



2019 Community Leader Interfaith Award



Sister Susan Bowles, SSMN

Sister Susan has been a member of the religious community of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Switzerland for almost 60 years. Born in Elmira, NY, she attended high school in Lockport, and at a young age decided to dedicate her life to the service of others. She entered the novitiate soon after high school graduation and wanting to work with children, she entered a teacher preparation program at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Known for her warmth and gentle spirit, she has been an integral part of the Refugee Tutoring Project, the Buffalo English Language Learner Network, the Taste of Diversity and World Refugee Day Planning committees, and she is a community organizer with VOICE Buffalo. For the past 15 years, Sister Susan has been ministering to the immigrant and refugee communities on the West Side of Buffalo at Our Lady of Hope. There she and others provide assistance with food, housing, clothing, and educational advocacy to our diverse, newest Buffalonians. She believes that the most important thing we can do for our neighbors from around the world is to listen to their stories of struggle and resilience, and then connect them to the supports they need to survive and thrive here in Western New York.

For her dedication to helping others and her work across cultural and religious divides, the NFJC proudly recognizes Sister Susan Bowles, SSMN with the 2019 Community Leader Interfaith Award.



"...a just community begins with me!"

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