



Stewardship Report 2019

School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province



**UNIFYING AND SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

Bringing Justice
to a Broken World

PAGE 10

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

A WELCOME FROM OUR PROVINCIAL LEADER



Dear Friends,

Some of our sponsored ministries have received incredible gifts recently, generous donations for scholarships and facility upgrades that will assist them in giving more marginalized persons the opportunity to transform their lives through education.

I had the opportunity to see firsthand how our partnership with Beyond Borders in Haiti is thriving, raising the standard of living for many families through water catchment systems and financial and agricultural education, and training a new generation of teachers on how to better educate themselves and, in turn, those they teach.

While it has been a challenging year of transition for our province, prayer and community have seen us through. Our Sisters in Waterdown, Canada, gracefully oversaw the process of moving their cemetery from the grounds of Notre Dame Convent to Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, while our Sisters at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Connecticut, found a wonderful and welcoming new home at the Carmelite Sisters’ Ozanam Hall in Bayside, NY.

Our first-ever SSND alumni event in Baltimore brought together almost 300 Sisters, their former students, and other friends of SSND for a night of catching up that included dinner, a silent auction, and performances by students from our SSND-sponsored schools Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP) and the Institute of Notre Dame (IND).

Members of leadership, including myself, followed in the steps of our Foundress Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger on a Heritage Pilgrimage that took us to sites of significance for our congregation, including Munich, Regensburg and Neunburg Vorn Wald in Germany; Vienna, Austria; and Rome, Italy, home of our Generalate. While in Rome, we were honored to attend a papal audience.

This year’s Stewardship Report is entitled “Unifying and Serving God’s People for a Better Tomorrow.” All of the things mentioned above have helped us become one in some way with those with whom we live, work and serve. In becoming one with one another, we create a united force of love and grace that we can take out into the world in the service of God’s people. We live in challenging times. Our concerns range from the ever-growing effects of climate change to the callous atmosphere engendered by myriad populist governments. We must set an example of unity to convince the world that being there for each other, being one with one another, is the only thing that will truly bring a better tomorrow for all, rather than just a select few.

Thank you for uniting with us in making a difference in our world. In these pages, you will see all the good we have done together. We greatly appreciate the time, talent and treasure you share with us as we journey to live out the part of our Directional Statement that “impels us into the heart of the world to be women of peace, hope and love.”

In Notre Dame,
Charmaine Krohe, SSND
Provincial Leader, School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province



School Sisters
of Notre Dame

The mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is to proclaim the good news, directing their entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. The Sisters make Christ visible through their very being and by their sharing of love, faith and hope. The Sisters express their mission through ministry directed towards education.

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ON THE COVER: Students from one of the schools in Haiti that we are supporting through our partnership with Beyond Borders. Sister Charmaine was warmly received when she went to see our work in Haiti first hand. *(Photos courtesy of Beyond Borders.)*

Stewardship Report 2019

Our theme, **Unifying and Serving God’s People for a Better Tomorrow**, comes from a review of the ministries we sponsor and those in which our Sisters serve, to best determine what we are achieving through these ministries and how we might acheive more transformative outcomes. Fostering unity within our congregation has been a focus since our founding in 1833. Our constitution, *You Are Sent*, states that, “Our mission is to proclaim the good news, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.”

As living examples of striving for oneness, the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the Atlantic-Midwest Province hope to inspire others to be one with those around them, even when living in a world that seems to grow ever more divisive each day. Sisters have seen in the younger generation a hunger to be in service to others, a call they answered when they were the same age. Although that call to service may not include religious life, Sisters and seekers often find common ground when they focus on how they can collaborate on efforts that make the world more inclusive and offer opportunities to all.

We hope you, too, will join us in our ministries. The work of bringing a spirt of unity back into the world will not be an easy one. We need your support. Working together, though, we know that we can make a difference in the lives of others and create a tomorrow that raises up others rather than keeping them down.



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Strengthening the SSND Educational Ministries

Stories from the Atlantic-Midwest Province's Sponsored and Co-sponsored Ministries



TUITION-FREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Mother Seton Academy *Established 1993 Baltimore, MD**



Mother Seton Academy recognizes that a strong foundation is important, not only when constructing a building, but also in everyday life. Having strong ties with families and friends provides a sturdy foundation when life gets tough. Teaching students with compassion and understanding gives them a solid foundation for a better future.

