2021 Annual Report

A Publication of the Sisters of St. Francis and Their Ministries
Greetings
From the Community Minister

St. Francis Community Thanks You

Dear Friends,

None of us have had an easy year, but for some it’s been especially hard. Too many of our friends and neighbors have been ill, hungry, unemployed, or in danger of losing their homes. Many are working long hours battling a virus the likes of which we have never experienced. And some are unexpectedly grieving.

Last October, Pope Francis formally launched the two-year global consultation process with a call to “look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say.” When calling on a Synod, he said, “Synodality is a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium.”

Our 2021 Annual Report reflects our walk together, you with the Sisters of St. Francis, the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, and St. Francis Spirituality Center as they’ve walked with people who come to their doors. Through your generosity, we have been able to continue in Gospel mission, caring for those in need. Your contributions have made a tremendous difference in so many lives. We thank you for your generosity.

Together, we have created positive change and will continue to do so in the future. We celebrate your goodness and continue to look forward to partnering with you.

Gratefully,

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 the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. 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.
Congratulations to Rich Eshleman, owner of Eshleman Fruit Farm in Clyde!

Rich was nominated and recently received the 2nd Annual St. Francis Community Service Award by the Sisters of St. Francis on October 28th. This recognition is associated with Charism Week on the St. Francis Campus every fall. The award goes to a person or business in the area that has shown the St. Francis Community “generosity with purity of intention and a charitable, heartfelt spirit”. They expect nothing in return for their generosity.

“Rich has been unwavering in blessing us with the benefits of his fruit farm. Rich humbly gifts us and many others,” said Sister Patricia Froning. “His sharing with us has been an example of giving and expecting nothing in return but to say some prayers for him and his intentions.”

Sister Diane Mueller added, “Rich has been a very generous benefactor for many years to the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin. He has given of his produce from his orchards. The Sisters have enjoyed the many bushels of peaches, apples and other fruits over the years.”

### Summary of 2021 Donation Income

#### Sisters of St. Francis
- General Fund/Outreach $338,389
- Support for Retired Sisters $209,039
- Booneville, KY Mission $9,278
- Cuernavaca, Mexico Mission $177,637
- El Salvador Mission $3,716
- Immigrant Fund $1,250
- Mission Appeals $31,435
- Padua Center $25,000
- Peacemaking $7,447
- Project Hope $146,440
- Fund for Elder Care $1,200

#### St. Francis Spirituality Center
- General Donations $19,799
- Restricted Donations $8,300

#### Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
- General Donations $51,207
- Restricted and Sponsor Donations $89,911

#### St. Francis Community
- $39,175

**TOTAL REVENUE** $1,159,223

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In 2021 Corporate and Event Sponsors Helped St. Francis Community Raise $69,674

- Franciscan Earth Literacy Center’s Gala
- St. Francis Spirituality Center’s Xmas 365
- St. Francis Community’s Mardi Gras benefiting:
  - St. Francis Senior Ministries
  - Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
  - St. Francis Spirituality Center

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Pictured: Sister Sara Aldridge, Community Minister, Rich Eshleman, Sister Diane Mueller and Sister Patricia Froning.
The following donors made contributions to the Sisters of St. Francis between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

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James and Miriam Dendinger
Vincent and Patricia Dennis
Laura Depalma
Thomas and Mary Anne Dever
Thomas and Janet Dewig
Eugene and Millie Dick
Mark and Kailie Dieringer
Barbara Dilettuso
Neil and Pat Diller
Diocese of Buffalo

Thanks to a grant from SOARI, Support Our Aging Religious and a generous benefactor, the Sisters are receiving a generator for the convent building to keep utilities servicing during storms and power outages.
Mission Matching Mission

Dr. Jeffrey D. Shawberry, DDS, a Tiffin native, is a Corporate Sponsor of St. Francis Community’s ministries. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from The Ohio State University and has been practicing dentistry in Tiffin since 1999. He takes pride in continually furthering his dental education, remaining current with advancements and techniques in the field. Married to his wife Ellie for 20 years, they have two sons, Andrew and Zachary who attend Tiffin Columbian High School, Shawberry’s Alma Mater. Ellie is a Heidelberg and University of Dayton graduate and is an attorney with Seneca County.

Dr. Shawberry shares his lifetime connection with St. Francis Community: “I actually became involved with the Sisters of St. Francis and St. Francis Community at a very early age, having attended their pre-school program, the Pumpkin Patch. My involvement continued with St. Francis as my sons both attended their childcare program, receiving excellent care from the St. Francis childcare team. We have had various family members live at St. Francis Senior Ministries, which to me is the most compelling part of their mission. At some point in many of our lives, this form of care becomes a necessity. Knowing that we have a beautiful facility within our community that provides exemplary care and optimal living options is of utmost reassurance.” (To provide future stability of Senior Ministries, the Sisters in recent years have transferred its sponsorship to the Community of Sisters of St. Joseph Initiatives, CSJI.)

