



Women's Giving Circle

Grant Application

I. Contact Information

Name of organization:	Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated
Name, title of individual who can answer questions about this application.	Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND Volunteer Coordinator of this Ministry
Mailing address:	St. Stephen Convent 1891 West 57 th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44102
Phone number:	216 534 6445
Email address:	rmharwood@sndusa.org
Organization website and social media:	This ministry is included on the Diocesan Website under the Parish Life Secretariat. Articles have appeared on the ministry in the Northeast Ohio Catholic magazine, on Channel 3 News and in the Ohio Farming publication. We were also able to present a report on the Garden and Sewing Project at the Grafton Correctional Institution to the National Catholic Prison Ministry Collaborative. Eight men from the GRC were able to share reflections on what this ministry has meant to them.

II. Organization Information

<p>Tax ID Number: <i>Attach an IRS status determination letter and most current IRS Form 990</i></p>	<p>Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Tax Exempt ID # (EIN) 53-0196617</p>
<p>History of organization: <i>Please include the following: how many years you have been a non-profit, if you are partnering with other organizations, provide information about them.</i></p>	<p>In the fall of 1997, a group of diocesan leaders were invited by Auxiliary Bishop A. James Quinn to meet with two deacons to hear of the hope they had to begin a diocesan ministry to the incarcerated. The goal of the meeting was to establish a Diocesan Ministry to those incarcerated in the eight counties of the Diocese. focus of the meeting was to identify the concerns, challenges and hopes for this ministry.</p> <p>The need for this ministry existed in all eight counties, but particularly in Lorain County where three state institutions existed, and in Cuyahoga County with a jail population of 2000 inmates. The Parish Life Secretariat offered to coordinate the development of the ministry. With the assistance of a number of volunteers – including those formerly incarcerated and their family members, clergy currently doing the ministry, law enforcement representatives, and potential volunteers, a committee was formed whose responsibility was to plan and establish this Diocesan Ministry. The ministry plan was developed, refined and tested, and grant funding was sought to assist in the training of prison ministers.</p> <p>Training workshops were offered in various parts of the diocese during the winter and spring of 1999-2000. Approximately 150 persons received twenty- two hours of presentations and training; many went on to be approved as volunteers in the various correctional facilities within the diocese: city or county jails; juvenile facilities; and state prisons, correctional institutions.</p> <p>The training workshops were recorded and made available to those who wanted to join the ministry in the ensuing years. Since the beginning of the ministry, annual continuing education and formation offerings have served to keep the prison ministers informed about the correctional system and dedicated in their service. A dedicated web site provides additional means of communication.</p> <p>In March of 2000, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla and the three Auxiliary Bishops began visits to the prisons and jails in the Diocese in response to the Holy Father's request for the observance of the Jubilee Year. This marked the official beginning of our ministry.</p> <p>As you can see from the organizational chart and the ministries and facilities maps, these early efforts blossomed into a robust and Spirit-inspired ministry: presence and ministry in the various correctional institutions, letter writing partnerships, a family ministry (LEAF), developing of a gardening and sewing ministry. We rely primarily upon dedicated lay volunteers and religious who, together with priest chaplains, deacons, and religious sisters are missionary disciples bringing the gospel message of hope and redemption to those who are incarcerated. At its heart, ministry to the incarcerated is a ministry of</p>

