

## AIDS Ministry

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Matthew 25:35-36*

Since 1989, the Sacred Heart AIDS Ministry has reached out to our sisters and brothers living with HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to provide spiritual and physical support to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS in a loving, nonjudgmental environment. We particularly seek to improve the life situation of those who are living with AIDS but are unable to seek and obtain the support necessary to be able to succeed in doing so.

While HIV/AIDS impacts everyone, social stigma is still attached to this terrible disease which knows no boundaries relative to sex, religion, race, sexual orientation, and geography as well as social or economic strata. There is complacency about AIDS in the United States because with advances in medicine, it can often be a manageable, survivable disease. This is not, however, always the case: AIDS is still a killer and many people are still ignorant of what causes AIDS and perhaps even more ignorant of what does not cause AIDS. Many people do not know even how to be tested for AIDS much less what to do if told they have AIDS. There is much work to be done.

The Sacred Heart AIDS Ministry upholds its mission by:

- Supporting a home for women with AIDS through visitation, planned outings, and dinners brought to or prepared in their home, as well as an annual Christmas Party which includes provision of a Christmas tree for the home, assistance in decorating the home, dinner, Christmas carols, and lots of merriment.
- Volunteering at Open Hand which provides meal delivery to people living with AIDS.
- Participating in fund-raising events for various AIDS organizations in Atlanta.
- Providing assistance to AIDS organizations with specific projects intended to better the lives of people living with AIDS.
- Providing assistance to individuals who are impacted by AIDS.

The ministry's long history of leadership in the Archdiocese inspires us to redefine ourselves in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We are actively seeking new members from the Sacred Heart congregation to help us with this very important work.

Please contact the following individuals as indicated:

Join in Gift of Grace House fish fry dinners, visits and outings, Open Hand volunteering	Jim and Myra Kucera at 404-355-4313
General Information	Monica Rudolph at <a href="mailto:monicarudolph@yahoo.com">monicarudolph@yahoo.com</a>
New members, communications and announcements	Tom Wethington at <a href="mailto:tom.wethington@comcast.net">tom.wethington@comcast.net</a>

