

## IHM ASSOCIATE IN ACTION

In addition to her busy job as the director of the Monroe County Veterans Bureau, Vickie Adams operates a volunteer ministry for the benefit of the IHM Sisters.

Vickie, an IHM Associate, collects and sells books online. She then donates the proceeds to the IHM Sisters' Retirement Fund and Ministry Fund. To date, she has raised and contributed more than \$6,000.

Vickie, an avid reader herself, evaluates the condition of each book she receives, researches the titles on Amazon.com to determine if a book is common or relatively rare and prices each one accordingly.

The process can take more than five hours, depending on the number of books she evaluates. Vickie also spends about an hour a day filling orders. She goes to the post office daily and, about once a week, she adds new books to her online "storefront."

Vickie currently has more than 2,000 books for sale and enjoys a 97 percent positive rating with her customers, who hail from across North America, as well as Europe, Asia and New Zealand.

"Out-of-print books sell high," she notes. "I list other books for a few cents less than the lowest price for the same book in similar condition on Amazon. I also include a line explaining that the proceeds are going to the IHM Sisters. It makes a difference to a lot of people."

Vickie estimates that she has sold nearly 2,500 books since she began this ministry in February 2005, and she anticipates brisk sales during the holidays.

"People like giving books as gifts," she says, "and we make shopping easy."

To browse the "bookstore," go to <http://www.amazon.com/shops/ihmsisters>.

*Book donations may be brought to the back door of the IHM Motherhouse and left with the receptionist.*

