

IHMs In Action



"Thinking about the many little things and the lack of big things I do makes me see my ministry as one of support," says Sister Loretta (Vincent de Paul) Schroeder, IHM.

Sister Loretta works part-time at Intercultural Consultation Services (ICS), a ministry developed by [IHM Sister Kathryn Pierce](#). She volunteers in the IHM community garden and serves as a driver for IHM Motherhouse residents.

Sister Loretta (left) with Rexine Newhouse

She is a representative with the Archdiocese of Detroit's Monroe Vicariate. And she's an active board member for Monroe Habitat for Humanity and HOME, Inc./Elm House, a group home for adults with developmental disabilities.

"When I moved to Monroe almost two years ago, I wanted to be involved in the life of the IHM community and beyond," Sister Loretta recalls. Other IHM Sisters soon got her more involved than she could have imagined.

"Sister Joyce (Rose Anthony) Duroske asked me to take her place with the Monroe Vicariate," Sister Loretta says. "Although I'm still new, I've been impressed by the spiritual depth and openness of the other representatives.

"Sister Mary Agnes (John Michael) Ryan got me involved with Habitat. She asked me to attend some of the meetings in her place, and then I became a board member."

Monroe Habitat for Humanity rehabilitates existing houses, modifying them to meet the needs of a specific family.

"Habitat's goals mesh beautifully with our IHM goals," Sister Loretta observes. "Rehabbing existing structures rather than building new is another way to be sustainable."

Elm House holds a special place in Sister Loretta's heart.

"Elm House works with people who aren't appreciated by much of society - those with developmental disabilities," she says. "Sister Roberta Richmond recruited me to replace her on the board. I was hooked after my first meeting.

"Elm House was started in the mid-1970s," explains Sister Loretta. "An IHM Sister has been involved with the organization since the beginning, when the IHM community sold HOME, Inc., the property to build it."

Elm House is "home" for 16 adults. Although the original goal was to teach residents skills for independent living, funding for independent housing has dried up. In spite of the economy, though, Executive Director Rexine Newhouse and the Elm House Board of Trustees hope to expand services to include programs such as caring for older adults in their homes.

"As a board member, I'm always looking for funding sources," says Sister Loretta. "The Monroe community has gotten involved to help with some of our needs, and we have some special events, including a garage sale and a regional wrestling match planned."

If you would like to partner with the IHM Sisters in support of their ministries, secure [online](#) giving is available.