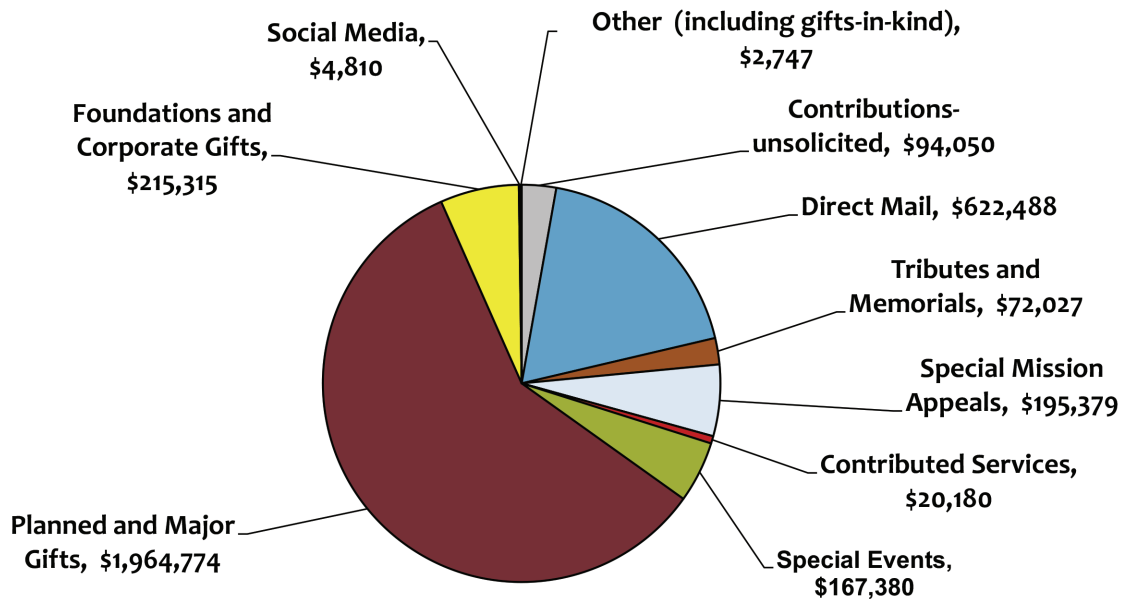


Be Witnesses to God's Love in the World

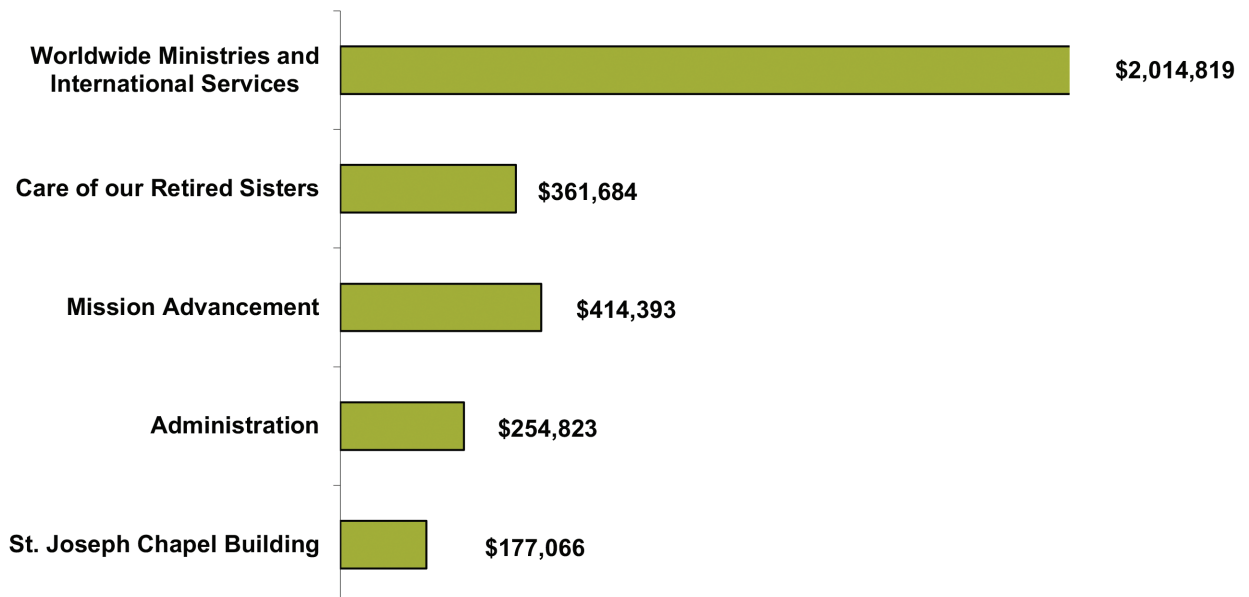


Funding Our Mission

SOURCE OF FUNDS - \$3,359,150 (\$1,148,134 donor restricted; \$2,211,016 unrestricted)



USE OF FUNDS



This bar graph represents distributed monies through June 30, 2022. The financial statements of the School Sisters of St. Francis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, were audited by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP and include an unmodified opinion.

Ten Years of Having a Heart for Hunger

For the past decade, the School Sisters of St. Francis have organized the Joseph Bowls fundraiser around the time of the feast of St. Joseph, our congregation's patron saint. Originally held along with a Mass and soup supper, the event has evolved through the pandemic years, but has always featured beautiful, hand-painted bowls that also serve to remind us that hunger is a daily reality for 800 million people around the world.

The effects of COVID-19 have made food insecurity even more devastating, with health challenges, sharply increasing food prices, and a lack of employment opportunities in developing countries contributing to the crisis. Thanks to the generosity of our Joseph Bowls participants and donors, nearly \$100,000 in proceeds have been raised to benefit those who struggle with hunger.

This year's event was held March 26 at Alverno College, with both in-person and curbside participation options. Funds raised were designated to assist:

- **Casa Alexia**, our food program on the El Paso-Juárez border. This partnership of sisters from Latin America and the United States provides nutritious food for more than 100 families each month who face hunger, poverty, and violence every day.
- **Sisters Program South**, which provides a public health-based approach to help Milwaukee survivors of the street-based sex trade and human trafficking to live safer, healthier lives. Our U.S. Province is a founding partner in this collaborative project.
