

POBLO - Rochester, MN Newsletter

November 2014

Volunteer Story... by Mary Boettcher, St John's Lutheran in Stewartville

Hello, my name is Mary Boettcher, and I started volunteering at POBLO as an ESL teacher this spring. Connie Natzke and I team teach the third level English-as-Second Language class, and I also substitute for other teachers as needed.

I've lived and worked in southern Minnesota all of my life. I worked for IBM for 31 years. The majority of that time was spent writing, editing, and producing computer documentation. Then I retired, retrained, and worked as a florist for 15 years.

I really enjoy the students. In our class, we exchange and compare information about our various cultures, experiences, and family members. What becomes so obvious is that the world is really a very small place and that people are very much alike regardless of where they come from.

The POBLO Center gives us the opportunity to share with them that God loves them and that we love them. Seeing their enthusiasm for learning and the close friendships they form with other students and volunteers at the Center makes being a part of POBLO truly rewarding.

To find out more about POBLO....

If you are curious about what POBLO is and does, call to schedule a time to observe our ESL classes and sewing classes.

"Let none hear you idly saying, 'There is nothing I can do...'"



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Wants & Needs...

- Gas cards
- Drivers to transport families to Redeemer for Sunday services
- Gift certificates for office supplies (Walmart, Target, Staples, Office Max, etc)
- Money for English as a Second Language books
- Volunteers for nursery during Bible study (Mondays at 4 pm)
- Volunteers for our ESL classes – we now have about 55 students and are holding 15 classes a week. If you can talk – you can teach!
- Volunteers to be receptionists! With the expanding classes, we are in need of more receptionists to be present in the office. Consider giving 2 hours per week of your time!
- Volunteers to help at the sewing classes! 2 hours per week on Wednesdays!
- A volunteer to write and assemble our monthly POBLO newsletter.

Missionary's Update...

POBLO had the privilege of hosting the retreat for the pastors' wives on October 3rd and 4th. John Gayed's wife Mariam was the main speaker. Her topic was "Sharing God's love and women in Islam." Many people were encouraged to serve the Muslim women in their communities after listening to her words.

John met with two brothers at the Center in mid-October while they waited for their ESL class to start. One of the men shared why he came to the U.S; he has cancer and his doctor referred him to Mayo Clinic for better treatment. John shared with him that even in sickness, God's name is above all names.

Two days later, John met with them again, and the man told John that God had healed him! The doctor said he no longer had cancer! John continued to meet with the men and shared about Christianity and gave them a Bible to hold and read. John brought them to church where he translated the worship service for them. This was a new experience for them! They asked lots of questions of John and the Pastor. They promised to meet again!

Please pray that the seeds sown by the Holy Spirit in these men will bear fruit!

Mission Successes...

Two ESL teachers are co-teaching a Bible study! There have been as many as 13 students in attendance! And ALL of the students are eager to learn about Jesus!

This is SUCH A BLESSING!!

Thank you...

- Grace Lutheran Church for hosting the third POBLO potluck. You made us feel so welcomed!
- St John's Lutheran Church in Austin for a \$200 donation
- Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rochester for donating 7 quilts
- First English Lutheran Church in Spring Valley, LWML, for a \$100 donation
- The LWML ladies from the Austin Zone for a \$25 donation
- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Potsdam, Elgin, Ladies Aid, for a \$100 donation