As a supporter of Mother Seton Academy, sponsors like the School Sisters of Notre Dame play an essential part in providing this foundation for our young students. In supporting them, you are helping our young boys and girls grow and thrive in a nurturing environment. So many things are possible because of the generosity of others. Our students learn in small class sizes, where they can get the personal care

and attention they need. Our young boys and girls can stay in a safe environment and receive extra care during our longer days and school year. They have opportunities to learn music, enjoy art classes, and participate in unique activities and clubs.

Now our wonderful supporters have partnered with us to go even further and build an expansion to the school. This new space will house a gymnasium where our students can play and enjoy themselves; a learning garden to show them the wonder and beauty of our world; and a music room with plenty of space for unique and exciting instruments for the children to play. We are so grateful to everyone who has been a part of making the dream of this expansion a reality.

Sisters Academy of Baltimore *Established 2008 Baltimore, MD**



Sisters Academy educates girls of different races, ethnic groups and religions, from families of limited economic means, particularly those in southwest Baltimore. We empower students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society. "Our mission can be summed up in three words: educate, empower and transform," says Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, President. Sisters Academy relies on sponsors to send students through the four-year program. All students, as well as their parents, are required to adhere to our pledge of nonviolence, in actions and in words. After graduation, nearly all of our students go on to Catholic or other independent high schools or to selective public high schools. "This school taught me how to grow in a lot of ways," says MaKayla McCorry, a recent graduate now attending the Institute of Notre Dame in Baltimore. "You're surrounded by people who help you and tell you to never give up."

**supported by SSND and other religious organizations*

COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOLS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Academy of the Holy Angels *Established 1879 Demarest, NJ*



Collaboration is a hallmark of the Holy Angels community, so it was not surprising that the Academy mobilized to raise \$9,636 to help Haitian educators train as reading and math specialists.

Sister Sharon Slear, SSND announced the professional development program at AHA's Foundation Day celebration in the fall of 2018. Sister Sharon asked AHA to help raise \$3,000 to send just one teacher from Lagonav Island to the training course in Port-au-Prince. Less than a year later, AHA's students, faculty, and staff responded by contributing three times that amount to SSND's educational efforts in Haiti.

Andrea Beyer, AHA Campus Minister and Dean of Students, scheduled the many events planned by over 17 clubs and organizations. Fundraisers included everything from Hot Chocolate for Haiti to Hoops for Haiti, Hats for Haiti, and even Haikus for Haiti. This local effort is sure to transform the lives of students on Lagonav Island for generations.

Institute of Notre Dame (IND) *Established 1847 Baltimore, MD*



It has been a year of tremendous highs and lows for IND. In March 2019 we lost our beloved Sister Hilda Marie ("Hildie") Sutherland, a pillar at the school for almost 50 years. Generations of IND women worked as "Hildie's Helpers" to do good deeds in Baltimore City, including providing Thanksgiving dinner boxes every year to our neighbors in Latrobe Homes. The Helpers will honor her memory by continuing to carry on Hildie's good deeds in and around the school and the city. Meanwhile, a group of alumnae connected on Facebook with the purpose of continuing Hildie's tradition of providing holiday gifts and

other surprises to her Sisters at Villa Assumpta in Baltimore. They have created Easter baskets for Sisters, provided monthly birthday cupcakes, and showed up as volunteers for Bingo and bowling. They also plan to join with their young IND sisters in giving out Thanksgiving meals. So Hildie will never really be gone, because she will forever live on in all who serve in her name.

No one would be happier than Hildie to hear of the amazing gift we received this year, the biggest gift ever given to the school. Thanks to a generous \$2 million donation, which will be directed entirely toward scholarships, now even more young women in Baltimore will be able to take advantage of the life-changing educational and service-oriented opportunities that IND has to offer.

Notre Dame Preparatory School *Established 1873 Towson, MD*



Local and national news has been rife recently with the ills that have beset Baltimore City. However, at Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP), our encounters with the citizens of this fair city tell a different story.

NDP students have forged relationships with the people of Baltimore City through the area's longest-running direct service program, in which relationships have formed and lives have been transformed. The school's Refugee Youth Project offers tutoring to help young immigrants assimilate into a new culture. Our "Dinner With Our Elders" hosts low-income seniors from Baltimore City housing.

