



Greetings

From the Community Minister



St. Francis Community Thanks You

Dear Friends,

Our 2020 Annual Report magazine gives us cause to review the past year, noting the many challenges and, yes, the many accompanying graces in our world, in our country, and also right here at St. Francis Community. Like you, we've had to adapt and change how we've lived and how we've served those in our care.

We have kept you all in prayer amidst the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to take stringent safety precautions in our living and in our ministries. We grieve with you the loss of family, friends, and people we've served.

And through this magazine, we thank you for your generous support throughout 2020, support that has offered both hope and help with everyday needs for people served through St. Francis Community. Real encouragement seems to always happen right smack in the middle of life's messes.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. (cf. Romans 15:13)

Sister Sara Aldridge
Community Minister

We strive for accuracy

We have tried to present an accurate listing of contributors to the Sisters of St. Francis, St. Francis Community, St. Francis Spirituality Center and Franciscan Earth Literacy Center from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Please accept our apologies if we have omitted your name, and be sure to inform us of any errors at mission@tiffinfranciscans.org or by calling 419-447-0435, extension 131.



SISTERS OF
St. Francis

The magazine is published three times a year for friends of the Sisters of St. Francis Community by the Mission Advancement Office of the Sisters of St. Francis. Reader responses may be submitted to Sr. Joanne Lammers, Director of Mission Advancement, at jlammers@tiffinfranciscans.org.

Leadership Team

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Sr. Leanne Kerschner
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St. Francis Community Ministries

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Franciscan Earth Literacy Center

Director: Mimi Lange Johnston
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www.sfcttiffin.org

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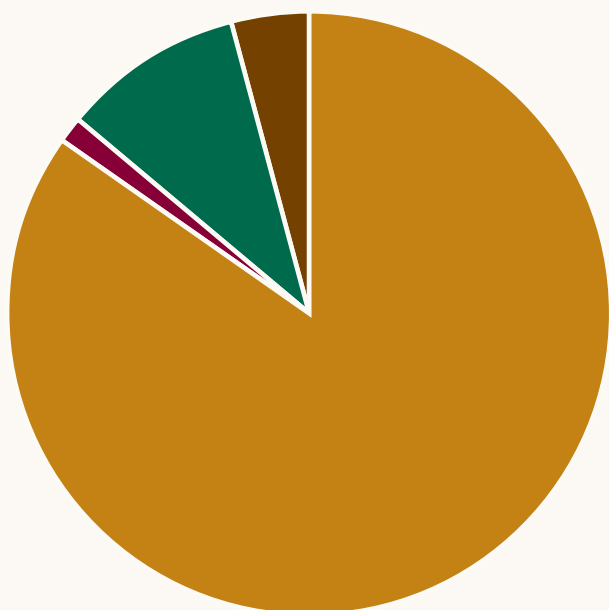


Find us on Facebook

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
St. Francis Spirituality Center
Sisters of St. Francis

On the Cover: Sister Edna Michel, Director of St. Francis Spirituality Center, hosts a Zoom webinar for regional employees of Mercy Health. Zoom gatherings, common during 2020, continue during 2021. Visit www.franciscanretreats.org for upcoming programs.

Summary of 2020 Donations



Sisters of St. Francis.....\$ 933,901

St. Francis Spirituality Center \$ 16,074

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center\$ 109,161

St. Francis Community..... \$ 42,992

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 1,102,128

■ Sisters of St. Francis
■ St. Francis Spirituality Center

■ Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
■ St. Francis Community

85%

Sisters of St. Francis

\$ 933,901

2%

St. Francis Spirituality Center

\$ 16,074

9%

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center

\$ 109,161

4%

St. Francis Community

\$ 42,992

Total Donations Received \$ 1,102,128



John Hill, owner of Heavenly Pizza in Tiffin was nominated by employees at St. Francis Home for the first annual St. Francis Community Service Award associated with 2020 Charism Week. Gabe Stoll, Executive Director of St. Francis Senior Ministries presented the award as an expression of appreciation for John's support and his weekly deliveries of pizza throughout the summer for staff on all three work shifts.

