



STONE-BY-STONE PROJECT

AUGUST

Gateway Vincentian Volunteer Annie McCance begins her year of service here at the Franciscan Connection. A graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, Annie brings her expertise in computer graphic design to help us create flyers, photo pages, and other public relations media for our office, while learning basic home repair skills.

The Franciscan Connection launches it's first-ever Back-to-School Drive supplying over 120 children with paper, pens, folders, pencils, and other fun things for their first day back in the classroom. Special thanks to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oakville for hosting our collection.

The new Contractors' Committee meets quarterly to assist Stone-by-Stone project staff to better involve local tradespeople and home construction professionals in its home repairs ministry. Project adoptions will include a new porch, furnace inspections, multiple electric projects, and a basement leak patch by concerned individuals. In-kind contributions will garnish much-needed cleaning supplies, paint products, tools, and other building supplies from local friends and retailers, as well as a free dumpster for a large clean-up project.



SEPTEMBER

Jake Anderson, CBC student and son of a QU alumna, begins pitching in on various community service projects – from concrete patching and gardening to event photography and bulk mailings.

Tomek Krzysztozek, a friend from Poland, gives up a couple days of his vacation here in the United States to lend a hand with installing new siding on the back of the home of a Benton Park West widower.

Bro. Doug Collins, our home maintenance assistant for 2004-2005, makes his permanent vows in the Order of Friars Minor. Bro. Doug moved up to northern Michigan to help with the food pantry and other outreach ministries at Cross-in-the-Woods Shrine.

Retirees Wally Feld (St. Francis of Assisi Parish) and Marty Grade (St. Anselm Parish) return to help Bro. Donald and Annie on weekly home repair projects – tackling everything from garage doors and porches to leaky sinks and burned out buildings.

OCTOBER

Long-time volunteers, benefactors and friends are honored during our very first Franciscan Spirit Awards

Ceremony held in the friars' chapel at St. Anthony of Padua Church in South St. Louis. The day concluded with a special Transitus evening prayer with Franciscan priests, brothers, sisters and seculars from across the St. Louis metropolitan region.

Capuchin postulant Eric van Maarth begins his apostolic service period here at the Franciscan Connection, assisting in the office with data entry and in-coming calls and out in the field by tuckpointing a wall, tarping a roof, laying in ceiling tiles, and rehabbing a bathroom. Not bad for a guy who used to be afraid of ladders!

The youth group from First Evangelical Free Church help project staff scrub down kitchen walls and build an accessible countertop and cabinet unit for a wheelchair-bound mom.



Little Flower 6th graders spend a rainy Halloween afternoon washing the big storefront windows here at the Franciscan Connection office.

NOVEMBER

Master electrician Tom Zimmerman and Habitat for Humanity's E-team pitch in to restore a condemned home to livable condition for a single mom and her five children. The guys practically rewired the entire house over the course of just a few weeks. Stone-by-Stone Project Board member John Behl and friends followed up with drywall repairs and a bathroom renovation.

Over a dozen Secular Franciscans, friars and friends pitch in to fold, stuff, label and sort newsletters for our annual holiday appeal and bulk mailing.

The Stone-by-Stone Project Board meets quarterly to evaluate, expand and enhance services. Our heartfelt appreciation to chairperson, Joetta Kern, SFO, who served on the board for over five years and who continues on as an active volunteer at the center.

DECEMBER

Local Secular Franciscans and PSR students from Immaculate Conception Church collect 666 cleaning supply items for FC families.

Gateway Vincentian Volunteers spread a bit of holiday cheer singing Christmas carols on the front porches of some of our elderly FC clients. Misty-eyed, one senior confided, "I've lived in this neighborhood for over 35 years. This is the first time anyone ever came to my home to sing Christmas carols. What a treat!"

JANUARY

Thirty-plus employees from St. Anthony Medical Center in South County rekindle their Franciscan roots by sharing their Saturday with a low-in-

come family, patching walls, fixing broken windows, securing loose stair railings, replacing a missing downspout, and painting two bedrooms.

Annie McCance creates our new agency website to better share information and photos. Check it out for recent updates and special events: www.FranciscanConnection.org

Over 130 visitors attend our Franciscan Day of Celebration, enjoying time together in prayer, song and feasting. Among the highlights of the day were the motivational testimony given by Sr. Antona Ebo, FSM and a concert by Fr. Ferd Cheri, OFM's Gospel Crusaders from Bishop Althoff High School in Belleville. Displays reflected the wide range of Franciscan ministries and communities active across the Archdiocese, including friars, Poor Clares, Secular Franciscans, Quincy University, the Franciscan



Volunteer Program, and several religious sister groups. Special thanks to our Friend-Raising Committee which met monthly to organize the event!

FEBRUARY

The FC organizes an InterAgency Gathering at the St. Louis Public Library's new Grants & Foundation Center to teach home repair service providers ways to research possible funding for their programs

and efforts. Director Kim Parks leads the group of a dozen participants through a research simulation utilizing the library's resource software at the Gates Computer Lab.

Fontbonne students return to help project staff clean and organize the apartments of two senior citizens living at Alexian Court Apartments, creating healthier and safer living conditions for two elderly women who struggled to remain in independent living units.

Little Flower 7th graders share a bit of Valentine's Day TLC for the environment by picking up litter along Cherokee Street.

MARCH

FC staff team together with New City Fellowship's City Lights Program and InterVarsity for three weeks of intense Spring Break projects. Teams tackled a major kitchen renovation, a bedroom restoration, and a living room face-lift, touching the lives of three needy families.

APRIL

Annie "Vincent" completes her RCIA training and is received into the Roman Catholic faith during the Easter vigil at St. Francis Xavier College Church. In attendance are her parents, fellow GVV's, and other St. Louis friends.

Eight students and two teachers from Padua Franciscan High School journey down from Cleveland, Ohio





On the way back, the group stopped in Quincy, Illinois overnight to tour the university campus and to meet the friars there.

Quincy University Alumni participated in their annual Day of Service for a low-income south city family. Local graduates and their family members were joined by members of the National Alumni Board which met here in St. Louis that morning. Among the participants was QU president, Sr. Margaret Feldner, OSF, who jumped right in on painting and decorating two bedrooms for a single mom and her teen daughter.

MAY

After a rather cool spring, FC staff and volunteers shift to their long waiting list of outdoor projects, involving family members and two students from the Construction Careers Center in three large porch demolition and rebuilding projects.

JUNE

A final dash of repair projects as FC staff begin to compile its end-of-the-year statistics and service reports. Final meetings with project board and committees. Begin setting up calendar for 2006-2007 project year.

to participate in our second annual Franciscan Service Retreat. Together with FC staff, they cleaned out a cluttered basement, enclosed a back porch, mended a tattered fence and tackled a variety of other repair projects for a Puerto Rican widow living just around the corner from our office. During the week, the teens studied the



Bro. Thinh Van Tran, OFM begins his summer internship at the FC, sharing his Vietnamese heritage and language skills to better serve immigrant families here in South St. Louis.

Annie McCance completes her year of service as a Gateway Vincentian Volunteer and launches her own career as a computer graphic design specialist. She will be deeply missed! Our appreciation for all her work out in the field and on our new website and this newsletter.

lives of several Franciscan saints and reflected on issues of poverty in the world today. A closing liturgy was celebrated by project board member and Padua alum, Fr. Bob Sieg, OFM.