Most notable is NDP's Camp Umoja program, a summer recreational and tutoring camp for children from Baltimore City public housing ages six through 12, which received the Baltimore Mayor's Award in 2018. For 35 years, for 3,500 campers and about 1,750 volunteer counselors, Camp Umoja has provided a positive, safe, fun-filled summer camp experience for children, and an opportunity to learn the value of direct volunteer service for high schoolers. The campers and counselors come from different backgrounds, but at Camp Umoja, they are united in their efforts. These relationships are further strengthened through NDP's school-year Club Umoja program, in which the campers return to NDP throughout the school year for weekend activities.

In a fragile, broken world yearning for wholeness, the relationships formed through NDP's direct service brings the unity that is central to the SSND charism.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) *Established 1895 Baltimore, MD*



President Marylou Yam, Ph.D., was familiar with the ties between the University and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, but that connection was truly brought to life when she participated in the province's Heritage Pilgrimage, which enables leaders of sponsored ministries to visit locations in Germany, Italy and Austria that were an important part of the congregation's history. "The SSND Heritage Pilgrimage gave me the incredible chance to walk in the steps of our foundresses in Europe," says Dr. Yam. "As a pilgrim I was able to become immersed in the history of the SSNDs and to gain a global perspective on the impact of their work, particularly in education and social justice. Listening to fellow pilgrims and praying with them in such beautiful sacred spaces inspired my personal reflection. The sheer joy of being together (including the meals & laughter), as well as the sharing of our ministries with one another gave me a strong sense of common purpose and support. I came away with an overwhelming sense of belonging and a feeling of community. I thought — what an honor to be part of this great legacy. I can't wait to share the charism and happiness with others."

LEARNING AND CAREER CENTERS

Caroline Friess Center *Established 1996 Baltimore, MD*



Caroline Center offers women who wish to pursue professional certification as nursing assistants and pharmacy technicians an exceptional career skills training program and an empowering education inspired by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Our focus is on individualized teaching that engages and delights. It is solid learning that will stay with a woman and contribute to her confidence as a professional. We firmly believe that when women learn together in a supportive environment, knowledge is easily retained, and compassionate patient care is consistently practiced.

An education that is powered by SSND makes for a holistic program and approach. We believe in an education that imprints itself on the whole woman — mind, body,

and spirit. Whatever is essential to know — as a professional and as a person — is woven into the fabric of the teaching, so that learning is strong, seamless, and sustainable.

When our women graduate from Caroline Center (like the 2019 graduates shown here), they have knowledge and skills they can call their own and a new profession to claim. They also have a life that is fuller and richer than the day they entered the program. Caroline Center graduates are not only women who are well-prepared for work, they are women who have been positively changed and will, in turn, be able to positively change others.

Caroline House *Established 1995 Bridgeport, CT*



Claudia (near left in blue sweater), a Caroline House graduate, remembers that, "when I told my husband I was attending Caroline House to learn English, he asked why. I told him I was doing this not for him, not for me, but for our children. Before Caroline House, helping my children with schoolwork was so frustrating. Now I can help them with homework and speak to their teachers and doctors. Sometimes I even help my husband with his job. I feel so proud of myself. I feel like Superwoman!"

After Claudia graduated Caroline House, she came back and asked if she could go through our program again. This request is not unusual. It sometimes takes people more time to learn the English language than others. Once Claudia graduated a second time, she asked to volunteer in our preschool while continuing to work on her English skills.

Corazón a Corazón *Established 2002 Chicago, IL*



Take 35 Pre-K to Seventh Graders from different schools, different cultures and races, some boys, some girls, put them together in a couple of rooms, and what do you get? If it's at Corazón a Corazón Summer Enrichment Camp you get a new sense of family, where together we make one. That is what our supporters made happen for five weeks this summer here in Blue Island, IL. While polarization was taking place all over the country, these "campers" learned how to work/learn together, play together and become a family where everyone was welcome, and no one was alone. How do we know that? Ask a Corazón participant and most will say, "We're family." Ask an "outsider" such as Nathan Destro, a freelance photographer taking pictures at local parks, who observed Corazón campers at a Fun Friday

event and commented: "I've not seen so many kids of different ages — Mexican, Black, White — playing together so well." Making one — that's daily work at Corazón a Corazón. Maybe it's not a headline, but what a difference it makes in this mixed-up world of today. And what a difference it can make for tomorrow!

