difficult to have clients tell their stories because of all the emotion that comes along with it. The women that I have worked with hold a very special place in my heart. Despite their many challenges, they never cease to forget how good God has been to them. The group that is truly golden is the unaccompanied minors. They tell devastating accounts about their experiences in the desert and all that they encountered from the dead bodies, to sexual abuse, to being incarcerated by immigration. Most children come to the States because of violence and natural disaster, which is not always sufficient, especially when attempting to seek political asylum here in the US.

Serenity Prayer by Riley Duggan

I choose to do this year of service so I could grow and change into a better person- into the person God wants me to be. I will face struggles this year in order to become that person and I continuously hope and pray that I respond to these challenges with grace and as a result grow closer to God and to the person He wants me to be. Throughout the day when I get overwhelmed, I place my hand on a Serenity Prayer coin in my pocket and pray for God's peace. *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.* I start and end each day with Him and seek His strength throughout the day.

Reflections of Grace by Thomas Ginch

And all of us ...are being transformed into the image that we reflect in brighter and brighter glory; this is the working of the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3) I believed that this bright glory must be reflected in the development of a more equitable and just society. A migrant farmer, an older man, came into the Legal Aid office for help with United States Citizenship. He speaks Spanish, and he often travels to Mexico. Furthermore, he does not have all of his passports in order, and has lost one or two of them. This means that he lacks a comprehensive record of the dates of his entry into Mexico and the United States. This is a red flag for the Department of Homeland Security, which requires that individuals seeking citizenship live in America for over half of each year for a span of five years. I cannot advise this man to continue pursuing citizenship under these conditions. The migrant farmer has vivid, ice blue eyes set within a face crinkled by the ridges of both laughter and worry. Those eyes reflect the care he has for his wife and children, the family, he visits and supports each year in Mexico. I came to Immokalee hoping to be a part of a larger work of immigration reform, a small part of the cosmic building of the City of God, and found that within this work, what moves me the most are the personal encounters. I want to move from observation to actively living as a part of this community, as one of these Children of God.

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Program Values

Simple Living

Social Justice

Community

Spirituality

Zeal



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