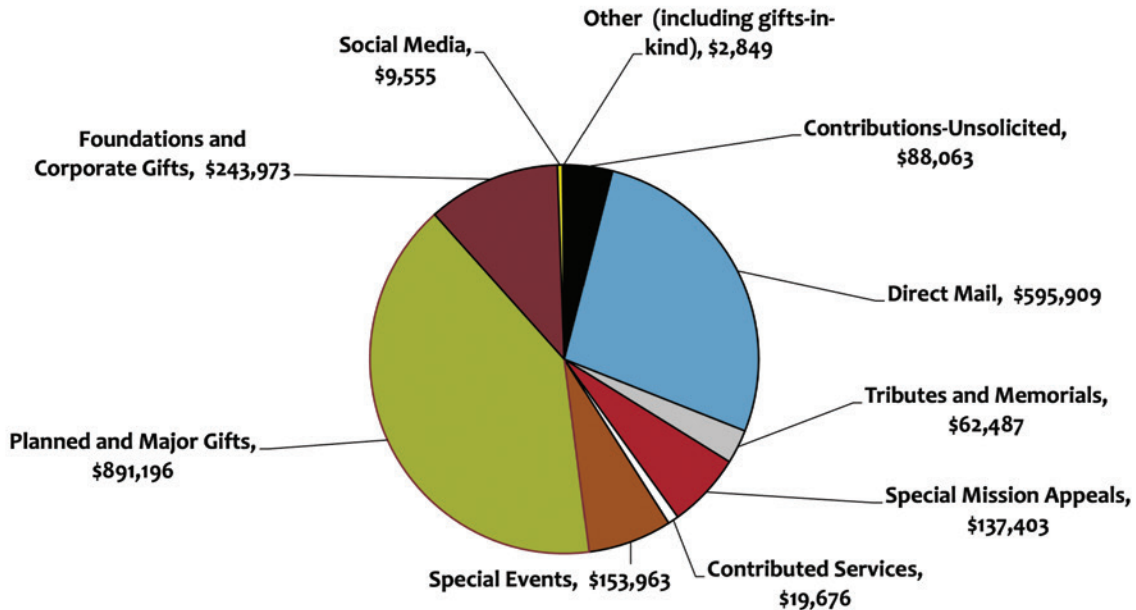


Responding to the Needs of the Times

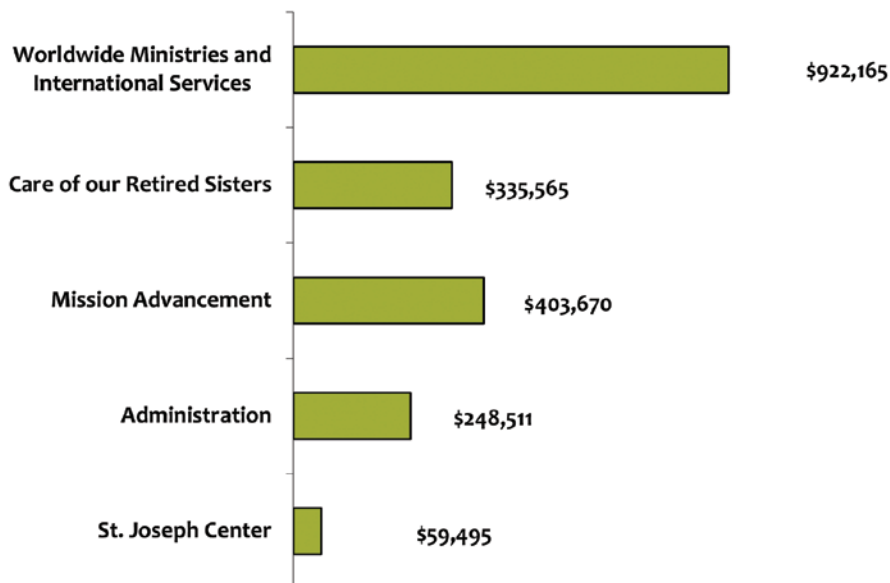


FUNDING OUR MISSION

SOURCE OF FUNDS - \$2,205,074
 (\$983,454 donor restricted; \$1,221,620 unrestricted)



USE OF FUNDS



This bar graph represents distributed monies through June 30, 2021. The financial statements of the School Sisters of St. Francis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, were audited by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP and include an unmodified opinion.

