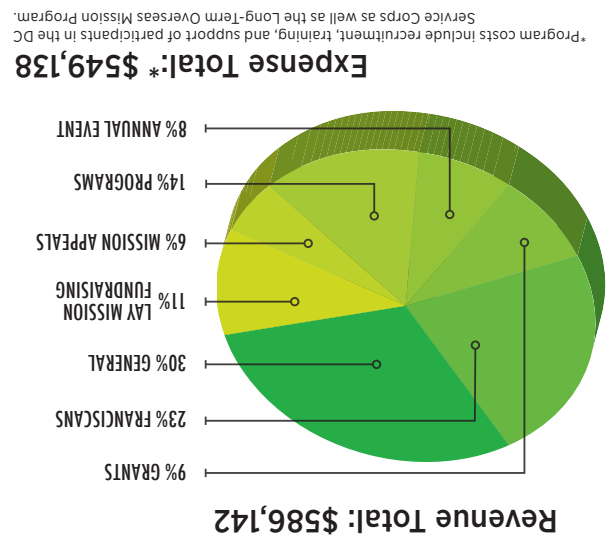
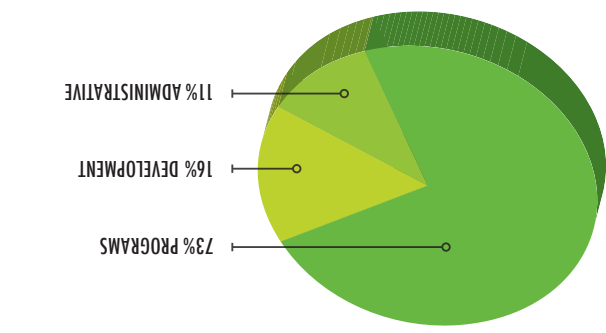




2018 Annual Report

St. Clare  
**WHAT YOU HOLD,  
 MAY YOU ALWAYS HOLD,  
 WHAT YOU DO,  
 MAY YOU ALWAYS DO,  
 AND NEVER ABANDON.**

With the words of St. Clare as a backdrop to all our ministries, the staff and board of Franciscan Mission Service are pleased to present our 2018 annual report. Holding what we have always held—a **commitment to justice, a mission-centered life, a Franciscan heart**—we share with you, in a special way, the story of our ministries over the past year. And, doing what we have always done, we recommit ourselves to be **bearers of peace and hope in the world**. Giving thanks for our blessings, we enter this new year secure in the knowledge that your continued prayers and support will allow us to heed Clare's words and never abandon the path of mission.



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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### OVERSEAS LAY MISSION

In a world that can overemphasize the value of newness, FMS is proud that some things, like our presence in Bolivia, Jamaica, and Guatemala, have remained consistent. Constancy is important because it means local communities can depend upon FMS' reliable support and are less affected by missionary turnover. It also means that FMS' Formation Program, carefully cultivated by generations of Franciscan and lay leaders, is deepened each year. During the past year, our seven missionaries have drawn on time-honored values to meet new needs, including facilitation of Skype-based group cello lessons in Jamaica and establishing a new partnership with a Bolivian organization that accompanies people with disabilities.

### ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

In early 2018, FMS re-established the returned missionary retreat with the financial support of Patrick O'Neill (class XVI) and the leadership of Jeff Sved and Hady Mendez (classes XXVIII and XXIX). Gathered for a weekend in the tranquil stillness of rural Maryland, 12 missionaries broke bread, prayed, and shared important conversations about staying true to the mission call after returning to the United States. "The retreat gave me the opportunity to continue to see the ways I've been transformed through choosing a different way of life," Jeff shared as he reflected on the fruits of the retreat. Details about next year's retreat will be shared soon. Stay tuned!

### WELCOME TO SUNDAY

Online ministry is an important component of FMS' ministries and shares the transformative experience of mission with all members of the FMS family and beyond. Through thought-provoking blogs, photos, and videos, FMS has steadily increased our mission-centered content with a special focus on engaging young adult Catholics. This year, Graphic Design Associate Alessia Catena, a member of DC Service Corps, created an image-driven series called "Welcome to Sunday." Through the series, weekly artistic creations, coupled with written reflections, invited social media followers to meditate on the Sunday Gospel, offering an opportunity for individual and communal prayer reflection.



### DC SERVICE CORPS

Five unique DC Service Corps volunteers, representing five states and five Catholic colleges, embraced a year of faith, service, community, and simplicity. Volunteers served at So Others Might Eat (SOME), Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, and in the FMS office. In post-program evaluations, 100% of volunteers strongly agreed that participation in DC Service Corps increased their understanding of the ministry of presence, rooted in the Franciscan charism. One volunteer shared, "It has been wonderful to have been able to make my first real 'professional' experience a ministerial experience as well."

### SHORT-TERM MISSION & GLOBAL AWARENESS TRIPS

Over the past year, FMS focused on deepening university partnerships, especially those with Franciscan universities. For the third consecutive year, students from Alvernia University participated in a week-long, FMS-led service immersion in Washington, DC. Internationally, Neumann University and St. Bonaventure University students experienced life at Valley of the Angels Orphanage in Guatemala through an FMS-facilitated trip. Finally, a delegation of young adults visited FMS' former mission partner in Carmen Pampa, Bolivia for a week of immersion in rural university life and local culture.

### WHERE WE'VE BEEN: WORLD CARE BENEFIT & CELEBRATION

FMS celebrated its annual World Care Benefit and Celebration honoring Fr. Ignatius Harding, OFM with the Anselm Moons award for Fr. Iggy's lifetime of service to God's people and decades of mission in Bolivia. The sold-out evening was filled with a remarkable energy, and we were grateful for the presence of friars and women religious from numerous provinces, many returned missionaries and program alumni, and generations of the FMS family. Save the date for FMS' 2019 World Care Benefit and Celebration on Friday, April 5 at St. Francis Hall in Washington, DC. We are honored to welcome Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. as our keynote speaker.