Notre Dame Learning Center *Established 2004 Rochester, NY*



Notre Dame Learning Center, Rochester, New York began as a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in March 2004. In the last academic year, 60 children were tutored in English Language Arts (ELA), as well as in Mathematics. Over the course of our history, we have touched the lives of over 1500 students and their families. Registration for this 2019-2020 academic year has reached capacity at our present site, and in the very near future more students will be tutored at our new site at Bishop Kearney High School.

During July 2019, the Notre Dame Learning Center initiated a four-week summer enrichment program that was designed to enhance learning through arts and crafts, basic zoology, "cool" cooking, a study of

volcanoes, and an excursion around Rochester. One of the highlights of the excursion was a trip to the Susan B. Anthony House and Square (pictured).

In all our programs, we seek to nourish the self-esteem and confidence of each child and to engender a love of learning that will enable future success.

SSND Educational Center *Established 2004 Woodhaven, NY*



Ten years ago, Desmy Williams hurt her leg while at her job. During her recovery time, she enrolled at the SSND Educational Center for classes that would prepare her for the state high school equivalency diploma. Three months later she achieved her diploma.

With determination and perseverance, this mother of two girls went on to college and graduate school. This past June, Desmy graduated from Yeshiva University, ready to begin her dream career as a Social Worker. Her professors at Yeshiva invited her to begin doctoral work. Although honored to receive the invitation, Desmy sees her immediate future as serving others and seeing her daughters through college.

Desmy's dedication to her family and her studies has not prevented her from being involved in Center activities. She served on the Board of Trustees and Development Committee and she periodically returns to the Center to encourage other women. She shares her story and witnesses that with hard work, they too can achieve their dreams. Desmy's life epitomizes the saying that one who has received much, must give much.

TEMPORARY HOMES FOR WOMEN IN RECOVERY

Marian House Established 1982 Baltimore, MD



For over three decades Marian House has provided a holistic, healing community for women and their children who are in need of housing and support services. We provide a safe, sober and loving environment that challenges women to respect and love themselves, confront emotional and socio-economic issues, and transition to stable and independent lives. One such woman is Pilar (pictured left in blue shirt). She graduated from the program in 2016 but she was unable to manage her addiction when she relocated to Florida. She returned to Baltimore and to Marian House for help.

Marian House has a saying: “Once a Marian House woman, always a Marian House woman.” This is true, as alumnae often come to say hi, to attend a 12-step group, to update Marian House on how they’re doing, to be a 12-step sponsor for a current resident, and more. But every once in a while, there comes a reminder that recovery isn’t linear, addiction is vicious, and there are many systemic challenges that persist for women long after they leave the program. Pilar was brave enough to start over and is now back in recovery. She completed a job readiness program, and she’s now studying to be a Certified Nursing Assistant at Caroline Center, another SSND sponsored ministry.

SisterHouse Established 1982 Chicago, IL



SisterHouse provides faith-based housing & supportive services for women seeking to restore their lives from the perils of substance abuse. We offer a supportive network of women, with a familial environment committed to excellence and improvement in all dimensions of participants’ lives. Each new member of SisterHouse is genuinely welcomed and embraced with a love that will continue to speak word and deed as she begins her new life.

Recently, SisterHouse held our first *Women In Recovery Rock!* luncheon at St. Catherine of Siena - St. Lucy. The fundraiser celebrated the hundreds of women who have turned their lives around through our program, and those who are currently in the process of doing so. Along with lunch, there were inspirational speeches from program participants and leadership, and plenty of dancing! We hope this encouraging event will become an annual tradition.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ASSOCIATE?



I celebrated my first covenant in June. The SSNDs have been very special to me since my undergraduate work at Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU). I completed all three of my degrees at NDMU; BA, MA, and PhD.

Having spent so much time at Notre Dame over the past 30 years, the mission of the SSNDs has become a core part of my identity. It is so empowering to play an active role in a mission that focuses on social justice and transformational leadership.