SOLAR ENERGY MAKES BRIGHTER FUTURES POSSIBLE

St. Francis Convent School was founded by the sisters of our St. Francis (North India) Province in 2008 to meet the need for quality educational opportunities in Budni, a rural town of about 16,000 people. About 700 children (kindergarten through tenth grade) of subsistence farmers and factory laborers attend the school, which has earned a reputation in the community for academic excellence.

India has traditionally depended on hydroelectric dams for electricity, but drought conditions dating back to 2015 have curtailed energy production, leading to rolling blackouts for entire districts. Unpredictable and frequent power outages last up to four days and make it difficult for schools like the St. Francis Convent School to operate.

Classroom instruction in rapidly modernizing India is increasingly dependent on computer technology, but the fear of blackouts and the resulting damage to equipment have limited the school's ability to reliably offer technology-based courses. Classrooms were also sometimes literally in the dark.

"Without proper light and during summer's scorching heat, the students and staff had trouble sitting in the classrooms," said Sister Grace Arrangassery, the school's principal. "The situation badly affected teaching and learning."

With the assistance of our generous donors this year, the St. Francis Convent School installed a solar energy collection and battery storage system. The installation was not without its challenges: Laborers were hard to find during the COVID-19 lockdown, and the sisters encountered difficulties convincing local utility officials that the system would work. But after lobbying regional managers, they received the necessary permits.

Sister Grace reports that the school now has an uninterrupted source of power, classroom lights are on, and teachers are back to using their computer lab and smart classroom projectors. The solar panel

system has also cut the school's electricity bill by 90 percent.

The school's "green energy" lab is a cornerstone of its science curriculum. More importantly, the school is a living example of St. Francis' belief in caring for the earth.

"Sunlight is the most abundant and clean energy source available," Sister Grace said. "The solar energy system has also inspired town residents to promote solar energy and make use of natural resources."

A new solar array at St. Francis Convent School keeps the lights on for sisters and students.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS, SISTERS SHARE THE CONGREGATION'S HISTORY

As they have lived out their vocations at schools, parishes, hospitals, and myriad other missions across the country and around the world, our sisters have touched countless lives, especially in the past six decades.

Their charism and the nature of their ministries often placed them squarely in the forefront of enormous societal changes: the Civil Rights movement, the pursuit of equal rights for women, and the post-Vatican II Catholic Church, to name just a few. Oh, the stories that they can tell!



At Sister Joel Read's invitation, then-Senator John F. Kennedy visited Alverno College on May 17, 1958, to promote his book, Profiles in Courage.

Now, the School Sisters of St. Francis' Archives is proposing a concerted effort to obtain and preserve these stories in a systematic way. By recording sisters' stories and perspectives and maintaining these files for the future, the Oral History Project now taking shape will help capture the history of the congregation, preserve its legacy, and engage

the larger community in the School Sisters of St. Francis' mission.

The life stories of our sisters are divergent and fascinating. This project will chronicle these narratives while spotlighting the history that speaks to our mission. For example, our sisters' recounting of the founding of Alverno College's Institute on Women and teaching inner-city students during the turbulent 1960s, as well as wartime migration and life in internment camps, needs to be preserved.

The Oral History Project will be inclusive of participants' entire lifetime of experiences and ministries. Sisters can be audio and video recorded, and the experiences of deceased sisters can be shared through the archives' own correspondence and artifacts, and the remembrances of their partners in mission. The initiative will be flexible enough to meet the needs and abilities of the sisters, and it can be aligned with similar programs of other congregations of women religious.

Several sisters' stories have already been recorded and there is excitement to expand the project. Yet, there are also challenges to be faced. Advancing age and declining health of some sisters add a high level of urgency to this already time-sensitive project. The logistical challenges of interviewing sisters currently in remote mission fields are only slightly diminished by technology. In addition to these physical challenges, naturally some sisters are reluctant to speak of their own accomplished experiences, opting instead to speak only of others.

"I am profoundly honored to be tasked with this project," said TaraDawn Knull, the congregation's new archivist. "The core mission of historians is to be 'the keepers of the stories,' and our duty is to share them. With the quickly approaching 150th anniversary of the School Sisters of St. Francis in 2024, now is the time to gather these stories with all intentionality and integrity."

OFFERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GUATEMALA'S YOUTH

Malnourished children lose their futures. They cannot concentrate in school, they experience stunted growth, and they are too tired to play. And as they grow older, their path – at least in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala – can often include getting married too young and being limited to working as an underpaid domestic aide.

The School Sisters of St. Francis minister with these children every day. Thanks to your generous support, many of Santa Apolonia's children have received the gift of hope. It began with the founding of Guadalupe Homes for orphans in 1985, a ministry focused on serving the youngest victims of Guatemala's brutal civil war. Your financial support fed, housed, educated, and cared for many children who were able to grow up in a loving environment and thrive.

While changing government policies have dramatically reduced the number of children who live in the homes today, children and young adults remain vulnerable. After prayerful discernment, our sisters are now shifting our ministry to serve in new ways. With your help, we will feed malnourished children and increase educational opportunities for the young women on whom families depend.

"We are located in an area of the country considered among the most affected by child malnutrition," writes Sister Rusbi Aldana, leader of our congregation's Latin American Region. "By using our existing infrastructure, we will serve children facing this devastating condition. The Alternative Programs Center will give them more opportunities in education as they face life with courage and dignity.

"Additionally, we will provide scholarships to women who do not have the financial resources or opportunity to continue their education."



The Alternative Programs Center in Santa Apolonia offers increased learning opportunities for young women.

"Your assistance will directly benefit these women and children by providing the resources needed to establish and sustain this new program."

Sister Rusbi says these initiatives will serve 30 people over the course of the next year, with plans to expand as resources allow. The sisters will also continue to accompany children through the judicial process in Guatemala's Children's Court as they are integrated into extended family or placed for adoption.

"Your prayers will give us the divine light, wisdom, and courage to start this new program," Sister Rusbi said. "Your assistance will directly benefit these women and children by providing the resources needed to establish and sustain it. Know that our prayers of gratitude are with you."

BLESSED BY OUR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

These ministries were made possible by your prayers and the more than 8,000 generous gifts to our congregation.

- Furnishings and household items for a new formation house in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Borewell for drinking water and crop irrigation at the Assisi Formation House in Kanjikode, India.
- Rainwater harvesting storage tank for 2,200 students and teachers at Assisi English Medium Higher Secondary School in Kanjikode, India.
- Pandemic-related food and emergency assistance for students and families served by our sisters in India.
- Tuition assistance and pandemic-related emergency assistance for special needs children and their families at Assisi Special School in Bangalore, India.
- Building renovation to install an urgently needed palliative care unit for critically ill patients at the Assisi Hospital in Kanjikode, India.
- Water harvesting and storage systems at St. Francis Convent School in Budni and St. Francis Co-Ed School in Patel Nagar, India.
- Solar panel and battery storage system for St. Francis Convent School in Budni, India.
- Solar-powered battery and streetlight system at the Maria Sadan Hostel in Bichhiya, India.
- Room and board for girls (ages 5 to 18 years) living at the Maria Sadan Hostel in Bichhiya, India.
- New staff living quarters at St. Francis Convent School in Budni, India.
- Establishment of the St. Francis Convent Hostel in Kharkutta, India, to improve educational outcomes for rural girls and young women, aged 5 to 15 years.
- Medicine, nurse's salary, and doctors' travel expenses at the Goreghat Mission Clinic in Jabalpur, India.
- Food, medicine, spiritual care, and pandemic safety measures for abandoned women living at Asha Bhavan, Bangalore, India.
- Tuition assistance for families suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown at the Santa Clara School in Paíta, Peru.
- Medical and nutritional care for low-income people at the Santa Ana Clinic in La Libertad, Honduras.
- Emergency hurricane relief for sisters and their families in Honduras.
- Tuition and living expenses for sisters pursuing advanced degrees and teaching certification in Peru.
- A loving family environment, healthy food, spiritual guidance, and virtual classroom support for orphans and abandoned children



**It costs \$161/year
to feed each girl at
St. Francis Convent
Hostel in Kharkutta, India**

at Guadalupe Homes Orphanage in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.