- **Our sisters' hunger ministries in India.** Many of the women, children, and men with whom our sisters minister in India suffer from extreme poverty and food insecurity. Oftentimes our sisters provide for these people out of their own food supplies.

Participants in our tenth-anniversary Joseph Bowls received a one-of-a-kind, hand-painted decorative bowl, lovingly crafted by our many partners and friends; a soup bowl cozy hand-quilted by Sister Joyce Ann Panos; souvenir recipe cards of two of our sisters' favorite soups to try at home; and information about the ministries that each donation supports.

Our sisters see the faces of hunger around the world and respond in service every day. The Joseph Bowls fundraiser enables our sisters to minister with the real people behind the statistics—the women, children, and families who have nowhere else to turn – thanks to the generous support of hundreds of our donors and friends of our community.



A Pathway to a Better Life

Women who are survivors of sex trafficking often have experienced years of victimization, exploitation, and criminalization, as well as poverty and racism. In Milwaukee, our U.S. Province's founding partnership in the Sisters Program South collaborative, administered by the Benedict Center, is making a profound impact that is changing these women's lives.

Jeanne Geraci, executive director of the Benedict Center, said that the women's traumatic experiences make them reluctant to seek out services. "Respite services are an essential, low-barrier entry point and an opportunity to build women's trust, confidence, and hope that a helping hand is available."

Founded in 2016, Sisters Program South continues to expand its reach and impact. From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, the program served 105 women (unduplicated) at its south side Sisters Drop-In Center, and reached 209 women through street outreach (715 contacts). These are both increases in the numbers of women served in 2020-2021.

