



SISTERS of CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

Celebrating 20 Years of Focused Intentional Giving

September 2017

Building Bridges for Our Hispanic Neighbors



Summer preschool teacher Celia Wilson with students.

Sister Karen Lindenberger is passionate about her ministry. She speaks of being on holy ground when working with the immigrants in her congregation, noting that Jesus was once a refugee too.

Sister Karen attended the Foundation's most recent Board meeting to discuss her *Building Bridges* Hispanic ministry at St. Anthony/All Saints Church. The ministry serves more than 400 immigrants from Mexico and several Latin American countries. While each country of origin imparts unique cultural traditions and customs, all the immigrants are trying to navigate in an environment that's mostly not set up to meet their needs.

They face many obstacles, including an immigration system that's complex and fraught with challenges, especially for those who know little or no English. The Hispanic Ministry provides education, interpretation, transportation, and other services that help the participants meet their spiritual, physical, emotional, and educational needs. The ministry also helps make the world a little more familiar by providing Mass in Spanish every Sunday and helping families mark life cycle events like baptisms, communions, and Quinceañeras (which celebrate a young woman's coming of age as she turns 15). Because many have no formal education, the ministry helps them gain the leadership skills that they'll need to forge successful, self-sufficient lives in America.

The *Building Bridges* ministry surrounds its families with a welcoming environment that will help them successfully integrate into American society. It's a calling, according to Sister Karen, and a responsibility she does not take lightly.



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A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System