Greetings
From the Community Minister

“…whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did to me”. (Matthew 25:40)

Dear Friends,

You may recall that Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of Consecrated Life which began in November, 2014 and concluded in February, 2016. He chose three themes to be woven throughout this special year of grace: Look to the past with gratitude, Live the present with passion, and Embrace the future with hope.

As I look over the past year with gratitude, I know that our Franciscan way of life and ministries are immensely enriched by your gifts of love, prayer, volunteer hours, and financial support. You are truly our partners in the sacred work of waking the world, of bringing God’s transforming love and our Franciscan values to a world longing for hope and thirsting for the Divine.

This Annual Report is also about you, our benefactors, who partner with the Sisters of St. Francis and our ministries, who live the Gospel legacy with passion each day of the year. You have been very generous in supporting our ministries through your response to our requests throughout the year.

We are also both gratified and humbled by you who leave a legacy for our ministries, remembering St. Francis Community in your estates, trusts, and financial plans. Your commitment to provide for our ministries into the future is a blessing.

My heart overflows with gratitude for you and for all the ways you have shared the gift of yourselves with St. Francis Community. Together may we embrace the future with hope, continuing to give ourselves unreservedly to a world so desperately in need of God’s transforming love and mercy, knowing that it is the heartbeat of God who lives within and among us, making all things new.

Peace and all good things to you,

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, 2015 through December 31, 2015. 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 2015 Donations

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
General Fund.......................................................... $12,998
Cliff Farmer Memorial Scholarship.......................... $125
Restricted.............................................................. $55,507

Sisters of St. Francis
Booneville, Kentucky Fund..................................... $10,172
Chiapas, Mexico Mission.......................................... $3,442
Cuernavaca, Mexico Mission.................................... $108,661
El Salvador, Companion Community....................... $2,977
General Fund........................................................ $214,820
Mission Appeals.................................................... $100,377
Project Hope/Proyecto Esperanza.......................... $13,688
Project Peace Ministry............................................ $8,879
Retirement Fund..................................................... $38,710

St. Francis Community
General Fund........................................................ $23,379

St. Francis Senior Ministries
Benevolent Care Fund............................................. $25,268
General Fund........................................................ $84,980
Restricted.............................................................. $94,606
Julia Reimer Scholarship Fund............................... $13,544
St. Francis Memorial Foundation......................... $1,312

St. Francis Spirituality Center
General Fund........................................................ $8,487
Restricted.............................................................. $49,616

TOTAL RECEIVED................................................ $873,245

We give thanks...

for the gift of the mission given to us by God as well as the gift of all you who partner with us in carrying out our Franciscan mission of serving those who are poor and elderly; teaching care for creation and the environment; companioning those in need of healing body, mind and spirit; and teaching peace by being instruments of peace. Those we serve at St. Francis Spirituality Center, St. Francis Home, the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center and all the missions where our Sisters serve in the U.S. and Mexico count on your support and express a deep sense of gratitude for your generosity.

We also appreciate that many times your support is given in memory or in honor of a family member or of a sister who has touched your life. This brightens our day and reaffirms for us that we have been and continue to do the work we were sent to do.

Let us continue to work together to find ways for all those we encounter to share the blessings God has so generously given. Together we can do and be more than any one of us can alone.

Gratefully,

Sister Joanne Lammers
Director of Mission Advancement
Ways to give to St. Francis Community

Gift planning is an opportunity to meet your charitable goals through your estate — while helping the Sisters meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. Please consider the following ways to leave a personal legacy to help ensure our ministries can be sustained into the future.

To discuss St. Francis Community’s legacy program, please contact the Mission Advancement Office by phone (419-447-0435) or email mission@tiffinfranciscans.org.

Give wisely

We recommend that you seek the advice of your tax advisor, attorney, and/or financial planner to ensure that the gift you are considering fits your overall circumstances and planning. St. Francis Community is not engaged in rendering legal tax advice.
A Generous Heart Lives On

Many in the Toledo Diocese knew Bishop Robert William Donnelly as a very pastoral and compassionate servant, but Sister Carolette Grote knew him even better as “Bishop Bob”, cousin and friend.