Financial support from the School Sisters of St. Francis was used to strengthen street outreach and respite services provided at its peaceful, garden-lined center, Geraci said. "Funds were also used to purchase food for meals distributed through

street outreach and at the center; expenses for the program's van, which is used to transport women to and from the center; and to provide bus tickets to program clients. "

Melinda Hughes, Benedict Center's director of programs and operations, said support from our U.S. Province was also critical to receiving foundation grant funds that will help clients who have progressed in their healing to reach higher self-sufficiency goals around education, job training, and employment.

Hughes shared the success story of "Cherice," a 28-year-old woman who had been homeless for several years. After multiple contacts with Sisters Program South's outreach supervisor, she began visiting the Drop-In Center for meals, clean clothes, and showers, then began working with a case manager. With extensive help from her program advocate, Cherice recently was approved for independent housing and continues to work on addressing her other needs.

"The commitment of your donors and volunteers is directly responsible for the success Sisters Program South has achieved," Geraci said. "Your ministry has given thousands of vulnerable women in Milwaukee hope that there is a pathway to a better life."



The Miracle of Connection

As a toddler who could not hear, Spandhana was unable to decipher her parents' words, or share her feelings and needs. She grew increasingly withdrawn and prone to tantrums. Spandhana's parents were heartbroken. They feared that without some sort of miracle, her life would be one of isolation and dependency.

India is home to an estimated 63 million hearing-impaired people. With too few schools scattered across the subcontinent, most hearing-impaired children remain at home and don't learn to read or gain vocational skills. "When hearing-impaired girls do not go to school, they face lots of struggles and humiliation from society," said Sister Treesa Jose Thressokaran. "They will never be self-sufficient or self-reliant."

Impoverished families like Spandhana's cannot pay the tuition, room and board required to send a child hundreds of miles to a specialty school. That is why the School Sisters of St. Francis opened Assisi Nilaya, a hostel in Mysore for girls who attend a nearby school for hearing-impaired students. Four sisters minister with 36 girls ages 5 to 17 at the hostel, which is free of charge. Through the sisters' loving and expert care, the girls begin to bloom. When recent graduates Lakshmi and Anu arrived,

they could neither speak nor hear, and they had trouble adjusting to the hostel and school. Their academic performance was not good.

"We appointed Sister Kathlyn, a special education teacher, to work with them," Sister Treesa Jose said. "We motivated them and helped them in their studies. Today they work as accountants. They are both married and living very happily."

Spandhana's transformation has begun, as well. Now five years old, she has gone from silent to chatty, using lip reading and sign language. "She misses her mom and dad, but she loves the sisters and her companions here," Sister Treesa Jose said.

One day, like Lakshmi and Anu, Spandhana can have a job and an adult life of connection and joy. These girls and young women are living examples of the miracle of connection – a miracle that begins with your generosity. It helps them receive the education they need in order to learn voraciously and joyfully.

"Our donors are a great blessing to this ministry," Sister Treesa Jose said. "We still have miles to go, and we are so grateful you are with us on this journey."



Blessed by Our Partners in Ministry

These ministries were made possible by your prayers and the more than 7,000 generous gifts to our congregation in 2021 - 2022.

