



# *Making A Forever Difference*

## Annual Report 2018-2019



## You Made a Forever Difference Meeting Basic Needs

Our foundresses based the School Sisters of St. Francis' mission on the belief that "the needs of the times are the will of God." Since the congregation's inception, our sisters have worked to meet the needs of people in all walks of life, all over the world, especially the poor.

**This year, you made a difference by providing funding for:**

**CLEAN WATER** for sisters ministering in Songea, Tanzania—an area known for severe water shortages during the region's dry season. The sisters installed a water well that provides clean water for drinking, cooking, and household chores. It will also supply the formation house that the sisters are building, which will train young women who aspire to be consecrated as sisters in our community.



**FOOD SUPPLIES** that sustain 110 families living in impoverished and underserved neighborhoods in Juarez, Mexico. Each month, packages of staples like rice, dried beans, canned food, cooking oil, and more, delivered by our sisters at Casa Alexia, our mission on the border, provide desperately needed nutrition to people who have limited access to income or health care. Your gifts also support our sisters' religious education classes for young people whose faith and sacramental life offer them a beacon of hope amidst poverty and political turmoil.

**A MINIVAN** that will enable our sisters to expand and enhance their ministries in a school and parish in Païta, Peru. Two-thirds of the city's 180,000 residents have no access to electricity or running water and are in desperate need of basic services.



### A VITAL MEANS OF CONNECTION

Païta is a busy seaport on the Pacific Ocean, but ironically has a harsh desert climate and in many years receives virtually no rainfall. Its residents rely heavily on the boom-or-bust fishing, and many families receive very little pay for this dangerous, difficult work.

Our sisters who teach at St. Clare School and minister at a local parish serve many of these people's educational, pastoral, and healthcare needs. One day, the sisters may be transporting a pregnant woman to the hospital for a prenatal medical appointment; the next day, they may bring critical medical supplies from the airport to local parishes. The sisters will use the van daily to transport school teachers to conferences, help residents get emergency medical care, and travel to remote coastal fishing villages to teach children who might otherwise receive no formal instruction in the Catholic faith.

## You Made a Forever Difference Through Education

Education has been the cornerstone of the School Sisters of St. Francis' mission since our first sisters began ministering nearly 150 years ago. Our foundresses Mother Alexia, Mother Alfons, and Sister Clara travelled from Germany to rural Wisconsin to teach immigrant children the "three Rs," and the tenets of the Catholic faith.

**This year, you made a difference by providing funding for:**

**SCHOLARSHIPS** for girls from isolated Indian farming villages. Making financial aid available to the girls who live at Maria Sadan Hostel in Bichhiya, India, opens up a world of opportunity for children like Manisha, who otherwise would be unable to attend high school or even grade school.

**THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING** of children attending Mother Alexia School in Chayyoth, India. The installation of a new roof over the kindergarten wing means the school's youngest students now have a protected, comfortable classroom to begin their academic experience.

**A NURTURING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** for students St. Francis School in Budni, India. Thanks to our sisters, St. Francis's enrollment has more than quadrupled in the past decade. But the school's playground was not big enough to accommodate this rapid growth, and also flooded quickly during the rainy season, leaving the school with nowhere to hold physical education classes.

By expanding and re-landscaping the playground, the school now has a place for the children to exercise and play year round, helping the students to flourish physically, mentally, and socially.



### A REASON TO HAVE HOPE

Thirteen-year-old Manisha Bhargav grew up in a rural village about 80 miles from Bichhiya. When she was eight, Manisha's father became ill and was no longer able to support the family. Manisha and her younger sister were accepted at Maria Sadan Hostel and began attending the diocesan school nearby.

When our sisters met Manisha and observed her outgoing nature, punctuality, and conscientiousness, they realized they had a future leader on their hands. With their guidance, Manisha has developed a love for reading and she now spends many hours of her free time in the library. The sisters tell us that Manisha's scholarship has given her a reason to have hope in her life, and her dream now is to become a journalist.



2,320

years of consecrated life served by the 34 sisters celebrating milestone Jubilee anniversaries in 2019.



42

different ministries were funded through our International Office of Mission Advancement this past fiscal year.

400

survivors of prostitution and human trafficking receive services annually from our Sisters Program initiative with the Benedict Center in Milwaukee.

