

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

First Cole, then Mom, now Grandpa!

Getting involved with St. Leo's has become somewhat of a tradition for one family from our covenant partner parish, Our Lady of Visitation. When Cole Miller was a student at Elder High School his community service project led him to St. Leo's where he connected with Alex Nigiziyimana and his family, parishioners who are refugees from Burundi. A deep friendship developed between the two families.

As Cole's mom, Kerry McCarthy Finley, got to know more of the Burundian community she learned that many of the children needed help with homework. She began talking with teacher friends and started the Tuesday evening homework and tutoring group that provides one-on-one help from 6:30 to 8 pm each week during the school year. It's been a satisfying experience for all involved and some of the tutors have become friends and advocates for the students with whom they work, seeing they get individualized education plans (IEPs) and proper school placement when needed.

Seeing the impact volunteering has had with his daughter and grandson, Larry McCarthy has become a volunteer for the food pantry picking up surplus food products from Rempke's once a week.

Many volunteers tell similar stories of one person getting involved and family and friends joining in.

Like many people have said. St. Leo's is like fine chocolate—when you get a taste, you want more and more.

—*Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate*