



MAKING A FOREVER DIFFERENCE



Annual Report 2017-2018

You **MADE A FOREVER DIFFERENCE** with your gift for...



Caring for retired sisters

... RETIRED SISTERS

Ensuring that our retired sisters are provided with exceptional care will always be a funding imperative and our priority. These spirited women have spent their lives instilling knowledge and values in children and tending to the needs of the poor, the hurting, and those on society's margins. Your generous gifts have made a forever difference in their lives by:

- Completing a multiyear overhaul and expansion of our medical bed inventory for sisters living at Sacred Heart. This need became urgent when care staff projected the number of retired sisters who are becoming more frail. The new medical beds are adjustable and come with dignity-preserving features that enhance a sister's sense of independence.
- Replacing the worn tar-and-gravel rooftop at Sacred Heart with a low-maintenance metal roof. Constructed with state-of-the-art materials, it will last for 50 or more years.

- Providing daily care and support to meet the material and spiritual needs of all our retired sisters around the world.
- Erecting new, backlit signs around the St. Joseph Center and Sacred Heart campus. The large, attractive signs demonstrate our congregation's proud commitment to the health and vitality of the historic Layton Boulevard West neighborhood.
- Replacing 38 outdated parking lot lights with modern LED light fixtures. The new system is brighter, saves more than 10,000 watts per hour, and will prevent 848,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year. The new lights will also save the community \$64,000 annually.



New medical beds

... ST. JOSEPH CENTER

- Commissioning three sets of chasubles and matching stoles for priests to wear when celebrating Mass in St. Joseph Chapel. The vestments include a white set for feast days and festive seasons, a purple set for Advent and Lent, and green for Ordinary Time. These handmade wool garments are comfortable to wear, drape gracefully, and are adorned with simple artistic designs in keeping with the School Sisters of St. Francis' aesthetic.



New vestments



Sisters Program South

... MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES PROVINCE

- Culminating St. Joseph Chapel's centennial year with a concert that celebrated the Chapel's first century as a place of welcome, enrichment, and community. The spiritual, cultural, and educational impact of our sacred treasure was highlighted with choral and organ works specially commissioned for this milestone anniversary, as well as compositions by members of our community.
- Sponsoring a warming center, counseling center, and hot meal program at Sisters Program South. The drop-in center on Milwaukee's south side offers respite to women who are victimized by sex trafficking and street prostitution, giving them a safe space to make healthier, more life-affirming changes to their lives.
- Offering a vibrant, year-round calendar of outreach events that invite our friends from the Layton Boulevard West neighborhood, and throughout the greater Milwaukee area, to meet our sisters as they enjoy concerts, plays, retreats, workshops, and more. Our annual bilingual Mass and Fiesta draws hundreds of guests with the theme, *Nuestra Casa Es Su Casa* ("Our House Is Your House").



Fiesta outreach event



Food distribution



Fan distribution

... MISSION ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

- Delivering food supplies each month to 110 families living in underdeveloped and impoverished neighborhoods in Juárez, Mexico. The families our sisters serve have limited access to income or health care, so our packages of dried beans, rice, cooking oil, canned food, and other budget-stretching staples are a nutritional lifeline. Your gifts also made it possible for us to distribute electric fans to families struggling with triple-digit summer temperatures.
- Preparing adult volunteers with English lessons so they can serve in our afterschool homework program and offer tutoring to children and youth in Juárez who have reading difficulties.
- Offering Christian formation to young people as they make their faith journeys in the midst of violence, turmoil, and loss. In El Paso, our sisters provide sacramental preparation to unaccompanied teens being detained in immigration centers. Across the border, sisters teach catechism classes to young people from the poorest and most dangerous sections of Juárez.
- Providing grief counseling to families and victims of drug-fueled violence in Juárez; pastoral and spiritual care to asylum seekers in Federal immigration detention facilities; and accompaniment to poverty-challenged people of all ages as they cope with the daily struggle for survival.
- Giving therapeutic support to clients at the Paso del Norte Human Rights Center in Juárez, as they seek restorative justice for themselves or for loved ones. The sisters serve as counselors and witnesses as the women and men go through their grieving processes and gather strength to seek justice and move forward with their lives.



