Greetings
From the Community Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, citizens across our country and world are still struggling through a cold winter. Some of us have been more deeply affected than others, and many of us can still return to the comfort of our homes. However, as we drive or walk through certain cities and neighborhoods, we see the hardships endured by the poor. It is in those areas where many of our sisters and associates work or advocate for the unemployed, for those without health care, for those homeless, undocumented, and trafficked.

I am continually inspired by our retired sisters who pray every day at Mass for those who are poor and struggling for basic human needs and by all in St. Francis Community who bring unparalleled dedication and joy to our ministries. Steeped in the good news of Jesus, they work supported by your prayers and your contributions.

Thank you – meager words, but filled with humble and sincere gratitude. Thank you for your love of God, St. Francis Community and all those we serve. Our gratitude to you will, as always, be made manifest in our continuing prayer for you, your loved ones, and all your needs. We know that gratitude is also expressed in the wise use of your gifts as we seek to further God’s loving plans through lives and works of love, mercy and justice in service among God’s people.

May the Lord bless you with peace,

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, Franciscan Earth Literacy Center and St. Francis Senior Ministries from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. 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 132.
Summary of 2016 Donations

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
- General Fund: $14,721
- Cliff Farmer Memorial Scholarship: $700
- Restricted: $54,372

Sisters of St. Francis
- Booneville, Kentucky Fund: $9,665
- Chiapas, Mexico Mission: $3,225
- Cuernavaca, Mexico Mission: $135,329
- El Salvador, Companion Community: $5,036
- General Fund: $88,843
- Mission Appeals: $117,701
- Project Hope/Proyecto Esperanza: $23,043
- Project Peace Ministry: $7,859
- Retirement Fund: $23,835
- Restricted: $244,051

Sisters Funds of the Tiffin Community Foundation
- Fund for the Poor and Elderly: $7,312
- Fund for Ministries and Retired Sisters: $42,854

St. Francis Senior Ministries
- Benevolent Care Fund: $18,260
- General Fund: $80,058
- Restricted: $49,040

St. Francis Spirituality Center
- General Fund: $31,379
- Restricted: $30,528

St. Francis Community
- General Fund: $36,288

TOTAL RECEIVED: $1,024,099

With Grateful Hearts…
we send you our 2016 Annual Report for St. Francis Community. We thank you once again for all you do to enable St. Francis Community to “look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, and embrace the future with hope.” These words of Pope Francis are words of encouragement and challenge for us in the midst of crises as we plan and continue to strengthen our mission in the United States and Mexico.

Without your generosity we would be increasingly limited in our ability to respond to those in need through our Sisters’ ministries, St. Francis Senior Ministries, St. Francis Spirituality Center, and the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center. Your support also enables us to continue to provide compassionate care for our retired Sisters.

We could not be “embracing the future with hope” in the way we are if you had not encouraged us by your love, faith, hope and generosity in 2016. We will always be grateful. This magazine is only a sampling of what you have helped make possible. Thank you! You and your loved ones are remembered daily in our prayers.

Peace and all good things,

Sister Joanne Lammers
Director of Mission Advancement
The following donors made contributions to the Sisters of St. Francis between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

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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.
SAVING THE DATE
Giving Tuesday ~ November 28

Thanks to all of our contributors who supported our Giving Tuesday Campaign that took place on November 29. In the last three years St. Francis Community has received $23,278 of which $9,293 was raised in 2016. We would also like to recognize the Toledo Community Foundation for the $500.00 matching grant.
SAVE THE DATE
Live Nativity ~ December 3
St. Francis Community recognizes our benefactors annually at the Benefactor Appreciation service and reception. This year, we will celebrate our benefactors on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

We appreciate our benefactors!

St. Francis Community recognizes our benefactors annually at the Benefactor Appreciation service and reception. This year, we will celebrate our benefactors on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

Our Journey Starts With You

Generosity comes in many forms, and it’s often the best way for you to support important causes that matter the most to you in your life. When you give to St. Francis Community, you help us make a difference. Start here by learning the different gift options available to you: http://plannedgiving.tiffinfranciscans.org
Corporate Sponsorships

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.

