

LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY
P.O. Box 2675
La Crosse, WI 54602-2675

Looking for an easier way to donate funds?

Donations to support the La Crosse Jail Ministry can be made online at Lacrossejailministry.org (Support & Donate).



Your gift is greatly needed!

Donations to our ministry can be made online at lacrossejailministry.org (Support & Donate)

Please cut and mail

La Crosse County Jail Ministry Gift Form—Your Support is Welcome!

Please consider helping Jail Ministry with a tax-deductible donation.



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
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YES, I would like to make a donation to Jail Ministry in the amount of:
_____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other \$ _____

This gift is "in memory of" _____

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Our Mission:

La Crosse Jail Ministry offers inmates spiritual direction, rehabilitative support, and connections to faith communities.



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VOLUNTEERING TO SHOW CARE

First, I want to say "thank you" to all who have made it possible for me to be a part of the La Crosse jail ministry. Knowing first-hand what it is like to be raised in abuse and seeing the effects it has had on my siblings from drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution, and suicide. (There were 10 of us – I'm the second oldest). My heart goes out to those who are in similar circumstances – not necessarily abusive homes but some form of abuse that drove them to where they are.



I can say that what got me through was the couple of churches I attended for a short time as a child that brought people into my life who really cared about me. I never forgot them which led to a relationship with Jesus that saved and healed me.

I want the women in the jail to recognize that there are those who love and care about them too. So, sitting down with women in the jail and bringing the Word to them is important. It's important too for them to hear that they do not have to be victims forever. There are choices that are up to them to make – how do they know about choices unless someone brings the Word to them.

It's so rewarding to continue contact with someone who I met in jail ministry. I'll tell you about one of them. She wanted to attend the church I was going to but needed a ride. Since I drove by her residence on my way to church, I told her I would pick up her and her mom. For several years they attended every service and function that they could. I learned about how they were both estranged from her 4 children and her grandchildren. It was heartbreaking watching her try to rebuild those relationships and we prayed together many times for several years. I'm happy to report that the family has come together, and they are rebuilding what had been lost over the years. Is there anything greater or more blessed than that? She told me that the jail ministry brought her to salvation and restoration. Praise God!!

No matter where life leads each woman after she leaves jail – she will never forget the Bible Studies, people who cared about her, or the Word she heard. It gives her a chance to lay a new foundation if she makes that choice.

Rosa Puma

**LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY
2024 BOARD MEMBERS**

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Martin Gunderson
*Former La Crosse County
Jail Officer*

HOLIDAY EVENTS

The La Crosse Jail Ministry was busy this December providing holiday gift bags to all inmates in the general population. The bags included many items and a few treats. Each block was also given brand new puzzles, card game, dice, and a book on dice games. These are all given through the funding from Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the La Crosse American Rescue Plan Act. We are very grateful to them.



Emily Everson, Luke Shananaquet, Joshua Myhre, and Mike Watson

To show our appreciation for their work, the staff at the jail were also treated to pizza, popcorn, and candy. We are grateful to the many jail ministry volunteers and all our donors that contributed to make this possible. Bethany Dunnam (Living Word) and Susan Moore (Horizon Christian Fellowship) made huge trays of delicious cookies for them. One of our Circles of Support circles (Blue) then showed up with lots of goodies for the New Year. The staff expressed their gratitude for being remembered and appreciated.



La Crosse Jail Ministry Board members Sally Kelsall and Sister Nina Shephard along with others attended an event at First Evangelical Free Church to spread awareness of our ministry. If your faith community would like to know more about jail ministry, contact the Chaplain to discuss the many options we have for presenting.

★ UPCOMING ★ EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

➔ The Jail Ministry will be the host for the **Beer by Bike Brigade Bingo on Monday, March 11** at the Omni Center. The doors open at 4 and the first call is at 6:00 p.m. This will be a chance to do a bit of fundraising and promote the message of moving inmates from a troubled past to a more hopeful future.



➔ Culvers at 4101 Morman Coulee Road will be hosting a fundraiser for our ministry on **Tuesday, April 23**. 10% of all purchases from 5 to 7:00 p.m. will be donated. If you can help deliver treats to cars, please email Chris Magnuson at

kcmagnuson@gmail.com.

DONATION DROP OFFS - AMAZON GIFT LIST

We would like to thank all the faith communities that were so generous to our ministry this holiday by having collections specifically for the people getting out of jail. They will be warmer because of you. We would like to thank those of you that gave to our ministry through our **Amazon gift list**. We received everything from Bibles to legal pads. It was a thrill to get the packages delivered to the jail.

We would also like to thank all of you that have dropped off items for us at Coulee Life Church in Onalaska. We have a new drop off location in La Crosse for which we are very grateful, English Lutheran Church. May everyone be blessed for their generosity and compassion.

*Thank
You*

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

My name is Nora Knapik, and I am a member of the Blue Circle in the Circles of Support program. I joined Circles of Support because in the family I grew up in, service to others was a part of daily life.

I have spent most of my life in a helping profession. When I was a teenager, I decided to go into nursing, and became a registered nurse at the age of 20. I retired early from nursing to open and run a Bed and Breakfast with my husband in the beautiful Driftless area. It was a kind of ministry as we provided a space for people to relax and get back in touch with themselves and nature. Everyone needs space to breathe and heal. We did that for 14 years until we retired and moved to La Crosse.

Over the years my sister, who has been very involved with the effort to eliminate the death penalty. She is a Catholic nun and a friend of Sister Helen Prejean, who is in the same order of nuns. Due to my sister's influence, the issues of social justice

have been hanging around in my brain and in my heart.

After I retired, I had the opportunity to take spiritual training with a Medicine Woman in New Mexico for 3 years. I became aware of so much! In the Medicine, everything is a circle because we are one. There is no hierarchy. I learned tools to help stay in balance, and learned how important it is to help others stay in balance. To put it simply, helping a person stay in balance helps all of us. I also learned the importance of only taking action that "affirms life".

Now having integrated these concepts, I wanted to find a way I could help. I found out about Circles of Support through an acquaintance, now a friend, and have been part of this program for about a year and a half. I have made new friends, and work with a wonderful group of caring people. I feel strongly that what we do together helps others to stay in balance and affirms their life.



Circles of Support members (Sally Kelsall, Bonnie Sacia, Sue McBride and Nora Knapik) and the chaplain presented to a delegation from the Republic of Georgia who were hosted by the Valley View Rotary Club. If you would like to learn more or are wondering about volunteering, go to the page on our website for more information and an application.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I had a fall in October walking my dogs. I ended up in the emergency



Ann Wales

room with a broken upper jaw, a broken wrist, and a sprained ankle. I am so grateful for all the support and prayers I received from my board and so many people. The staff at the jail were very understanding and took over some of my duties. Volunteers came to help with inmate supplies and other work. Pastor Matt Schroeder, Pastor Jerry Hatlevig and Rabbi Brian Serle agreed to be on call for emergency notifications. Martin Gunderson, who is a former officer in the jail, spent every Tuesday for six weeks in the jail taking inmates to the library. I can't thank them all enough, it was such a blessing to me to be so supported. God sure provided through them all. Please keep our ministry in your prayers. Peace and Blessings to all,

Ann Wales, Chaplain

"You met me on my bottom, didn't enable my choices, but rather, helped me understand that forgiveness had been missing from my soul."

—Former Inmate