



Voices of FMS



OVERSEAS LAY MISSION

Trusting in God's everlasting presence and embracing a spirit of solidarity, seven FMS missionaries accompanied individuals in Bolivia and Jamaica over the past year. Four years of partnership with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany in Kingston have

solidified elementary education and accompaniment of individuals with disabilities as core ministries. Strong partnerships have led to creative endeavors, such as the coordination of a beach trip for boys from a local group home. During the pandemic, the sisters' convent has been a homebase for ministry. Missioners have supported the sisters' food distribution efforts and spent time with the sisters in the infirmary, often leading games and exercises. FMS' 14-week Formation Program and 2-week Reentry Program remain hallmarks of each FMS missioner's journey. In 2021, we plan to welcome newly-commissioned missioners to a new mission site in the U.S./Mexico Border region.



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

FMS continues to deepen relationships within its own alumni network as well as in the DC community. In January, nearly 20 alumni and 4 recently-returned missioners renewed their commitment to lifelong mission at the

Commissioning Mass, and in June, several dozens gathered for a virtual retreat. DCSC volunteers had access to new avenues of support this year, with DC program alumni creating a mentorship program, and each volunteer receiving a host family. Lastly, the Secular Franciscans who meet at Casa San Salvador teamed up with the Casa Community members for a day of deep cleaning that made the 15-bedroom house sparkle. FMS is extremely grateful for its community and for the endless support provided by friends near and far.



"When we come back, we have changed. And of course, that was the main idea. We in turn will sort of become like missioners back home. So all of us are missioners to others around us."

Fr. Max Hottle, OFM
Friar on Founding Formation Team

"Look for mission on whatever level you can. Mission is about service. People forget the profound joy of giving and helping. And nothing is going to make us happier. Nothing."

Megan Hamilton, Jamaica '20

"[The Casa] has shaped my faith to be a faith of empathy, of diversity, of being uncomfortable, and of loving unconditionally. I am nowhere near the same scared, lost, and optimistic recent college grad that I was when I moved in. I have been shaped by every person who has come into this house and I have learned to love and live in a radical way."

Amanda Saunders,
DC Service Corps Alumnus



DC SERVICE CORPS



Continuing the path to which God has called them, seven young adults, including five recent college grads and two young professionals, came to FMS with grateful hearts and generous spirits. Volunteers served at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, the U.S.

Catholic Mission Association, and the FMS Office. FMS also continued its partnership with the Father McKenna Center which, for the first time, welcomed two DCSC volunteers simultaneously. This year's class became heavily involved in the DC community. Desiring more opportunities for service and connection, four office-based associates volunteered at various nonprofits in addition to their primary service placement. All volunteers also continued to serve through the COVID-19 pandemic, some online and others, helping with food distribution, in person. FMS is proud to have such a giving group of volunteers who make all in their Casa home feel welcomed and loved.

SHORT-TERM MISSION & GLOBAL AWARENESS TRIPS



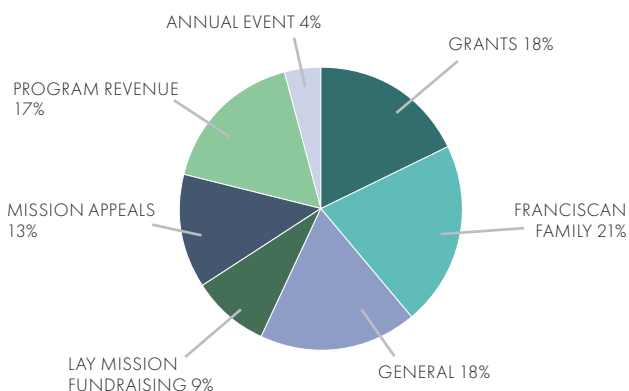
Living out their call to service, 10 students and one staff member from Alvernia University spent their spring break in Washington, DC. Casa San Salvador had a lively week, with 22 people living under one roof!

The Alvernia group spent their days accompanied by an FMS Staff member as they developed and deepened their social and cultural awareness of DC. Service sites included The Father McKenna Center, Little Sisters of the Poor, L'Arche, Washington Parks & People, Christ House, and more. In an evaluation, one student wrote: "I grew in awareness and learned that we can only serve justice if we serve each other." This year marks five years of partnership with Alvernia University, and FMS looks forward to welcoming more students in the years to come.

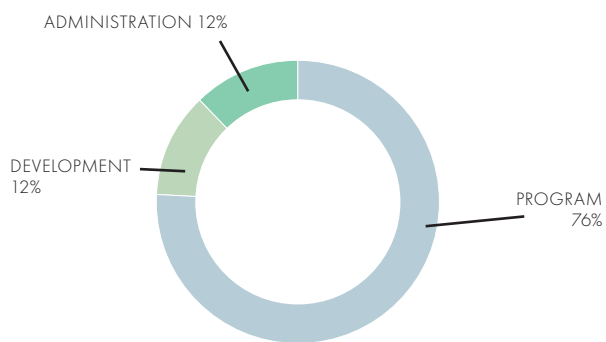


Celebrating 30
years of peace,
justice, & hope

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Revenue Total: \$599,753



Expense Total: \$513,343

*Program expenses include recruitment, training, and support of Overseas Lay Missioners, DC Service Corps volunteers, mission trip participants, and FMS' online ministry.

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WHERE LAY PEOPLE WORK FOR



peace, justice & hope



FMS is grateful for your prayers and support that have allowed this ministry of presence to thrive for 30 years. Thanks to your generosity, we enter this year of financial challenge from a place of stability, trusting that all will be well, even as we are unable to generate revenue from mission appeals and mission trips due to the pandemic.

Former DC Service Corps volunteer Kate Keeley created the artwork of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, inspired by FMS' Franciscan values.

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