	<p>presence and accompaniment. It is grounded in the principles of restorative justice and permeated with the fundamental understanding of Imago Dei, that every human being is created in the Divine likeness and imbued with irrevocable dignity and infinite worth.</p> <p>In this ministry, we understand ourselves to be partners with the administration and staff of the institutions, who encourage our work and ensure the safety of the volunteers as well as those who are incarcerated. The priests whose ministry includes celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and providing spiritual counseling, are also essential members of this team.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic we had approximately 450 volunteers ministering in a variety of ways in the eight counties of our Diocese. The pandemic, beginning in March 2020, stopped all the direct ministry! However, even during the pandemic, the Advisory Council continued to meet by Zoom. We were able to provide religious materials to those incarcerated and to plan a Zoom retreat. Over 90 of our ministers and 9 inmates were able to participate. However, because of the pandemic everything stopped for almost two years. Now in 2025 we are continuing to rebuild and to expand the ministry!</p>
Mission of the organization:	The Ministry to the Incarcerated of the Diocese of Cleveland is a collaborative response to the Gospel message in Matthew 25: “When I was in prison, you visited me.” Called by the Holy Spirit, we extend the hope of reconciling love in our relationships with the offender, the victim and their families.
Leadership of organization: <i>Please attach composition of organization’s staff and Board of Directors, including names and titles</i>	<p>From its very beginning, leadership of this ministry has been achieved through a collaborative model. In the planning, we gathered a working committee representing the various groups who eventually would be touched by the ministry—from diocesan leadership to institutional and judicial staff to family members and those formerly incarcerated to potential volunteers.</p> <p>The Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated Advisory Council, using a collaborative model, provides oversight and planning for this ministry. The group meets monthly to consider the progress being made in the various areas of the ministry and to make plans for its continued development. The names of the Council members are included in the supporting documents. At the request of Bishop Malesic, Sister Rita Mary Harwood (who retired in August, 2021) continues to provide leadership of the ministry.</p>
Sources of organizational funding:	<p>Funding for this Ministry comes from the budget of the Parish Life Secretariat (Diocesan), as well as from grants, and donations from our parishes and organizations, and individual gifts.</p> <p>We have received significant funding in the past from the following:</p> <p>The Sullivan Foundation--\$10,000.00 each year The Sisters of Charity Foundation--\$10,000.00 each year (will not</p>

	<p>continue-no longer available) Nock Family Foundation--\$5,000.00 (no longer available) O'Neill Endowment--\$5,000.00 Individual donations--\$1,500.00</p>
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III. Project/Program Description

<p>Project Overview – <i>Describe the specific purpose of the project and how funds will be spent.</i></p>	<p>In all prisons and jails: to continue to provide resources for the ministry to those incarcerated: Bibles and other programs and materials to nurture their faith and deepen their relationship with God. For this reason in each of our institutions we provide books, articles and other materials which help those incarcerated to observe the various seasons of the Church years, to grow in knowledge and appreciation of the Gospel, and to come to a deeper understanding of the gift of their life and their potential for good. Our volunteers conduct Bible Study, book discussions, invite speakers, provide prayer experiences, etc. in the various correctional institutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the NorthEast Reintegration Center and Grafton Correctional Institution we are planning evening family faith get-togethers. Our ability to provide these evenings at both institutions is new and recently approved by Wardens of the Institutions. The men and women participating in our ministries may invite two family members (or close friends) to join them for an evening of prayer (either Mass or a Prayer Service) followed by a meal and conversation. These gatherings are now planned to take place three times a year. This kind of a gathering gives the men and women an opportunity to talk deeply about what they are doing and feeling, the insights they are realizing and what they are hoping for the future. Talking together like this will give their family (loved ones) an opportunity to affirm and encourage their insights. We have learned from the men at Grafton that the opportunity to reach out and help others in the community has helped in their own development. 2. Specific Purpose: To continue to deepen and expand the ministry at the Grafton and NorthEast Prisons in the following ways: <p>At Grafton—to deepen our present ministry of prayer, reflection, and action to increase the men’s conviction of God’s presence and love for them. To use the gardening and sewing ministry to affirm their sense of purpose and generosity—their ability to meaningfully help and support others and find meaning in life—to realize their tremendous potential for good. These gatherings will provide an opportunity for them to share this awareness with their families.</p> <p>At NorthEast—to continue to expand our programming with the women, building on their recent realization (prayer experiences and workshops on self-understanding) and excitement as they realize more fully the opportunity of this time of incarceration to grow in relationship to God and understanding of themselves and their potential. To examine the possibility of beginning an outreach program which will give them a way to nurture life for others. We are particularly interested in finding a project that would give the women the opportunity to do something that would benefit children/single mothers.</p>
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<p>Project Details – <i>What do you hope to achieve? Why is the project needed? Who will participate in your project? What specific activities will you do to achieve your goals?</i></p>	<p>Regarding Grafton and NorthEast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inspire hope and purpose in the hearts of these men and women • —to help in changing the atmosphere in the prisons • --to help the men and women to address attitudes that are hindering their interior freedom • In NorthEast: to work with the administration, the Institutional Chaplain and the women to develop a program/project which will help 30 to 40 women to reach out into the community in a positive, contributing way—a way especially for children/single mothers. • In Grafton—to continue to build on the gardening and sewing project with the support and encouragement of the prison’s administration. In 2024 the garden produced 23,000 pounds of vegetables (value \$58,000-Sanson) for the hunger centers. This coming year the goal is 25,000 pounds which will help us to increase our reach into the community. In addition, there is a possibility of a new Grafton garden (approved) which will help supply the Friar’s Table and help to support Edwin’s culinary skills program for the training of those coming out of prison and most recently. The vegetables grown at Grafton have contributed significantly to providing healthy food for those coming to the hunger centers in Cleveland and Lorain. • In Grafton—to continue to build on the tacker’s success in supplying much-needed items to a very extensive community of people in need: the elderly, the homeless, the refugees and migrants at the border, babies and expectant mothers, etc. To explore with the tackers and administration of the prison the possibility and advisability of establishing a small gift area at The Friar’s Table with items to be sold to benefit the educational program for those leaving prison and the refugee community
<p>Organizational Capacity – <i>Who will staff your project? What are the qualifications of your staff? What experience does your organization have that will support the project’s success? How does the project help your organization meet its mission?</i></p>	<p>The programs have been and will continue to be staffed and supported by volunteers. These would be people with skills (gardening, bee-keeping, sewing, etc.) which would strengthen the program and help develop a set of skills which may be used once the person leaves the institution. For example, those who have participated in the culinary program sponsored by Edwins are in great demand in our restaurants and other food programs in the community. We are blessed with excellent support from the Catholic community and beyond and with excellent partnerships with other organizations.</p>

