



Franciscan Renewal Center

Peace. Renewal. Good.

Gratitude Report • Fiscal Year 2024 • Lifelong and Ongoing...Serving the Casa Community



In 1951, the Casa de Paz y Bien began as a Catholic retreat center in Scottsdale, Arizona. Now, as the Franciscan Renewal Center (still affectionately called the Casa) we offer opportunities for spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and service to others. The Casa was founded by and is today an active religious community of the Order of Friars Minor, following the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa works cooperatively with the Diocese of Phoenix.

Activities at the Casa include:

- *daily and Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Church*
- *meetings and conferences for religious and nonprofit groups*
- *individual therapy and counseling*
- *support groups*
- *education, retreats, and events*
- *faith formation for all generations*
- *volunteer ministries in, including those in service of the poor and vulnerable*

Discover more at thecasa.org

Find us on social media: [TheCasaFRC](#)

Dear friend,

We are humbly grateful for your generosity and passion for the Casa's mission. You believe in the friars' approach to Christian living, energized by collaboration with the laity. The abundance of healing, hope, and community on these sacred grounds would not be possible without you. Let's celebrate our shared work of renewing lives in 2023-2024:

- Sponsored retreat attendance grew by 30%, with a 98% approval rating.
- The highest ever number of adults and youths entered the Catholic faith through our RCIA (OCIA) program.
- The new Whole Community Ministry provided intergenerational opportunities for people to grow their faith.
- 18,000 nonprofit members from around the world came here for hosted retreats and conferences.

The enduring success of the Casa is fostered by a 73-year history of long-term planning and fiscal responsibility. This year, we invited the entire community to a 25-year Visioning exercise to form the aspirational basis for our next 5-Year Strategic Plan. We look forward to sharing the results with you in 2025.

The heartfelt testimonials in this report illustrate the continued hunger for our ministries and services. And while each story is unique, a common thread runs through them—community. When meaningful opportunities are met with compassionate people, great things happen!

With grateful hearts,

Charles Brown, Executive Director
Franciscan Renewal Center

Fr. Page Polk, OFM, Rector
Our Lady of the Angels Church

Renewal through Spiritual Growth



The Holy Spirit led me to the Casa through my love of music—and what a journey it has been. My first encounter was as a new member of the handbell choir when we performed at the Feast of St. Francis Mass. It was so beautiful and moving that I returned the following Sunday to be fully present with the worshiping community. As a faith seeker, I felt welcomed and inspired to join the Catholic Church through the Casa's Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

program and was Confirmed at the Easter Vigil this year.

As Christians, we are called to accompany one another through life's moments. I have truly felt seen and supported here at the Casa, especially by my sponsor, Maggie, who walked alongside me during my initiation journey. When the community prayed over us during the Rite of Welcoming, it was miraculous. I really felt the Holy Spirit. There is nowhere else I have felt that connected, all together, with the same vision, in one location.

My faith gives me the courage to face each day. It allows me to express gratitude and help others, and I turn to it in times of suffering. My faith has also encouraged me to join the Young Adult Ministry team. Through these programs, I

can discuss with my peers living out our faith with its joys and hardships and how we can listen to and serve other young adults in our community.

Like the church bells outside Our Lady of the Angels that ring throughout the day, calling people to church or prayer, the handbells—that invitation, that opportunity—called me to this community. — *Chloe Larson*

2024 Highlights Include:

- 2,007 registered members of Our Lady of the Angels Church
- 207 families (276 children) registered for Family Ministry
- 52 infant Baptisms
- 85 students completed their Sacraments
- 22 adults/youths Confirmed through OCIA
- 1,017 spiritual direction sessions

Renewal through Healing & Transformation



When I first attended Mass at the Casa with a friend in the late 1970s, I had not attended church for quite a while. I knew immediately I had found my spiritual home. When my husband was diagnosed as terminal, he acquiesced to calling a priest “only from the Casa.” Father Alonso answered our plea, and it was a glorious sight to see Harry's

countenance after his visit. After Harry's death, the Casa became a healing haven for me. I found purpose in volunteering for as many ministries, committees, and tasks as possible.

My daughter Karla, who also loved the Casa, died a few years ago. I cannot begin to tell you the love and care showered upon me. The healing from losing both of my family members continues at my peaceful, caring home, known as the Casa.

The many retreats and conferences I have attended are enlightening no matter what one seeks — information, solace, prayer time, silence, etc. I have not missed

an Easter Retreat since 1998. I look forward to beginning each day with morning Mass, followed by a friendly gathering of folks we call “The Coffee Group.” I am filled with heartfelt gratitude for the many friars, community members, and staff who have walked with me in moments of grief and loss...and moments of joy. It is my wish that everyone could have a “Casa” – a special place they call home.

— *Beth Koehnemann*

2024 Highlights Include:

- 2,504 participants in healing and educational programs
- 485 behavioral health therapy sessions
- 41 clinical supervision sessions for therapists in training

Renewal through Service to Others



The Franciscan Renewal Center has been a source of encouragement, retreat, and refuge for our growing association of spiritual directors for the past seven years. ESDA (Evangelical Spiritual Directors Assoc.) held our first Gathering retreat at the Casa in 2017 with about 50 attendees. In 2024, our Gathering sold out for the first time in just a few weeks as we used every accommodation available and tried to maximize the meeting and dining space to have capacity for as

many commuters as possible. Our last Gathering held 120 spiritual directors who are hungry for fellowship and communion with God and with each other.

