

Partners in Franciscan Mission

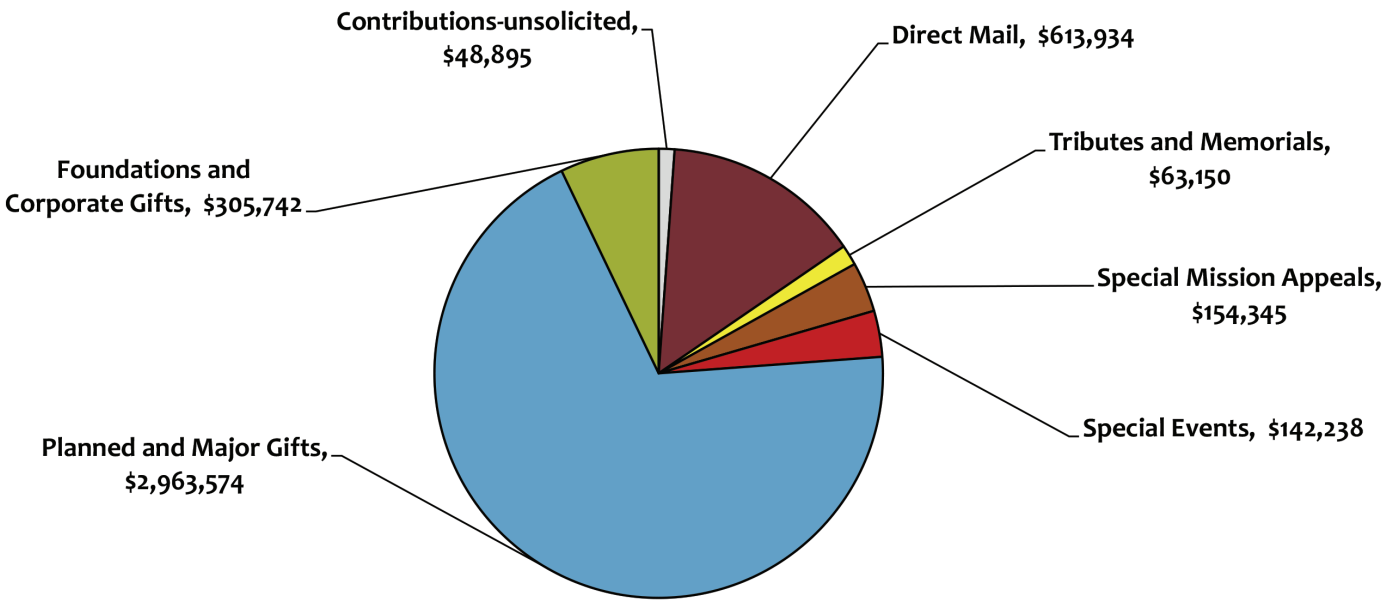
School Sisters of St. Francis

Gratitude Report 2025 - 2026

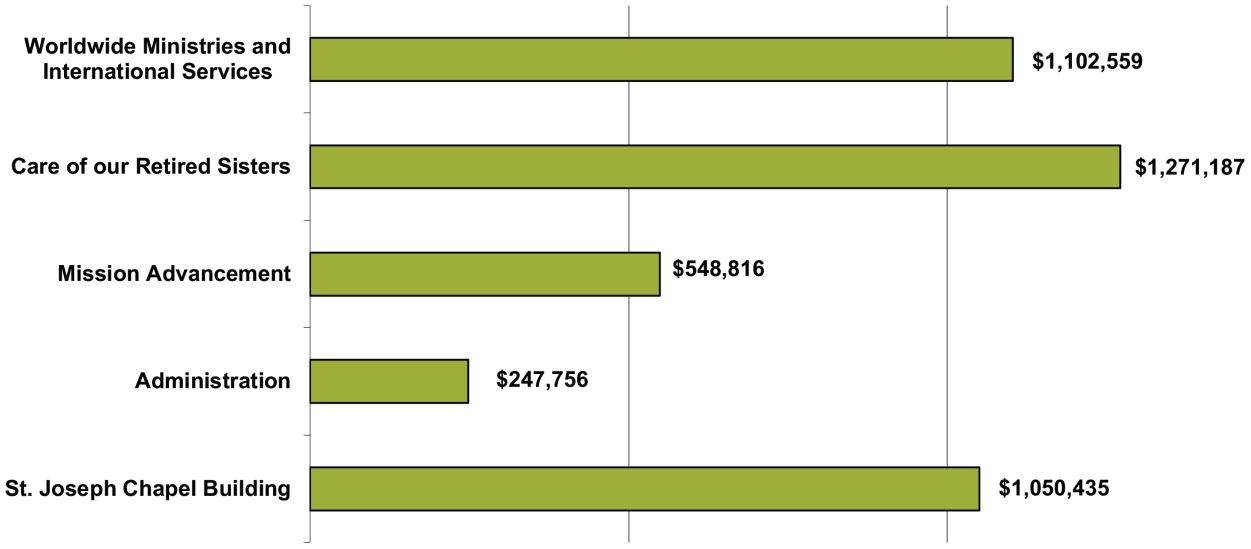
Funding Our Mission

Source of Funds - $4,291,878

($2,013,641 donor restricted; $2,278,237 unrestricted)



Use of Funds



This bar graph represents distributed monies through June 30, 2026.
The financial statements of the School Sisters of St. Francis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, were audited by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP and include an unmodified opinion.



Sisters gather for Mass in Sacred Heart's chapel.

Home for Every Stage of Retirement

Sacred Heart was founded in Milwaukee in 1893 as a hydrotherapy spa for patients with chronic illnesses. Today, it carries on its mission of care as a home where retired School Sisters of St. Francis receive compassionate, individualized care while continuing to live out their vocation in community.

Since the renovation of Alexia Tower and Clara Court in 2015, Sacred Heart has offered 77 apartments and welcoming gathering spaces that foster prayer, friendship, and fellowship. Sisters are given the support they need while remaining in the place they call home, whether they are living independently, receiving assistance, or getting skilled nursing care.

"Sisters are surrounded by their religious family and have a unique sense of what they want their days and care to be," said Patrick Shaughnessy, Executive Director. "Our staff are then responsible for carrying out these needs and wishes."

Each sister helps shape her own daily routine while enjoying the many opportunities to gather, learn, and celebrate with fellow sisters and staff. Mass and prayer time, shared meals, crafts, educational speakers, and group exercise are just a few of the activities available. Accessible transportation makes regular outings to local stores, museums, parks, and favorite ice cream shops possible.

The atmosphere at Sacred Heart reflects the sisters' Franciscan values of hospitality, simplicity, joy, respect and care for one another and all that God has created. It is a home where sisters deepen their relationship with one another, with the staff, and with God.



Sister Dorothy Hegemann enjoys retirement at Sacred Heart.