2020 Donations of \$42,992 to St. Francis Community Provided

- Children's Educational Programming at Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
- Healing Support for Seekers at St. Francis Spirituality Center
- Support for People in Need at Sisters' Ministries
- Benevolent Care for Elderly

Ways to Plan

A financial legacy plan helps you wisely steward what God has entrusted to you so you can effectively accomplish what God leads you to do on earth while laying up treasures in heaven. See ways to plan on our website: <https://www.tiffinfranciscans.org/plan-a-gift-2/>.



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Mardi Gras ~ Friday, February 25, 2022

The following donors made contributions to the Sisters of St. Francis between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

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SOAR! Prevents Sores!

SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) awarded the Motherhouse Sisters a grant to replace worn beds and furniture, some dating back to over 50 years ago. It provided furniture with built in support plus powered furniture for comfort and independence.

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 Aida S. David
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Never Too Late to Learn

Since the COVID-19 crisis began at the end of March 2020, the 27 Sisters at St. Francis campus have been under lockdown to ensure the health and safety of the most vulnerable Sisters. It has been very difficult for all to not attend Mass together and have visits with family, friends, and even other Sisters who do not live in the Motherhouse.

All Sisters have been living within very strict social distancing guidelines for the health and safety of all. SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) awarded the Sisters a grant to purchase Ipads so the Sisters can attend virtual Masses, have social contact and support and attend virtual Community gatherings. Sisters also Zoom and FaceTime with Sisters outside of the Motherhouse campus and with family and friends. This has been 'a life saver' during the Covid social isolation.

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Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for all of the donors listed in this report. Your gifts make it possible for us to carry out the mission of the Gospel in the world today.



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Giving Tuesday ~ November 30, 2021

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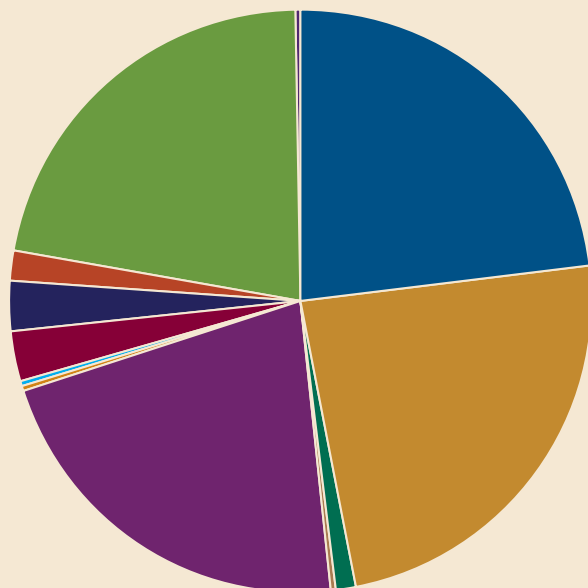
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2020 Donations to Sisters Provided Support for Ministries

| Total Donation Revenue | \$ 933,901 |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| General Fund/Outreach | \$ 217,230 |
| Support for Retired Sisters | \$ 222,523 |
| Booneville, KY Mission | \$ 10,775 |
| Chiapas, Mexico Mission | \$ 1,505 |
| Cuernavaca, Mexico Mission | \$ 202,720 |
| El Salvador Mission | \$ 2,783 |
| Immigrant Fund | \$ 1,655 |
| Mission Appeals | \$ 27,481 |
| Padua Center | \$ 25,000 |
| Peacemaking | \$ 16,910 |
| Project Hope | \$ 204,119 |
| Fund for Elder Care | \$ 1,200 |



| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund/Outreach | Immigrant Fund |
| Support for Retired Sisters | Mission Appeals |
| Booneville, KY Mission | Padua Center |
| Chiapas, Mexico Mission | Peacemaking |
| Cuernavaca, Mexico Mission | Project Hope |
| El Salvador Mission | Fund for Elder Care |

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Live Nativity ~ December 5, 2021



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True Story

John called and shared his appreciation of Sisters who have touched his life. He said, "My wife and I have no children, and we'd like to make the Sisters the beneficiary of our insurance policies to keep helping people out in the future." He asked how to do this. See our **Plan a Gift** guides on the Sisters' website: <https://www.tiffinfranciscans.org/plan-a-gift-2/> or call Sister Joanne at 419-447-0435.

