

# Family of Friends

MAY 2009

*To seek out  
and  
advocate  
for the poor  
and needy,  
especially  
families,  
  
for the  
Kingdom  
of God.*

*Serving Those in Need*

*Children  
Families  
Elders*



*Abused  
Neglected  
Poor  
Distressed  
Sick*

photo credits: Old woman - Patrick Doherty; Teen - John Bailey; Child - St. Vincent's Day Home

# President's Message

May 2009

Dear Friends,

As I write this greeting the Church and the Sisters of the Holy Family are in the midst of Lent and celebrating the feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph with a special Sunday Evening Prayer.

It seems to me that those two saints are symbolic of our history and representative of our current mission. Patrick, the patron saint of the country-of-origin of many of our early Sisters, represents that aspect of our mission which "seeks out" and embodies hospitality. His capture as a youth, being sold into slavery in a foreign land, parallels our own contemporary desire to be engaged in anti-trafficking efforts. Patrick wrote "Whatever will come my way, whether good or bad, I may accept it calmly, and always give thanks to God, who has ever shown me how I should believe in him unfailingly without end." We can all use some of Patrick's confidence as we face the desire to help other people in our present economic situation.

We have always looked upon St. Joseph as our provider, a quiet, silent type who attends to his and our dreams. We inherit from him the ability to pay attention to God's word and put our decisions into action. We see him in action in his journeys to fulfill the law, protect, and save his family. Our foundress, Sister Dolores Armer, often placed our intentions before him. Once while making such a request Sister wrote "If you answer my request I will tell the Archbishop because he says you were a poor man and don't know anything about money."

So with those two great saints as a backdrop we invite you to read our current edition of "Family of Friends." In our desire to be sensitive to the economic changes all of us face, we have skipped a few issues. The current layout is designed to bring you up-to-date on our mission to children and families; our service to the frail and elderly; and our commitment to human rights and social issues. You may recall that in the past we have acknowledged our donors by name. We continue to be grateful for all your assistance, both financial and in kind; however, in keeping with the current economic situation, we have eliminated the donor roll in order to reduce the size of this issue.

We continue to hold you and your families in prayer. May you be blessed this Easter Season.

Sincerely,



Sister M. Gladys Guenther  
Congregational President



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# *“Love One Another As I Have Loved You”*

## **Mission to Serve Children**



*While the history of the Sisters has always been to seek out and advocate for underprivileged and underserved people, children have always had a particularly special place in the hearts of the Sisters. Today, the Sisters continue their historic commitment to childcare, while also reaching out to children in more dire straits.*

### **Court Appointed Advocate for Children**

It was Sister Carolyn Whited’s experience as a chaplain in a state prison that initially drew her to volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) first in Tulare County and currently in Stanislaus County. For the men Sister Carolyn came to know in the prison, the harm done to themselves and to others could not be undone. Surprisingly, seldom do these men see any connection between their situation now and its roots from their early lives.

Sister Carolyn was attracted to CASA by the possibility of, in some way, helping even one child through the labyrinth of traumatic situations at the time when that help is most needed.

Sister Carolyn has found that making this commitment as a volunteer advocate with CASA is very rewarding. Sister says that she knows of no other volunteer organization that is so effective in providing help to children who face so many difficult challenges.

### **MISSEY, Inc.**

MISSEY (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth) is a project based out of Alameda County that was created to respond to the epidemic of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially in the form of child/teen prostitution.

“Thanks to the generous support and love from the Sisters of the Holy Family, Missey now has three brand new, fully loaded, Dell laptop computers. These new computers have allowed Missey to enhance the Safe Place Alternative [SPA] services by providing the girls with designated computer stations for academic and employment related activities.”

“The Sisters of the Holy Family have also supported the SPA through in-kind donations of gift cards, personal care products and wonderful pampering essentials. Missey is deeply grateful to the Sisters of the Holy Family and looks forward to their continued support and partnership. Thank you, Sisters!”

## **St. Elizabeth's Day Home San Jose, California**

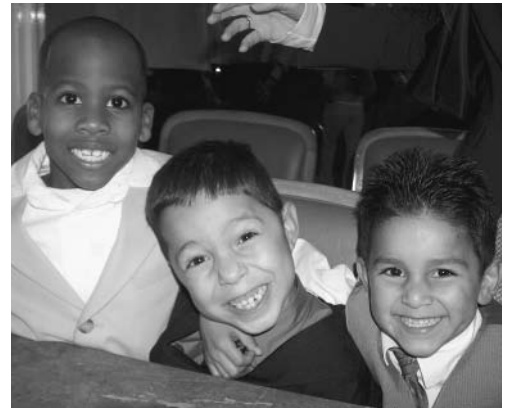
St. Elizabeth's Day Home was a pioneer in early childhood education and was the first childcare center of its kind when the Sisters of the Holy Family established it in downtown San Jose in 1907. When the Sisters opened the Day Home, they could not imagine how deeply their passion for the care of children would extend over the years and touch so many lives.

