



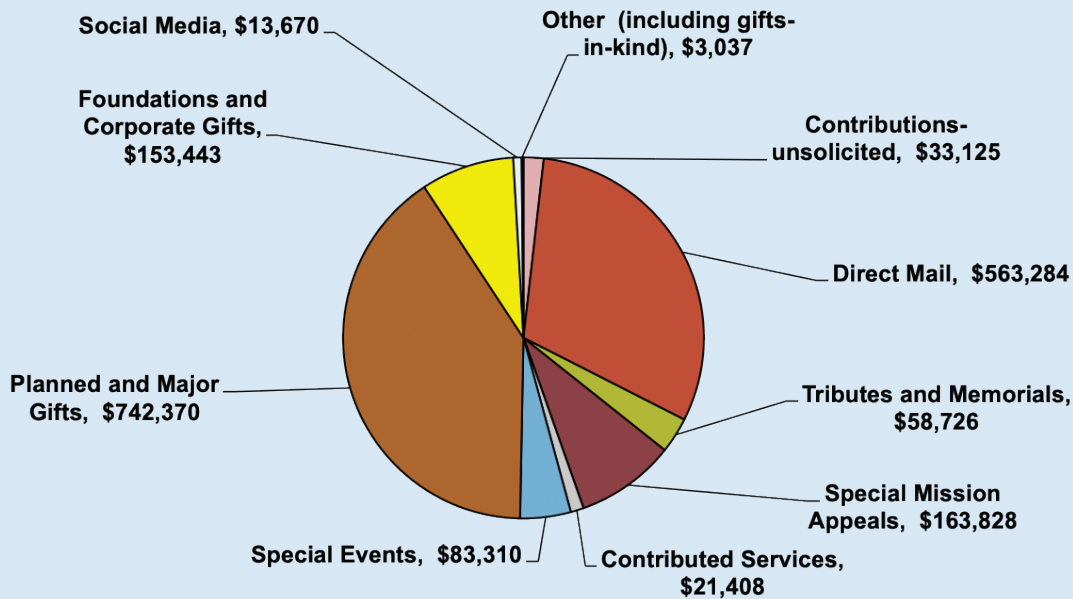
School
Sisters
of  St. Francis

Making A Forever Difference

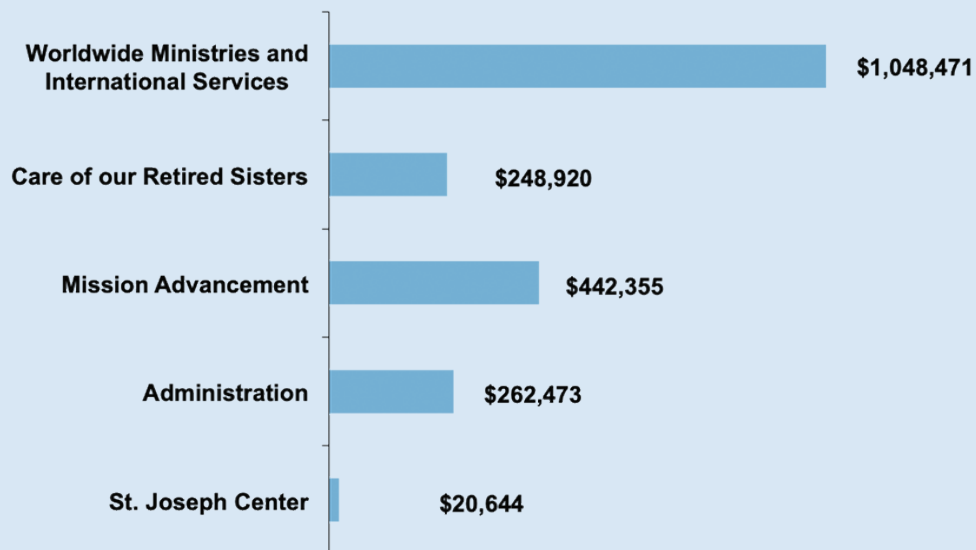
Annual Report 2019–2020

Funding Our Mission

SOURCE OF FUNDS - \$1,836,201
(**\$822,399 donor restricted; \$1,013,802 unrestricted**)



USE OF FUNDS



This bar graph represents distributed monies through June 30, 2020. The financial statements of the School Sisters of St. Francis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, were audited by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP and include an unmodified opinion.

Making a Forever Difference Through Vocations

Tanzania formation house builds Christ's Kingdom

The growth in new vowed members in our congregation's North and South Indian provinces attests to the appeal that our sisters' lives of service and prayer have for young women. Now, they are spreading the light of the Gospel in Tanzania, and accompanying young women who have expressed an interest in vowed life.