Sister Carolette speaks about Bishop Donnelly: “Family was a big thing to Bishop Bob. At family parties, he was always the ‘Shepherd’ of the clan. Our family reunions began with a mass in the chapel at the Visitation Monastery in Toledo where my blood sister, Sister Bernard lived. Bob wanted to have the mass at the cloister so that Sr. Bernard could be included. He would also provide Kentucky Fried Chicken dinners so that all of the sisters in the monastery could have a picnic the same day as our family.

Bishop Donnelly was always very generous and wanted to help out whomever and whenever he could. At the time of Sister Carolette’s 50th Jubilee, he donated money in her honor to start a flower garden on St. Francis Convent grounds.

Bishop Donnelly died (July 20, 2014) as he lived…with a very generous heart, remembering his dear cousin, Sister Carolette and the Sisters of St. Francis in his will. In this way, his care for those who are poor lives on through the ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis.

The photo above was taken on Dec. 29, 2008 of some of the first cousins gathered for Mass on the feast of St. Stephen, their grandpa’s feast day.

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.
Jeanne Zurat (left) and Sister Pat Froning.

Planned Giving Matches Missions

Jeanne Zurat is more than a familiar face on the St. Francis campus. She embodies the charism of the Sisters of St. Francis. In her early years Jeanne attended Central Catholic High School in Toledo where she met some Tiffin Franciscans whom she called ‘wonderful role models’. She continued her studies at Mary Manse College and heard God’s call to serve which resulted in her joining the Tiffin Franciscans in 1952. During her years as a sister, Jeanne served in many different capacities as elementary and high school teacher and as director and teacher of theology in religious education centers of the Toledo Diocese.

In 1973, Jeanne heard another call from God, married and moved to Chicago where she continued to teach high school English and theology. She and her husband together volunteered in both their neighborhood and parish. Today Jeanne continues to volunteer at Saint John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio, with small faith groups and baptismal retreats and serves on the St. Vincent DePaul committee. She also volunteers at the soup kitchen, a ministry at Helping Hands in Toledo.

When asked about her mission in life, Jeanne said, “My mission is pretty closely aligned to the mission of the Sisters of St. Francis. I truly believe in this charism. It has not changed over the years, reaching out to the poor, and it has enlarged itself in many others ways, but always under the sisters’ charism of penance and charity and the dignity of all of God’s creation. The Tiffin Franciscan Charism is inclusive and it works.” Sister Pat Froning, a friend and former classmate, added, “One of the things that I see in Jeanne is simplicity and hospitality. Those are two hallmarks of her life.”

When asked why she wants to leave a legacy in partnership with the Tiffin Franciscans, Jeanne responded, “I received so much in my years at St. Francis so it is not only a way of showing my appreciation, but it’s also a way of extending the work that the sisters do, which I believe in whole heartedly.” She continued, “I am particularly happy now that they do a lot with the environment. It is a big part of Franciscanism. I think that the whole focus they have on the environment and the dignity of each human being is so important.”
Elmer and Dorothy Meyer
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Dan and Jan Medlock
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Dennis and Ruth Meade
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Linda Gerik
Thomas Gerhardstein
Jean Ann Geist
Jim and Pat Geckle
Michael Gears
John and Pam Gears
How a Dad’s Legacy Lives On

By Angela Phillips

Dad started life with very humble beginnings. He was raised on farms with his two brothers in northern Ohio. During his years near Attica, he had attended Bismark’s St. Sebastian School where his teachers were Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin. Later in life, as a successful and respected business owner, he kept in touch with his grade school teachers. He even hosted an 80th birthday party at his log cabin for Sister Laurene Toeppe, his 8th grade teacher. Dad supported the Sisters with housing renovations for retired Sisters in Tiffin and supported them with other needs.