52

students in Latin America and India receive scholarships so they can attend grade school, high school, and vocational training.



900

people from throughout the Midwest attended Outreach Events presented at St. Joseph Center by the U.S. Province last year, including retreats, workshops, a fiesta, concerts, plays and other educational and spiritual events.





When the sisters at Assisi Special School opened their new facility in October 2018, they welcomed **147** students with special needs.



The School Sisters of St. Francis Music Ministry has presented **108** monthly Taizé prayer and concert programs in St. Joseph Chapel. The Beatitudes is offered on the first Wednesday of each month—all are welcome.



As many as **100** refugees who have been processed and released by ICE arrive each day at El Paso hospitality centers, where they are welcomed and cared for by volunteers that have included our sisters and associates.



Girls from **55** remote villages are able to continue their education beyond primary grades by living at Maria Sadan Hostel in Bichhiya, India, while they attend the local diocesan school.

## 8,500

miles between Assisi Special School in Bangalore, India and Holy Apostles School in New Berlin, Wisconsin. Despite this distance, the two schools have been partners in ministry for eight years.



## 77

The dispensary at our sisters mission in Goreghat, India, is open 77 hours each week, serving an average of 35 people from 25 regional villages every day, seven days a week.



## Our Partners in Ministry Are Making a Forever Difference

When you share your financial gifts with our ministry, you are helping to transform countless lives. We invite you to celebrate these ministries with us. Each one was made possible by your prayers and the more than 7,600 generous gifts our congregation received this year.

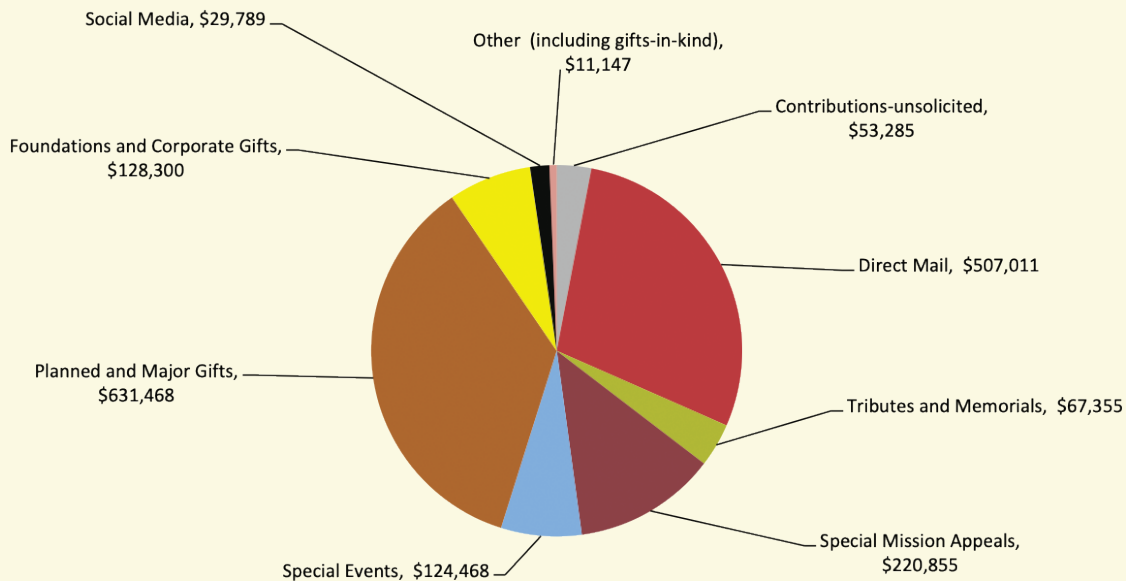
- New handicap-equipped van for our retired sisters in Milwaukee
- Water purifier and rainwater-harvesting reservoir for Assisi Special School in Bangalore, India
- Borewell for water in Songea, Tanzania
- Warming center, daytime respite drop-in center, and street outreach for victims of the sex trade and domestic violence served through Sisters Program South in Milwaukee
- Call/wandering alert system for our sisters living at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee
- New minivan for the sisters ministering in Paita, Peru
- Food for impoverished families in Juárez, Mexico
- Care for retired sisters around the world
- Salary for a nurse, travel expenses for the doctor, and medicine for the Goreghat Mission Clinic in Jabalpur, India
- Support for La Libertad Clinic in Comayagua, Honduras
- Support for our U.S. sisters' ministries through the Living the Gospel Fund
- Support for the U.S. Province Outreach Events program in Milwaukee
- Food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for abandoned elderly women at Asha Bhavan in Bangalore, India
- Furnishings for Assisi Special School in Bangalore, India
- Support for the U.S. Province Music Ministry in Milwaukee
- Water purifier for St. Mary's Convent in Kerala, India
- Operational support for Guadalupe Homes, Santa Apolonia, Guatemala, and Casa Alexia, El Paso, Texas and Juárez, Mexico
- Water borewell at Assisi Nivas in Kerala, India
- New gate at St. Francis Convent High Secondary School in Raisen, India
- Scholarships, health care, school materials, clothing, and room and board for girls living at Maria Sadan Hostel in Bichhiya, India
- Medicine and medicinal orchard and greenhouse upkeep at Oasis Franciscano Rieti Clinic in San Marcos, Guatemala
- Scholarships and program support for children living at Guadalupe Homes in Santa Apolonia, Guatemala
- Support of the Tau Volunteer program and Associate Relationship in Milwaukee
- Community center and childcare center support in Yalpemech, Guatemala
- Medical mission trip to Paita, Peru
- Ceiling for the kindergarten at Mother Alexia English Medium School in Kerala, India
- Educational scholarships and support for students in Yalpemech and Los Amates, Guatemala