<p>Project Evaluation – <i>What are your specific measurable outcomes for this project? What criteria will you use to measure your success?</i></p>	<p>Grafton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *To increase the produce and items coming from the garden and the sewing projects *To establish a small gift area at the Friar's Table—the money from which would help to support the educational program for those coming from prison and the refugees *To have a conversation with the administration and the men about the atmosphere at Grafton. Did this program help to contribute to a more positive atmosphere? <p>The Grafton Correctional Institution has indicated that they want to support this program in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --by continuing to provide space for the large garden (1 ¾ acres) to produce food for the hunger centers --by encouraging and supporting the men in the work required to tend to the main garden --they have designated an additional area at Grafton for “Tuck’s Garden” to provide vegetables for the new Friar’s Table, a ministry of the Capuchin Community to establish a presence and ministry in the heart of downtown Cleveland --they have indicated their desire to keep the men aware of employment opportunities at both restaurants and to provide opportunities for employment interviews to take place at the prison or to transport the man <p>NorthEast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --To Identify a program of outreach into the community for 30 to 40 of the women, a program which would help them to have a more positive attitude toward themselves --To have a conversation with the women to determine whether this newly identified program has given them a positive feeling about themselves, a sense of achievement and purpose—a sense of pride. --To have a conversation with the administration and the women about the atmosphere at NorthEast. Did this program help to contribute to a more positive atmosphere?
<p>Project Sustainability – <i>What are your plans for continuing this project after your grant cycle ends?</i></p>	<p>We will continue to seek grant support and contributions from the community for this program. Once these programs are developed, they do not require the same level of funding.</p>