Dad never forgot where he came from, and more importantly, those who helped him form a strong relationship with God. That faith became very important as a young man. At the age of 22, he was devastated by his father’s death from an automobile accident. After joining the Army Reserves, he was called up for active duty in 1968, leaving his wife and baby girl at home. In 1969, he spent 5 months on the front lines of the Vietnam War. It was during those harrowing times that his faith carried him through. He knew his life was spared in Vietnam for a reason, witnessing fellow soldiers killed at his side and lying in a field hospital himself after being hit with shrapnel. Through all that, Dad had found a greater purpose; he knew he had to give back.

My three sisters and I grew up witnessing how important it is to use our own talents to improve our communities and make the world a better place. After my dad’s passing, I moved into the role of president of his companies. Along with that responsibility came the need to continue his legacy of giving back to the community and the other causes that Dad held dear. The Sisters of St. Francis is one of those causes. I now support the Sisters’ Cuernavaca Children’s Mission since children’s charities are a focal point for me. I know there are many children in the world that will grow up in poor conditions and that the only way to help them rise out of poverty is through education. That is why I really respect and admire Sr. Margaret’s work at the Cuernavaca Mission as it provides opportunities for children and adults to gain skills and education to improve their lives.

My dad, Ralph Phillips, spent his life building successful businesses across the country, and yet he ensured that he made a positive, everlasting effect on his community and surrounding areas. The effect of his philanthropy is seen not only throughout Richland County, Ohio, but also in far off places like Haiti and Guatemala where he worked with Rotary International to bring fresh water drills to remote areas. If there was a need, he yearned to fill it, often times with his own hard work and involvement. Since dad’s passing in 2009 he has been sorely missed. He was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi’s motto, “For it is in giving that we receive.” Now I am living a legacy with that same inspiration.
The following donors made contributions to the St. Francis Spirituality Center between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

Jeanne Zurat
Dolores J. Zentkovich
Mary Ellen Zahn
Mike and Joan Wise
Kathleen E. Winters
Louis and Anne Wilin
Mary L. Westhoven
Wendy’s
Eileen M. Weber
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John and Judy Washbush
Wagner Floral Company
Ann Marie Volking
Impact Credit Union
Traunero Funeral Home and Crematory
Toledo Community Foundation
Deacon Joe Timbrook
O.E. Meyer, Tiffin
Tiffin Hardware Company
Tiffin Glass and Mirror
Tiffin Deluxe Services, Inc. Threads, Inc.
Grace D. Tho
The National Christian Foundation
The Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation
McGown’s Tavern
Andrew and Yolanda Tanner
Lenny Sweet
Ann Stephenson
Maraquita E. Steinmetz
St. Mary Catholic Church, Bluffton
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Sr. Elizabeth Jean Siebenaler
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Old Fort Banking Company
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Wayne and Joan Moore
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Mohawk Nursery
Modern Woodmen of America Lewis Miller
Sr. Edna Michel
Judith Geasley Mich
Mercy Hospital of Tiffin
Medical Mutual of Ohio
Grace McKechnie
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George Marsh and Mary Ann Rickus
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Engle-Shook Funeral Home
Ralph W. Eilerman
Dundore Plumbing Heating & Cooling, Ltd.
Top Gun Drywall
Judi Doren
Diversified Graphics, Inc.

Matching Missions, Matching Funds

Sister Edna Michel, Director of St. Francis Spirituality Center accepted a check of $2500 for the Center from Rebecca Shank of the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial. The funds were primarily used to help those who would like to attend programming, but need financial assistance to do so.

The Modern Woodmen matching program provided the matching grant towards the fundraising efforts of the Spirituality Center from our Fall BBQ. “It is a great partnership with matching missions of two local organizations together, both helping those in need,” says Ann Keefe, Grant Writer for St. Francis Community, “We are grateful to the Modern Woodmen.”
New furniture was purchased for the first floor lounge of St. Francis Spirituality Center including six new glider rockers and blinds which were purchased from the proceeds of the 2015 Fall BBQ. Thank you to everyone that supported this annual fundraiser last September!