The person who has had the greatest influence on me is undoubtedly, Sister Sharon Slear. She was my professor, my dean, and my mentor for most of the 30-year period. She also acted as my companion during the covenanting process. She is an extraordinary leader whose faith and support have helped me learn and grow in my faith, in my teaching, and in my leadership capabilities. I am honored to be an SSND Associate and support the work of all of the strong and faithful women who paved the way for so many women like myself. — Associate Stephanie Savick

Please visit amssnd.org to learn more about the SSND Associate program and how you can join us in mission as an Associate.



From the *classroom*
to the *board room*

by Sister Grace L. D’Amico, SSND, Coordinator for Board Development

Like many School Sisters of Notre Dame, I began my educational ministry in the classroom, first in elementary school, and then high school. Since then my vocational journey has made many twists and turns, and now I sometimes find myself in the boardroom, either in person or via video conferencing. As Coordinator for Board Development in our province department of Ministry Services, I am privileged to assist our Boards of Trustees and Directors in their work of governing our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, which are incorporated as non-profit organizations.

We SSNDs are very fortunate that lay men and women who share our passion for the mission of Jesus and our SSND educational vision are willing to serve on our Boards of Trustees and Directors. We are very grateful to them for helping us sustain our university, schools, and outreach ministries. Our boards work diligently to promote the ministry’s mission, provide oversight, and secure necessary resources. The ultimate goal is to ensure viability in the present and sustainability in the future.

My goal has been to assist our boards in this important work. Over the past three years we have built a board development program that provides support for boards as a whole, new board members, board chairs, and the chief executives who work with them.

We began in Spring 2017 by designing and distributing a board self-assessment to all board members of our sponsored and co-sponsored ministries. Since then, with the support of



the Provincial Council and the Director of Ministry Services, Yvonne DeBruin, I have provided resources, services, and consultation that address needs that surfaced in the self-assessment and have continued to emerge.

Two new major resources are the new Board Guidelines for SSND Sponsored and Co-sponsored Ministries and a newly developed Viability and Sustainability Framework. We have added prayers for boards, board member recruitment and orientation materials, board self-assessment instruments, and videos about SSND heritage, spirit, and vision, as well as SSND board governance. All resources are available on our province website amssnd.org.

So far, Yvonne DeBruin and I have conducted retreats for boards in several regions of the province. Typically, these retreats include sessions on SSND spirit and charism, governance of SSND sponsored ministries, and topics of particular interest to the ministry board(s) attending the retreat. Last year we launched an evening series of new board member orientation webinars, and this year we will add new topics for board development.

We also now offer new board chairs an orientation session to review their new role and responsibilities, followed up by mentoring. We offer facilitated conversations between a board chair and a chief executive whenever one of them is new

to the role, to clarify their individual and shared responsibilities and foster a productive partnership as leaders of the ministry.

I have found my ministry to boards very rewarding, because I know that strong, competent boards steeped in SSND values and spirit exert beneficial and lasting effects far beyond the board rooms where they meet. Their benefits radiate back to the classrooms and wherever students and clients of our SSND ministries gather!



Strengthening the SSND Global Network

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are an international congregation, with Sisters living and working in 30 countries around the globe. As such, interculturality is very important, so much so that their most recent Directional Statement implores the Sisters to “expand our understanding of interculturality and commit to develop skills for intercultural living in community and society.”

While leadership attends international meetings with the other provinces at least once a year, and a good number of Sisters are still ministering in other cultures, developing intercultural skills can be more of a challenge for Sisters who are ministering closer to home or who are retired. Many of them have joined book clubs that suggest reading materials to improve their understanding of living interculturally. Others have reached out to their Sisters across the world, using Skype to have conversations that allow them to tutor in English or be tutored in the other Sister's language.

Staff is also encouraged to develop intercultural skills. Communications and Technology leaders from all 10 provinces meet monthly with each other via video conferencing, planning collaborative projects that further develop the connections between all of the provinces. Every other year this same group gets together in person at the Generalate in Rome, giving them the opportunity to live and work together for a week, so they can get to know each other better in person and have some down time to discuss each other's cultures and learn a few words or phrases in each other's languages.

