

KDCCW Service Commission Chair Report

January 5, 2019

The convention service project this year is support for St. Mary's Legacy Clinic. This mobile clinic was established five years ago and it serves to provide basic health care to the poor and medically underserved in rural Tennessee. The clinic operates out of a large vehicle that travels on a regular schedule to rural communities throughout the Knoxville diocese, providing primary care services. The clinic is invited into these communities by a local group that provides a place to park the mobile clinic and the use of adjacent buildings for patients to wait comfortably. The clinic is staffed by over 70 volunteers; doctors, nurses, vehicle drivers and other community members who receive no compensation for their services.

The St. Mary's Legacy Foundation was established from the sale of Mercy Health Partners in 2011. The sisters of Mercy had a history, dating back to 1930, of providing health care services in the Knoxville area through St. Mary's Hospitals. In order to continue that mission, money from the sale of Mercy Health Partners was used to purchase the mobile clinic and fund initial operating costs. The clinic operates under the direction of Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, MD. St. Mary's Legacy Clinic continues to receive grants from the St. Mary's Legacy Foundation and also receives grants and donations of money, supplies and services from other organizations, companies, and individuals who wish to support their work. KDCCW affiliates also have a history of supporting the clinic.

Our convention project can include monetary donations and collecting supplies for the clinic. Sister Mariana can provide a list of specific items that are needed and that information will be distributed to the affiliates prior to the convention.

Several of our affiliates participated in the Cross Catholic Box of Joy program that provides a Christmas gift to children living in developing countries whose families are too impoverished to provide them with a Christmas present.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Byers