Ways to give to St. Francis Community

**Cash Donation**

Make an immediate gift in which the full amount is a tax deduction in the year given.

**Real estate**

Transfer residential, commercial, or undeveloped real estate to the Sisters of St. Francis and get an income tax deduction for the full market value.

**Retained life estate**

Give real estate but keep the right to use and enjoy it for life. Removes taxable assets from estate.

**Appreciated Securities or Stock**

Your gift may be eligible for one of the IRS’ most significant tax breaks. Gifts of appreciated securities may be transferred electronically or by transferring the stock certificate to us.

You pay no capital gains tax on the securities you donate while receiving the same tax deduction as a cash donation.

**Bequest**

Make provisions for an outright or planned gift in your will or living trust indicating a specified amount or percentage of your estate. Donation is exempt from federal estate tax.

To discuss St. Francis Community’s legacy program, please contact the Mission Advancement Office by phone (419-447-0435) or email mission@tiffinfranciscans.org.

K. and D. Dillon  
Diebley Brothers Drainage  
Toledo Molding and Die  
Frederick J. Decker  
James M. and Marilyn Deats  
Warren J. and Mary Lou Cummings  
Hempy Water Conditioning  
Community Hospice Care  
Nance Collins  
The Clover Club  
Clouse Electric, Ltd.  
Clouse Construction Corp  
Shaver Window Cleaning  
Absolute Carpet Cleaning  
Garner and Edwina Campnell  
Ronald and Betty Cain  
Lloyd and Jan Borer  
Dorothy M. Blum  
Thomas A. Bishop  
Bunky’s Bicycle  
Bailiwicks Coffee Co.  
Amy Aschemeier  
Friend of SFSC  
Bruce and Joan Alge  
Sylvia Vest  
Threads, Inc.  
Bodyworks Fitness and Tanning  
Dunlap Brothers, Inc./T. J. Willies  
Crane’s Mattress Superstore  
James D. and Jane C. Supance  
Stranahan Theater  
Medicine Shoppe  
Seneca Hills Golf Course  
Rock Run Bulk Foods and Services  
Ritz Theatre, Inc.  
Riley’s Car Wash  
Bonnie Raitz  
Paul Pospisil  
Little Caesars Pizza  
Pioneer Quick Lube  
Eugene and Mary Catharine Phillips  
Sr. Jane Frances Omlor  
Olive Garden  
Susan Nowak and Kay Shrewsbery  
Fr. Frank Murd  
Sr. Edna Michel  
George Marsh and Mary Ann Rickus  
Marco’s Pizza  
Cornelius (Bud) Krupp  
Jeffrey Jewelry  
Holiday Inn Express  
Robert G. and Carol A. Hauzie  
Hampton Inn  
Larry and Linda Haas  
Findlay Implement Co. dba Tiffin Ag & Turf  
Family Video  
Ewald Furniture  
Edenwood Veterinary Clinic  
Dunkin Donuts  
Denny’s Restaurant  
Crystal Traditions of Tiffin  
Carroll’s Corporation  
Put-In-Bay Co.  
Red Hawk Run Golf Club  
Clouse Electric, Ltd.  
Great Clips  
Clinton Heights Golf Course  
Seneca Cleaners  
Cinemark Movies  
Lee’s Famous Recipe Chicken  
Pat Catan’s Craft Centers  
Carmie’s Grill and Bar  
Dow L. and Susan L. Campbell  
Heritage Lanes Bowling  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
Bair Brothers Sporting Goods  
Bailiwicks Coffee Co.  
Marian A. Applequist  
Ameriwood Industries

