



SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

*Transformative*  
education  
Lifelong ministry



Stewardship  
REPORT 2014

Atlantic-Midwest Province

A note from the Provincial Leader

## Transforming Lives

**“As Blessed Theresa, our foundress, and Mother Caroline did in their time, we have been attentive to the needs of our time.”**



**Kathleen Cornell**  
SSND, Ph.D.  
Provincial Leader

Dear Friends,

In the world of SSND one often hears the phrase – Transformation through education. The SSND constitution, *You Are Sent*, calls us to enable “persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and assisting them to direct their gifts toward building the earth.” (YAS 22)

In this Stewardship Report, we present how that has happened by hearing from alums of schools where we have served and from donors. Traditional education has long been a focus of our ministry and

still is at Notre Dame of Maryland University; our high schools: Academy of Holy Angels, Institute of Notre Dame and Notre Dame Preparatory School; and our two co-sponsored middle schools: Mother Seton and Sisters Academies. In the context of academic excellence and the SSND charism for unity, students participate not only in the rigors of a strong curriculum, but in the rigors of the curriculum of life.

As Blessed Theresa, our foundress, and Mother Caroline did in their time, we have been attentive to the needs of our time. Thus, we have extended our educational efforts to those who have not had the opportunity to complete their education and need to get GED or job training and to women who are immigrants and need to learn English as well as to youngsters who need more assistance with their studies. It is education that transforms by opening the doors to possibilities for each woman or young person to reach her potential and to assist her world community in becoming a better place for all.

Our sisters never retire for we are always called to be about God’s mission. The report highlights ways our sisters continue ministering to others in what is usually called ‘retirement’. Is that not true of you also? I imagine that those of you who are ‘retired’ from your professional responsibilities have not retired from being about God’s mission.

We are very grateful for you, our friends and donors, who continue to support us with your friendship, prayers and financial assistance. We promise to pray for you and your families each day.

Blessings and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Cornell SSND".



### On the Cover:

Pictured is Alexandra Krall '15, representing the Institute of Notre Dame at the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s mass held at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in celebration of their 225th anniversary.



# Education

## Transforming the world

**B**lessed Theresa Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, had a special commitment to women, children and persons who are poor. She believed women to be the heart of the family and society, and the education of women could transform the world.

### Commitment

For more than 180 years, the School Sisters of Notre Dame have remained committed to the primary, secondary and post-secondary education of girls and women. Here in the Atlantic-Midwest Prov-

ince, SSNDs founded the Institute of Notre Dame, the SSND's first school in America the Notre Dame of Maryland University, the first Catholic college for women in the US to award the four-year baccalaureate degree. Numerous more schools have been founded and have flourished since that time.

Pre-school through post-graduate, women and children, rich or poor, the SSND-based education provides one that is defined by stellar academics, lifelong guiding values, the belief in oneness proclaimed by Jesus Christ and the unshakable confidence that the world can be transformed through education.

### Middle schools for low-income Baltimore, Maryland:

Mother Seton Academy\* and Sisters Academy of Baltimore\*

### College preparatory schools for young women:

Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest, NJ; Institute of Notre Dame, Baltimore, Md.; and Notre Dame Preparatory School, Towson, Maryland

### Undergraduate and graduate programs:

Notre Dame of Maryland University  
Baltimore, Maryland

\*co-sponsored

# Career & Technical Education

## reaching one's potential

The SSND way is to meet every child and adult where they are and to guide them as individuals to achieve their fullest potential, wherever it takes them.

Through career and technical education outreach centers, women are offered learning paths to help them develop practical, relevant and marketable skills that enable them to be more employable.

Women can prepare for high school equivalency exams, learn English, receive tutoring and gain basic computer, finance and life skills. Low-income women and children regardless of race, religion or ethnic background can turn to these tuition-free opportunities and reach the fullness of their individual potential.

Pre-school, after-school and summer programs enrich children socially and academically while allowing mothers to focus on gain-

ing necessary skills that will lead to security for themselves and their families. Children who are having problems in school receive reading, math, technology and language tutoring. This intervention provides remediation and encouragement for children who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

These career and technical education outreach centers are places where individuals can turn from hopelessness to hopefulness, dependence to independence, joblessness to employment. Where they can move from homelessness to a place they can call their own. And in the process, they gain the self-esteem and courage to begin turning dreams into reality.

### Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Ministries

**Caroline Friess Center** - a learning and career center in Baltimore, Maryland

**Caroline House** – an education center for women and children in Bridgeport, Connecticut

**Corazon a Corazon** – a language and education center Chicago, Illinois

**Marian House\*** – a safe haven for homeless women in Baltimore, Maryland

**Notre Dame Learning Center** – a tutoring center for women and children in Rochester, New York

**School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center** – an educational center for women in Queens, New York

**SisterHouse** – a temporary home for women seeking recovery from substance abuse in Chicago, Illinois

\*SSND-AM co-sponsors Marian House, along with other religious organizations

“I never dreamed I could ever have what I have achieved. I went through the three phrases of the program which includes the job readiness program, I have a very good job with benefits and I’ve learned how to be dedicated to something worth having, and I owe it all to SisterHouse...” **Joyce Bel**

## Marian House

Over **195** women and children serve this past year



Marian House



SisterHouse



Sister Theodore volunteers at St. Leo Parish events in Baltimore, Maryland helping to make raviolis, meatballs and pizzelles.

Left to right: Srs. Caran Hart, Clara Bell (top), Alberta Sheridan and Theodore Baccala

# Lifelong Ministry

A divine service

Throughout their lives, School Sisters embody the mission to proclaim the good news and direct their entire lives toward the oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.

When their time comes to transition to retirement or post-retirement—often in their 70s, 80s and beyond—they remain engaged. They continue to teach by example.

They tutor children and women, prepare food for the homeless, crochet clothing for impoverished infants, and create handmade items to be sold in support of a ministry. They give a willing hand to those among them who are less able or are ailing. They help other sisters attend medical appointments; they are present at sickbeds.

For many, their ministry extends beyond life. In 1986 in what would become a landmark study, 678 School Sisters of Notre Dame aged over 75 years agreed to participate in a longitudinal study of aging and Alzheimer's disease. It is an endeavor that culminates post mortem with learnings that will extend far into the future. The study continues today with the youngest member nearly 99 years old and enjoying excellent health and a vibrant life in New England.

School Sisters exemplify throughout life the complimentary beliefs—the education of women can transform the world and learning is lifelong.



**School Sisters from this province minister in Canada, England, Italy, South Sudan and the United States**

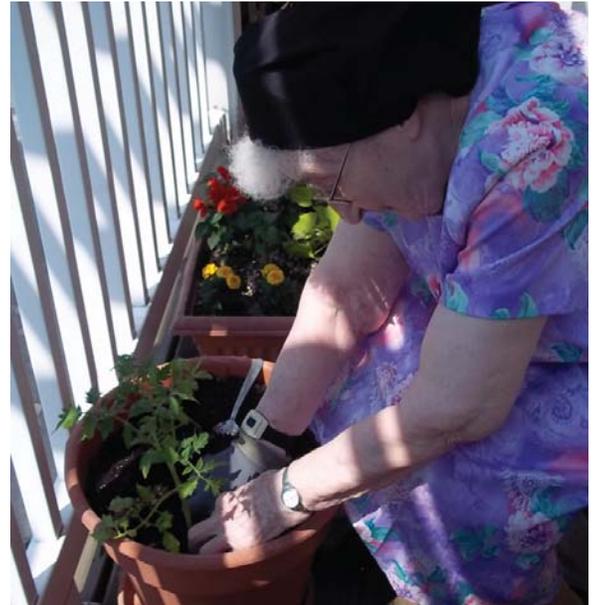
We gratefully acknowledge all those who, through their generous gifts, help advance the mission and ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province.

Donors are assured of the gratitude of our sisters and remembrance in our prayers.

- General Gifts
- Sustaining Gifts and Pledges
- Online Giving
- Matching Gifts
- Gifts of Appreciated Assets
- Bequest—specific, general, residuary, contingent, unrestricted, restricted, memorial, endowed
- Tree of Life

Our Tree of Life program acknowledges the sacrificial giving of our donors as they enter into the mission of our congregation and contribute to a beautiful and lasting work of God in the Church. Family and friends find this a beautiful way to outwardly express their love and appreciation.

If you wish to participate or would like to learn more, please contact us. 800.993.7763. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

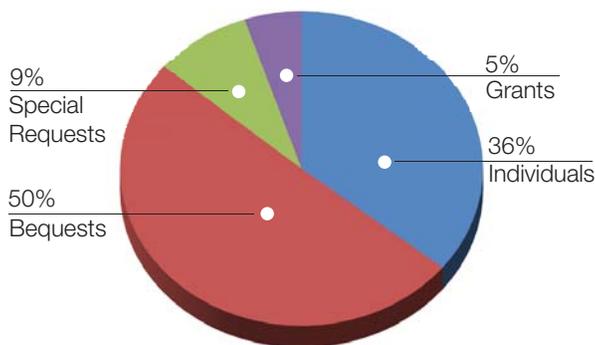


One reason I give is to support the retired sisters.

They were marvelous teachers who taught with love...and they knew how to teach. They encouraged students to question. I was influenced by them, I believe, at a very early age to become a teacher.