A Mission Within a Business

When I was a kid, the family would load up in the car and drive around Tiffin to look at Christmas decorations. I was always inspired by the businesses, like National Machinery who displayed the real meaning of Christmas with the Christmas Creche. I thought to myself, if I am ever lucky enough to own a business, I want to inspire people like that. Today I am very grateful to God that Laminate Technologies has been able to support the Tiffin community as we can. Of course, that depends on what's happening in the economy, too.

I am Catholic, and I have a strong belief in God. God, for some reason, has blessed me so much with lots of riches: a good family, good friends, and good health. I'm the luckiest person in the world! And in some way, I try to thank God by supporting the Sisters in their vocation and mission, in whatever way I can support them.

My ties with the Sisters of St. Francis go way back to when I was a little kid. My grandfather spent his last years at St. Francis Home and received such great care. A couple of my cousins were strengthened in their life by attending St. Francis High School. In more recent years, the Sisters invited me to participate in a think



tank in planning for future ministries and challenges. This was very enlightening to see the ways the Sisters try to connect with our city and county and reach out beyond 200 St. Francis Avenue into the larger world. What the Sisters have done over the years is amazing.

I am a strong believer in Catholic education, though the public schools in Seneca County are very good. I'm very fortunate to have had parents who worked hard so I could attend St. Joe's Elementary and Calvert High School. I gained a lot, deepening my faith and my values.

I see a common thread in what I've been involved in over the years, and that is my belief in God. I've worked in business for forty years, basically doing the same thing. While I always wanted to stay out of politics, I decided to extend myself by serving as County Commissioner. In a way, I had a personal agenda and wanted to stimulate my mind. You know, if you don't use it, you lose it, as they say. But the bottom line is that if I can make a miniscule difference in the lives of people in Seneca County, I've always wanted to do that.

– By Fred Zoeller

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Christmas 365 Raffle Fundraiser Kick Off ~ October 1, 2021

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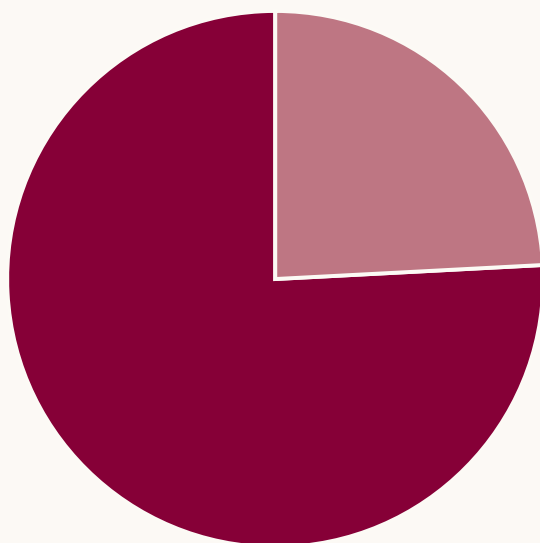
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**St. Francis Spirituality Center
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Laura Barchus

2020 Donations to St. Francis Spirituality Center Provided

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Donation Revenue | \$ 16,074 |
| General Donations | \$ 3,900 |
| Restricted Donations | \$ 12,174 |



■ General Donations ■ Restricted Donations

- Virtual support groups during pandemic
- Meditation & Centering Prayer
- People Struggling with Faith Issues
- Mini-Retreats for essential workers during the Covid crisis

IRA Tax Break 2021

Qualified charitable contributions can help offset the tax bill from required minimum **distributions** — but only with the right timing. Required minimum **distributions** from retirement accounts resume in **2021** after being waived for 2020. The contribution must be done as a direct **transfer** from the **IRA** to the **charity**. **Contact the Director of Mission Advancement at 419-447-0435 for more information.**

Center Update at SFSC

The St. Francis School of Music, which occupied half of one wing of St. Francis Spirituality Center, closed in June, 2020. The music rooms were handed back to the Center. One music studio was transformed to provide a space for both individual and group spiritual direction and faith sharing. It was renamed San Damiano after St. Clare's sacred home outside Assisi. A second music studio was refitted as a small conference room for groups needing a work space. It was renamed Rieti, recalling the beautiful valley in Italy where St. Francis often went to pray and work on writing his Rule of Life. The former music library, equipped with ample storage now houses numerous retreat and office supplies and provides a break room for staff members. A fourth room will remain an office. The rooms were repainted and refurbished with new window coverings and carpeting. A beautiful mural by Sister Paulette Schroeder is in the planning stages for the hallway. SFSC looks forward to hosting an open house and hosting guests as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted.