Thanks to our 2016 Corporate Sponsors

We thank our 2016 board members who have so generously served our ministries

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New Program for First Responders is Needed and Appreciated

In 2016, Chief Bill Wilkins of Defiance Fire and Rescue attended an informative breakfast to learn more about “Operation Resilience”, a new program for First Responders offered at St. Francis Spirituality Center. “The program is much needed and the benefits to emergency personnel will be greatly appreciated by those who attend this retreat,” said Chief Wilkins.

Wilkins added, “Personnel from all emergency services are faced daily with many challenges in their work environment which require them to make tough decisions within seconds. They witness sickness, injury, death and personal hardships. They carry the memories, images and stress from those challenging times with them throughout their careers. This type of program is there to help them learn how to control those stressors.”

The 2016 Operation Resilience Program is made possible by a partnership of generous benefactors, North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, and the Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation.

The following donors made contributions to the St. Francis Spirituality Center between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

- Brenda Bernal-Arroyo
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“Operation Resilience reinforces the idea that you don’t have to walk alone. Getting the help you need from crises you are involved in is a must.”

- Anonymous
St. Francis Spirituality Center offers “centering” days to get away, to quiet oneself and re-center who you are and how you are responding to daily life. The center provides a quiet time and place to reflect and converse with God. Dinner at noon and beverages are provided throughout the day.

Lou Wilin of Findlay, Ohio is a frequent visitor at St. Francis Spirituality Center, a place that he describes as “a vessel of God’s grace where I can draw closer to God and experience His love and peace.”

“I am drawn to the ever-present sense of God’s presence and abundant love throughout, whether meditating in chapel, walking through the peaceful gardens and meadows, Sacred Heart Court, and the Marian Grotto, or simply chatting with the Sisters and staff,” said Lou.

He continued, “The gift I yearn for and receive in the solitude of St. Francis Spirituality Center is God’s love and a closer, deeper relationship with Him. I immerse myself in His word, in prayer and meditation.”

Lou feels renewed, strengthened and guided to better serve God and reflect God’s love to others when he makes a retreat at the Center. “My times at St. Francis encourage me to renew my daily prayer and meditation. Essentially, it helps me be more open and available — more obedient — to what God wants to do with me, growing into the person He wants me to become.”

“I would say to anyone that St. Francis Spirituality Center is a wonderful place. I recommend it to anyone who is serious about drawing closer to God and knowing His abiding presence every day.”
The following donors made contributions to the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

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SAVE THE DATE
Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala ~ Friday, August 11

The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) enthusiastically accepted a partnership with the Marathon LPGA Classic during 2016. On December 16th, during the Charity Luncheon, Marathon Classic executives presented a check for $24,700 to FELC to be used for 2017 youth programs and summer camps. The Classic, sponsored by Owens Corning & O-I, donated over $500,000 to local youth charities.

“This grant enables FELC to continue educating Northwest Ohio students on current environmental issues and providing hands-on learning in science,” said Sara Sherick, FELC Administrator. The money will help the center offer more camp scholarships, purchase new equipment and camp supplies, and provide the opportunity for camp interns. “FELC is so grateful for this financial support,” added Sherick.
When Will Reinhart contacted the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) last fall, he asked Administrator Sara Sherick if there was anything he could do for FELC for his Eagle Scout project. Sherick proposed that he create some raised garden beds behind the center that would offer campus residents a place to raise vegetables and flowers. According to Sherick, the old beds were beginning to deteriorate.

Reinhart, a member of the local Boy Scout Troop 499, then had to complete required paperwork which included a detailed description that would meet project requirements, and he had to get that approved by his District Committee Chair. Once approved, he was able to begin working on the project, which required the guidance of his Scoutmaster Luke Tong and Assistant Scoutmaster Claude Schindorff and the help of about 20 of his fellow scouts. Will’s father, Bryan, also helped by providing his truck and some manpower to transport the pavers from Lowe’s in Findlay, Ohio where he could purchase them for a discounted price. Will had to pay for them with his own money because scouts are responsible for funding their own projects. He raised the money by recycling aluminum cans that he collected.