Sister Bernadette Engelhaupt, Personal Services Coordinator, has witnessed the sisters' love for one another many times. "Sisters will sit quietly and pray with a sister who is nearing death," she said. "I was especially touched when a 102-year-old sister was sitting with a classmate. It almost felt to me that Sister Carolita waited for Sister Lorraine to be alone with her to leave this earth for heaven, and that Sister Lorraine helped her on her way."

Thanks to donor support, Sacred Heart is a place where the School Sisters of St. Francis continue to live their vocation surrounded by compassionate care and lasting friendships. Patrick noted, "Seeing the sisters' faith manifest itself each day reminds me the world is good, and kindness is contagious."

A True Oasis of Healing

In San Marcos, Guatemala, the Franciscan Oasis Rieti Spirituality and Healing Center offers compassionate care to people seeking support for their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.

Founded by our sisters in 1997, the center offers a ministry of healing and accompaniment, welcoming women, men, and children from across the region, many of whom face poverty and limited access to healthcare.

The sisters and staff provide affordable and free natural medicine, alternative therapies, and one-on-one support to individuals who may otherwise struggle to receive care. The center's medicinal garden and greenhouse allow the team to grow plants used in the preparation of natural remedies. Generous donor support helps the sisters provide other necessary medicines and maintain the welcoming environment where patients are received.



Sister Petronila Barán packing the natural medicine.

Many patients travel from rural communities across the high-altitude San Marcos region seeking care that is otherwise unavailable in this underserved area. The sisters strive to meet each person with compassion, offering not only health services but also a place of listening, encouragement, and dignity. For many who come to Rieti, the center offers more than treatment: It is a place where our sisters make them feel seen, valued, and supported.

Doña Rosa, a 42-year-old homemaker, came to Rieti after more than seven years of searching for answers for ongoing health concerns. She had traveled repeatedly to Guatemala City, more than four hours away by car, seeking medical care. Yet she continued experiencing symptoms that affected her daily life, including severe mouth dryness, body pain, fatigue, and discomfort.

