



CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME

Blessed Sacrament Province
Mission Advancement Office

Éducation libératrice
Liberating Education
真の自由への教育
Educación liberadora

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Christopher and Michelle Gallagher
292 Main Street
Suite 1
Cold Spring, NY 10516-4528

Dear Christopher and Michelle,

“When am I going to get my daddy back?”

That’s what twelve-year-old Justin asked a few years ago. His dad, Chris, was working as a guard in a Supermax prison in far southwest Virginia. When the prison was built people in this poor Appalachia community were told, “It’s going to create more jobs.” That was true, but at what cost?

Chris ultimately found the job so stressful he turned to painkillers to cope. Prison work takes a tremendous toll on the guards - as well as their families. Chris’s little boy said it all.

One day, after witnessing real brutality against a prisoner, Chris walked out. **He asked Sr. Beth Davies of the Congregation of Notre Dame for her help.** Sr. Beth is an addiction counselor. She has lived among and ministered to the people of far southwest Virginia since 1972. That’s 43 years. She understands the people well. She is their friend.

“Chris talked to me and another Sister for over two hours. He knew he was addicted, he understood that his prison work was causing him a lot of stress, and he didn’t know what to do.”

You can help Sr. Beth continue her ministry to the rural poor of Appalachia.



over please

The municipal building that housed Sr. Beth’s office burned down. All her records and office supplies were destroyed. The town is seeking another space for her. *“I just need a space. I don’t need much,” says Sr. Beth.*



Sr. Beth helped Chris come off drugs and find a job. Today he drives a van for a social service agency. He takes people to their appointments and to 12-Step meetings. And he talks to everyone he can about his recovery.

As Sr. Beth told Chris, recovery work is not easy – but it works! Chris heard that message. Now he and his son Justin are close. Justin has grown up to be a good family man and has never been addicted to drugs.

Your generosity will allow us to continue supporting Sr. Beth. She lives in a simple trailer in solidarity with the people of her region. *She does not receive a salary. The Congregation of Notre Dame provides for her living expenses.* Some powerful figures were angry at her efforts to stop the exploitation of the poor by outside interests and looked for ways to sue her. They couldn't find any. "I don't own anything," she chuckles.



Sr. Beth and Chris today

Unfortunately, in February, the municipal building that housed Sr. Beth's office burned down. All her records and office supplies were destroyed. The town is seeking another space for her. In the meantime, she has no place to work. Typical of Sr. Beth, she says, "I just need a space. I don't need much."

Through your kindness, Sr. Beth can continue helping some of the poorest people in the United States live lives of dignity and courage. **Please give generously at \$50, \$100 or more to enable us to provide Sr. Beth with the basic items she needs to keep performing her vital mission.**

Sr. Beth says some of the people who come to her have been raised to believe they are bad people and will go to hell because of their addiction. She tells them, "God is love. That's all. It's just love."

Help us shower Sr. Beth with the love she inspires in those around her, those whose lives she has saved. Because she is the embodiment of what she tells people. "God is love. It's just love."

With gratitude,

Patricia McCarthy, CND

Patricia McCarthy, CND
Province Leader

PS: We realize that \$50 and \$100 are large gifts for some while others can comfortably give more. Please know that whatever amount you give is greatly appreciated.