Before Will could begin building, he learned how to use a laser level device so that he could level the pavers properly. He then called upon his fellow scouts and scout masters to assist. Throughout the project, Will was responsible for teaching leadership skills to the other scouts, delegating jobs and making sure that they stayed on task. Will estimates that he spent at least 20 hours on the project.

“The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center is always open to working with scouts and others in the community to improve our center and campus,” said Sherick. “We appreciate the new raised garden beds, and St. Francis Villa residents are eager to use them this spring,” she added.
The following donors made contributions to St. Francis Home and the Sisters Fund for the Poor and Elderly of the Tiffin Community Foundation between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

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Dan and Laura Johnson were caught outside enjoying the warm and sunny weather on their November 7th anniversary. They and their dog took a rest on one of the new recycled plastic lumber benches.

“Thanks to the OSS Joint Solid Waste Management District, Friedman Village was able to replace 5 benches around our campus,” said Kellie Hartsel, Marketing Manager at Friedman Village at St. Francis.

She added, “The old benches were rusting. Since the new benches are made out of recyclable material they are much nicer and more “user friendly.”
On October 12, 2016, St. Francis Senior Ministries hosted their 4th Annual Wellness Extravaganza at Elizabeth Schaefer Auditorium on the St. Francis Campus. Many area organizations were represented at the event, which was free and open to the public. Those in attendance were able to take part in various tests and screenings, bring medications to be checked by a pharmacist, dispose of unwanted medications, and donate old eyeglasses. This year John Baumann, an inspirational and motivational speaker who has lived with Parkinson’s Disease for over 14 years, presented to a large crowd.

Afterwards, John met in a small group setting with those suffering from Parkinson’s and their caregivers. “Bringing in speakers like John Bauman allows us to create partnerships and involve community sponsors who help make it possible,” said Leanne Smith, Co-Chair of the event and Director of Residential Services/Public Relations.
Susan Cook, who works in the Activities Department at St. Francis Home, assists residents Laura Brown and Sister Joan Ann Gilsdorf in baking a cake. The newly remodeled kitchen, located in the Chiara Unit (Memory Care), includes new flooring, cabinets and countertops funded by a grant through Care Source.
Residents and guests at St. Francis Home enjoy the newly renovated entryway and lobby.

All are welcome to the Open House on April 6th to see the new renovations made at St. Francis Home. Come and See!
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Gifts to the St. Francis Community
Join the St. Francis Legacy Circle to Increase Your Impact

Over the years, supporters like you have selflessly given their time, talent and assets to support the Sisters’ mission. Each contribution has allowed us to sustain a growing level of support that secures our long-term stability.

If you feel strongly about our charitable work and would like to join with other supporters who share your values, we hope you’ll consider becoming a member of the St. Francis Legacy Circle.

If you have already planned a gift to support the ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis, please let us know so that we can properly welcome you into the St. Francis Legacy Circle.

Learn more about planning gift options at [http://plannedgiving.tiffinfranciscans.org/](http://plannedgiving.tiffinfranciscans.org/). Email mission@tiffinfranciscans.org for information on how to join St. Francis Legacy Circle.
Stay Connected!

There are many ways to stay connected with us!

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.

FELC Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On February 3, 2017, the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center held an Open House in celebration of their 20th Anniversary of incorporation. Campus residents and employees, as well as current and former directors and board members were in attendance.

The winner of the raffle drawing for a FREE week of Summer Camp or a Community Garden Plot was Sr Paulette Schroeder who chose to donate a FREE week of camp to a child who would not otherwise be able to attend. If you know of a child who would like to attend a camp this summer, call 419-448-7485. There are additional scholarships available as well, through the generosity of the B.A. Seitz Fund and the Cliff Farmer Scholarship Funds. For more information on our 2017 summer camps, visit http://felctiffin.org/kids-catch-summer-at-felc/