Just four years after our Assisi Province sisters arrived in Africa in response to an invitation to join the Vincentian fathers' mission, they began Christian formation with a number of young women. This past spring, a new formation house became their home in the city of Songea. The house and furnishings were funded by generous support from our donors, the United States Province, our International congregation, and other friends.

"This spiritual journey has been remarkable," said formation leader Sister Rose Paul Chakkiath. She and Sister Lissy Payyappilly are now accompanying five "formees": three aspirants and two candidates (above right) to become vowed women religious in our congregation!

"A typical day for these women starts at 5 a.m. and ends with night prayer at 10 p.m.," Sister Lissy explained. They spend much of their time on language studies, faith formation, learning our Franciscan charism, and several hours in



prayer. There are also daily household chores and gardening, with some time for recreation and faith sharing. On weekends, the women make home visits and take part in group prayer, watch movies, and enjoy some rest.

"Because they are from different tribal groups, a lot of cultural adaptation and adjustments had to be made by both the formees and the sisters," Sister Lissy said. "Our sisters attend Eucharist and learn prayers in Kiswahili, and the formees attend classes and prayers in English."

The aspirants come from hundreds of miles away, from the regions near Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria. They have overcome distance and some family objections to pursue their religious vocations. "The call to religious life is a gift from God," asserted Winfrida John Kimario.

"Family visits gave me a good chance to prepare children for First Communion and Confirmation," said Susanne Robert Shimba.

Regina Patrice Theodory (left) agreed: "After becoming a sister, I wish to lead many people into God's Kingdom."



Making a Forever Difference Through Healing

Rieti Healing Center offers health and wholeness

Looking back in order to move forward is a natural pattern of human behavior. Homeopathy—the treatment of disease with natural substances—has been in use for millennia and many people continue to forgo commercial pharmaceutical products in favor of age-old alternative cures.

At Rieti Spirituality and Healing Center in San Marcos, Guatemala, “back to nature” remedies have attracted a significant and loyal following. The School Sisters of St. Francis founded the center to care for people who were catastrophically impacted by the violence of Guatemala’s 36-year civil war. Thanks to support from generous donors, the center welcomes people of all ethnicities and income levels to receive psychological, physical, and spiritual healing.

“We administer treatments based on medicinal plants, along with alternative therapies, such as ion detoxification, Bio Electro Magnetic Energy Regulation (BEMER) therapies, psychological therapies, and physiotherapies,” said Sister Inés Albizures, who oversees the center.

Sister Inés is among a small team of caregivers who witness truly miraculous healing year after year. “We have had many cases of healing for patients who hospitals and private doctors thought were beyond recovery,” she said. “When they heal, they share their experiences with others.”

One such patient, Maria Pérez, came to Rieti last year. Her doctor had diagnosed the pain and swelling in her right hand as an injured nerve, and ordered injections. She was disappointed that the relief lasted for only a few days.

“When we performed a bioenergy exam at our clinic,” said Sister Inés, “arthritis was detected and treated with medicinal plants and alternative therapy. It has been a year since that treatment, and the problem has not come back.”

Another patient, Estela Godínez, elected to skip chemotherapy to address cancerous tumors and

instead sought natural treatment at the center. “The tumors were eliminated, and today, seven years later, she is still in excellent health,” Sister Inés noted.

Because of our donors’ generosity, our sisters at the Rieti mission were able to

- Increase plant production to assist in the creation of the natural medicines used at the clinic
- Keep the pharmacy well stocked, and donate medicine to those in need
- Extend the clinic’s services to a parish serving villagers several hours away from the Rieti mission

“Natural medicine works slowly but safely,” Sister Inés continued. Treatment effectiveness is tracked and patient health checks are conducted by phone. Patients’ positive experiences and the center’s philosophy of care keep people coming. “Patients are encouraged to believe in the power of God, themselves, and the effectiveness of natural medicine.”



Sister Inés Albizures treats a patient at the center

Making a Forever Difference Through Education

Sisters in Bangalore help children with special needs succeed

Assisi Special School was founded by the sisters of our Assisi (South India) Province in 2009 to educate children with special needs. To date, 160 children have been served by the school, located in the urban center of Bangalore.

“Our school not only helps the 75 children currently enrolled, but their families as well,” said Sister Jain Mary Kokkaden, principal. “Our efforts at evangelization, teaching Gospel values, and instilling respect for human dignity have made a big difference.”

