"The good news demands from each one a step forward, a perennial exercise of empathy, of listening to the suffering and the hopes of others, even those furthest away from me, and walking the demanding path of love." — POPE FRANCIS
We are all called to love and serve our brothers and sisters. Franciscan Mission Service’s programs help lay people deepen their commitment to building up the Kingdom of God with a Franciscan spirit. Here are some ways that we helped lay people walk that path of love this year:

**Casa San Salvador**, our house of hospitality, received 122 guests to northeast Washington, D.C. Over the course of a year, 18 young adults prayerfully lived there in community while working or studying at five different Catholic organizations.

We have grown so much that we moved our administrative offices into the Theological College at Catholic University. We are surrounded by many national Catholic organizations with whom we can build deeper relationships.

Through the Nonprofit Leadership Program (formerly known as the domestic volunteer program), five young adults gained hands-on experience volunteering full-time in our D.C. office. They also lived together in intentional community and served weekly with marginalized populations.

We were honored to be invited to Rome, Italy, to participate in the OFM Franciscans’ first-ever International Congress on Mission and Evangelization and present on our ministries. Our presence validated the importance of collaboration between the laity and religious communities and affirmed Franciscan Mission Service’s leadership in the mission world.

Our overseas lay mission program had its largest class in recent years finish their three months of formation in Washington, D.C. These missioners joined our other missioners in Bolivia to journey with rural women, prison inmates, survivors of torture, survivors of sexual violence, and rural college students. Each month, 1,600 people are touched by their ministries.

"This trip helped me to understand what solidarity really means. It showed me how the care for all creation and care for the whole person are universal bonds that connect people across cultures and nations."

Stephen Scott
PARTICIPANT

"In the office, at the house, and at the art therapy program for the homeless, I was able to engage with people who were different from me. I look forward to continuing my career in the nonprofit sector, an area I never would have considered before the program."

Sarah Hoffeditz
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT US YEAR-ROUND

Join the new San Damiano Giving Circle and commit to a minimum monthly gift of $35. Your prayerful partnership sustains Franciscan Mission Service’s work of rebuilding the Church and society. Together, we create pathways for the laity to engage in faith formation and mission service in the Franciscan tradition.

THANK YOU for partnering to build pathways to service and solidarity with those living in poverty.

Our online ministry has touched thousands through our blog, videos, podcast, and social media. Special series like “Sacraments in Social Mission: Living the Gospel, Being Disciples” provide weekly resources for readers to reflect on faith, service, and the Franciscan charism. We were invited to present on social media ministries at the Catholic Volunteer Network conference as a leader in this area.

We made 40 parish and campus visits this year to share the story of our missioners and remind the laity of their own baptismal call to mission.