Foundations for Renewal
Annual Ministry Report • Fiscal Year 2018

In 1951, the “Casa de Paz y Bien,” or simply “the Casa” — began as a Catholic retreat center in Scottsdale. 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, California, 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 volunteer ministries that assist the poor or vulnerable, empower individuals to improve their circumstances, and build community fellowship.

Discover more at thecasa.org

Dear Friend,

The success of our shared work begins with respectful and sincere relationships. Together, friars, staff and community members create the Casa’s welcoming and supportive environment that people have relied on for nearly 70 years. And in a time when there is constant talk of “us” and “them,” the Casa remains an accepting place for everyone. In Fiscal Year 2018, an estimated 155,000 visits were made to the campus by people seeking spiritual growth, healing, transformation and ways to serve others. We are building strong foundations for renewal. Some of the work we’ve accomplished this year includes:

- As the first faith-based organization to be accepted as part of the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, we are leading the effort to have faith communities respond to veterans’ needs. Through the Casa’s Veterans Ministry, we have established ourselves as thought leaders and a needed resource to expand these services in Arizona.
- 5,231 registrations for Adult Education programs, including retreats—a 37% increase over last year!
- Eucharistic Minister communion calls to the sick and homebound increased 70% from last year, and 12,500 more communions were shared at all liturgies. This tells us that in a wounded Church, the Casa is needed now more than ever.

Looking ahead, the completion of the Community Life Center in mid-2019 will provide additional space for meetings of various kinds, including the Casa’s inclusive Family Catechesis program and the many non-profit groups who provide essential services for the good of the general public.

Thank you for sharing in the Casa’s commitment to making the world a better place. We are changing lives, together!

Peace and good,

Fr. Joseph Schwab, OFM
Executive Director

Charles P. Brown
General Manager
Foundations for Spiritual Growth

We have three beautiful girls—Katherine is three years old, Hilary is almost seven, and Sarah Beth is 10. Sarah Beth has multiple handicaps, including cognitive, physical and social delays. It’s important that we don’t miss out on anything because of her disabilities, so we just try to be a normal family and do normal things as best as we can.

When we saw pictures of our friends’ children going through the sacraments, it dawned on us that maybe that was something Sarah Beth was not going to be able to do. A local church told us Sarah Beth could not participate in the preparation class with the other children. She would need to be home schooled, and we would have to adapt the curriculum. There wasn’t much collaboration, and it was just going to be us giving Sarah Beth information that may not have been meaningful to her.

Then we called the Casa, and the Director of Family Catechesis said, “Of course you can participate, and we’re happy to have you!” There was so much joy and cooperation throughout the process, and the adaptive curriculum given to Sarah Beth was right up her alley. On the day of Sarah Beth’s First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Hillary said, “Oh, Mommy, she looks like an angel!” And she did. She was just beautiful inside and out. –Stephanie and Justin

2018 Highlights Include:

• 116,565 communions shared at liturgies
• 4,081 Sick and Homebound communion calls
• 2,284 families registered with the Conventual Church of Our Lady of the Angels
• 125 students enrolled in Family Catechesis
• 1,044 Spiritual Direction sessions

Foundations for Healing & Transformation

When my wife told me we were headed for divorce, my foundation began to crumble. I thought life as I knew it was over, and it would never be good again. Soon after, I was driving down Lincoln Dr. and felt everything closing in on me, all the negatives surfacing at once. Then I realized I was in front of the Casa.

I walked up to the receptionist and started to cry and said, “I think I am getting divorced, and I don’t know what to do.” That’s when I learned about the divorce support group, and it was just enough to give me hope.

I went to the meeting and met people in the exact spot that I was in. Their stories gave me a sense of not being alone, and the education that followed gave me a new outlook on life. I continue to go to the group every Monday night to be a source of strength and hope to the newcomer.