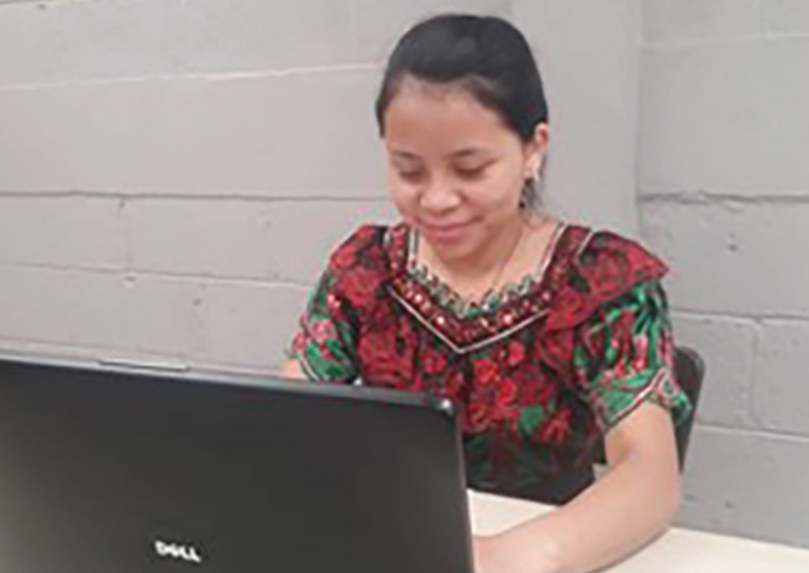
- Undergraduate scholarships for Guadalupe Homes alumni in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Educational and family nutrition programs for women, infants, and children at the Alternative Programs Center in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Clinical director salary as well as financial support and scholarships for students at Yalpamech, Guatemala.
- Upgraded computers, improved internet access, and Zoom teleconferencing subscriptions for sisters in Latin America.
- Accessible restrooms for sisters and visitors to St. Joseph Chapel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Air scrubber, personal protection equipment, and pandemic safety supplies for caregivers at Sacred Heart and the Maria Linden Independent and Assisted Living Apartments in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Pastoral care and food assistance for residents of Juárez, Mexico.
- Pastoral care for residents of the *colonias* in El Paso, Texas, as well as spiritual counseling and support for undocumented immigrants on the Texas/Mexico border.
- Sensory therapy room for sisters living with Alzheimer's disease at Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Greenfield, Wisconsin.
- New in-room phone system with voicemail and lighted keypads for sisters living at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Powerlift recliner chairs for sisters at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Wheelchair scale for sisters living at the Maria Linden Independent and Assisted Living Apartments in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Lunch assistance, COVID-19 protection equipment, and retreat expenses for students at Pius XI High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Teacher's aide salary, transportation assistance, computer and food supplies for



Sisters Program South had
1,026 visits
offering care to women involved
in the street-based sex trade on
Milwaukee's south side.

Native American children attending St. Francis Solanus School and Mission in Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, Wisconsin.

- Care for retired sisters around the world.
- Outreach, safety planning, food, and counseling services for victims of street-based sex trade in Milwaukee through the Sisters Program South Collaborative.
- Startup funding for the Oral History Project, an archival effort to preserve sisters' stories.
- Upkeep of St. Joseph Chapel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Library books, textbooks, and bilingual educational materials for 11 Catholic schools in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Mississippi, and Illinois.
- Salary and expenses for music ministry programming in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Global peace and social justice initiatives.



YOUR GENEROUS OFFERINGS OF PRAYER, TIME, AND TREASURE TO THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS ARE MAKING A FOREVER DIFFERENCE! WE INVITE YOU TO CONTINUE PARTNERING WITH US THROUGH...

Your Prayers

They sustain us every day!

Legacy Giving

Make an enduring impact through a will, bequest, charitable gift annuity, or life insurance policy.

Event Attendance

Visit www.sssf.org to learn about upcoming ways to connect with our sisters in person.

Circle of Prayer

Remember a loved one through our tribute and memorial prayer ministry.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and tune in to Masses and special events on our Ustream channel. Find all the links on our homepage: www.sssf.org.

For Information about MAKING A FOREVER DIFFERENCE, contact:
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Visit our website to see the complete list of donors.