

Emerging Convergence: Sister Carmen Hernandez

Dubuque Presentation Sisters Carmen Hernandez is currently ministering in collaboration with Aberdeen Presentation Sisters Sheila Schnell; Janet Horstman; Gabriella Crowley & Consuelo Covarrubias at [Caminando Juntos](#) in Sioux Falls, S.D.



At left, Aberdeen Presentation Sister Gabriella Crowley (left) and Dubuque Presentation Sister Carmen Hernandez work together on a project at Caminando Juntos.

After her study of Spanish in Bolivia and working with Latinos in Mason City, Iowa, Sister Carmen had a strong desire to continue serving Latinos but in a different way, possibly by starting a new Hispanic ministry in the Midwest. She visited with Sisters Sheila and Janet to explore what services the Aberdeen congregation offered at Caminando Juntos. During this conversation, Carmen was invited to think about joining their staff as a means of experiencing firsthand what programs the ministry at Caminando Juntos offered, with the hope that this would only enrich her if she chose to begin a Hispanic ministry of her own. On June 1, 2010, Sister Carmen began her ministry on the staff of Caminando Juntos.

“It is a marvelous way to collectively carry on Nano’s light. Helen Keller states it so clearly when she says, ‘Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.’ Together we strive to achieve shared goals in the hopes of reaching a common objective,” shares Sister Carmen. “Here at Caminando Juntos that objective is to create a welcoming presence and to respond to the needs of newer Latinos as they seek to integrate into our U.S. culture.”

Sister also explains that collaborating with the Aberdeen Presentations in this ministry has also provided an opportunity for her to come to know the Aberdeen congregation better. “While we share the same foundress, each Presentation community brings a uniqueness that is all their own,” she says. “I’m fortunate to be able to come to know them and to share their story with our own community and others.”

Sister Carmen and the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters serving at Caminando Juntos are another example of how the Presentation Sisters are collaborating in their shared mission to continue the work of Nano Nagle locally, regionally, nationally and globally!