Through my work and my community involvement, I have also been privileged to meet and work with many of the Sisters, always being enamored by their kindness and compassion for others. The Sisters of St. Francis and St. Francis Community have been an integral part of my life and my family’s life, and I plan to continue my involvement with its endeavors.”

Reflecting on his partnership with St. Francis Community, Dr. Shawberry says, “Giving is important to me and to my family and I seek to give to programs that support valuable principals of life. Like St. Francis Community, I attempt to donate, encourage, and give support to our community as much as I can. St. Francis Community is committed to care for creation, a special love for those in need, peacemaking and seeking to live a deep and meaningful life. These are missions that I wish to continue to support.”

His advice for St. Francis Community: “Continue the missions that you uphold. Our world can be a complex and difficult place. Continue the compassion, kindness, exemplary care, and fine facilities to the elderly, the sick, and the disadvantaged, to those seeking spiritual healing through the St. Francis Spirituality Center, and to children attending environmental education programs through the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center.”

- By Dr. Jeffrey D. Shawberry, DDS

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.
SAVE THE DATE
Giving Tuesday ~ November 28, 2022

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Kenneth and Beth Lucas-Gabell
Anita and Gregory Gaietto
Mary Frances Gaietto
Rachel Gaietto
Daniel Galaba
Tim and Laura Galvin
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Higher Ground Counseling Center
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Knights of Columbus - Southbridge
Project Hope - Proyecto Esperanza was one of ten nonprofit organizations selected as a 2021 Difference Maker during the #Giving Tuesday event sponsored by Everence Financial in Archbold, Ohio on November 30th. The event raised over $1 million in support of 100 local non-profits that provide meaningful ministries throughout the Archbold area. Project Hope, an immigration legal ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, is served by Sister Ellen Lamberjack, OSF, Sister Andrea Inkrott, OSF, and lay staff, who were presented a check for $36,440 following the Giving Tuesday event. To learn more about Project Hope, visit http://tiffinfranciscans.org/pathway-to-hope/.
Opportunities for Wholeness

Carol Saro, a native of the Detroit area, came in contact with the Sisters of St. Francis through her sister, Nancy who was a corporate supervising nurse at St. Francis Home. On one of her work visits to St. Francis Home, Nancy learned of Sister Maggie Slowick’s ministry at the Children’s Mission in Cuernavaca, Mexico that provides educational support for children in poverty. Nancy enthusiastically decided to sponsor a child and her excitement also enticed Carol to become a sponsor back in 2013. Carol’s dedication has only grown over the years.

When sharing why she got involved, Carol began by describing the faith and values that permeated her home when growing up. “My parents created a strong family, with me being the second oldest of 6 children. We didn’t have much in material things, but we learned many life lessons, including a strong work ethic grounded in kindness.”

In the ‘70s as a junior in college, Carol spent a year in Liberia, West Africa. “I was 19 years old, and this experience prompted my first awareness of the disparate treatment of people around the world. We are a global village, and all humans share the same basic needs: to be loved; to have basic needs for food and shelter; and to receive an education, a gift of empowerment. Later in life, when traveling in Mexico City, the situation was basically the same among poor, uneducated mothers and children who were on the street, selling their handmade dolls and trinkets in order to have food for the day. I discovered that the only difference between me and those suffering from poverty was opportunity. Now in my retirement years, I want to support children who are starving for opportunities for wholeness of life, and that’s why I’m involved with the Cuernavaca Children’s Mission, sponsoring children who desire an education that can lead to a meaningful career.”

Carol shares how she values her partnership with the Sisters of St. Francis: “The Sisters are so committed to Franciscan Gospel values that embrace the whole person, mind-body-spirit, and can support people to bring out the healthiest, happiest version of themselves. My own family values and faith are really one with these Franciscan values, and that’s why I feel so connected. The Sisters have an adaptability to evolve, to stand with people dealing with adversities such as the pandemic and the earthquake in Mexico, having the flexibility to keep going and to take what they have to help people in need. Their ministries change and are relevant to the needs of changing times.

I’ve spent lots of time in corporate America which demands results. The sisters’ ministries show results for those in need. At the Cuernavaca Mission, children are growing, getting a high school and college education while exposed to such great values. It’s heart-warming to be part of this mission; there seems to be a communion with all who are involved.”
The following donors made contributions to the St. Francis Spirituality Center between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

A Little Faith Ministries
Kristie Ackerman
Eleanor Anderson
Anonymous
Atonement Friars
Warren and Barbara Bean
Mike and Linda Bell
Jane Birch
Timothy E. Bishop
Darla Bishop
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Modern Woodmen of America
Dan Moulton

Laura Barchus, housekeeper at St. Francis Spirituality Center, dusts the new blinds installed in eight bedrooms and two restrooms on the first floor wing of St. Francis Spirituality Center. New blinds help provide comfort to retreatants’ while staying at the center. Your contributions on Giving Tuesday, November 30, 2021 made this upgrade possible. If you would like to help replace old blinds in other wings of the building, we would love to hear from you. Donations of any size are appreciated!

For more details, contact Sister Edna Michel at 419-443-1485.
Looking for a place to conduct a group retreat?