Adult education



Bio-gas generator

... MINISTRIES IN INDIA

- Adding a water filtration system that removes harmful minerals and chemicals from the drinking water for the sisters and children at the St. Francis Convent and Primary School in Chekanurani.
- Installing a rainwater harvesting system at the Maria Sadan Hostel in Bichhiya that stores water during rainy months in an underground cistern. This water is then available during the dry summer months for the nearly 100 girls who reside at the hostel. Because India has 18 percent of the world's population but only 4 percent of its water supply, conservation measures like this are key to the survival of our missions there.
- Providing medicine, midwife care, and emergency medical assistance to poor residents at the rural Goreghat Mission. Each week, 350 patients arrive on foot for help at all hours of the day and night.
- Turning kitchen scraps into free, clean-burning methane cooking fuel with a new bio-gas generator at the Prakash Bhavan formation house in Narsinghpur. Twenty young women in formation no longer need to burn wood to cook, allowing them to enjoy a smoke-free environment.
- Constructing and furnishing a new building for parent-teacher counseling at the fast-growing St. Francis Convent School in Budni. Many of the 470 students have progressed further in their schooling than their parents, and the sisters needed a secluded space away from the classrooms for parent-teacher counseling sessions and meetings. Your gifts also equipped the building with a computer, printer, copier, and furniture.
- Renovating the badly decayed toilet and laundry facilities at the St. Francis Convent in Jabalpur, which is home to 21 young girls who have moved from rural areas to pursue their educational dreams. Thanks to your support, the problem of toilets overflowing during the rainy season has been eliminated.
- Furnishing a new chapel and prayer hall for the 470 students and four sisters at the St. Francis Convent School in Budni. Thanks to the new facility, sisters, students and families no longer have to travel 27 miles to attend Mass in this transportation-challenged part of India.

... MINISTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

- Enhancing treatment options at the Rieti Spirituality and Healing Center in Guatemala. Improvements include renovation of the medicinal orchard and greenhouse, and the purchase of BEMER microcirculatory machines that add a new treatment modality to the therapy and healing work already underway there.
- Providing scholarships for young people in two Guatemalan communities. The money may be used for middle school and high school tuition, vocational training, junior career diplomas, and university education. With your gifts, these young people can pursue careers and dreams of a stable and just society.
- Repairing the roof and replacing damaged ceiling tiles at the Hogares children's home. Addressing water damage in the living areas, medical clinic, and dining room helps to create the kind of stable, safe environment that traumatized children need to heal and flourish.
- Hiring new carpentry and tailoring instructors and implementing a revamped curriculum for the vocational training classes at the Hogares children's home. The classes give the children the opportunity to acquire marketable skills that will allow them to become independent, self-sufficient young adults.