After years of uncertainty, she arrived at Rieti feeling discouraged and searching for a new path toward improved health and wellbeing. Through the center's holistic approach, Doña Rosa received natural treatments, therapeutic support, and guidance focused on restoring balance and strengthening her overall health. Over time, she experienced improvements in her energy, physical comfort, and quality of life.

Doña Rosa's healing journey is emblematic of the mission at the heart of Franciscan Oasis Rieti, where each person is accompanied with compassion, respect, and dignity. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation's donors, the School Sisters of St. Francis continue to ensure that individuals in vulnerable communities can receive care, encouragement, and hope.



Encouraging Independence

Sister Juliet with Shampura students served by the mission's sisters.

At Asara Vikalang Bhavan in Shampura, India, our sisters create a home where women with disabilities are welcomed, supported and given opportunities to lead more independent lives. Sisters Juliet Chiriyankandath and Sabanam Xalxo provide daily care, educational support, companionship, and guidance.

Most of the home's residents are between the ages of 20 and 26, and many live with disabilities that affect their mobility, vision, or intellectual abilities. They need assistance with daily activities, education, and healthcare.

"Through love, encouragement, and companionship, we strive to create a family atmosphere where each woman experiences dignity, acceptance, and hope," Sister Juliet said.

Each day includes prayer, study and time together. The women participate in prayer services and Eucharistic celebrations, pursue their education through distance learning, and take part in household and gardening activities. Evenings are time for conversation, praying the rosary, and Eucharistic Adoration. Through these daily routines, the sisters offer both practical support and the companionship that helps the women feel at home.

The sisters' ministry extends to a nearby school, attended by about 600 girls and boys ages 10 to 16. Sister Juliet teaches English, moral values, and drawing, and she coordinates activities that allow students to explore their talents. Group singing, dancing, speech competitions, cultural programs, and school assemblies give students opportunities to develop creativity, leadership and self-confidence.

"For physically challenged individuals, education opens doors to employment opportunities and a brighter future," Sister Juliet explained. "Our mission is to help students discover their worth, develop their abilities, and become active participants in society."

Indu Tomar is one of the young women whose journey was profoundly shaped by the sisters' support. She is now completing her final semester of university studies, where she has maintained grades above 75 percent throughout her studies.



Sisters and mission staff help celebrate a resident's birthday.

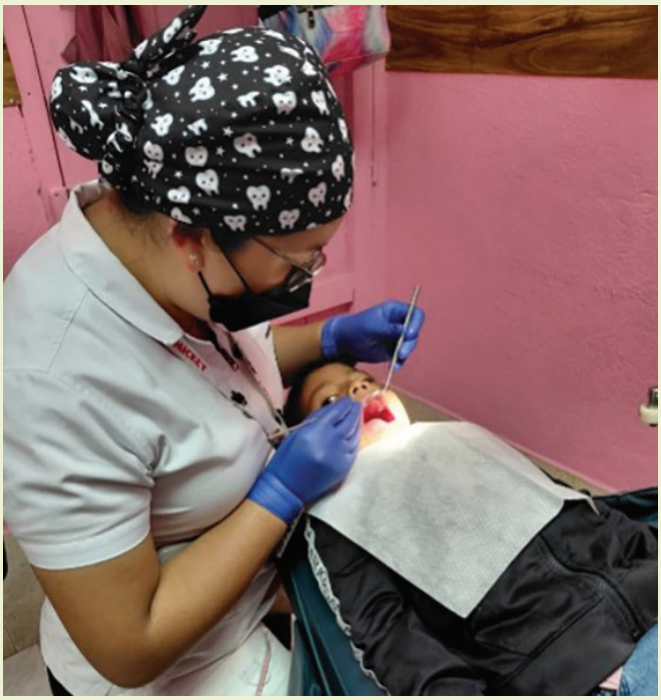
The prayers and generosity of our benefactors enable our sisters to help women and children obtain an education, develop their abilities, and prepare for lives of greater independence. Indu's successful pursuit of her degree is a vivid example of the impact the sisters make through their mission in Shampura.

"One of the most meaningful aspects of this ministry is experiencing the love, trust, and respect that grow between our sisters and the young people we serve," Sister Juliet said.

Blessed by Our Partners in Ministry

These ministries were made possible by your prayers and the more than 4,700 generous gifts to our congregation in 2025-2026.

- Access to clean drinking water at Santa Clara School and San Francisco Pharmacy, Paita, Peru.
- Undergraduate scholarships for Guadalupe Homes alumni in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Emergency dental treatment for 39 local children, Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.



