

SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT

Coreen Marklein, Service Commission Chair

November 2018

Report from the NCCW Convention

I attended the Service Commission session at the NCCW convention and learned about the commission's work and available resources. NCCW Service Chair Diane Tugander conducted the session.

NCCW established the Respite Program in 1982 to spiritually and temporally renew the family caregiver. Respite means a temporary intermission of labor, an interval of rest (renewal: spiritual/temporal). Its purpose is to provide companionship, focusing on spiritual and temporal needs. The Service Commission recently updated the Respite Manual (edition 3) and has it available for \$10 from NCCW. Any reference to medical training and caregiving has been removed from the current edition.

The Respite Manual provides the steps to set up a program in your parish and includes the do's and don'ts of the program. The first steps include the following.

- Identify a need in the community.
- Select a Respite Project Coordinator. Leadership is key.
- Recruit volunteers with direction from the pastor.
- Have volunteers receive background checks and Virtus or similar training through the diocese. Liability/volunteer insurance is available through NCCW for \$3.00 per person.

Respite volunteers

- Provide confidentiality
- Document for continuity of care
- Serve as companions while primary caregiver is away
- Listen to the client
- Commit two to four hours weekly.

Respite Care does not provide

- Medication dispensing
- Driving
- Personal care, including restroom
- Assistance with mobility issues
- Care calendar
- Meal preparation
- Household tasks.

Tugander provided examples of respite care situations, some of which are provided at the parish site. In one case, the only daughter of a 91-year-old woman had a full time job and needed "respite" so she could shop and do laundry. Respite helped a young family member who felt "stuck" babysitting for her sister because she didn't get to be with her friends. Respite in another parish helped a granddaughter who felt neglected when she had to give up her room to her grandmother.

Anti-trafficking program

Another Service Commission project is the anti-trafficking program under the guidance of the U.S. Sisters Against Human Trafficking, the Catholic Daughters of America and the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary.

NCCW asks for reports on parish and vicariate councils' efforts against human trafficking, including donations. It offers a tracking sheet to use as well as posters that can be circulated in your area. The Service Commission asks members to recite the Prayer to End Human Trafficking at CCW meetings and at home and to sign up to receive emails from Sisters against trafficking.org.

The final project addressed was the Holy Land project. Begun this year, students from our Catholic schools send pictures of family life to their counterparts in the Holy Land to increase awareness of their realities. Women pray in solidarity with women in the Holy Land.

Tugander concluded her report by saying: "We are women warriors in action making impossible missions possible." Additional information about the Service Commission and its activities may be found on the [NCCW website](https://nccw.org).

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