

## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

*As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another  
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*

Coming together to celebrate the Eucharist is clearly one important way we form the community of St John Vianney, but coming **into** church is only a fraction of our identity. Also important is what we take **out** from church to share God's love with the broader community. This week we spotlight one example of such sharing via the work of Jackie Barney with the Women in Need (WIN) Program.

Jackie has been a member of St John Vianney Parish for more than forty years and many parishioners may recognize her name because she was a paid staff member of the parish office for many years. Jackie's involvement with WIN grew out of her prison ministry work with the inmates at the Women's Community Correctional Center in Kailua.

Led by Mary Scott Lau, another SJV parishioner, WIN is a transitional program for women following their release from prison. Its purpose is to assist former inmates with their return to "outside" life – whether in the form of a basket filled with household and personal grooming needs, or in mentoring and teaching life and job skills. The program's goal is to reduce recidivism, and ultimately prevent a return to prison. Although based in a framework of Christianity, the services of WIN are available to women regardless of their religious beliefs.

Jackie's work involves both one-on-one and small group mentoring. The activities range from assisting with religious services and Bible study, to supportive services such as the Total Life Recovery Program, which prepares the women both academically and practically for job readiness. The key, Jackie notes, is tough love. These women need support, but they also need to learn responsibility and be able to make good choices for themselves moving forward. Jackie says it is so rewarding to witness success stories and see women turn their lives around.

Asked why she does this work, Jackie refers to Matthew 25:35-36: *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me."*

Would you like to join with other SJV parishioners, like Jackie, to volunteer with Women in Need? The program is always looking for more people who are willing to work personally with clients or prepare the transition "welcome home" baskets. If you would like to learn more, please call the parish office to leave your name and contact information.



*Jackie is holding a "Welcome Home" basket filled with toiletries and linen to help women with the transition out of prison back to community.*