**St. Francis Spirituality Center In-Kind Gifts**

Who’s Nuts?  
Seneca Car Wash  
Sauder Village  
Hampton Inn  
Larry and Linda Haas  
Findlay Implement Co. dba Tiffin Ag & Turf  
Family Video  
Ewald Furniture  
Edenwood Veterinary Clinic  
Dunkin Donuts  
Denny’s Restaurant  
Crystal Traditions of Tiffin  
Carroll’s Corporation  
Put-In-Bay Co.  
Red Hawk Run Golf Club  
Clouse Electric, Ltd.  
Great Clips  
Clinton Heights Golf Course  
Seneca Cleaners  
Cinemark Movies  
Lee’s Famous Recipe Chicken  
Pat Catan’s Craft Centers  
Carmie’s Grill and Bar  
Dow L. and Susan L. Campbell  
Heritage Lanes Bowling  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
Bair Brothers Sporting Goods  
Bailiwicks Coffee Co.  
Marian A. Applequist  
Ameriwood Industries
New Administrator Joins FELC

Sara Sherick joined the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center as Administrator on February 2, 2016. Sara not only speaks care of creation language but lives it on her sustainable 40 acre-farm outside Fremont, Ohio where she hosts rescue horses, sheep, dogs and cats. A former science teacher, Sara has a Bachelor of Science in biology from Bowling Green State University. She also practices law, having a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Toledo.

Sara’s dedication to the environment keeps her quite busy as an Ohio State University Master Gardener and an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. She has also had educational experiences with Project WILD, Project Learning Tree and the Leopold Education Project.

Ways to give to St. Francis Community

Charitable Gift Annuity
Your gift transaction transfers assets in exchange for a tax benefit. The annuities simultaneously provide a charitable donation, an income tax deduction and a guaranteed lifetime income stream.

Charitable Lead Trust
Designed to reduce beneficiaries’ taxable income by first donating a portion of the trust’s income to the Sisters and then, after a specified period of time, transferring the remainder of the trust to one’s beneficiaries. This may be ideal for six figure gifts, helping the Sisters now, and your family later.

Charitable Remainder Trust
The opposite of the lead trust. Your family or beneficiary is provided with an income stream now while the remainder would be donated to the Sisters after a specified period of time.

To discuss St. Francis Community’s legacy program, please contact the Mission Advancement Office by phone (419-447-0435) or email mission@tiffinfranciscans.org.
Many people today recognize that children are more out of touch with nature and the environment than in the past. The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center provides hands-on experiences for children to learn about ecosystems and the water cycle, plus the life cycle of plants, mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects that live in the Sisters’ woods and wetlands.

The Hagen Family Foundation awarded FELC a grant to create a 30 x 30 pond area where children visiting the center can study fish and various animals. Rocks to surround the pond were secured from the land on which FELC is located. Fencing surrounds the pond area with a security entry system for children’s safety. Inmates from Crosswaeh, a local low security facility, provided labor for construction.

Children study both individually and with teachers who provide educational sessions during program activities. A rain water collection system that collects rain water run-off from the center’s barn roof supplies fresh water to the pond and animals. The plan is for children attending pottery class to create a large turtle and other art pieces to display around the pond area.

Summer camp attendees love spending time with the animals in the Peaceable “Kindom” which includes a rabbit condo.
Legacy of a Wood Carver

The Louis and Catherine Steyer family donated a hand-carved wooden nativity set from Oberammergau, Germany, for the chapel at St. Francis Home, where Louis and Catherine were residents. Christmas was always a special holiday for the family, and they wanted to help make it more joyful for the residents, especially as they celebrated the religious services. Since Louis hand painted wooden Santas in his retirement years, and the families’ ancestry is German, the crèche seemed a perfect memorial.
Thank you to our generous donors

Foundations & Donors Partner on New Bus

St. Francis Home staff is thrilled to offer residents a ride into town on their new 15-passenger bus! With a generous award from the Allen Eiry Fund, managed by the Columbus Foundation, St. Francis Home was able to make the purchase. St. Francis Senior Ministries Memorial Foundation, supported by many private donors, assisted with over $20,000 of the remaining costs.