The Atlantic-Midwest Province also offers a special Heritage Pilgrimage to lay leaders who are participating in the Ministry Formation Program. Every three years, the pilgrims are given the opportunity to walk in the shoes of Blessed Theresa by visiting her hometown of Regensburg, Germany (Bavaria) and her grave at the motherhouse in Munich. They also visit Vienna, Austria, where Father Job, an important advisor to Blessed Theresa, ministered and is buried. The trip ends in Rome with a visit to the Generalate, which houses the leaders of the congregation as well as its novices. In each of the cities they visit, the pilgrims are introduced to SSNDs living and ministering there, meeting with them in their motherhouses or their places of ministry to get a glimpse into religious life in their cultures. They are always warmly received, proving that the SSND sisterhood truly does extend around the world.

Joan Finn Connelly, Director of Mission and Ministry, Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, NJ, had this to say about her pilgrimage this year. “The charism of SSND has blessed my life in innumerable ways. During my time on the SSND Heritage Pilgrimage my understanding and experience of the Reign of God grew and was illuminated by the life and words of Blessed Theresa, together with the witness of the prophetic community of pilgrims with whom I had the privilege of sharing this journey. What I have found in the charism of SSND was a confirmation of what I've always known to be true: We are created to love...we are all connected, bound to one another through a Spirit of Unity. We are called to walk together caring for one another in a Spirit of Peace. Sharing this common vision of the Reign of God with all the beautiful people on this Pilgrimage and those in the SSND communities we visited in Europe provided a powerful, transformative and enriching experience. I am profoundly grateful to God, Blessed Theresa and the Atlantic-Midwest Province for this experience.”

Sisters from the Atlantic-Midwest Province joyfully shared a photo with Sisters from the Bavarian province during the Heritage Pilgrimage.



The international members of the CCTT show off the Congregational Communications Plan that they discussed during an August meeting in Rome.

BRINGING JUSTICE TO A BROKEN WORLD

Partnering With Beyond Borders to Make a Difference in Haiti

By Sister Kay O'Connell and Brian John Stevens

Bringing justice to a broken world requires that we reach the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable places, with an approach to mission that is holistic, integrated, and elevates human dignity. Nothing less fulfills our Gospel call to do justice.

Rural, isolated, and lacking in even the most basic infrastructure like roads, electricity, and running water, Haiti's Lagonav Island is home to some of our world's most vulnerable and most marginalized persons. They are facing complex, inextricably linked global challenges: drought driven by climate change and the resulting hunger, extreme poverty, and human trafficking and displacement. These families feel that they have no choice but to send their children to the mainland, where they risk becoming enslaved.

This is precisely why the Atlantic-Midwest Province and Beyond Borders are working with grassroots community leaders, religious leaders, educators, parents, and elected officials on Lagonav on launching the fourth year of a five-year partnership.

The audacious and integrated goals of our partnership — identified through a collaborative process with the people of Lagonav — are to:

- protect every girl and boy from slavery and abuse,
- ensure every youngster goes to a good school with well-trained teachers,
- balance power between women and men and girls and boys so as to prevent gender-based violence, and,
- equip families living in extreme poverty with resources and skills to earn a living and live with dignity.

By embracing subsidiarity, ours is a partnership that “transforms and calls all to eliminate the root causes of injustice,” Atlantic-Midwest Provincial Leader Charmaine Krohe, SSND, said at the start of the partnership.

In addressing root causes, we also embrace the call of the Holy Father, who, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, links exactly the kind of injustices that people on Lagonav face and urges integrated action. “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental,” Pope Francis wrote. “Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” (LS §19)

To address the root causes of this one complex crisis, the Atlantic-Midwest Province, Beyond Borders, and the people of Lagonav have worked together to:

- Help parents free 36 children from slavery, bring them home, enroll them in a good local school, and prevent countless others from being sent away in the first place.
- Train 2,409 Child Rights Activists, and 286 Adult Survivors of Child Slavery in 16 communities to protect every child from slavery and abuse.
- Train 150 teachers at more than 40 schools in non-violent, native language, participatory classroom management techniques that encourage student creativity, curiosity, and leadership.
- Train 25 teachers on the social and emotional development of children, including special education topics rarely taught in Haiti like anxiety, ADHD, autism, and related issues.
- Organize seven communities and train 534 women and men to prevent gender-based violence and to balance power between the sexes.
- Sponsor 341 families in an 18-month asset-building initiative that equips them with the skills and means to earn a living and provide for themselves long after they complete the program.
- Provide water catchment systems to 125 families.

