



Sisters of the Holy Cross

Donor Impact Report



Through your generous Ministry With the Poor donations, you are supporting projects where the moral responsibilities of care for the Earth and care for its people intersect. Thank you.

Your Donations Bring God's Loving Embrace to Our World

48
projects funded
in six countries

Dear Donors,

Because of you, each year our sisters are able to share the unbelievable love of our God around the world. In the Gospels, Christ calls our attention in a special way to those brothers and sisters who the world too often forgets. Jesus calls on each of us to be a beacon of God's love to transform lives one person at a time. During my time as the development director, I can confidently say that because of the love

you pour out through your gifts to Ministry With the Poor, collectively we are transmitting love to so many who need our support.

Whether it is through the gift of hope that a Holy Cross education provides, tending to the immediate health needs of those unable to pay for care, or responding to emergencies due to natural disasters, your gifts remind so many women, men and children they are loved. Your continued support of Ministry With the Poor enables the fund to be a

sustainable source of funding for our mission for many years to come. Each gift you make allows for more lives to be reached.

I hope this report gives you a sense of the lives you are reaching. I pray it may inspire you to continue to journey alongside the Sisters of the Holy Cross as we are guided by the Holy Spirit in our shared ministry for the Earth and its people.

Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow), CSC
Director of Development

Outreach Uplifts Elderly →

Sister Angelica Birungi, CSC, on the right in the photo, works toward reducing vulnerability among elderly people in **Fort Portal, Uganda**. Many elderly individuals face health challenges and poverty due to lack of support. Your donations directly respond to health and nutritional needs by providing funding for medical assistance and supporting physical, emotional and spiritual outreach. The elderly also enjoy participating in environmental initiatives, like planting trees.



← Children Becoming Kindergarten-ready

In Park City, Utah, many 5-year-olds are not considered kindergarten-ready, with English-language learners and minority students scoring lower on kindergarten-readiness exams than their counterparts. But through **Sister M. Patrice (McGee), CSC**, and Holy Cross Ministries, families are supported with safe, affordable, and high-quality preschool programming. Donors like you have made the School Readiness Program possible, enabling students to develop their potential.

\$338,871
distributed
to help people



More than
\$90,000
 to education, training
 and empowerment
 programs



Program Empowers the Vulnerable

“One can become vulnerable at any time of a person’s life,” says **Sister Renatta Jutta Essien, CSC**, standing on the right, top left. “There is a need to listen to stories and offer support so that people will not face the same challenge in the future.”

This is exactly what the sisters do—they listen, support and empower. In **Kasoa, Ghana**, the sisters collaborate and encourage women at different parishes to make a communal impact.

Sister Renatta has accompanied widows, single mothers and vulnerable adults. These women gather to create a sacred space for sharing life’s experiences. One of the women in the circle group shared:

“My understanding of loneliness has changed. I thought loneliness was for people who have lost their spouses or the aged who have no one around them. In my sharing and listening to my fellow women, I came to realize that anyone can feel lonely I am grateful to Sister Renatta and the Sisters of the Holy Cross for bringing us together.”

Across town, **Sister Monica Assifuah-Nunoo, CSC**, engages in similar efforts

by leading a vocational skills training program which equips individuals to create business strategies that are positive for the environment. With generous gifts from our donors, the sisters help individuals, especially women, discover financial independence through entrepreneurship. Training includes how to make soaps, jewelry, laundry detergents and other cleaning products to start small businesses.

A cohort of people who completed the empowerment program have become master trainers. They now offer similar skill-building training sessions to individuals, groups and churches. Their confidence for entrepreneurship is shared and the impact grows.

Promoting Food Justice →

The Sustainable Farm on the campus of Saint Mary's College, **Notre Dame, Indiana**, receives support from our donors as it transitions from a project to a permanent educational and justice initiative. Your gifts have helped to pay its farmer a fair wage while also using the fresh produce to meet the program's vision of addressing food insecurity in the neighborhoods surrounding Saint Mary's.



Inviting Women to Discern →

Creating education opportunities is integral for young women discerning life as a Sister of the Holy Cross. The Holy Cross Formation House in **Shillong, India**, is a thriving community that promotes creation-centered liturgical celebrations, ecological catechesis, prayer and retreats. A formation group of discerners, candidates and novices study and minister to a diverse population including orphaned children, elderly individuals and hospitalized people. Your support enables these young women to study, live, pray and work with an attentiveness to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.



\$140,000
to spiritual and social support initiatives

← Healing Through Gardening

Sister Lilma Calsin Collazos, CSC, left, provides a critically needed health ministry at Chorillos Annex Prison for Women in **Lima, Peru**. Now, she has added a gardening project to her ministry, which provides the women with a healthy mental outlet and encourages them to seek life, in all circumstances. Courses and workshops on ecological sustainability and the importance of caring for the natural world also open a new way for the women to see themselves. "The women happily recognize that they are a living part of the entire ecosystem," Sister Lilma says.



← New Life for Children Living on the Street

Sister Monju Corraya, CSC, left, oversees efforts to develop and implement programs for children living on the streets in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**. Street children live in extreme poverty and are often forced into drug use, theft or sexual exploitation. There are over 1.5 million street children in Bangladesh. The sisters work with children, and your donation provides basic needs as the children learn to live drug-free.

Distribution of Ministry With the Poor Fund Grants

Your generous gifts were divided
into the following categories:



**Environmental
Stewardship**



**Education, Training
& Empowerment**



Health Care



Social Services



Faith Formation

Thank You!

We are humbled and deeply grateful for every gift you have shared, which reflects the love of God to others.

We pray that each story you read shows you how worthwhile your donation is.



From our hearts, we say, **“We could not do it without you!”**

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