[www.stelizabethsdayhome.org](http://www.stelizabethsdayhome.org)

## **Holy Family Day Home San Francisco, California**

Holy Family Day Home is San Francisco's oldest early educational childcare center. The Day Home has been a "home away from home" for more than 15,000 children since 1900. The Day Home's highest priority is to help children develop positive self-esteem.

[www.holyfamilydayhome.org](http://www.holyfamilydayhome.org)



*"Saint Vincent's Day Home  
is one of the jewels in  
Oakland's crown." – Former  
Mayor Jerry Brown, City  
of Oakland*

## **Saint Vincent's Day Home Oakland, California**

The Sisters of the Holy Family founded Saint Vincent's Day Home in 1911 and turned over stewardship to the Day Home in 1992. The Sisters' continued involvement allows the Day Home to fulfill the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Family to help the "poorest of the poor." More than 32,000 children have passed through these doors.

Children talk about Saint Vincent's Day Home:

*"What is the best thing about the Day Home?"*

*Laying on your tummy and rolling over on the grass. My school is fun. – Alexis*

*Playing on computers, checkers, balls outside, jump rope. – Jeremiah*

*Learning about weather and places. – William*

*"Anything you would like to change about the Day Home?"*

*I would like to paint the school putting hearts and butterflies. – Vanessa*



## Serving the Frail & Elderly

*Ministering to the frail and elderly has always been a part of the charism of Sisters of the Holy Family. In recent years it has become an even larger focus for us. Many of our retired Sisters continue their ministry through volunteer efforts that serve the elderly.*

### Senior Day Health Center

Sister Charleen O'Brien works at Avenidas Senior Day Health Center in Mt. View, California where nursing care, social work, therapies and activities are provided for seniors. "The whole purpose of the Center is to make it possible for people to continue to live in their own homes as long as possible," Sister Charleen explains. "Some seniors spend five days a week at the Center, which allows their families to do other things, like go to a job or take care of children. Other seniors come to the Center one or two days a week, which gives their families a respite from caregiving. I dance with seniors and sing with them, take walks, do all kinds of things. Without a place like Avenidas to come to, many of our participants would be in a nursing home. I love being part of this work. From the time I was a really young Sister, I wanted to work with the elderly. For many years I worked with children in our Day Homes and now I work with seniors – I've gone from one extreme to the other and I've loved both."

### End of Life Care

After decades of ministering in many fields as a Sister of the Holy Family, in 2000 Sister Teresa Marie Stiegler answered a call to the most personal of ministries – to help her father care for her mother who was in her 80s and suffering with a multitude of health problems. Sister Teresa says, "Going home to Dunsmuir to help my parents, who have since gone home to God in January and February of this year, just seemed right and it happened like so many other opportunities in my life. I never had a goal to do one particular ministry, which is maybe why I have had the opportunity to do so many. It was like things just kept developing, so when my father asked me if I could come home and help, I said yes because it felt like this was just another area to serve. Once I was back in Dunsmuir, I also began working at the local hospital as a chaplain, which has been really rewarding and wonderful. Many of the people that I am ministering to I knew from my childhood,

which makes it very comfortable for them. And, they are almost like family to me. Working in a hospital is hard, but it is inspiring. A lot of the time I am working with people who are dying or whose loved ones are dying. When you meet with people in that situation, you are entering their life at a very poignant time. I feel blessed to be with them."



### Personal Ministry

Sister Jacinta Fiebig is retired and is enrolled as a participant in On Lok Lifeways' Fremont Center, the senior health program housed in a wing of our Motherhouse, but ministry still calls Sister Jacinta and she responds. "I find that if I just stay aware, I have many opportunities to minister to the staff and other participants at On Lok. Because I am going through the same struggles of coping with aging, I can often help in very simple ways." In addition, Sister Jacinta regularly home visits with several of the elderly residents of Oroysom Village, the affordable housing development next door to the Motherhouse. Sister Jacinta said, "When my health dictated that it was time for me to retire, I really struggled with it. Ministry has been my life. I am so thankful that I have found a way to continue to minister to people."

# Commitment to Social Issues

*The Sisters of the Holy Family began with one woman, Sister Dolores Armer, working in the poor neighborhoods of San Francisco, trying to ease the suffering and bring comfort to families in distress. Our Sisters continue to serve poor families and work at alleviating injustice.*

## Violence and Poverty in Oakland

Sister Elaine Marie Sanchez is a social worker at a parochial school in a very poor district in Oakland, California where she works with parents and families of students to help them with all kinds of problems. So often those problems are related to violence and poverty. Their neighborhoods are tough, and many of the students have been directly affected by crime, family members may be incarcerated, or parents are on drugs.