Medicinal orchard



Education scholarships

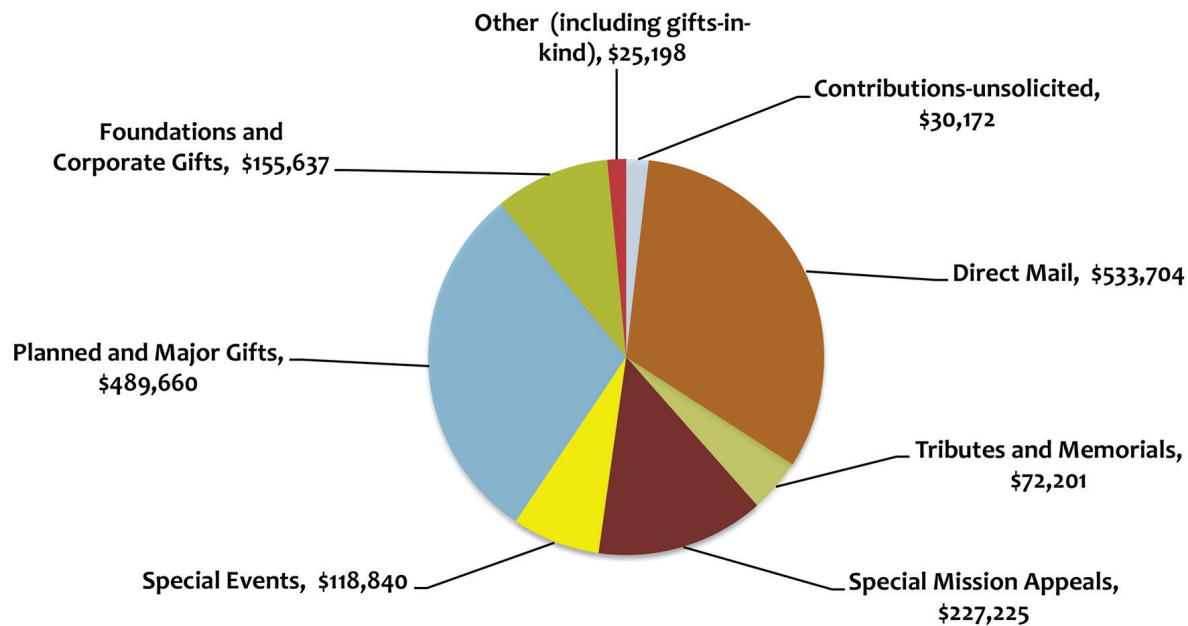


Vocational training classes

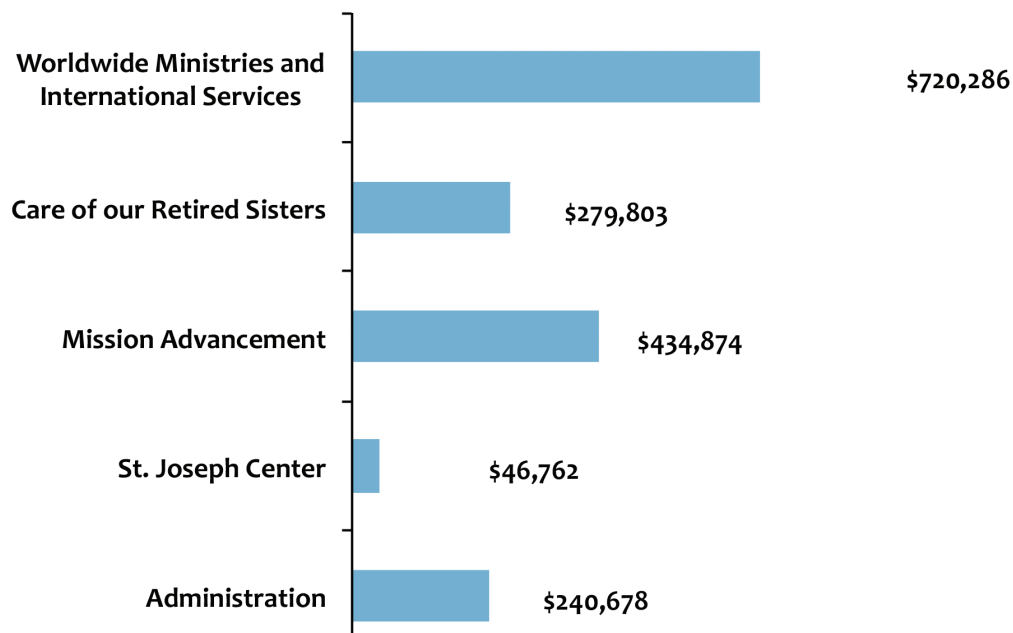
FUNDING OUR MISSION

SOURCE OF FUNDS - \$1,652,637

(\$805,244 temporarily restricted; \$847,393 unrestricted)



USE OF FUNDS



This bar graph represents distributed monies through June 30, 2018. The financial statements of the School Sisters of St. Francis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, were audited by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP and include an unmodified opinion.



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.
- **Social media**—Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and tune in to Masses and special events on our Ustream channel. Find all the links on our homepage: www.sssf.org.
- **Attending events**—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.



By the Numbers

110 hungry families in Juárez, Mexico, receive nutritious food each month, thanks to contributions to the sisters' Casa Alexia food program.

103 girls from remote villages receive an education in Bichhiya, India, while staying with our sisters at the Maria Sadan hostel.

200 women who cannot afford to attend other colleges are empowered through the education they receive from our sisters at Assisi Parallel College in Kerala.

Learn more at www.sssf.org

For Information about MAKING A FOREVER DIFFERENCE, contact:
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