An example of what a life-changing difference this can make is the family of Renuka, an eight-year-old girl challenged with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Renuka (right) was confined to a single room at home while her parents were away at work because they had no one to care for her. This isolation made her increasingly restless, unable to sit still or concentrate on a task.

When Renuka first arrived at Assisi Special School, her compulsive behavior and inability to wait her turn interfered with her learning and socializing. Now, with the patient help of the sisters and lay teachers, Renuka has learned to quiet down and is able to focus on a task for ten minutes at a time.

Each morning at Assisi Special School begins with a full schedule of spiritual and life skills development activities, followed by five 45-minute periods devoted to academic skills. Students take a lunch break at 12:30. Most students bring a lunch of rice and vegetables from home, Sister Jain Mary said; the sisters provide a lunch for those who cannot afford one.

“We thank God for giving us many donors and benefactors who contribute and sacrifice for us,” Sister Jain Mary said. “With their financial support, we were able to pay the salaries of our teachers, therapists and support staff.” The cost to educate

one student is \$337, and because of our donors’ selfless generosity, all our students’ educational and therapeutic needs were funded.

“It is so rewarding to see how the children are able to experience God and the presence of God in and around us,” Sister Jain Mary concluded.

“They learn how to be self sufficient, and just as importantly, they learn the ways of sharing, caring, and giving.”



Blessed by Our Partners in Ministry

We invite you to join us in celebrating these ministries, made possible by your prayers and the more than 7,200 generous gifts our congregation received this year.

- Classroom and therapy room furnishings; student tuition assistance at Assisi Special School, Bangalore, India
- Furnishings and water pump equipment for a new formation house, Songea, Tanzania
- Water filter and purifier and classroom furnishings at Assisi Women's College, Palakkad, India
- Borewell and two rainwater holding ponds at Assisi Farm, Walayar, India
- Computers for Assisi English Medium Higher Secondary School, Kanjikode, India
- New road and gate, and bicycles for students at Prakash Bhavan formation house, Narsinghpur, India
- Well for our new formation house, St. Francis Nilay, India
- Formation educational program expenses for our Latin American Region
- Tuition assistance for a sister to complete her Economics doctorate
- Kitchen renovation at St. Francis Convent and study house, Jabalpur, India
- Chapel air conditioning, solar panels, and water harvesting system at St. Francis Convent and higher secondary school, Raisen, India
- Medicine, nurse's salary, and doctor travel expenses at Goreghat Mission Clinic, Jabalpur, India
- Food service countertop renovation, Our Lady of the Angels Convent, Greenfield, Wisconsin
- Emergency personal protection equipment (PPE) for our convents and nursing monitors for Sacred Heart, Milwaukee
- Care of our retired sisters around the world
- Room, board for students and stipends for staff at Maria Sadan Hostel, Bichhiya, India
- Medicine, food for residents and stipends for care givers at Asha Bhavan, Bangalore, India
- Solar panels at St. Francis Convent Co-ed School, Bhopal, India
- Medicine, greenhouse maintenance, and supplies to develop natural medicines at Rieti Center, San Marcos, Guatemala
- Salary and expenses for music, arts, and spiritual programming to expand our sisters' public outreach, Milwaukee
- Sisters Program South warming center, health screening, counseling services, spiritual companionship, and food for victims of street-based sex trade, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Pastoral care of residents of the *colonias* and those incarcerated or detained in El Paso and Juárez; food distribution on the streets of Juárez
- Retreats for Catholic H.S. students, underwriting for educational theatre performances about human trafficking, restorative retreats for women survivors of domestic violence, all funded by the Living the Gospel Fund
- Blood pressure monitoring, massage equipment, nutritional, and medical care expenses for Santa Ana Clinic, La Libertad, Honduras
- Scholarships and financial support for students in Yalpemech, Santa Apolonia, and at Los Amates, Izabel, Guatemala
- Library books, textbooks, and bilingual educational materials for U.S. schools and youth programs



348

sisters around the world being provided with compassionate, supportive, and enriching care in their retirement.



2,200

students at Assisi English Medium Higher Secondary School in Bangalore, India, were introduced to modern technology with new desktop and laptop computers.



100

children with cognitive and physical challenges received loving instruction and care from trained teaching and therapy staff at Assisi Special School in Bangalore, India.



2,850

students at St. Francis School in Raisen, India, now have access to clean water because of a new rain harvesting initiative.



405

nights of emergency shelter were provided for women involved in the street-based sex trade at the Sisters Program South Warming Center in Milwaukee.

21,780

square feet of land was purchased to construct a new formation house in Songea, Tanzania, along with furnishings for the new dwelling.





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...

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

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