Updated 2021version of my EPA ministry story:

I met RSCJ in the summer of 1969, before my junior year in high school, I was 16 years old. They had just 'left the big house' in what was then called 'Convent of the Sacred Heart, Menlo' [California] to begin a new ministry in St. Francis of Assisi Parish in East Palo Alto.

They were taking over all the programs the Holy Family Sisters facilitated including the summer program. Mother McHugh asked me what I was doing for the summer. I was already very involved in the parish and had been working with Sisters Delphine and Shawn since junior high. I was a leader in CYO, co-taught CCD and attended weekly liturgy planning meetings for the Youth Folk Mass. I played the guitar at the time.

I had a part-time job and so could not tell this nun ‘no’ to her invitation to help in the summer program. I knew all the church families and many of the families in the neighborhood. I recruited kids and talked three of my closest friends (Mona, Faye & Nadine) to volunteer with me. We worked with the two seminarians: Bill and Chris and created a daily program, planned a weekend overnight camping trip to the Russian River which would be the culmination of the summer program. We took 90 kids using CYO yellow buses! The nuns waved white hankies as we drove away! The kids had never been to the Russian River or on a weekend camping trip. I worked the two summer programs my last two years in high school. I also participated in the after-school tutoring program.

When McHugh and Hayward enrolled in the Montessori Certification Program at Notre Dame College, I signed up for the music and art certification while still in high school. For two years, I worked two afternoons after school at the Montessori School teaching art and music to 3–5-year-olds. I realized that little kids were not my forte! I did enjoy the teaching.

June of 1970, I graduated from high school and in September of that same year I began my undergraduate studies at San Francisco College for Women in San Francisco. Sister Barb Dawson was on staff at the college. She had spent the past summer in EPA so we got to know each other well. She asked me if I would consider working with her in the summer swimming program and boarding school at Convent, Menlo. Of course. We could schedule the kids from EPA for swim days. This was my last time working with the kids of EPA.