We believe that by working together with the people of Lagonav Island, we can bring justice to a broken world and become a model of how an integrated approach, anchored in subsidiarity and focused on addressing the root causes of injustice, can create lasting change.



Sister Sharon Slear working with the teachers on Haiti to improve their skills and help them become more effective educators.



Provincial Leader Sister Charmaine Krohe visiting with a family in Lagonav who have been assisted by the province's partnership with Beyond Borders.

Transforming Lives Through Education

SND Associates, men and women who make a yearly covenant to live the values, ideals, and charism of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, have made their mark in the School of Education of Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU). Among the four Associates now preparing teachers and administrators at NDMU is Associate Kathleen Sipes. Kathy works with undergraduate students in the School of Education in the traditional Women's College and with the adult learners in the College of Adult Undergraduate Studies (CAUS). For Kathy, "it is a wonderful opportunity to share the joys and challenges of teaching the next generation of educators."

"From an Associate's perspective," says Kathy, "I see daily how the mission of transformative education is 'lived' in our students. Their vision of hope and their desire for equity and success for ALL of their students inspires their practice. I believe that our fledgling teachers will continue to transform the world through the students who will be theirs. It is a blessing to be part of this ongoing process."

Part of the SSND initiative to promote unity internationally, Kathy has been training teachers in Haiti, which she describes as a "humbling" experience. "The teachers, full of enthusiasm for teaching and caring for their students, appreciate all that we have to share —

supplies and teaching strategies! Experiencing the poverty of Haiti firsthand — lack of electricity, running water, indoor plumbing, and most types of infrastructure — for even a few days, underscores the ultimate importance of education for the children there. The great hope is that education will transform and bring changes that will improve the quality of life."

Kathy Sipes, and her SSND Associate colleagues, have embraced the mission of Blessed Theresa and Mother Caroline. Their work ensures that transformative education with an international vision continues to be a hallmark of the Sisters and their partners in the Atlantic-Midwest Province.



Kathy works with our partners from Beyond Borders to improve the educational skills of the teachers in Haiti, so they can better educate the next generation.

Caring for Our Aging Sisters How You Can Help



As the average age of our Sisters continues to rise, so does the cost of their care. The province is currently looking to divest of some living and care facilities that have become too cumbersome to maintain and to find alternative facilities in which to provide for retirement, assisted living and skilled care that would accommodate the smaller number of Sisters we have now and going into the future.

Even with this restructuring, though, we still ask for your support in offering the best care to our Sisters. We know that many of you are grateful to an SSND who made a difference in your lives. Planned giving is one way in which you can give back to these women.

More and more friends of the Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame are choosing to leave a lasting legacy by making a gift through their will or estate.

If You Don't Have a Will, Now is the Time

Without a valid will in place, you leave it up to the courts to decide how to distribute your assets. You have worked hard to achieve what you have, whether it's a little or a lot, and you deserve the right to say what happens to it. Writing a will isn't difficult and is well worth the time. It's also a great opportunity to leave a legacy gift to the organizations that you care about, like the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

What Counts as a Bequest?

You can give ("bequeath") many different kinds of assets — in whole or in part — in your will, including:

- A paid-in-full life insurance policy
- U.S. Savings Bonds
- Cash
- A percentage of your estate's value
- Securities
- The "leftovers" after all debts are paid and your loved ones are cared for
- Real estate
- CDs

Don't Be Shy

Please let us know if you decide to make a bequest to the Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. We realize many donors wish to remain anonymous, and if this is your wish, we will absolutely guard your privacy. However, knowing your wishes helps us plan better for the future. It also enables us to thank you in the way you deserve. It's especially important to contact us in advance:

- If you'd like to make a bequest of something other than cash or appreciated marketable securities.
- If you wish to designate your bequest to a specific purpose.

Get in touch!

We would be pleased to work with you and your advisor(s) to determine the gift that best suits your situation and interests.

Contact: Cathy Schoonover, Development Office, Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, 6401 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21212, 410-377-7774 x 1108, cschoonover@amssnd.org.

Our website includes detailed information about giving wisely through planned gifts:

<https://atlanticmidwest.plannedgiving.org>.