St. Francis Spirituality Center is available for partial or full day programs, weekend or several day retreats. Costs are calculated according to your needs: gathering space(s), meals, overnight accommodations. We welcome all denominations.

For more information, contact us at 419-443-1485 or peace@franciscanretreats.org. Visit our website to preview rooms and get an overview of our ministry: www.franciscanretreats.org.

ST. FRANCIS SPIRITUALITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Gene Chintala • Jami Fadley • Mary Ann Kromer • Sr. Mary Kuhlman
George Marsh • Charlene Thomas • Rich Traunero

2021 Donations to St. Francis Spirituality Center Provided

- Virtual support groups during pandemic
- Faith formation through virtual group learning
- Veterans’ retreat
- People Struggling with Faith & Life Issues
- Upgrades to guest bedrooms

Wanted...

sewing machines in good working condition so people in need can make clothing.

Contact mission@tiffinfranciscans.org or call Mission Advancement at 419-447-0435.
The following donors made contributions to the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

Elizabeth Adams Eilers  
AgCredit FLCA  
Mary Louise Alto  
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Aqua America Ohio  
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Seneca County Auditor's Office  
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Peggy C. Scherer  
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Andrew Schriner  
Omer Schroeder  
Mary Jean Schroth  
Beth Schweitzer  
Mari Seitz  
Dennis and Josie Setzler  
Sara Sherick  
William Sherman  
Barbara Simmons  
Sisters of St Francis-Sacred Heart Charitable Fund  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Katie Slingwine  
M.J. and D.P. Smith  
Smith Family Frosted Foods  
Spectrum Eye Care, Inc  
Ken and Teresa Stark

Worldwide Day of Action

In June the Tiffin-Seneca United Way together with Tiffin Parks and Recreation Department and Seneca Crawford Area Transportation (SCAT) hosted United Way Worldwide Day of Action. Service projects for the event took place at SCAT, Salvation Army, First Step, Apple Jack Park, Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) and United Way. A crew of volunteers worked on the new Butterfly Garden at FELC, funded by the White Family Fund of the Tiffin Community Foundation. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with this project!
2021 Donations to Franciscan Earth Literacy Center Provided

- Assistance for low-income families, covering youth program fees
- Expert speakers for demonstrations on beekeeping, water pollution, and hands-on water quality testing for students
- Supplies, postage, and need-based scholarships for Science Club boxes for local children
- Registration software for summer camp and Science Day programs
- Two interns for 10 weeks during summer camp programs
- STEM equipment for summer camps and school programs
- Portable restrooms and hand washing stations for use during summer camp during pandemic
- Expansion of Seeds of Hope Greenhouse and Community Garden Work-Study Program for Persons with Disabilities
- 40 laying hens, coop, fenced-in run, chicken feed, and supplies for Seeds of Hope program
- Agricultural intern for Seeds of Hope summer program
- Hydroponics units, seeds, and supplies for new Seeds of Hope Hydroponics, Wheatgrass, and Microgreens initiatives
- Butterfly Garden and Trail accessories and supplies
- Sinks and cabinetry for greenhouse and potting room
- Food, bedding, and supplies for educational demonstration animals
- Staff training and professional development

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/
Gifts to the St. Francis Community

The following donors made contributions to the St. Francis Community between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

Bruce and Joan K. Alge
James Arend
Linda Askew
Jean Auer
Cory Baggett
James and Angela Bagnoli
Mary Baker
George and Marilyn Barlow
Davie Batt
Paul and Barbara Bedard
Beero
Thomas Behr
Jon and Patricia Bennett
Bob and Dorothy Berg
Ronald Berra
Tom A. Bishop
Blanchard Valley Health System
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Bernard J. and Mary Bonosky
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Paul Burts and Jane Dall
Jo and Bernadette Caramat
Roman and Madeleine Carek
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AgCredit Corporate Mission Fund recently awarded the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center a grant in the amount of $14,911. The grant funds will be used to purchase and build a greenhouse for FELC’s Seeds of Hope horticultural program for high school and young adult students. Students from North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, the Seneca Opportunity Center, and other institutions will learn to plant, grow, harvest and prepare microgreens and wheat grass for sale. This nutrient-dense produce will then be used by local restaurants, patients with immune-compromising illnesses, and local consumers who value healthy, locally-sourced fresh food.

FELC Director Mimi Johnston remarked, “We know that many organizations applied for the AgCredit grant, and we’re so grateful that they see the value in the Seeds of Hope program. Sr. Shirley Shafranek has led summer camps for students with developmental disabilities for over ten years. In 2020, she laid out her vision for Seeds of Hope and, in the midst of a pandemic, she was able to start a summer gardening program, educating and working alongside people who thrived in this setting. Because of the AgCredit Corporate Mission Fund’s generosity, next year we will be able to bring on more Seeds of Hope program participants, teach them more skills, and give them more reasons to be confident and proud of themselves.”

To find out more about FELC’s programs, farm market offerings, or to give a tax-deductible donation, please contact Director Mimi Johnston at mjohnston@felctiffin.org, or 419-448-7495.