Memorials & Tributes

In Memory of

August E. Allgeyer
 Walter Birch
 Mr. & Mrs. George Carpenter
 Gene Chulick
 Irma Costello
 Leo Costello
 Ray Costello
 Tim Dangel
 Fr. Lou Davino, OFM
 Harette Drogolowicz
 Br. Loyola Freightman, OFM
 Constance Gierlasinski
 Joseph Grams, Jr.
 Kit Guy
 Rose Haloftis
 Ray & Liz Haskiewicz
 James Anthony Hernandez
 Laura Ann Hernandez
 George Karnia
 Robert R. Kountzman
 Elizabeth Louise Lachowicz
 Joseph Lachowicz, Sr.
 Joseph Lachowicz, Jr.
 Walter Anthony Lachowicz
 John LaMear
 Francis Middendorf
 Phoebe Middendorf
 Donald Mueller
 Genevieve C. Powell
 Justin & Elsie Pudlowski
 Mr. & Mrs. Herman Pluester
 Barbara Jean Reeves
 Rose & Joe Reeves, Sr.
 Joe Reeves, Jr.
 Bert Rosen
 Dolores Sandman
 Robert Sandman
 John D. "Jack" Stevenson
 Gertrude Marie Wittbrodt
 Robert Edward Wittbrodt
 Fr. Martin Wolter, OFM

In Honor of

Dobrowolski Family
 Huck & Kinsella Families
 Tad & April Steinberg

Newborns

Hunter Mueller
 Elizabeth Arlene Schwanz

Jubilee Celebration

Sr. Mary Rose of the
 Immaculate Heart of Mary, OSC

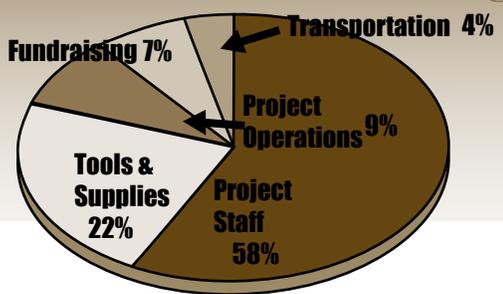
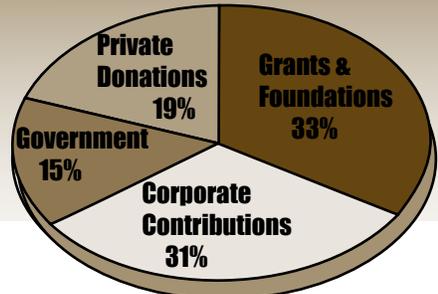
Received as Novices & Postulants

Sr. Mary Christiana of
 Our Eucharistic King, OSC
 Sr. Mary Joseph of the
 Hearts of Jesus & Mary, OSC
 Sr. Jessie Naven, OSC

Ordination

Father Stan Konieczny, SFO

STONE-BY-STONE PROJECT



Br. Eric van Maarth, OFM Cap.



Br. Think Van Tran, OFM

Grants & Foundations	\$33,000
Corporate Contributions	30,925
Government	15,000
Private Donations	19,311
Interest/Other	762
TOTAL	\$98,998

Project Staff Stipends (2)	\$44,310
Tools & Supplies	17,160
Transportation	2,863
Fundraising	5,509
Project Operations	6,708
TOTAL	\$76,523

Balance for 2006/2007 \$22,475

Project Statistics

STONE-BY-STONE PROJECT

- 59 homes repaired
- 156 lives touched
- 179 volunteers involved
- 10 professionals pitched in
- 2313+ hours of volunteer service
- Average supplies per home: \$273.05



Project Sponsors

STONE-BY-STONE PROJECT

- Ameren UE
- Daughters of Charity Healthcare Foundation of St. Louis
- Walter, Marie and Barbara Falk Family Foundation
- Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart
- Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis
- Incarinate Word Foundation
- Jewish Fund for Human Needs
- Kahn Foundation of Temple Israel
- Kellwood Foundation
- Lincoln Industrial
- National City Bank
- Quincy University Alumni
- Peter & Jane Reinecke
- Secular Franciscans of St. Clare Region
- Ruth M. & Francis A. Stroble Charitable Foundation
- Vatterott Foundation

- City of St. Louis
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- State of Missouri
- Neighborhood Assistance Program

Along with the help of generous churches, businesses, and individual benefactors like you!

For more information or to explore ways you can help, please contact us:



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