

Moments in Mission

Together, We Go One Pace Beyond



Annual Donor Report

2018-2019



Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Joyful Service

Justice is our Work

Every moment is an opportunity to further the justice work of our Congregation. Whether it be focusing on care of creation, working on right relationships or encouraging peacemaking, justice is the core of our Mission as Presentation Sisters.



An emphasis in our work for justice is systemic change. Systemic change goes beyond direct service to focus on the systems that create an unjust situation. We lobby during our South Dakota legislative session, challenge companies with which we invest to be socially responsible and continue to promote change where it is needed in the systems that can affect the lives of those we serve.

Locally we work with groups such as the Aberdeen Area Diversity Committee, The Journey Home, Homes Are Possible Inc., Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, St. Francis House and Kids Against Hunger, to ensure that we are promoting a safe and just

community that allows all of our neighbors to flourish. On a national level, our sisters are partners with other Presentation People to address the needs of the immigrant population entering the United States. This issue can be polarizing, and yet is important to who we are as Catholic women religious. We are called to welcome the stranger among us and to promote the dignity of each person we serve.

We also partner internationally with the International Presentation Association to sponsor a non-governmental representative at the United Nations. With a focus on global justice, we strive to speak and act in partnership in a spirit of oneness with all of creation. “The cry of Earth and people made poor calls us to continue the Mission of Jesus to bring forth a sustainable society founded on respect for Earth, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace” (IPA Assembly 2017). ◆



With a contemplative presence and in partnership with others working for global justice, we willingly go forth to any part of the world to work for justice, alleviate oppression and promote human dignity.



We open our compassionate hearts as we stand alongside all who are suffering.



In partnership with the Watertown Coalition and Mother of God Monastery, we continue our education and awareness efforts on the issue of sex trafficking, including billboard messages like the one pictured at left.

Thank You, Partners

Together we continue the legacy of service to those in need

The Presentation Sisters are grateful to the donors listed in this annual report, as well as the individuals who prefer to remain anonymous, for their partnership over the past year. The efforts of many coming together make it possible to do what none of us could do alone. It is through your prayerful and financial support that we are able to continue our ministry to those in need.

A

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It is our intention that this report accurately reflects the names of our donors from June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019. We also remember in our prayers those whose names are marked with a cross (†) as they are our partners who are deceased.

We have established style guidelines to ensure consistency. If there is an error with your name, please let us know using the contact information listed on the back of this report.

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The Cojourner Relationship

Our foundress, Nano Nagle, knew God's vision for her was more than she could accomplish alone. She needed partners – partners who would walk beside her and help her carry out the Mission she envisioned to help those in need.

Following the legacy set before us, the Cojourner Program brings sisters and the laity together, so we may work side by side, carrying out the Mission. Included in these next pages are testaments from those in our Cojourner Program. From those who are new to the program to those who are lifetime members, we all unite in prayer and service to God's people.

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The Cojourner Relationship

Sister Darlene Gutenkauf has been involved with this Ministry for over 15 years. She has served as director, co-director, mentor and prayer partner. When talking about this ministry, she states, “The Cojourner Program has expanded over the years with more emphasis on walking alongside and ministering with the Sisters. We work together on areas of justice and peace, and pray with and for one another. My spiritual life has been enriched by our cojourners.”

Mary Jane Winter and her husband Bill are lifetime members of the Cojourner Ministry. Mary Jane, who once served as co-director of the ministry with Sister Darlene, shared, “I love the Sisters. I was drawn to them by their broad view of the Catholic Church and the works of women. I am committed to continuing my spiritual and personal growth. The sisters encourage me to do this and further my own ministry of hospitality.”

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The Cojourner Relationship

Dr. Sandra Sexton Welling joined the Cojourner Ministry in June 2019.

When asked what attracted her to the Cojourner Ministry, she stated, “My love for service led me to a career in nursing. While working toward a master’s degree I was immersed in servant leadership theory, while my doctorate education focused on health disparity and the care of the underserved. When I was introduced to Nano Nagle, I instantly realized I had known her my entire life and knew she was the one who was guiding me through my life’s expeditions. Becoming a cojourner seemed the natural next step. It is a blessing to become part of the Presentation family and to have the opportunity to serve in the Presentation Sister’s ministry.

