In 1951, the “Casa de Paz y Bien,” or simply “the Casa” – began as a Catholic retreat center in Paradise Valley. Now as a renewal center we offer opportunities for spiritual growth, healing and transformation that moves lives into the service of others.

The Casa was founded by and is today an active religious community of the Order of Friars Minor – part of the worldwide Franciscan family, following the footsteps of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa is a wholly owned entity of the Franciscan Friars Province of Saint Barbara, based in Oakland, Calif., that works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.

Activities at the Casa include daily Mass, Sunday services, private retreats, gathering space for non-profit groups, as well as 50 volunteer ministries that assist the poor or vulnerable, empower individuals to improve their circumstances, and build community fellowship. Discover more at thecasa.org

Dear Friends,

The Franciscan Renewal Center (the “Casa”) is built on a strong foundation of community. As individuals and together, we work to see beyond obstacles and build better lives. We reach out with optimism and determination and open doors to renewal that reveal a brighter future.

In this 2015 Annual Ministry Report, you will see holistic snapshots of the Casa’s accomplishments and our Franciscan approach to renewing lives. Our community continues to grow; often people tell us that they didn’t find the Casa – the Casa found them. Whether they come here to worship, attend a retreat, take a class or hold meetings for their nonprofit organization, we welcome all with Franciscan hospitality.

Thanks to our generous donors, we reached our fundraising goal and completed the RENEWING LIVES Capital Campaign on August 31. This means we soon will have the facilities to welcome even more individuals and families who need our resources and community.

We live in hope, knowing that our collective efforts are what bring about the most positive change in ourselves, our community and our world. Our true success lies in the inspiring stories of people who come here and find new ways of viewing themselves in the world. There are many of these triumphs at the Casa; we’ve shared a few of them in these pages.

Peace and good,

Charles Brown
General Manager

Fr. Joe Schwab, OFM
Executive Director
The Casa’s community is key to Spiritual Growth

“As my husband and I entered the Casa’s grounds for the first time, there was no doubt that we had found our true place of worship. We had been attending a parish that was closer to our home, and fulfilling our ‘obligation’ each week, but we did not feel enriched. The congregation seemed to be there in body but not spirit.

Hearing the chatter of the Casa’s community before Mass seemed out of place, but after thinking about it, we realized this was God’s house and the chatter evoked joy – just as you would find when entering the home of a friend. This place is truly sacred.” – Carol Young

Joyful celebrations of liturgy, music and fellowship continue to draw more friends to the Conventual Church of Our Lady of the Angels (OLA). More than two dozen liturgical ministries serve the needs of our community, including our Family Catechesis Program that invites all generations of a household to engage with their children’s faith formation; our pastoral ministers who visit the sick in their homes or in the hospital share Holy Communion; and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for people who wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Faith.

2015 Highlights Include:
• 340 new families were welcomed to the OLA worship community, ending the fiscal year with a total of 2,365 registered families (+17% from FY2014).
• A new Young Families Ministry was established to serve children from infancy to 6-years-old.
• $1,090,166 in Sunday collections from our generous community.
• Our Middle School Youth Ministry doubled the teens and tweens (from FY2014) who gather to grow in faith, serve others and build meaningful relationships.

The Casa’s community is key to Healing & Transformation

“As a long-time member of the Casa, still suffering from the death of my father, I turned here...unemployed, angry and feeling betrayed. Here I began working to heal myself. I joined Valley Interfaith Project as a Core Team member and became involved in the Employment Healing Ministry. I let others support me and found a place where I could be somebody else – not just an unemployed person, but someone with passion and value. The work, my faith and this place are what made the difference for me. I believe in the connectedness of the Casa’s community and what we can create together.” – Elisa Mongeluzzi

Many people come to the Casa when they are vulnerable and need healing for their emotional and spiritual wounds. Hope and guidance are available through traditional one-one-one counseling with licensed behavioral health therapists. Support groups offer a compassionate community of people with common experiences who listen and understand in a safe environment. Contemplative retreats, workshops and classes help build new strength and gain new insights. This healing leads to transformation and a more engaged view of the world.

2015 Highlights Include:
• An estimated 5,500 hours of donation-based counseling was provided; no one is ever turned away due to lack of funds.
• 20 licensed, professional behavioral health counselors volunteered their time as an outreach to the community.
• A 94% approval rating from participants of retreats, workshops and classes.
• Continuing education classes for licensed counselors.
The Casa's community is key for Service to Others

From 1983-2012, I was a doctor caring for veterans, including young men suffering from AIDS. The Casa was the first church in the Valley to open its arms to those living with AIDS when other churches abandoned them.

Now I work with the Casa's Outreach to Veterans and Military Families Ministry, where we help that population to heal spiritually. And our St. Joseph Baskets provide new household goods to homeless veterans who have been placed in permanent housing. This is my calling, and I found it here, at the Casa.” – Rebecca Hawkins, M.D., recipient of the 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award at the 21st Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness

The Casa’s community is dedicated to serving the poor and promoting justice, peace and care for all of God’s creation. Through Faith in Action, our 17 outreach ministries tackle social injustices in our own backyard, surrounding communities and Mexico. Our Meetings and Conferences Outreach provides an affordable wellness plan and sacred space for nonprofit organizations from around the country and the world to recharge and refocus on their missions. We take action to help heal our earth, clothe the homeless and advocate for the marginalized.