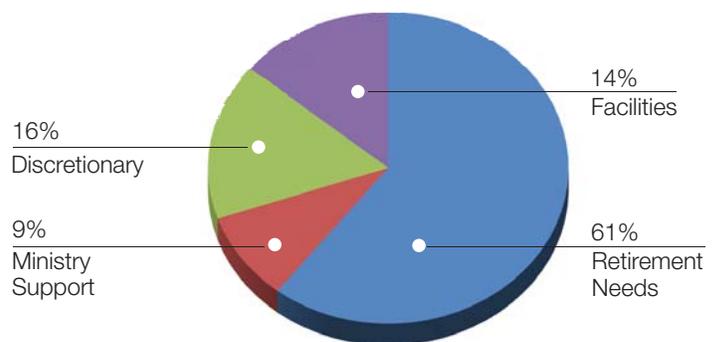
Mary Stuart, Fort Lee, New Jersey  
Academy of the Holy Angels, Class of 1957

Sources of Gift Income



Bequests	\$1,184,522
Individuals	\$841,986
Special Events	\$203,071
Grants	\$119,680
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,349,259</b>

How Gifts Were Used



Retirement Needs	\$1,421,852
Discretionary	\$383,824
Ministry Support	\$215,819
Facilities	\$327,764
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,349,259</b>

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. The Province has an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor, Handwerger, Cardegna, Funkhouser & Lurman, P.A. The School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province is a private, not-for-profit 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization.



GIVING  
**Ways**  
TO Give



**Tom lives in a Chicago suburb with his wife Nancy and their son Michael**

I was blessed to be born into a large, loving family where faith was important and Catholic values were taught along with a strong work ethic.

From kindergarten through eighth grade I was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Alphonsus School on the Northside of Chicago. The thirty or more sisters who taught there in the '50s and '60s were excellent teachers and women of faith and virtue. They gave me the solid foundation that has influenced my entire life.

**"...I knew that I could never repay them for the education they gave me, but at least I could show my support and appreciation with a check. I've been doing that every year since and have included the Sisters in my will..."**

Tom Artz, Chicago

Later, when I was studying for my doctorate in theology, I had the opportunity to teach religion classes alongside SSNDs at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grammar School in Boston.

The first year I got a real paycheck I determined that I would make a donation to the Sisters. I knew that I could never repay them for the education they gave me, but at least I could show my support and appreciation with a check. I've been doing that every year since and have included the Sisters in my will.

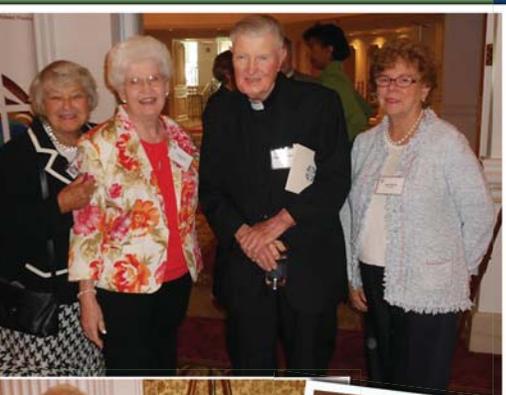
I care deeply about the Sisters who taught me in my youth. I know their reward in heaven will be great, but I don't want their retirement years to be filled with worry about paying the bills for medical care and living expenses. I also support strongly the broadening of the Sisters' ministry as they move beyond the classroom to advocate for immigrants and work for peace and justice.



**Tom Artz graduates from St. Alphonsus School in Chicago**



**Multi-School Reunion: Long Island, Brooklyn, Queens & New York City Schools - Sept. 2014**



#TouchBySSND  
#TransformingtheWorld



Leslie A. Lopez, JD  
Director of  
Development  
lopez@amssnd.org

Dear Friends,

As educators with a world vision, our School Sisters of Notre Dame have been empowering women, children and the disenfranchised, since 1833.

This past year, we honored SSND history by hosting the 1st Multi-School Reunion which brought together and students from 20 SSND schools in the New York area. It was a magnificent, spirit-filled celebration with teachers and students reuniting with classmates who hadn't seen each other since grade school. Our sisters loved sharing what is going on with SSND today with their former students who are now adults with children and grand-children.

The venue was filled with conversation about the good ol' days and how much they value quality Catholic education. "I am the successful person I am today because of what the Sisters did for me as a child...Sister encouraged me to aim high...The Sisters broadened my perspective of the world and opened my eye to another way of thinking...Our School Sisters taught virtues that make a difference...Sister challenged me to keep values high and to use my talents"...are just some of the accolades we heard.

We want to hear from you! How were you touched by SSND? Our goal is to host a reunion near you. If you were taught by SSND in Illinois, please share your story. The 1st Chicago-area Multi-School Reunion will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015.

With sincere gratitude,

# Multi-school Reunion

**1st Chicago Area Multi-School Reunion, May 2015**

Contact:

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