“As a cojourner, I have the opportunity to serve others while partnering with the Presentation Sisters and fellow cojourners. In addition, cojourners give me the ability to share the love of Jesus and Nano, in hopes of giving individuals encouragement. The influence Nano had on healthcare and education is inspiring. My desire is that Nano’s Mission might impact others to serve as strongly as she impacted me.”

S

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ABERDEEN AREA

Hispanic Outreach



eeding a medical procedure to return to work is stressful for anyone, but navigating appointments when English is not your first language and you have no family support is even more challenging. “Marcy*” suffered from severe carpal tunnel. Sister Consuelo accompanied Marcy to her appointments to provide translation and support. After two surgeries, Marcy expected to go right back to work but found that it would take at least two months to heal. She was worried about paying her rent if unable to work. We were able to assist her through our Good Samaritan Ministry and Marcy faithfully completed the therapy her doctor prescribed. In two months, she was able to return to work and financially support herself.



Sisters Consuelo and Myra work in the Aberdeen area to welcome Hispanic men, women and children into the community. By offering translation services, we help these individuals to navigate the healthcare and education systems, as well as social services. In addition, helping families find affordable, reliable housing and preparing children for school helps them to become more productive members of our community.

We do not work alone in our efforts to welcome the stranger. Avera St. Luke's, a ministry sponsored by

*Name changed to protect the individual's privacy.



Sister Myra Remily
Sister Consuelo Covarrubias
Ministry Coordinators

the Presentation and Benedictine Sisters, as well as the Salvation Army, Horizon HealthCare, Inc., Lutheran Social Services and the Department of Social Services provide services and partner with us. Kids Against Hunger also provides warehouse space to store beds, chairs, tables, blankets and other items that are donated to help those in need. Finally, the Aberdeen School System has worked to enroll children in programs to help them learn English and succeed at school. We are thankful for the many ways we can work together with these agencies to welcome the Latino community. ■

The Cojourner Relationship

Cojourners are baptized persons of any faith who desire to share the spirituality, values and mission of the Sisters. They are lay associates who partner with the Sisters while they continue their own vocation and career.

Our cojourners are women and men, married and single, who minister in a variety of ways, as teachers, healthcare providers, office workers, homemakers, business owners and many more.

If you would like to learn more about the Cojourner Relationship contact Carrie Hansen, Cojourner Coordinator, at cojourner@presentationsisters.org.

Caminando Juntos

Each year, Caminando Juntos educates and empowers hundreds of Latinos living in the Sioux Falls area through a variety of educational programs. We are one of a few ESL programs in the area that is free and the only program serving specifically Spanish-speaking adults. Through daytime and evening English classes, English tutoring and English conversation classes, our volunteers' enthusiasm to teach and their love of the Hispanic people reflect Nano's love for those made poor. It is through their everyday connections with our students that these students develop the confidence to go out into the community and put their language skills to the test. This fall we began offering computer classes, a new opportunity made possible by the help and support of our community partners (Citibank and Avera Health) and other donors.

At the office in Sioux Falls, SD, we welcome over 1,200 drop-in visitors annually. We assist Latinos with filling out a variety of forms and applications, connecting clients with basic needs and social services,



April, Director and Educational Coordinator, assists a student learning English.

and orientating new arrivals to our community. We also assist in finding transitional housing for women and children in domestic abuse situations.



We stay connected to the community and to the nation through social justice and immigrant advocacy events. Immigration is an issue that is both complicated and emotional. We try to keep the people affected by policies at the forefront, and both Sister Janet and Sister Pegge have participated in dozens of prayer vigils and solidarity rallies. We also write letters to our legislators to contest harmful or discriminatory immigration policies or bills, and Sister Pegge has visited Capitol Hill and our state legislature to advocate for issues that directly impact immigrants living in our state.