Sister Elaine Marie explains how her job has led her to become an advocate for the entire neighborhood, and for poor people throughout the city. "I don't just work in the school; my job is to be involved in the neighborhood and the issues in the neighborhood revolve around poverty and violence. So I have become a community organizer. I am part of a large interfaith group all working towards making inner-city Oakland a safer place for families. Community organizing is very grassroots. We work with people one-to-one, building a coalition of people who want the same thing – in this case, safe neighborhoods. Then together, as a large group, we approach local officials, asking them to take action...like putting more police in the neighborhoods or cleaning up known drug houses. We often do this at a large community event because it is very difficult for officials to ignore a group of 3,000."

Sister says, "Many of the kids I work with are hardened on the outside, because they have to be to survive, but inside they are so special and they deserve to have a better life."

## Housing Needs in Texas

Sister Jo Marie Arredondo works with Merced Housing, an affordable housing organization in San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio has some of the poorest neighborhoods with the highest percentage of low-income families of anywhere in the country.

Merced Housing develops and builds low-income housing projects to provide decent housing for these families. In addition, Merced Housing has other programs that rehab existing homes in poor neighborhoods. One of their programs repairs homes of seniors, many of whom have neither the funds nor the physical ability to make the repairs themselves. There is a huge demand for this help. Much of Sister Jo Marie's time is spent on the phone listening to the stories of people who need help. One house, one person at a time, the repairs are made and lives are improved, but the effect also goes beyond that one person. When homes are improved in a neighborhood, the entire neighborhood benefits.



photo by Eduardo Cervantes

*One house, one person at a time, the repairs are made and lives are improved*

# Human Trafficking in Las Vegas

Sisters Diane Maguire and Barbara Sheahan live and work in Las Vegas where recently they have both become heavily involved in the issue of human trafficking.

Sister Barbara said, "The sad thing is that until recently we were not aware of the human trafficking that is going on. We knew there was prostitution which, of course, is not good, but I never thought about the suffering of those women, many of whom are kept captive. What we have learned is that what we see on the streets is minor—most of the prostitution is hidden, and much of it involves human trafficking. When I hear details of what happens, I am appalled and sickened."

Sister Diane has become an active participant of a coalition of people from many walks of life that are coming together to address the problem of human trafficking, but they are doing it carefully. Sister explained, "This is no rinky-dink business, this is serious business involving huge amounts of money and these are dangerous people we are going up against. Right now we have three goals. The first is education to inform the public about the problem. The second is to get legislation that will encourage police to arrest the "johns" instead of the girls, who are often the victims themselves. Thirdly, we are working towards providing safe houses and services for girls who want to get out of the life they are leading. In order to leave, they need counseling, job training, alcohol and drug rehab, and a safe place to live."

photo by Elena Rostunova



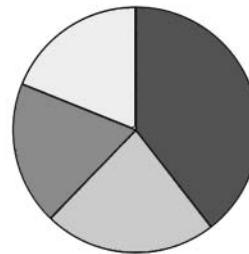
## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

### Sisters of the Holy Family

#### Current Fund Revenue and Expenses, October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

##### REVENUES

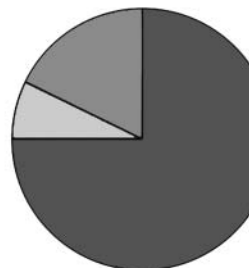
Member Compensation	\$ 1,268,873
Rental	\$ 737,388
Gifts, Guilds, Bequests	\$ 601,374
Social Security Income	\$ 609,745
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3,217,380</b>



- Member Compensation
- Rental
- Gifts, Guilds, Bequests
- Social Security Income

##### EXPENSES

Community Living	\$ 3,419,910
Health Care/Care Center	\$ 320,299
Support Services	\$ 813,031
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,553,240</b>



- Community Living
- Health Care/Care Center
- Support Services

**BALANCE FORWARD**      \$ -1,335,860

Note: In addition to the expenses above, SHF contributed \$628,453 to ministries and other needs consistent with our mission.

Revenue does not include realized/unrealized capital gains/losses in our investment portfolio.

An independent audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 is on file in our Finance Office.

## **Our Heartfelt Gratitude For These Grants and Bequests**

**Received January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008**

### **Grants**

Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation  
Fremont Bank Foundation  
The Gerber Foundation  
Trust Funds Incorporated  
Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation  
Y & H Soda Foundation

### **Bequests**

Estate of Daniel W. Archer  
Estate of Ray Flescher  
Estate of Monsignor Bernard J. Moran  
Ms. Anne E. Tacchi Revocable Trust  
Elbe C. Young Trust

### **Family of Friends**

Published by Sisters of the Holy Family of Fremont, California  
to inform our friends of the activities of the Congregation  
and to honor our generous donors.

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Sister Judeana Davidson  
SHF Congregational Councilors  
Sister Marietta Fahey  
Sister Guadalupe Partida

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