<p>Partnerships – <i>Do you plan to partner with another organization(s)? If yes, please describe the partnership arrangement(s).</i></p>	<p>This ministry has many partner organizations—the County Jails in seven of the eight counties of the Diocese, with the three State Prisons, with the Juvenile facilities, especially in Cuyahoga, Lake, and Lorain counties, with the Community Based Correctional facilities in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties. We also work with the county offices for re-entry services for those coming back to the community. In our most recent development, we have created a partnership between Catholic Charities sponsored hunger centers in Cleveland and Lorain and the men at the Grafton. We also have a new partnership growing between Grafton, The Friar's Table, Edwins Institute and Play House Square. The Tackers from Grafton are making items for the Cosgrove Center, Augustine Towers and Manor, Cosgrove Center, the homeless, and the people at the Mexico/Texas border.</p>
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V. Project/Program Funding

Requested Funding:	<p>We are very grateful to the Women's Giving Circle for inviting the Ministry to the Incarcerated to submit a proposal for funding! This ministry is touching the lives of thousands of men and women who are incarcerated, their family members, those they are feeding, clothing or supporting in a variety of ways, the staff members at the various institutions, and the people of our communities. Through our ministry a message of hope and love for the other is made real and the power of accompaniment which honors the innate dignity of each person is very concretely expressed. A grant of \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00.</p>														
<p>Brief Narrative of Project Budget indicate how WGC funds will be used.</p> <p><i>Attach project budget. Include all committed and anticipated funding for the project and the project's expenses, itemized by category e.g. salaries with F.T.E.</i></p>	<p>The budget for this project would support the above described programs at both institutions.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>3 Gatherings at each institution for inmates, family members and volunteer facilitators</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$3,200.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grafton Fertilizer, Seeds, Equipment</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$3,600.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grafton Sewing Supplies, Equipment</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$3,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grafton Religious Resources, Books, etc.</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$2,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>NorthEast Reintegration Center Supplies</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$2,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>NorthEast NERC Religious Resources</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$3,500.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$17,300.00</td></tr> </table> <p>We intend to continue to seek grant funding and contributions from those who will help us in supporting this ministry.</p>	3 Gatherings at each institution for inmates, family members and volunteer facilitators	\$3,200.00	Grafton Fertilizer, Seeds, Equipment	\$3,600.00	Grafton Sewing Supplies, Equipment	\$3,000.00	Grafton Religious Resources, Books, etc.	\$2,000.00	NorthEast Reintegration Center Supplies	\$2,000.00	NorthEast NERC Religious Resources	\$3,500.00	Total	\$17,300.00
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Diocese of Cleveland
Ministry to the Incarcerated
Prison Ministry Advisory Council

Members

Dan Philipps, Chair, Former Director of Lake County Prison Ministry

Linda Caatanzaro, NorthEast Reintegration Center

Vanessa Griffin Campbell, Cuyahoga County Jail

Mike Davis, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections-Religious and Recreational Programming

Fr. David Domanski, Chaplain Cuyahoga County Jail, North East Reintegration Center

Sabrina Future, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Facility

John Gayneau, Formerly Incarcerated

Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND, Director of Ministry

Kathy Kohout, Parish Ministry—Dismas Ministry

Ted Laponi, Grafton Correction Institution

Ruben Lopez, Lorain County Jail

Rob Musial, Medina County Jail

Bernie Nagle, Listening, Encouraging, Assisting Families of the Incarcerated (LEAF Family Ministry)

Kathjeleen Philipps, Lake County Jail

George Scherma, Letters to the Incarcerated (facilitator)

Fr. James Watson, North East Reintegration Center, Cuyahoga County Jail

George Williams, Lorain County Prisons and Jails

Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated

Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Proposed Program for the Grafton Correctional and North East Reintegration

Aspect of Program	Expense
Six Family-Inmate Gatherings	\$3,200.00
Grafton Fertilizer, Seeds, Equipment	\$3,600.00
Grafton Sewing Supplies, Equipment	\$3,000.00
Grafton Religious Resources, Books, etc	\$2,000.00
NorthEast Center Supplies	\$2,000.00
NorthEast Center Religious Resources	\$3,500.00
Total	\$17,300.00
Source of Funding	
Women's Giving Circle	\$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00
Sullivan Grant	\$2,000.00 (committed)
Endowment	\$5,000.00+
Donations	\$2,000.00+