St. Francis’ residents love to participate in community events around the Tiffin area. Simple things like a trip to the county fair or watching a parade in town are part of everyday life that can be enjoyed now that there’s a means to travel. Residents enjoy going out for a day, just like anyone else. St. Francis Home’s mission comes alive as residents enjoy living life fully. Thanks to all the donors and foundations that have made this possible.
Ways to give to St. Francis Community

Insurance policy
Name the Sisters of St. Francis on an existing or new policy as a beneficiary. Donate a paid up policy; current income tax deduction for paid up policy. Future deductions for premium payments on new policy.

Retirement plan (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.)
Name St. Francis Community as whole or partial beneficiary of the plan. Transferring retirement plan assets to the Sisters can be a great alternative to an outright bequest in your will. It allows you to make a substantial gift while helping your heirs avoid income tax. Other non-taxable assets can then be designated for your heirs. This approach gives you the opportunity to pass your most taxable assets to charity allowing you to maximize the impact to your heirs and charity.

In addition, recent law permanently allows those age 70½ or better to avoid taxation on distributions, up to $100,000 per year, through direct transfers to charity. This method can allow donors to satisfy their required minimum distributions free of income tax while providing support to the Sisters.

To discuss St. Francis Community’s legacy program, please contact the Mission Advancement Office by phone (419-447-0435) or email mission@tiffinfranciscans.org.
“On Monday, August 3, 2015, I had a hip replacement and I started therapy here on that Friday,” said Amy Hill. She continued, “I thought I was going to die. All of the staff in the therapy area were very knowledgeable, patient and compassionate. I am so thankful to everyone that helped me.”

“Several of our long-term residents and post-acute care rehab patients have shared with me their positive comments on both of our recently renovated areas: underscoring the beauty and peacefulness of the chapel; and the attractiveness, completeness and spaciousness of the therapy space,” said Dow Campbell, Director, Mission & Spiritual Services. He added, “Nearly everyone then goes on to say that our fun, compassionate and dedicated staff and therapists are what is most important.”

Rehabilitation therapist Michael Harvey assists campus resident, Kathleen Winters, in the newly renovated kitchen area in St. Francis Home. Kathleen’s therapy session incorporated daily household tasks such as using an oven to bake cookies. Afterwards, she was able to enjoy some warm cookies in the dining area of the therapy wing.

Rehabilitation therapist Nikki Golling works with patient Amy Hill.

*St. Francis Home is grateful to all the benefactors who are making these major renovations possible for residents and rehab patients.*
The following donors made contributions to the St. Francis Community between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

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We appreciate our benefactors!
St. Francis Community recognizes our benefactors annually at the Benefactor Appreciation service. This year we will celebrate our benefactors on Sunday, October 2, 2016.
We thank our board members who so generously serve our ministries

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Corporate sponsorship of fundraising and engagement events is a valuable and high-profile way for companies to build and strengthen brand recognition, fulfill community outreach objectives, and more. Corporate donors provide essential operating support that helps St. Francis Community to fulfill their 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 BBQ, St. Francis Community’s Mardi Gras, and St. Francis Senior Ministries’ fundraiser for benevolent care.

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

Thanks to our 2015 Corporate Sponsors

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Healing Arts Seminar a Success

St. Francis Spirituality Center recently hosted their first Healing Arts Seminar. Over 60 people attended and had the opportunity to listen to various presentations which included: Meridian Stress Assessment and EB-305 (Energy Balance & Foot Detox) (Cory Blust, BA, MT, MSA Operator), Nutrition: Eating for Your Blood Type (Deb Plotts, MSA Operator), Reflexology: A Compliment to Your Health (Mary R. Porter, NBCR) Yoga: On the Mat, Off the Mat (Sister Paulette Schroeder, CYI), Chiropractic Care (Jolena Miller, DC), Massage as Routine Health Care (Carol Theis, LMT). “The seminar provided a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Tiffin community,” said Sister Edna Michel, Director of St. Francis Spirituality Center.