



## The Ladies of Charity USA

are part of the International Association of Charities (AIC), over 150,000 volunteers organized into 53 associations present in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and North America. In the United States, nearly 6000 women in 57 associations across 20 states and the District of Columbia are "acting together against all forms of poverty" as Ladies of Charity.



[HTTP://AIC.LADIESOFCHARITY.US](http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us)



<b>North Eastern Region</b> New York	<b>Western Region</b> California, Utah
<b>Southern Region</b> Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina, Tennessee	<b>Middle Atlantic Region</b> Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia
<b>North Central Region</b> Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas	

To find an association in your area visit our website at: [aic.LadiesofCharity.us](http://aic.LadiesofCharity.us)

*"To serve rather than be served"*



**LADIES OF CHARITY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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St. Vincent and St. Louise art, by Rocco Mirro ©Vincentian Center for Church and Society. Photos by John Caufield, photographer, Elena Miranda, and others. All images used with permission. ©2016 Ladies of Charity of the United States of America\*

# LADIES OF CHARITY

## OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Providing Vincentian Leadership  
To Women Acting Together  
Against All Forms of Poverty*



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# To Serve Rather Than Be Served

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The seeds of the Ladies of Charity were planted by St. Vincent de Paul in 1617 at Chatillon-les-Dombes, in eastern France. With the assistance of St. Louise de Marillac, the seeds germinated and took root in the French countryside and then throughout the world.



In 1857, seeds fell from the mother tree onto fertile soil in the United States when Catherine Harkins was directed to continue the work of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise as a Lady of Charity. The number of associations grew and in 1960 a national organization was established to offer consistent formation to all associations and to strengthen the bonds of charity.



Vincentian Family Gathering

The Ladies of Charity are associations of women who participate in the Vincentian mission of prayer and service. Because each community and their needs as well as resources are different, our activities are diverse as the 200 communities in which we are present. Our special concern is the needs of women and children. You may find us in a community:

- » caring for disabled children and adults
- » providing support for young mothers
- » tutoring in literacy or ESL programs
- » visiting the sick, the aged and the dying; supporting caregivers
- » organizing spiritual, social and fundraising activities
- » working in soup kitchens, food pantries, and homeless shelters
- » creating job training programs for adult women
- » operating thrift shops and boutiques
- » visiting women in prison, mentoring released prisoners, promoting restorative justice
- » outreaching to abused women and victims of human trafficking
- » advocating legislatively on state/federal issues related to our mission
- » supporting anti-poverty programs locally/nationally/internationally
- » mentoring young women as Junior Ladies of Charity

Ladies of Charity joyfully proclaim the Good News through:

- » **Works:** performing the works of justice and mercy; feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty while advocating to alleviate poverty
- » **Words:** announcing with deep conviction God's presence, love and mercy for all
- » **Relationships:** being with people who live on the margins, working with and for them, while forming communities of love and care

