

Profile in Mercy: Sister Diane Matera



Sister Diane has been a member of the Sisters of Mercy since 1964, and is a long-term colleague of both Sister Carol Henry, Executive Director of Mercy Center, and Sister Mary Lou Miller, Principal of Sisters Academy. Her early career was spent teaching. As Mercy Center was getting off the ground in the 80's, she worked with Sister Carol to help implement its work and mission. After serving for 20 years as a hospital Chaplain for Star of the Sea Parish at Monmouth Medical Center, and her completion of other ministry commitments, she called Sister Mary Lou, looking for a volunteer opportunity with the girls of Sisters Academy. She happily admits that it was "one of the best phone calls I ever made."

Sister Diane came to Sisters Academy four years ago. For two years she taught Religion and now comes to school three days a week to assist the teachers with individual and group work with the girls. She also helps in the library and the cafeteria. Sister greatly enjoys this more informal role as she interacts with the students on a regular basis.

As a volunteer, she is impressed with the dedication of the staff, and enjoys working with all of them. They "give so much of themselves to the girls." Volunteering at the Academy has provided varied learning moments for her. The girls unknowingly encourage her to be patient, understanding, and respectful of those with different experiences.

If you are considering becoming a volunteer, Sister Diane shares that "there is great potential in these girls, and that working with the teachers and staff to continually nurture and nourish them is personally fulfilling and life-giving."

To learn about our volunteer opportunities at Mercy Center, please call (732) 774-9397 ext. 121.