

SSND Today



School Sisters of Notre Dame • Milwaukee Province

Vol. 23, No. 1 – Winter 2011

Jesus Made Visible Day by Day

For Sister Mary Swanson, her role as a social worker is a ministry and the notion of ministry is reciprocal. There is no one-way action, rather it is about seeing the “face of God” in each of her clients and being “God’s face” for them.

After completing college, she aspired to be of service to people and joined the Jesuit volunteers. Eventually, along with the wish to serve others, came a desire to live in community. Thus, Mary responded to God’s call to be a woman religious and entered into formation with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In 1988, she professed her first vows.

Sister Mary completed undergraduate social work studies at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and earned a Master’s degree in social work from the University of Minnesota in Duluth.

Her work experiences – running a soup kitchen in Kansas City; working with homeless and mentally ill people on the south side of Milwaukee; and serving women and children at the SSND-sponsored Theresa Living Center in St. Paul – heightened her awareness of the complexity of homelessness.

Those experiences led to her current position as a case manager with Supportive Community Services, Inc. in Milwaukee, where she has ministered for almost 10 years. As a social service

agency, it provides services for elderly, developmentally disabled, physically and mentally ill people. Its mission of ensuring that vulnerable individuals are kept safe and live independently, coincides with the SSND mission.

Presently, her clients range in age from 23 to 94 years old. Some experienced impairment due to old age/ill health/infirmity; were subjected to elder abuse; outlived their spouse and/or children. Others suffered brain injury; lived with developmental disabilities; and faced debilitating mental or physical illness.

Due to difficult circumstances, these individuals are not competent to make decisions on their own or to care for themselves. For some clients, Sister Mary serves as a guardian, meaning she stands in for family and brings stability to their lives. As an advocate, she navigates the systems required to obtain essential resources.

Often, her role is to educate people about the disease and patient rights. In addition to serving clients, she frequently assists their family, as well. Children living out of state depend on Sister Mary to be the link to stay involved with their parent’s care. Sometimes, it means helping daughters and sons “say good-bye” and let go.

One client for nearly nine years is a 64-year-old man living with chronic mental health issues. He progressed



Sister Mary Swanson visits with one of her senior clients.

from hospitalization to a group home and now is living independently in an apartment. There were ups and downs over the years but by accompanying him on his journey, Sister Mary provides him with “a memory” and reminds him how far he has come!

Sister Mary loves the opportunity to develop a relationship with each client who, in turn, teaches her how to live. She says, “Jesus is made visible by our very being, in unexpected ways.”

Finally, and most importantly, she states, “Vital to my ministry is the SSND congregation that serves as my catalyst, helping me to stay balanced and to meet the challenges. Each day, we pray in my local community for the people with whom I minister.”

Supportive Community Services, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 by former School Sister of Notre Dame, Margaret Underwood. It was conceived and developed from the collaborative senior ministry she did in four parishes on Milwaukee’s east side. Learn more about its services at www.supportivecommunityservices.org

Mission Advancement Report + *Fiscal Year: July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010*

Blessed Theresa, because of her deep trust in God and in others, dedicated her life to transforming the world through education. Her legacy continues through the mission, prayer and ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

As this report reveals, we are blessed to partner with you in our mission. Your continued support allows sisters to assist persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and help direct their gifts toward building the earth. Your generosity also enables us to provide quality care and a safe home for our retired sisters.

We are grateful for your support and will continue to be good stewards of your gifts, so that the legacy of the School Sisters of Notre Dame will benefit generations to come.

Please know, in respect for you and your privacy, we do not sell or share your information with anyone.

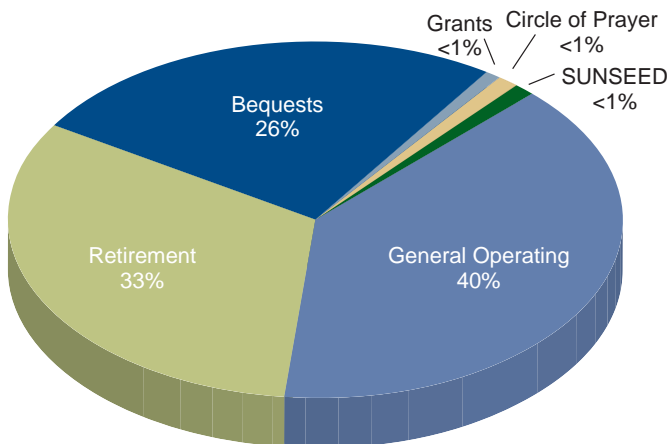


Sister Mary Alyce Lach, a member of the Milwaukee Provincial Council, lights the candle of Sister Paulina Raymond during an All Province Days Prayer Service held at Mount Mary College in June 2010.

“United and content with little, we go out into the whole world, into the tiniest villages, into the poorest dwellings, wherever the Lord calls us.”