We do not act alone as we partner with churches, PAX Christi, South Dakota Voices for Peace, Finally, Bienvenidos a Brookings, the Multicultural Center and Lutheran Social Services, among others, who also share a passion for immigrant and refugee issues. ◆

April Ross, Sister Janet Horstman
Sister Pegge Boehm, Astrid Rosario



Catholic School Scholarships

The sisters who founded our Congregation in Aberdeen were called here in the late 1800s to teach. This education ministry has been a part of our Mission since we opened our first school in Aberdeen in 1886. As teachers, 232 Presentation Sisters have educated over 300,000 students in the region since that time.

As we have adapted to meet the needs of those we serve, our areas of ministry have shifted and we are no longer teaching at the elementary and secondary level in our Catholic schools. However, our commitment to Catholic education remains strong. In the spirit of our foundress, Nano Nagle, who taught children in Ireland when it was forbidden by the penal laws, we remain steadfast in our support of Catholic education. To that end, we sponsor educational opportunities through scholarships to Catholic schools in our diocese. For the 2019-2020 school

year we were able to provide 40 \$750 scholarships and three \$1,500 scholarships (one to each Catholic high school in the diocese). Since the inception of our scholarship program, 2,050 students have received scholarships to help them obtain a Catholic education.

One mother writes, "Knowing that my son has been gifted with the opportunity to learn in an environment where he has developed his faith, built relationships with others and learned lifelong skills to navigate the world, we are truly grateful. You are the ripple in the water that helps us to see the 'pay it forward' philosophy. It will not be forgotten."

Another shares, "We are blessed and grateful to you for awarding our son a scholarship. We are excited for school and to send our son into a very loving, educational environment." ◆



2019-2020 School Year:

- 40 students received scholarships of \$750
- 3 students received scholarships of \$1,500 (one to each Catholic high school in the diocese)



Good Samaritan Ministry

FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Janet* is raising her three children on her own and living on a very tight budget. She despaired when she found out her car needed over \$1,000 in repairs. While the auto repair shop was willing to work with her and let her make payments, they requested a down payment before they would let her leave with her newly fixed car. Janet depends on her car to get to work and to get her kids to school and daycare, so she had no choice but to use the money she had budgeted for her electric bill to pay this. She called us to request help from the Good Samaritan Ministry and we were able to assist her with her electric bill so she could stay current and not risk getting disconnected.

Many of us know what it means to fall on hard times. As Presentation Sisters, our Mission includes helping to meet immediate needs so that individuals can help themselves to a better place. The Good Samaritan Ministry was established to help fill the gap in basic needs when our neighbors need help the most. Each week we receive 30-40 requests for assistance from individuals living throughout South Dakota. These requests often are for rental or electric bill assistance. We sometimes receive special requests for needs such as medicines. With each request we have the opportunity to live our call to serve as apostolic women and to promote the dignity of each person we encounter. ♦

*Name changed to protect the individual's privacy.

To better serve the Aberdeen community, we are pleased to announce the enhanced partnership with The Journey Home. As our Missions align, we work together in supporting and assisting those who may be struggling in our community. Stay tuned for further developments in this collaborative ministry.



**Sister Phyllis Gill
Kathleen Daly**
Ministry Coordinators

Kaoma, Zambia, Africa



Throughout the years, Presentation Sisters from Ireland, India, England, New Zealand, Zambia and the United States have partnered in Kaoma, Zambia, Africa, to minister to those living in this impoverished area. Lacking employment opportunities and living in a region with the world's highest rate of HIV/AIDS, people in Kaoma face many challenges.

Fishponds at the ministry are one way to provide education and employment. Mr. Musonda from the Province Fishery Department is teaching Sister Lucy Senastian, PBVM from India, a six-month course on developing fishponds and raising fish. She is joined in this experience by five high school students. Often, when young people graduate from high school they return to a life of poverty as it is difficult to find jobs. We hope that teaching young people about fish farming will develop in them skills to enable them to find a job working with fishponds and, perhaps, to one day raise their own fish.