2015 Highlights Include:

- Overall, 900 volunteers served 75 ministries.
- We developed a more comprehensive veterans program to include an outreach to support military spouses, significant others and children of all ages.
- 23,592 individuals from nonprofit organizations (+28% from FY2014) came here to recharge and refocus for their missions.
- $20,598 in food cards and cash was donated to our Native American missions.

Financial result summary

Through the generosity of thousands of community members, friends and foundational grants, the Casa was able to meet the demands of a changing population and operate within a balanced budget for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015. With your support we continued to create inspired opportunities for spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and service to others, while preparing our campus for future growth.

Fiscal 2015 revenues

A Ministerial Services1 31% $1,304,299
B Liturgical & Pastoral Services 31% $1,325,113
C Fundraising – Sustainability 30% $1,275,361
D Gifts & Grants (non-capital) 5% $212,053
E Other Revenues2 3% $106,868
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES $4,223,694

Fiscal 2014 revenues

F Ministerial Services1 15% $606,300
G Liturgical & Pastoral Ministries 13% $542,594
H Guest Services1 31% $1,258,481
I General and Administrative 23% $923,835
J Fundraising – Sustainability 6% $253,475
K Net Investment Activities4 2% $70,142
L Depreciation Expenses 7% $305,291
M Other Non-Operating Expenses 3% $132,092
TOTAL EXPENSES $4,092,210

Capital Campaign

CAPITAL RAISED THIS YEAR Pledge or Cash $6,886,223
TOTAL CAPITAL RAISED Since inception through August 31, 2015 $21,164,353**
**Includes $3,125,000 in planned gifts
CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS THIS YEAR* $2,191,538
TOTAL CAMPAIGN COSTS Since inception through August 31, 2015 $5,782,987**
**Includes $1,717,849 in administration costs

1 Ministerial Services include Adult Education (Sponsored Programs), Hosted (Meetings & Conferences) Counseling and Faith in Action
2 Other Items include Gift Shop, Food Service Donations, Recycling Income and miscellaneous general or temporarily restricted funds for specified uses other than capital or endowment.
3 Guest Services includes Facilities, Food Service, Housekeeping and Reception.
4 Unrealized loss activity in August, generated an overall net decrease for investments for the fiscal year.
5 Includes construction-related expenses resulting in increased fixed assets (via either a new asset placed into service or construction in progress) which represents an increase in the property fund

For more detailed information, please refer to the complete Franciscan Renewal Center Annual Financial Statements available online at thecaso.org
Fiscal accountability at the Casa

The Franciscan Renewal Center (FRC) operates under a unique governance structure, involving friars, staff, and volunteer professionals who cooperatively share time and expertise to support the community as a whole.

Day-to-day operations are jointly led by a member of the Order of Friars Minor, serving as Executive Director, with a General Manager from the laity. Together they report to and receive guidance from the Provincial Board and the FRC Board of Directors – comprised of community members with professional expertise in various disciplines ranging from investment planning, law, technology, healthcare leadership, education and more. Within the Board, the FRC Finance Committee includes Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and individuals with various business and financial expertise.

Each year, the Board of Directors and Finance Committee present the financial position of the FRC and related statements of activities and cash flows in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors thoroughly reviews statements to ensure they are free of material errors and omissions. Further, the Board Chair and Treasurer, along with the Executive Director and General Manager, review materials and are in agreement that they represent the current financial standing of the organization. The FRC follows Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other legal and reporting guidelines established for non-profit organizations.

Presented here is a summary of those documents for the fiscal year 2014-15, ended Aug. 31, 2015. It is only through such generous community interaction that the Casa remains a place that welcomes all and serves all.

Doug Olesen
Chairman, Board of Directors

Alanna Mack, CPA
Treasurer, Board of Directors

Our values in action and in celebration

Some of our volunteer ministries during 2014-2015 in support of spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and service to others included:

FAITH IN ACTION
- Apache Fair Trade
- Care for Creation
- English as a Second Language
- Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate
- Franciscan Missions
- Casa Builders
- Just Faith, Just Matters, Engaging Spirituality and Just Scripture
- Beyond Just Faith
- Season for Nonviolence
- Valley Interfaith Project
- Veterans & Military Families

SUSTAINABILITY, CAPITAL & LEADERSHIP
- Champion Team
- Board of Directors
- Board Finance & Governance Committee
- Building Committee
- Campaign Cabinet
- Church Design Sub-Committee
- Finance Committee
- Gratitude Team
- Community Life Center Design Sub-Committee
- Community Gifts Committee
- Planned Giving Sub-Committee
- Sustainability Committee

COUNSELING
- Volunteer Licensed Behavioral Therapists
- Counseling Office Aide

LITURGICAL
- Altar Linens
- Art & Environment
- Bread bakers
- Care & Consolation (Bereavement)
- Cantors
- Choir
- Casa Children’s Celebration
- Family Catechesis
- Hospitality
- Baptism Aide
- Newcomers
- Lectors
- Liturgical Movement
- Ministers of the Eucharist
- Pace Minore
- Prayer Partners
- RCIA
- Sacristans & Mass Coordinators
- Sick & Homebound
- Sacrament Preparation for Children
- Young Adults
- Youth Ministries
- Young Families