Emergency dental treatment in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.

- Borewell to provide water to our hostel serving 50 girls, Mysore, India.
- Restoration and needed repairs for the historic St. Joseph Chapel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Care for retired sisters around the world.
- Library books, textbooks, and bilingual educational materials for Catholic schools through the Albert Whitman Trust.
- Street outreach, counseling services, and food for women victimized by the street-based sex trade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, through the Sisters Program South Collaborative.
- Medical and nutritional care for low-income people at the Santa Ana Clinic, La Libertad, Honduras.
- Peace and social justice initiatives around the world.
- Salary and expenses for the Music Ministry archive program, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Food, medicine, nurse's salary, and spiritual care for elderly abandoned women living at Asha Bhavan, Bangalore, India.
- Support for the School Sisters of St. Francis Archives, including salaries for three archive personnel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Education and boarding expenses for rural girls and young women ages 5 to 15 living at St. Francis Convent Hostel, Kharkutta, India.
- Construction of boundary wall for the Sanjeevani Convent in Ursi, India, to stop soil erosion and protect land used for organic farming that benefits over 1,500 people.
- Teacher salaries and scholarships for students with disabilities at Assisi Special School, Bangalore, India.
- Reliable solar-powered energy system for St. Mary UP School, Kerala, India.
- Chapel speaker system in Kanjikode, India, to enhance daily Mass, funerals, jubilees, concerts, and community events.
- Land purchase for a permanent convent, Maumere, Indonesia.
- Books for sisters receiving memory care at Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Greenfield, Wisconsin.

- Vegetable plants, coconut trees, fruit trees, and flowers that provide income for sisters and girls who reside at our student hostel, Mysore, India.
- Construction costs for a convent that will house 3 sisters and 13 women in formation, Chengena, Tanzania.
- Solar grid system at St. Joseph Convent and hostel, Guwahati, India, with financial savings now available for care, education, and nutrition of tribal girl residents.
- Medical supplies for our sisters' clinic, Goreghat, India.
- Greenhouse maintenance at Franciscan Oasis Rieti Mission in San Marcos, Guatemala.
- Collaborative archive program between the U.S. Province and Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Connection to the Kaveri water supply line, providing a reliable and sustainable water supply for women living at Asha Bhavan, Bangalore, India.
- Enhancements to the Sacred Heart outdoor meditation and recreation courtyard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Reliable solar-powered energy system for Assisi Special School, Bangalore, India.
- Bicycles for 20 sisters and women in formation in Chengena, Madalle, and Songea, Tanzania.
- Food assistance for residents living in Juárez, Mexico.
- Family nutrition, educational, and personal development programs for women, infants, and children at the Center for Alternative Programs, Santa Apolonia, Guatemala.
- Funds to support the U.S. Province Associate Relationship ministry.
- Pastoral care and spiritual counseling for undocumented immigrants on the Texas-Mexico border.
- Medical and other living expenses for destitute residents of Assisi Care Home, Kanjikode, India.
- Borewell, water storage tank, and fencing to ensure a continuous water supply and safety for our new mission, Dodomo, Tanzania.
- Food, medical clinic, educational scholarships, and Christian formation at Mission San Jose, Aldea San Jose El Tesoro, Guatemala.
- Transfer of property in Bangalore, India, to our sisters, safeguarding it for future generations.
- Retirement home remodeling and furnishings, Hermano Pedro mission, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- Replacement doors, rain gutters, and clinic chairs at the Santa Ana Convent and clinic, La Libertad, Honduras.
- Upkeep and maintenance at Assisi Farm, Walayar, India.
- Holistic health, therapy, and treatments for poor patients at Franciscan Oasis Rieti Mission, San Marcos, Guatemala.
- Air conditioning and music equipment for Santa Clara School in Paita, Peru.
- Costs of formation for women preparing for religious life around the world.
- Support for extended hours and offerings of perishable, locally grown food at the Alverno College Food Pantry, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- New mattresses for elderly retired sisters living at Sacred Heart, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Construction of kindergarten for local children, Dodoma, Tanzania.

Kindergarten in Dodoma, Tanzania.



Thank you!

Through your generous support for our international congregation, you are partnering with our sisters in living the Good News of Jesus, witnessing to the presence of God, and entering into the lives of people around the world, especially those who are poor. We invite you to continue that partnership with us through…

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EVENT ATTENDANCE

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