We continue to nurture connections with our partners in the United States to provide ministry opportunities. Prairie Aqua Tech, Brookings, SD, supplies us with a special fish feed supplement for a research project at our fish farm. Dr. and Mrs. Warren Redmond have sponsored a micro financing project in the form of the Redmond Loan Fund which has helped over 2,000 women open or expand a small business. Funding provided by grant agencies have allowed us to construct a conference center, a three-bedroom house and a large kitchen at Nano Farm, as well as numerous classrooms, a library and an administration building at Presentation School in Kaoma. Kids Against Hunger supplies food which we distribute weekly to those in



Sister Virginia, second from left, members of the Presentation Sisters African Unit Leadership Team, and Mboma, Nano Farm Manager, work together on sustainability projects in Zambia.



Kids Against Hunger packaged meals in South Dakota, providing nourishment for our sisters and brothers in Africa.

need. Finally, our donors continue to support our work by setting up an emergency fund for those most in need and giving to our education fund to pay school fees for high school and college students. ♦



Sister Virginia McCall
Administrator



LIVE Camp

We just completed our 13th year of partnering with a local committee to serve middle school Latina girls in the Omaha, Nebraska, area. LIVE (Latinas Inspiring Virtuous Excellence) Camp is a faith-based week-long experience offering young women a chance to learn about leadership, friendship and faith.

Days at camp are spent being physically active, learning how to be proactive at school and making friends. We teach campers strategies for making healthy decisions, increasing their self-esteem and growing in their faith. These skills give them the tools to resist destructive behaviors such as alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, premature sexual activity and other risky behaviors.

This mentorship doesn't end at the end of the week. The sisters and other camp counselors keep in contact with the girls via newsletters, emails and visits throughout the year. We encourage them to continue using the leadership skills they learned at camp.

Our outstanding junior counselors witness for the campers the importance of attending college and



"I think this camp is very helpful because teenagers usually are going through hard times. I would dare to say that especially young girls struggle. This camp gives Latina girls self-confidence; it encourages them and forms them to be strong, kind, and great leaders."

- LIVE Camp Counselor

avoiding destructive behaviors. These young women know what the campers are going through and are willing to give back through mentoring. They illustrate the importance of their relationship with God, of embracing their Latina heritage with pride, and of being empowered in virtue as leaders in their families, church, community and world.

One camper explains, "The positive difference this camp has made is to help me learn about what other people go through and how they make a change and inspire others to keep going."

Area businesses, local foundations and individual donors believe in this effort and continue to partner with us to support LIVE Camp. They, and we, believe we are changing the lives of the Latina youth and positively impacting the future leadership of the Omaha community. ■

Dear Friends,

Sometimes it is difficult to go through a day without witnessing tragedy. It is all around us, in our local communities and in our world. However, we also witness kindness and the beauty of those working each and every day to make a difference. Collectively, we can work together, continuing to shine light and hope into all corners of the world.

As Christians, justice is the work of all of us. With our partners, employees, and volunteers we are able to continue the justice work of the Congregation both locally and globally. Collaboratively we can make an impact in the world.

We reach out together in faith, in a spirit of hospitality, compassion and simplicity to all of creation. As we listen to the cry of those made poor and the cry of the Earth, we are called to continue the Mission of Jesus ... to bring forth a sustainable society founded on respect for earth, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

We invite you to join us for further conversation as we deepen partnerships in our work for justice, for change that promotes dignity and alleviates oppression in our world today. Together, we are greater than the sum of our parts ... together, we can make a difference, bringing light and hope into all corners of the world.

In Peace,

Mission Development Team



Team members include:
(from left to right)

Jennifer Dix
Kathleen Daly
Barb Grosz
Jen Rothenbuehler
Brooke Nicholson Grote
Carrie Hansen

We love connecting with you and look forward to visiting with you in the year ahead.

Sioux Falls, SD
605.271.0468

Aberdeen, SD
605.229.8337

"Good works are links that form a chain of love."

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta





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of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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In Prayer, Charism & Mission

The service and justice work of one person may seem like a tiny drop of water, but when we see the efforts of thousands of Presentation People around the world who are joined together in prayer and mission, we have a powerful impact.

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