I was led to the Casa that day—very close to what I thought was the end—and I began to heal. I learned to see life from a new perspective and have made lifelong friends in the process. I find more joy in life today than I could have ever imagined. –Stephen

2018 Highlights Include:

• 253 veterans participated in no-cost or reduced-cost healing retreats
• 50 mothers and fathers from around the country found hope and healing at an Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents retreat
• 5,500 estimated hours of donation-based, behavioral health counseling provided; no one is ever turned away due to lack of funds
• 353 private retreatants were provided with a peaceful place for rest, renewal and prayer
• 99% approval rating from program participants
I suffered from emotional, spiritual and physical abuse for most of my life. The abuse first came at the hands of a trusted uncle, and I felt like a sinner and unworthy of love. Then two violent marriages followed. When both of my sons were born with major medical issues, I prayed for God to stop punishing me by making my children suffer. The saving grace was that my second marriage, and subsequent divorce, brought me to Scottsdale—and that’s when I found the Casa.

I visited the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and asked God to send me a sign for what to do next. And I saw a sign—literally! On the marquee was an invitation to the Casa’s Catholics Can Come Home program. From there, I met with a friar who told me I had it all wrong—God was not punishing me for making bad choices. The real sin was that I didn’t love myself.

I began to understand this loving God. I started to feel I belonged...I built relationships in the community, continued monthly meetings with a spiritual director and a friar. I worked with the Casa’s Sick and Homebound ministry and many other liturgical ministries that helped me grow and learn to believe in myself. I am so blessed that the friar who told me I had it all wrong, took the time to help me get it right. –Gwendolyn

2018 Highlights Include:
• 865 volunteer opportunities filled across all Casa ministries
• 24,460 bottles of water provided for the homeless
• 75 St. Joseph Baskets delivered to newly housed veterans
• 1,833 pounds of Fair Trade coffee sold
• 10 homes built with the help of Casa Habitat builders
• 23,396 nonprofit guests for meetings and conferences
• 1,046 people experienced a Discover the Art tour in the Our Lady of the Angels Conventual Church
• 55,645 meals served to program participants and nonprofit guests
Fiscal Accountability at the Casa
As reported from the Board of Directors
By FY2018 Chairman Steve Lyons and Treasurer Alanna Mack, CPA, Retired

The Franciscan Renewal Center continues to be blessed by the diligent and dedicated efforts of friars, staff and volunteer professionals who cooperatively share time and expertise to review, scrutinize, oversee and govern all fiscal matters. Their efforts, in conjunction with the detailed work of the Finance Committee and FRC Board of Directors, ensure compliance with all accounting and legal requirements to ensure the financial reporting provided is accurate and in line with specific non-profit industry regulations. More importantly, these individuals ensure that financial gifts and the underlying controls over the receipt and use of these gifts are treated in accordance with donor intention and in line with budgetary constraints.

Through the generosity of thousands of community members, friends and foundational grants, the Casa was able to meet the needs and demands of a changing population and operate within its budget for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2018. 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. We are humbled to say that all construction efforts remain debt free.

We are pleased and proud to share the following financial highlights of fiscal 2018:

**Ongoing Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support from Programs and Services Offered</td>
<td>$4,590,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Related Expenses</td>
<td>($4,406,772)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net results to support on-going needs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$183,870</strong></td>
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**Endowment**

Investments restricted to Endowments totaled $4,750,969 as of August 31, 2018. 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. So, gifts made to the endowment fund financially assists both the needs of our 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 “Give.”

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Your Support continues to enhance and strengthen our Foundations for Renewal.

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**Construction Update**

with information provided since campaign inception through August 31, 2018

**TOTAL CAPITAL RAISED**

(via cash and pledged gifts)

$20,743,580*

*Includes actual receipts plus expected pledged gifts

**TOTAL CAMPAIGN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

$17,315,180**

**Includes $1,722,696 in administrative costs**

Through August 31, 2018, completed campaign-related projects include the church, renovation of certain sleeping and conference rooms, replacement of pool and surrounding plaza areas, construction of the Assisi building which houses 32 guest rooms, demolition of the Casita, and repurposing of Capistrano for the Children’s Celebration and Children’s Liturgy of the Word space.

During fiscal year 2019, construction begins on the greatly needed Community Life Center.

For more detailed information, please refer to the complete Franciscan Renewal Center Annual Financial Statements available online at thecasa.org under Newsroom & Financials.