

Sisters and Friends Step Up for Movin' 4 Missions

By Michael O'Loughlin, Marketing & Communications Director

Sisters and associates around the country are getting into the spirit and stepping up for the School Sisters of St. Francis' first Movin' 4 Missions fundraiser. Sister Ramona Schmidtknecht in Holly Springs, Mississippi, is the perfect example. She's making tracks with 115,000 steps, well on her way to achieving her 150,000-step goal.



Fellow Mississippian Sister Margaret Sue Broker did double duty on May 7 when she participated in a fun run at Sacred Heart School in Walls, the school where she has ministered for 60 years. Sister Margaret Sue was able to help her school and help Movin' 4 Missions at the same time. "I walked with the children from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. My ending steps were 29,865 for a walk of 18.88 miles!"

The Chicago Sassy Steppers team of Sisters Mary Ann Meyer and Kathy Chuston have already passed their 175,000-step goal in support of access to education, and they're still going strong at 250,000 steps. And Sister Jane Marie Bradish, accompanied by her dog named Oreo Cookie Monster, has logged 130,000 steps as of this writing—more than halfway to her 200,000-step goal in support of our greatest mission needs.

Thanks to efforts like these, we were able to surpass our initial \$30,000 fundraising goal in just 12 days! Now, with a little over two weeks remaining in the step challenge, the question is: How many *more* lives can our community touch through this special event?

"Given that this is our first time holding a step challenge and considering that people in many parts of the country continue to face COVID-related restrictions, we felt that \$30,000 was an ambitious goal," said Pam Mueller, Director of Mission Advancement. "We are thrilled that Movin' 4 Missions has been embraced by so many participants. They have done a fantastic job of encouraging their family members, friends, coworkers, and former students to support their steps financially.

“Now that we have surpassed our initial goal, we are ‘stretching’ and setting our sights on raising \$50,000,” Pam continued. “Some of our sisters and other participants are just getting started with their fundraising, so it will be exciting to see how many more ways we will be able to support our sisters ministering in education and social justice, the care of our retired sisters, and our other global missions.”

Kelly Nowakowski, Mission Advancement events coordinator, said that an added benefit is that Movin’ 4 Missions has attracted new participants and many of the more than 220 donors are giving to the congregation for the first time. This is enabling the community to expand our family of supporters. The community has also benefited from the generous support of LSIA, offering wealth and institutional investment management.

As Pam noted, the participation has been remarkable. Sisters and former members of the reception class of 1954 have formed four teams and 22 of the “Fabulous 54s” are stepping for all four of our Movin’ 4 Missions categories. An anonymous donor paid the registration fees for all of the class’s participants and also pledged a generous donation in recognition of their efforts.

Meanwhile, Sisters (from left) Liz Heese, Kathleen O’Brien, Judeen Schulte, Marlene Neises, and Mary Diez, who all live on the Alverno College campus, have really gotten into the spirit for our step challenge. The “White House Step Sisters” team has raised more than six times their original team fundraising goal!



We ask for your prayers for the continued success of this event and please keep on telling your family and friends about Movin’ 4 Missions. Every donation, of whatever amount, is providing much-needed funding for the care of our sisters and ministries in the U.S. Province, and in our other provinces and region. You can share this article with them, and direct them to our special event page, which has all the details about Movin’ 4 Missions: <https://www.sssf.org/Donate/Movin-4-Missions.htm>