- Room and board expenses for girls (ages 5 to 18) at the Maria Sadan Tribal Girls' Hostel in Bichhiya, India.
- Undergraduate scholarships for Guadalupe Homes alumni in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Medical and nutritional care for low-income people at the Santa Ana Clinic in La Libertad, Honduras.
- Upkeep of historic St. Joseph Chapel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Care for retired sisters around the world.
- New room paging and alert system at Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Food assistance for disadvantaged residents in Juárez, Mexico.
- Educational, personal development and family nutrition programs for women, infants, and children at the Alternative Programs Center in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Library books, textbooks, and bilingual educational materials for ten Catholic schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, and Mississippi through the Albert Whitman Trust.
- Filtration systems to provide clean water for residents of Paita, Peru.
- Purchase of land in Dodoma, Tanzania, to provide a safe rest home for women traveling as part of the community's formation process.
- Learning tools for Maryville Academy's Jovenes Adelante Services, its unaccompanied children's shelter program, in Des Plaines, Illinois.
- Medicine, nurse's salary, and doctors' travel expenses at the Goreghat Mission Clinic in Jabalpur, India where 150 patients receive medical treatment daily.
- Street outreach, counseling services, and funds for food for survivors of street-based sex trade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, through the Sisters Program South collaborative.
- Advocacy and accompaniment of minors through the judicial system in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Room desk and common area chairs for retired sisters living at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Food, medicine, nurse's salary, and spiritual care for abandoned women living at Asha Bhavan, Bangalore, India.
- Bathroom accessibility renovations for Clara Court at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Peace and social justice initiatives around the world.
- A solar streetlight and new boundary wall benefitting the 23 young women (ages 16 to 21) at Prakash Bhavan Formation House in Narsinghpur, India.
- Tutoring textbooks for a sister volunteering with Literacy Services of Wisconsin.
- Borewell for drinking water at Sanjeevani Convent in Usri, India.
- Medical and facility expenses including furniture for the new palliative care unit for hospice patients at Assisi Care Home in Kanjikode, India.
- Occupational and sensory therapy equipment, a safety fence, smart phones for online classes, and student scholarships for special needs children at Assisi Special School in Bangalore, India.
- Housing and healthcare for 36 girls (ages 5 to 17) with hearing and speech impairments at Assisi Nilaya Hostel in Mysore, India.

- Borewell and water purifier for sisters, and 350 students (ages 4 to 10) at St. Francis Convent and School in Madurai, India.
- Support for the School Sisters of St. Francis Archives including the salaries of three archive personnel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Fruit trees, fencing, and a pipeline for water facilities in Chengana, Tanzania.
- Rainwater harvesting at Assisi Nivas Convent in Arapara, India.
- Rolling vital sign monitors and a mobile secure medicine cabinet for sisters living at Maria Linden Apartments in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Solar energy system to provide power for the 15 sisters living at Assisi Formation House, in Kanjikode, India.
- Music teacher salary to benefit young students living at Guadalupe Homes in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Tuition and living expenses for sisters pursuing advanced degrees and teaching certification in Peru.
- Solar panel for St. Francis Convent School in Raisen, India.
- Lawn mower to maintain the grounds at Franciscan Oasis Rieti Mission in San Marcos, Guatemala.
- Salary and expenses for music ministry programming in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Home built on the grounds of St. Francis Convent in Bhopal, India for the sister's driver and his family.
- Scholarships, food, and educational materials for students at Los Amates Mission in Izabal, Guatemala.
- New hospital bed mattresses for retired sisters living at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Pastoral care and spiritual counseling and support for undocumented immigrants on the Texas-Mexico border.
- Tankless water heaters for Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



In Chengana, Tanzania, our sisters planted 200 trees to provide fruit for the mission's food and wood for future furniture needs. It is gratifying to make our new land fruitful and useful by preparing the ground for new buds of life!

- Funds to support the School Sisters of St. Francis Associate Relationship ministry.
- Solar energy system to reduce electricity costs and supply reliable power at Assisi Sadan Convent in Paalana, India.
- Emergency food assistance for students and families served by our sisters in India.
- Emergency loan program funds for disadvantaged students at Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Education and boarding expenses for rural girls and young women (ages 5 to 15) at the St. Francis Convent Hostel in Kharkutta, India.
- Automated external defibrillator devices for students attending Pius XI Catholic High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Outdoor patio furniture for retired sisters living at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Through your generous offerings of prayer, time, and treasure to the School Sisters of St. Francis, you are a witness to God's love in the world! 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 liturgies and events where you can 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. It's all free, and you can find all the links on our website homepage: www.sssf.org.



For information about being a witness to God's love in the world, contact:

International Office of Mission Advancement

414-384-3334 • missionadvancement@sssf.org • www.sssf.org

Visit our website to see the complete list of donors.