



accolamn.org

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Accola?

Accola, a new, independent nonprofit organization influenced by the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is committed to responding boldly to the needs of our time with transformative programs.

2. What is Accola's mission?

Accola's mission is to welcome neighbors, cultivate community, and foster justice by responding boldly to the needs of the time. To accomplish its mission, the organization improves opportunity for immigrants through education; provides safe and dignified housing for women as they heal from trauma; and helps connect people's spirituality with social justice action.

3. What are Accola's programs?

- **Learning In Style School**, located in South Minneapolis, provides quality education in English, computer skills, and citizenship in a supportive and respectful environment. Hundreds of immigrants and refugees from countries around the world benefit from dedicated teachers and small class sizes as they acquire the tools needed to succeed in their new community.
- **Sarah's . . .an Oasis for Women** provides a safe home, dignity, resources, and support for a diverse community of immigrant women healing from trauma. Here, they begin new, empowered lives. Since opening in 1996, Sarah's has served nearly 700 women and is

almost always at capacity. Sarah's also provides food and financial assistance and connects women to educational opportunities such as Learning In Style School.

- **Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality** offers interfaith workshops, classes, and community gatherings that explore and promote the intersection of spirituality and the pursuit of social justice.

4. What happened to the Ministries Foundation?

The former Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries Foundation is now Accola's **Advancement Office**, working to highlight awareness of the needs of the community, communicate Accola's response to these needs, and raise the funds required to carry out this work.

5. What does the name mean?

The name "Accola" is derived from Latin and translates to "neighbor." Just as good neighbors look out for one another, Accola responds to the needs of our communities, addressing pressing issues with empathy and action. Accola reflects our deep-rooted belief in the inherent dignity of every individual. As good neighbors, we strive to build a more just and equitable society for all, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

6. How did this all come about?

From 2019 – 2022, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St Paul Province and the Ministries Foundation Board of Directors dedicated significant time to meeting, researching, and visioning. After carefully considering how to ensure that the CSJ ministries continue to thrive and reach even more people, the Sisters and the Board of Directors created a new organization that could be carried on by others to make an even greater impact.

7. Why now?

Mindful of current realities, including demographics, the Sisters realize that they are no longer equipped to continue in roles they assumed in the past. As a result, they worked with the Board of Directors of the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministries Foundation to create Accola to carry on the important work they began.

8. What is the Sisters' role in Accola?

The Sisters of St. Joseph remain dedicated to supporting Accola in two main ways. They have provided significant funding for five years to launch the organization. In addition, at least 20% of Accola's Board of Directors shall be Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, and/or individuals with an affiliation with the Province.

9. What about St. Mary's Health Clinics?

St. Mary's Health Clinics is a separate 501(c)3 organization that was also founded by the Sisters' of St Joseph. Accola maintains a strong working relationship with St. Mary's Health Clinics and provides administrative and fundraising support on a contractual basis. Board and executive leadership of each

organization meet regularly to discuss areas of mission alignment and potential strategic partnerships.

MISSION

Accola welcomes neighbors, cultivates community, and fosters justice by responding to the needs of the time.

VISION

The communities we impact are places of hope and belonging where all people can flourish.

VALUES

- **We are responsive and bold.** Guided by the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who fearlessly embrace the call to challenge the status quo, we respond boldly to create a more just and equitable society.
- **We strive for inclusion without exception.** We believe in the inherent dignity of every human being and stay attentive and responsive to what the voices in our community share, imagine, and need.
- **We learn from each other.** We value each person's unique contribution and believe that partnership is the foundation for growth, wellbeing, and impact.
- **We act with compassion.** We strive to bring care and kindness to our work because we believe in the unifying power of love.
- **We hold ourselves accountable for impact.** We deliver transformative programs that make a measurable difference in the lives of people in our communities.