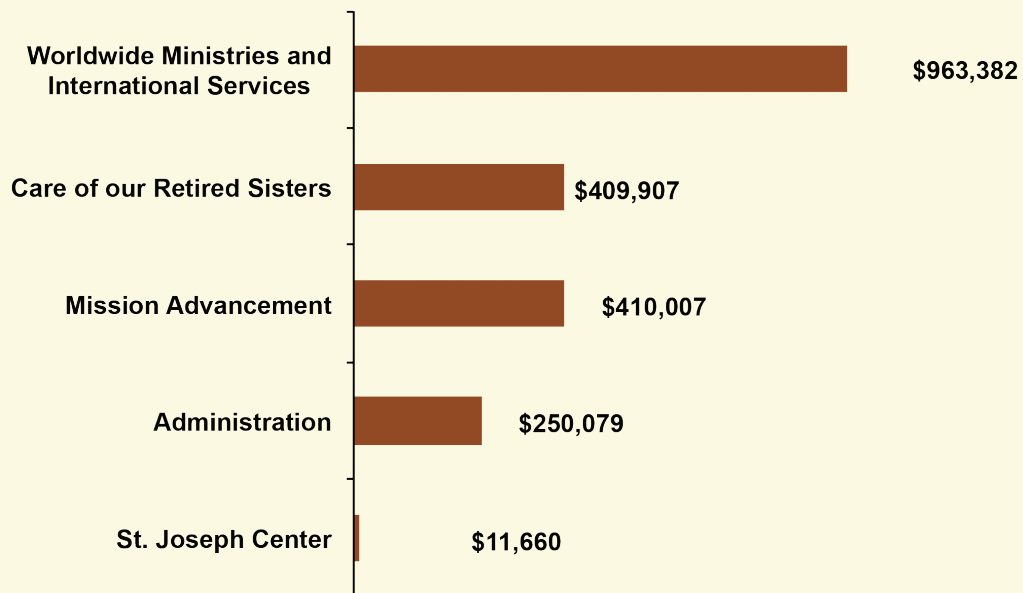


## Funding Our Mission

### SOURCE OF FUNDS - \$1,773,678 (\$897,415 temporarily restricted; \$876,263 unrestricted)



### USE OF FUNDS



This bar graph represents distributed monies through June 30, 2019. The financial statements of the School Sisters of St. Francis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, 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](http://www.sssf.org).
- **ATTENDING EVENTS**—Visit [www.sssf.org](http://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.

Visit our website to see the complete list of donors.

**For Information about MAKING A FOREVER DIFFERENCE, contact:**

**International Office of Mission Advancement**

414-384-3334 • [missionadvancement@sssf.org](mailto:missionadvancement@sssf.org) • [www.sssf.org](http://www.sssf.org)