



August 2014

St. Anthony/All Saints Parish is Building Bridges

Sister Karen Lindenberger has been a nun for more than 50 years. Her *Building Bridges* program is part of the Hispanic Ministry at St. Anthony/All Saints Parish. With support from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, *Building Bridges* has served Canton's Hispanic community since 2001. The Parish's outreach efforts include access to basic necessities, interpretation services, transportation, and home visits. They also focus on school readiness for the children.

For six weeks each summer, ten preschool-age children participate in an educational program three mornings a week. Certified teachers work with the children on letters, numbers, colors, and other fundamental concepts, while student volunteers teach them to use educational technology. The activities offered are matched to each week's theme. During *Ten Little Monkeys* week, for instance, Sister Karen helped one boy place a toy monkey in front of, on top of, or behind a box. Lessons like these are important because knowing directional words and phrases helps children give and follow directions in school.



Some of the children have attended preschool, but many have not. Class size is deliberately kept small so that the teachers can meet each child's unique needs. Some of the children are Guatemalan; in school they hear English, but at home they hear Spanish as well as other dialects. Exposure in English to these basic academic concepts is a crucial part of getting them ready to succeed in school. A bilingual bus driver transports the children to and from the program each day.

Each day's session ends in circle time, where the children sing familiar songs in unison. One of the songs instructs each child to "touch a friend," which each child does, gently and with a wide grin. As Sister Karen notes, "There are a lot of friends here."



Grant Application Process Workshop

September 16, 2014 9:00-10:30 a.m.

400 Market Avenue North, First Floor
Canton, Ohio 44702

Reserve a seat by contacting:

Trudy Brown (330) 454-5800 or tbrown@scfcanton.org



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A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System