

Spring 2025

# Helping Hands Your compassion in action.

### Your Support Changes Lives

When you support the PHJC Volunteer Program, you're helping create lasting change in the lives of people like Maureen Duffin—known lovingly in the community as Mama Mo.

Mo is no stranger to the challenges of housing insecurity. After her father passed away in 2014, finding affordable housing became nearly impossible. Without steady income or even a birth certificate to establish her identity, Mo spent years living at the Red Rock Inn hotel in Plymouth, Indiana, cycling through 14 different rooms over time.

## But your generosity helped change the course of her life.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mo met Sr. Connie Bach, PHJC. Through the PHJC Volunteer Program, she received more than food and basic supplies—she found support, compassion, and a way forward. Volunteers helped her obtain her birth certificate, reclaim her legal identity, and eventually move into permanent housing.

"I went to get some paperwork done, and when I came back, all my things were moved into my new apartment," Mo shared. "I didn't even know some of the people who helped make this happen."



Today, Mo is one of the dedicated volunteers giving back to the very hotel she once called home. Each week, she helps deliver food and care to others in need, paying forward the kindness she received.

"I had gotten used to living in a hotel," she said. "But God told me it was time to move forward, and with the help of Sr. Connie and the PHJC Volunteers, I was able to do that."

In March, Mo reached another milestone: she got her first car. With it, she's continuing her mission to serve. "I pray every day that others will hear the voice of God like I did. I don't worry anymore because I know He is with me."

Because of you, Mo's story is possible. And because of Mo, the compassion you give continues to grow.

#### **Delivering the Joy of Easter**

During Holy Week, the PHJC Volunteer Program brought the spirit of Easter to life through a joyful outreach at one of the local hotels where families experiencing housing insecurity currently live. Volunteers arrived with grocery bags, Easter surprises, and hearts ready to share compassion and care.

Each family received a bag filled with groceries and items thoughtfully chosen to help them celebrate Easter with comfort and dignity. Children were surprised with Easter baskets full of snacks and treats, bringing smiles and a sense of celebration.

To make the day even more memorable, a friendly duck mascot stopped by to visit the children. Families had the chance to take photos and enjoy a moment of lighthearted fun. (Pictured: volunteer Joyce Oboy sharing smiles with families alongside the duck.)

One volunteer said, "We didn't just bring food. We brought the joy of Easter."

Taking place during the sacred days leading up to Easter, this outreach was a powerful reminder of what it means to serve with love. Inspired by the legacy of Saint Katharina Kasper, our volunteers offered presence, dignity, and hope to those who need it most.

Because of your generosity, families felt supported and seen. You helped us create not just a holiday meal, but a meaningful moment of joy and togetherness.

Thank you for making moments like this possible.



#### A New Way to Give

We are excited to share a new opportunity for you to support the PHJC Volunteer Program in an even more personal way: peer-to-peer fundraising.

This new initiative allows dedicated supporters like you to create a personalized fundraising page and invite your network to join you in making a difference. By sharing why the Volunteer Program matters to you, you are helping expand the circle of compassion and service that lies at the heart of the Poor Handmaids' mission.

Whether your efforts inspire one gift or many, your voice can help us grow our reach funding more service trips, forming new partnerships, and encouraging others to live out their call to serve. Thank you for walking with us in mission. Your support continues to make a lasting impact.

Get started online at **phjcvolprogram.org/** ways-to-give or scan the QR code here.



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The PHJC Volunteer Program is a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Partners in the work of the Spirit