Transitions

The Sisters at Notre Dame Convent prepared a special ritual for Sisters and staff on the day the relocation of deceased Sisters to the Gate of Heaven Cemetery began in Waterdown, Ontario. Sisters and staff were invited to express in words written on paper butterflies how those Sisters who have gone before them touched their lives. The butterflies were hung from the trees and placed on the ground during the ceremony. Sisters also gave cemetery staff involved in the move their SSND blessing for their work ahead.



From September 23 through September 27, 2019, 21 School Sisters of Notre Dame were transferred from Lourdes Health Care Center on our Villa Notre Dame property in Wilton, CT, to Ozanam Hall Nursing Home in Bayside, Queens, NY due to the closing of the Lourdes facility. All were accompanied by their companion Sisters to the front entrance of Villa Notre Dame, where they were met by the many Sisters gathered to send them off with the SSND blessing. Our sincere thanks to Sisters Jacci Glessner and Eileen Denny, who have moved to the grounds of St. Kevin's Church in Bayside to provide ongoing presence to our Sisters at Ozanam.



Tax Benefits of Charitable Giving Through Your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a charitable gift directly to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province without paying income tax on the withdrawal. The gift even counts towards your annual required distribution!

Here's How It Works:

- 1. You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to a charitable organization.
- 2. The qualified charitable distribution (QCD) counts toward your minimum required distributions for the year.
- 3. The amount transferred is excluded from your adjusted gross income (AGI).
- 4. QCD gifts can only be made from IRAs. To give retirement assets in a 401K or other vehicles, donors must first roll those funds over into a qualified IRA. Then they can direct the fund administrator to make the transfer to the charity.

Please contact the AMSSND Development Department for more information: 410-377-7774, x1108.

State laws about charitable deductions and how QCDs are handled may vary. Always consult your financial advisor.

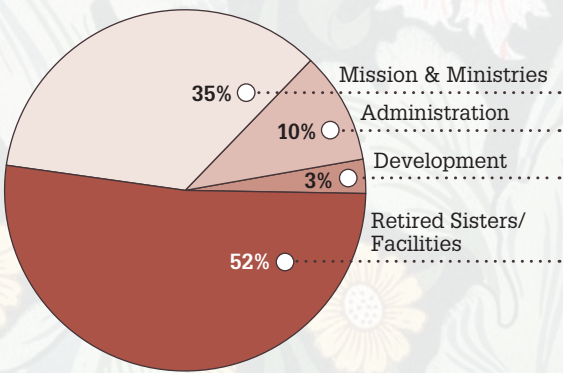
Your IRA rollover can grow peace, love, and mercy.

GIVING SUMMARY

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

	July 1, 2018– June 30, 2019	Number of Gifts
Bequests	\$358,145	16
Foundations	\$117,000	7
Memorials/Tributes	\$101,329	2,174
Events	\$82,256	593
Oktoberfest	\$107,970	3,132
Fall and Lenten Appeals	\$412,585	2,991
Retirement Special Appeal	\$312,833	638
Haiti Special Appeal	\$43,642	20
TOTALS	\$1,535,760	9,571

Where the Money Goes



Join Us in Transforming the World Through Education

Our mission is to ensure that the School Sisters of Notre Dame's life-changing ministries will continue for centuries to come.

Locally and globally, our Sisters work to serve as examples of lives lived to make Christ visible in a troubled world; to advance the vision of a more unified world, by offering peace, hope, and love to all; and to inspire others to transform lives through education.

Together, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, in collaboration with those who will answer the call, will continue to risk innovative responses to empower individuals and families to reach the fullness of their potential and to transform the world through education.

Please contact us to discuss how your support can transform lives.

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<https://amssnd.org/donate>



Printed on recycled paper to reflect the School Sisters of Notre Dame's commitment to educate, advocate and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation. *Love Gives Everything, Directional Statement of the 24th General Chapter, 2017*



School Sisters of Notre Dame

Atlantic-Midwest Province

Development Office
6401 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21212



Search for a Sister

Wondering what happened to the wonderful SSNDs who were such a big part of your early education? We may have an answer. The North American SSND Archives invite you to search for Sisters at ssnd.org/search-for-a-sister

Don't Miss a Minute of SSND News!

Visit our website: atlanticmidwest.org

Email us with SSND-related news:
communications@amssnd.org



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