

# Volunteer of the Year – East Central Wisconsin

**Sally Ann Brickner, O.S.F.**

***Bellin Health and the American Red Cross of Wisconsin***

Governor's  
Service Awards



Throughout her life, Sister Sally Ann Brickner has been a dedicated volunteer assisting multiple organizations and causes. In the 1970s and 1980s, she worked for the education of rural teachers in Nicaragua, and over the last few decades has provided invaluable service for organizations here in Wisconsin. Dedicated to peace and justice, Sister Sally Ann directed the Peace and Justice Center at St. Norbert College at 2001-2009 and she coordinated the Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for the Sisters of St. Agnes in Fond du Lac for four years. She is also passionate about connecting with organizations that help protect the environment and focus on sustainability, as she is an Animator through the Laudato Si Movement and has worked with many organizations, such as the Clean Water Action Council.

In addition to these service activities, Sister Sally Ann has actively supported numerous volunteer efforts with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay since 2020. She has been an active part of their Refugee Resettlement program from the very beginning, giving her time to ensure refugee clients are welcomed in their new community and adjust comfortably to life in Green Bay. She has volunteered hundreds of hours with their refugee clients, helping them settle into their homes, clean their vacated apartments, and making sure that they have all that they need. She has also provided them with needed transportation to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and English classes.

Additionally, she assisted Catholic Charities with data gathering and the organization, transferring, and filing of their immigration and refugee files. This project involved a commitment of ten to twenty hours per week over a period of several months. With her help, the organization is able to free up space for their employees to better meet the needs of their community. Sister Sally Ann is the face of Catholic Charities when their staff is unable to be in two places at one time, helping them expand their ability serve the community, as they credit her with always being there with a smile on her face when they need help.

When discussing Sister Sally Ann's impact through her volunteer service, Renae Vanden Plas from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay explained that "Sr. Sally Ann is one of the most inspiring people I know. She selflessly gives of her time to drive our refugee clients to where they need to go, whether it be to appointments, or for recreational activities such as our Afghan Men and Women's groups. The only time she has ever said 'No' to a request is when she was already helping someone else...She has touched the lives of many of our refugee families, our employees, and those in our community. She is a rare catch as a volunteer, and we could not be more grateful for all the good she does not just for our organization, but for the entire Green Bay community."