Spiritual direction can be a very helpful tool for those seeking spiritual growth. Directees meet in person or, if necessary, by Zoom or phone with a trained spiritual director who will help you hear and discern what God may be inviting you to become or do. The content of the sessions is your life.

**For more, contact St. Francis Spirituality Center
419-443-1485 or peace@franciscanretreats.org**



Beautiful paintings and a variety of greeting cards from some of Sister Gemma Fenbert's favorite paintings are for sale. Several paintings (not pictured) are available for a donation. Greeting cards are \$1.25 each or 5 for \$5.00. **Contact Sister Gemma by phone at 419.266.6528 or email gfenbert@gmail.com to make arrangements for pick up and payment.**



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ST. FRANCIS SPIRITUALITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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FELC “Granted” Service Hours from Local Scout

During late 2020, Grant Gribben, a senior at Tiffin Columbian High School and member of local scout Troop #499, chose the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) to be the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout Service Project. As a young boy, Grant attended summer camps at FELC while in grade school. So he decided that he wanted his Eagle Scout Project to support FELC.



Grant has always enjoyed giving back to the community. He has devoted numerous hours to various community events, including volunteering with the Tiffin Columbian Cross Country team as a dinner server for FELC's Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala fundraiser and, for the last two years, helping with the Live Nativity on the St. Francis Campus.

Grant joined Scouts in first grade and always had the goal of earning his Eagle Scout Badge. He first joined Scouts because he wanted to camp, fish, and have fun. He soon realized that there was more to Scouting.

Not only did Grant's project make some improvements to FELC's new picnic grove, but it also expanded the area, making it handicap accessible. The project consisted of extending and improving a shaded picnic area created earlier in 2020. Tasks included leveling the ground and mulching, adding new posts with shade sails, and repainting older benches and picnic tables.

Additionally, members of Troop #499, Grant's parents and a family friend helped with the project which required 72.5 hours to complete. "It felt good to bring together people to work on my plan, and it brought me satisfaction seeing it all come together," explained Grant.

"The project has been a blessing to campus residents, employees and visitors at FELC who now have a nice shaded area to enjoy picnics and nature. Prior to Grant's work, the ground was uneven and difficult to navigate for those in wheelchairs and those with walkers. It's now leveled and safe for all," said Mimi Johnston, Director at FELC.

On November 19, 2020, Grant officially became an Eagle Scout when he passed his Board of Review, following the completion of his Eagle Scout Service Project at FELC. The Eagle Scout Requirement 5 requires one to plan and develop a service project. Kudos to Grant!

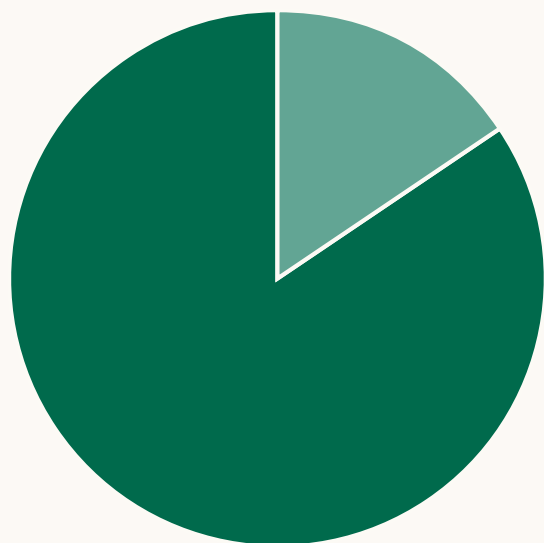
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2020 Donations to Franciscan Earth Literacy Center Helped to →