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame from the book *Trust and Dare: Words For Each Day*

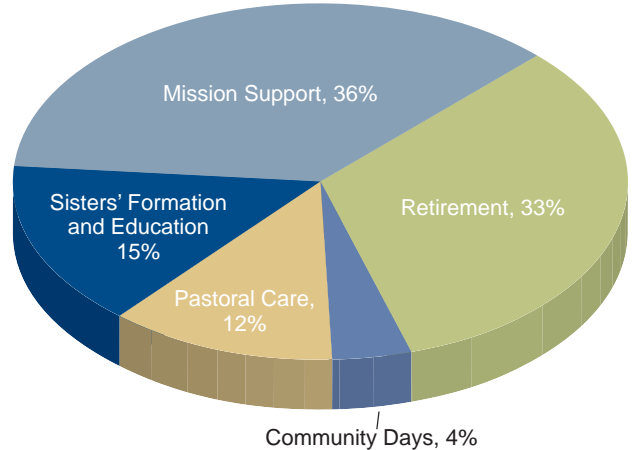
Gifts Received



General Operating.....	\$ 463,557
Retirement	385,124
Bequests	299,198
Grants	10,000
Circle of Prayer.....	2,557
SUNSEED Eco-Education Ministries	500

Total Fundraising Income Received.....\$ 1,160,936

Gifts Used



Retirement	\$ 385,124
Community Days.....	41,000
Pastoral Care	140,000
Sisters' Formation and Education	175,898
Mission Support.....	418,914

Total Fundraising Dollars Used.....\$ 1,160,936

*Alive
in the
Lord!*



Sister Mary Ann Therese Schiferl
08/03/2010

Sister Marietta Vandehey
08/04/2010

Sister Mary Dolorita Sierszynski
08/27/2010

Sister Mary Elinor Malsack
09/04/2010

Sister Joanne G. Horn
10/04/2010

Sister Mary Judith Spatt
10/04/2010

Sister Ann Clare Fox
10/23/2010

Sister Mary Madeline Holachek
11/20/2010

Sister Mary Barbara Droski
01/18/2011

Remembrances about sisters and associates who died since Jan. 2008 are available at www.ssnd-milw.org/news_events/in_memoriam.asp.

Charitable IRA Legislation Returns

The president signed the charitable IRA rollover extension into law, which will be in effect for 2010 and 2011.

Donors aged 70½ or older are once again eligible to move up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to qualified charities without having to pay income taxes on the money.

For more information, please contact Kay Amland at 262-787-1038 or ssndma@ssnd-milw.org.

Standing on the Threshold *of a New Province*

“Wherever divine providence calls us, there we are most ready to go.”

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Just as the sisters who came before us, we stand today on the threshold of a new journey. The four provinces of Dallas, Texas; Mankato, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Saint Louis, Missouri will come together to form the Central Pacific Province on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 2011. Our new province will include more than 1,200 sisters who, together as one, will carry forward the mission that Blessed Theresa began 178 years ago in Bavaria.

As apostolic women religious, we are called to respond to those in need, particularly the poor, women and youth. We are committed to education that leads to the transformation of persons and to reconciliation in our world today. In order to more effectively foster this mission of God and to share our resources with one another, we



Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Milwaukee



Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis

four provinces are choosing to come together. Our sisters are currently in prayer and discernment, considering which of us will be elected to lead the anticipated Central Pacific Province. We will elect our new leadership team in March. We ask for your prayers as we move forward with this process.

The new province will include four strong, active campuses: Dallas and St. Mary of the Pines in Mississippi, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Milwaukee, and Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis. Our sisters will continue to serve in their current ministries, while our larger number will allow us to answer the call for new ministries to those in need.

With the initiative of God comes opportunities for us and for everyone who partners with us. You have been faithful friends on our journey so far, and will be important partners as we move forward with the new province. We are grateful for your continued prayers, encouragement and financial support. Together, we are making a difference in the world!



Dallas Campus



Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato

Dear Friends,

It's a blessing and a pleasure to share the Good News of the School Sisters of Notre Dame with you. The sisters are very busy. In addition to reconfiguration of the province, a new convent, Our Lady of the Angels is opening. This convent, co-sponsored with the School Sisters of St. Francis, will address the needs of sisters with memory loss-related illnesses.

Additionally, SUNSEED Eco-Education Ministries is expanding and recently moved its offices from Mount Calvary, Wisconsin to Notre Dame of Elm Grove (NDEG). This ministry celebrates a more expansive way of living its mission "to live on Earth in a mutually enhancing way."

Plans are underway for two major events. We are honored to have Wendy Baumann, President of the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation, as speaker for our annual Women's Leadership Luncheon on March 2. The next month, we'll host a Wine & Chocolate Soiree as our annual fundraiser on April 9. We hope you can join us for an evening of fine wine, chocolate and other fare, entertainment and silent auction in support of the sisters' ministries.

We are pleased to provide online registration for events at www.ssnd-milw.org or call us at 262-787-1036.

Please know we appreciate you, your partnership and ongoing support of our mission to transform the world through education.

In peace,

Kay Amland

Kay Amland
Director of Mission Advancement



Upcoming Events

Choosing Compassion: the Paradox of Power

February 8, 11 & 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., NDEG. Held in conjunction with Catholics for Peace and Justice.

Women's Leadership Luncheon

March 2, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., NDEG.

Wine & Chocolate Soiree

April 9, 4-9 p.m., NDEG.

SUNSEED Eco-Education Ministries has ongoing events. Please check our website.

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