The meeting spaces at the Casa have provided exactly what we needed for large and small group gatherings. Our spiritual directors have reported year after year how they love the beauty of the Casa, walks in the healing garden, the labyrinth, and the services they have attended while on campus. The accommodations are exactly what our group needs, and we hear consistently that our directors enjoy this space, love the food, and treasure their time at the Casa. I have watched so many groups of directors connect with one another and receive the ministry of this place.

As ESDA grows each year—our association is now at 1,200 members—our desire is to remain at the Casa as long as we are able. The Casa is truly a sacred space for us. It is a place where God has met us, worked among us, and renewed us so we may go out and continue the ministry to which we have been called.

— Kelly Arabie,
ESDA & Grafted Life Ministries

2024 Highlights Include:

- 432 non-profit groups for retreats/conferences (70 new to the Casa)
- 706 private retreatants (165 out of state/12 international)
- 500+ blankets collected for Andre House
- 2 tons of food collected for area food pantries
- 278 community service opportunities

Our mission in action and in celebration | 2024 Volunteer Ministries

ADULT EDUCATION, RETREATS, ADMINISTRATION

- Administrative
- Church Art Tour Docents
- Fine Arts
- Hosts/Check-Ins
- *The Saint John's Bible* Docents

FACILITIES

- Gardeners/Grounds
- Kitchen Crew

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- Adult Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Whole Community Ministry

FAITH IN ACTION (part of Faith Formation)

- Act, Love, Walk, Justice Formation the Franciscan Way
- Andre House Bin Transportation
- Care for Creation

- Casa Grounds for Solidarity
- Casa Habitat for Humanity
- Casa Valley Interfaith Project
- Casa Veterans Ministry
- Engaging Spirituality/Contemplative Justice Spirituality Programs
- English as a Second Language
- Hunger Action Ministry
- *Just* Scripture
- Matthew 25: Serving Asylum Seekers
- Peace Ministry

GUEST SERVICES

- Guest Ambassador
- Guest Services Desk Volunteer

LEADERSHIP

- Board of Directors
- Board Formation & Governance Committee
- Building Committee
- Development Committee
- Finance Committee
- Gratitude Team

LITURGICAL

- Altar Linens
- Art & Environment
- Cantors
- Choir
- Counters
- Donuts and Coffee Hospitality
- Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
- Handbell Choir
- Hospitality
- Lectors
- Liturgical Movement
- Livestreaming
- Prayer Partners
- Sacristans
- Sick & Homebound

THERAPY, SUPPORT, AND COUNSELING

- Volunteer Psychotherapists
- Support Group Facilitator
- Intern

Fiscal Accountability at the Casa

As reported from the Board of Directors

Fiscal 2024 Chair Diane Catlin and Treasurer Linda Christian

For the fiscal year 2024 the Franciscan Renewal Center continued to focus on spiritual growth, healing, and renewal. The community members' generous support and revenues from programs and conferences furnished a foundation of resources for essential needs. Engaging liturgies, retreats, and programs, coupled with conference and lodging space options for non-profits, provided support for operations.

The Franciscan Renewal Center continues to benefit from the diligent and dedicated efforts of the friars, staff, volunteers, and paid professionals who cooperatively share time and expertise to review, scrutinize, oversee, and govern all fiscal matters. Their efforts, in conjunction with the Finance Committee and FRC Board of Directors, ensure compliance with all accounting and legal requirements to provide accurate financial reporting in line with specific non-profit industry regulations. More importantly, these individuals confirm that financial gifts and the underlying controls over the receipt and use of these gifts are treated in accordance with the donor's intention and are in line with budgetary constraints. Oversight enhances stability and ensures effective cash and financial management.

Through the generosity of community members, friends, non-profit entities, and foundation grants, the Franciscan Renewal Center maintained operations under strict expenditure guidelines to effectively operate within its financial means for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2024. We are blessed by God's grace to share the following financial highlights of fiscal 2024:

Ongoing Operational Activities

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Support from Programs and Services Offered* | \$ 6,113,585 |
| Less Related Expenses | (5,605,973) |
| Net results for ongoing operational needs** | \$ 507,612 |

* These revenues include core operations and unrestricted gifts. Gifts or grants for specified purposes are restricted and managed under the requirements of the donor's intention.

** These funds support future construction-related needs and escalating staff and other inflationary expense areas. For fiscal year 2024, the Meetings and Conference net results and interest revenue on cash holdings contributed to the overall net operational result excess.

Construction Update

During fiscal year 2024, generous community gifts and grants supported new roadways throughout the property, the installation of additional solar panels which ease the escalating electricity costs, the completion of the fiber optic infrastructure, campuswide landscaping efforts, lighting projects, air conditioning units throughout the property, various room repairs and renovations, roofing needs, various kitchen needs, utility replacements, various renovations and equipment for the friary, and other infrastructure improvements. Work began on the Rose Court renovations which will be completed during the autumn months of 2024. Construction efforts were funded through operating results or funds dedicated for those purposes. All construction efforts remain debt-free.



Discover the Vision Tour Team



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Social Media: [TheCasaFRC](https://www.facebook.com/TheCasaFRC)

The Franciscan Renewal Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Endowment

Investments restricted to Endowments totaled \$7,006,518 as of August 31, 2024. In line with the overall policy in place, the FRC uses a small percentage (4% of a three-year rolling average) of these funds to support ongoing operations. The gifts made to the endowment fund will financially assist the current operations while providing a stable base of support for future generations.

For information on making a gift to support the Endowment or ongoing Sustainability, please visit www.thecasa.org under "Donate" or email Christopher Meyer at Christopher@thecasa.org.



For the complete Franciscan Renewal Center Annual Financial Statements and to download a copy of this report, visit thecasa.org/about-the-casa

Your support continues to enhance and strengthen our mission. Thank you for your generosity.