Total Donation Revenue **\$109,161**

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| General Donations | \$ 17,254 |
| Restricted and Sponsor Donations | \$ 91,907 |



■ General Donations
■ Restricted and Sponsor Donations

- Assist low-income families with covering youth program fees
- Create the Seeds of Hope Greenhouse and Community Garden Work-Study Stipend Program for Persons with Disabilities
- Create the Outdoor Sensory Garden, with sound, visual, smell, taste, and touch elements
- Install interactive sound wall
- Create updated public animal interaction areas in the gardens, including chickens, rabbits, and ducks
- Create alternative "Camp in a Box" home environmental learning during the pandemic
- Provide virtual environmental "Field Trip in a Box" K-12 classes for children and virtual "STEM in a Box Science Club" for youth
- Purchase long-term educational equipment and expendable supplies for summer camps and science days
- Purchase greenhouse and community garden supplies and equipment
- Contract expert speakers in a variety of environmental topics to be video recorded for virtual programs, and/or to give in-person seminars
- Install interpretative signage in the Sensory Garden
- Purchase mobile sound equipment for speakers giving hiking lectures
- Purchase Go-Pro Video Camera equipment to allow video programs to be recorded for youth programs
- Create new STEM/STEAM programming for 2021, both virtual and in-person

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**Contact mission@tiffinfranciscans.org for information on how to join
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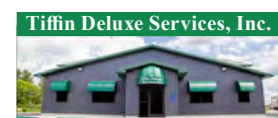
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Corporate sponsorship of fundraising and partnering events is a valuable and high-profile way for companies to build and strengthen brand recognition and fulfill community benefit objectives. Corporate sponsors underwrite St. Francis Campus fundraisers that provide essential operating support to fulfill St. Francis Community's mission on a daily basis. This support receives well deserved recognition through our website, St. Francis Community Magazine, and recognition at events.

Each year, St. Francis Community hosts the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center's Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala, the St. Francis Spirituality Center fundraiser, St. Francis Community's Mardi Gras, and St. Francis Senior Ministries' partnering events.

To learn more about becoming a Corporate Sponsor, email mission@tiffinfranciscans.org.



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www.sfctiffin.org

“True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice.”
— St. Francis of Assisi



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Marathon Awards FELC

Marathon LPGA Classic donates record \$600,000 to 25 Northwest Ohio children's charities including \$37,500 awarded to the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) in December of 2020!

According to Mimi Johnston, Director at FELC, the Marathon Classic grant will make a huge difference for FELC as they transition from COVID restrictions back to in-person educational programs and camps. "While 2020 presented plenty of challenges, 2021 is full of its own unique demands for our school and camp programs. We will continue to create virtual programs and Science Club boxes as long as there is a need for them, while also providing in-person programming for the children of our community. We absolutely could not meet all those needs without the help of organizations like the Marathon Classic," explained Mimi.

"Three years of funding makes longer-range educational and summer camp programming possible. We are so grateful to the Marathon Classic for seeing the value in FELC's work and contributing to it in a meaningful and tangible way."



Toledo, OH – 2020 has challenged businesses, communities and families in ways that were never thought possible. Despite the many challenges caused by COVID-19, this year's Marathon LPGA Classic presented by Dana was successfully held thanks to the generous support of sponsors, volunteers and the LPGA. In addition to an exciting final round battle between winner Danielle Kang and past Marathon LPGA Classic champion Lydia Ko, this year's tournament raised a record \$600,000 for 25 northwest Ohio children's charities.

With this year's \$600,000 contribution the Marathon LPGA Classic presented by Dana has now raised over \$12 million for 190 northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan children's charities since its inception in 1984.



To listen to the acceptance video from Mimi Johnston, click <https://youtu.be/GI4VONAY3iU>

Stay Connected!

Visit **www.sfctiffin.org**, where you can find upcoming events, watch videos, and learn more about our campus ministries through our websites.



If you are interested in receiving our new e-newsletter, send us your email address at **mission@tiffinfranciscans.org** or call us at **419-447-0435, ext. 132.**