



## OVERSEAS LAY MISSION

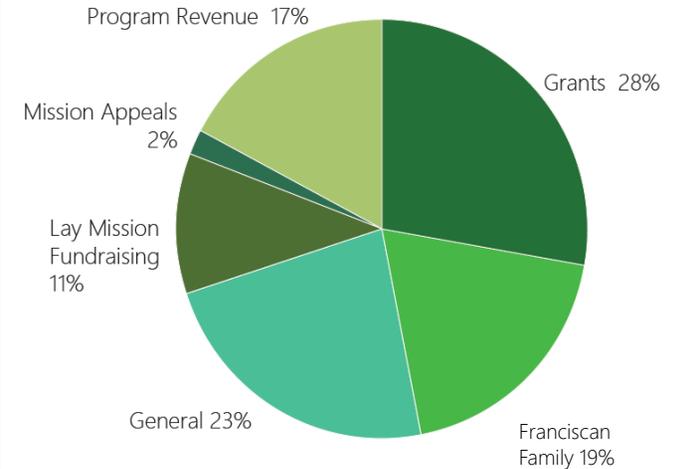
Embracing the Franciscan values of solidarity and humility, five FMS overseas lay missionaries accompanied marginalized and oppressed individuals in Bolivia, Jamaica, and our new mission site on the US-Mexico border. After three months of Formation at Casa San Salvador in Washington, D.C. last fall, five new missionaries began the next stage of their mission journey during an in-person, outdoor Commissioning mass at St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring, MD. Fr. Larry Hayes OFM, Parochial Vicar at St. Camillus and an FMS Board member, presided. [With the help of Facebook Live](#), members of the FMS family near and far prayerfully lifted up the missionaries. Rhonda Eckerman, now serving on the border, reflected, **“As with so many other times in my life, I feel the Holy Spirit bringing me a sense of comfort and peace through this transition. I know I can rely on God’s presence and direction as I begin this new life on the US-Mexico border.”**



## LIFELONG MISSION

FMS overseas lay missionaries and DC Service Corps volunteers are committed not just to a year or more of mission, but to a lifetime of living out faith, peace, and justice in the Franciscan tradition. During the past year, FMS created a [new online forum](#) to tell DC Service Corps community stories and share an FMS gallery of artistic talent. In addition, the Lifelong Mission Committee, composed of program alumni, led the remote series *Recipe and Reflection* which offered monthly opportunities for alumni to gather for conversation, reflection, and a shared meal. The committee also organized an alumni mentoring program for DC Service Corps.

## Revenue Total: \$498,160.92



## Expense Total: \$483,946.50

## DC SERVICE CORPS



In a year of isolation and uncertainty, seven young adults from across the country came together to volunteer with FMS and partner non-profit organizations for a meaningful year of service. These volunteers creatively faced the numerous challenges of the pandemic by intentionally cultivating their community life at Casa San Salvador, from organizing a murder mystery night to water tubing during their retreat at a nearby Maryland state park. They used their unique gifts and talents in their placement sites which included the Father McKenna Center, the United States Catholic Mission Association, and the FMS office. This year, we also began a partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a new placement site. FMS is grateful for this group who served with a spirit of generosity, commitment, and resilience despite many unknowns.

## SERVING IN THE PANDEMIC



In the 2020-2021 program year, FMS was one of the only lay mission organizations to continue forward with Formation both in-person overseas and in-person domestic mission placements. Looking back on the past year, the FMS staff and Board are filled with a sense of awe and gratitude—awe, because the pandemic challenged FMS to try new ways of continuing FMS traditions and building community, and gratitude, because the faithful support of the extended FMS family allowed programs to survive—and thrive—during economically uncertain months. Thank you to everyone who attended an online donor appreciation mass, spread the word about our online Discernment Days, prayed for our [missioners and volunteers](#) when ministries moved online, and connected with FMS in a year that was often marked by being [“alone, together.”](#)

