

Investing in Women Is Not Only the Right Thing to Do, It's the Smart Thing to Do

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Fifteen years ago, the landmark *United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women* voiced the critical need to address obstacles that inhibit the advancement of women and girls around the world. The UN recently reported that progress has been made by both the private and nonprofit sectors. Multi-national corporations, foundations and women's groups have committed to women's empowerment. A privately-funded initiative led by the Department of State provides high-impact, targeted grants to non-governmental organizations pursuing the plight of women and girls.

Our Sisters know that women and girls are one of the best investments one can make in the developing world. Women direct most of their energies and income to family needs and they play key roles in creating stable societies. The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation's *Fund for Women and Girls* supports education, vocational and skills-training, and healthcare in Senegal. In Italy, grants help victims of kidnapping for prostitution to transform their lives. In Brazil, after-school programs expand and enrich classroom learning.

There is so much more to be done. We hope you will join our efforts to help empower women to break from their cycle of poverty.



Sister Rose and students in Senegal

HAPPENINGS



Board members combined business with pleasure in Cincinnati where they held their recent Spring meeting, attended the "Reds" fundraiser and visited local programs: *Our Lady of the Woods*, *Haircuts from the Heart*, *Tamar's Place* and *the Barn*.

As you can see, Fr. Larry Ford and John Gormally enjoyed *Haircuts*.

Tamar's Place: It's a Matter of Survival

Most prostitutes are homeless. Many have addictions. Many are very young. They turn to prostitution to support their habits, as the work offers immediate financial gains not readily available elsewhere. According to police statistics, there are some 300 prostitutes of all ages in Cincinnati. They meet their customers in bars and on the streets. They sleep—when they sleep—on the street or in abandon buildings. Often they exchange sex for a place to stay or a meal.

Tamar's Place offers safe, temporary respite, emotional and spiritual nourishment away from the harassment, physical abuse and violence of the streets.

The sex trade is a system that is much easier to enter than to exit. Should a woman wish to change her life, *Tamar's* caring volunteers provide referral services and resources to help her devise the best strategy for navigating the system and improving her quality of life.

Access to drug rehabilitation programs, housing assistance, and employment opportunities is not readily available to these women but *Tamar's Place* services could help them redirect their lives. The goal of the program is to serve a minimum of 75 women each year and to refer 25 to *Off the Streets*.

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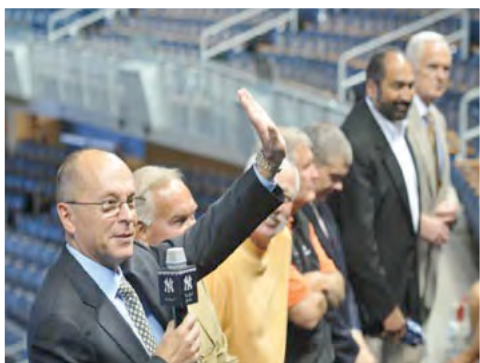
FOUNDATION ON THE MOVE



Tommy John, Goose Gossage, honoree Franco Harris and his wife Dana and Bobby Richardson.

It was an All Star season for the Foundation. Yankee greats Tommy John, Goose Gossage and Bobby Richardson, and Babe Ruth's granddaughter Linda Ruth Tossetti joined the Foundation Board, Sisters, and corporate sponsor BD to celebrate *Shining Moments in Yankee Stadium History*. The Sisters presented the inaugural *Mother Schervier Service Award* to honoree Franco Harris for his long-standing commitment to their work for the poor around the world.

In Cincinnati, friends gathered with event Chairman, Bob Castellini, Jr., Johnny Bench and Joe Morgan to help, "Strike Out Poverty" at the *All American Ball Park Experience*.



Event Chairman Bill Kozy, Sr. VP BD



Sisters and celebrities



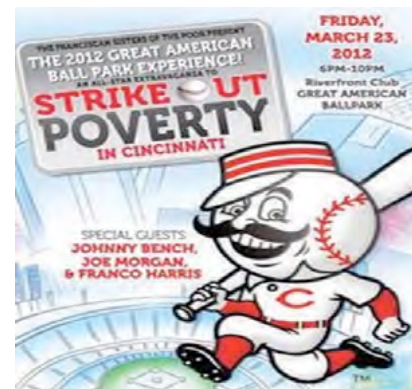
John Gormally and Linda Ruth Tossetti



Franco, Sr. Joanne and Tiziana, Bob Castellini



Denise and John Kuprionis, Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan



Kathy Kelly and her husband Dan Bareswilt



All Star Sisters



Jim Mahon and Annie Neal

HAPPENINGS

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While *Tamar's Place* is supported by dedicated volunteers, it is essential to have a professional counselor on staff. Only a trained counselor is equipped to address the many and complicated issues indigenous to this environment and a fragile population that is often drug addicted and mentally and/or physically ill.

The Sisters hope to engage the women themselves to help spread the word; to build partnerships to help others get clean, get a job and a life!



Tamar's director, Sr. Grace Miriam, with (left) Sr. Adelaide and Sr. Tiziana

Shelter of Hope

Our convent in the Philippines is nearing completion; the dedication is scheduled for mid-August. *The Shelter of Hope* continues to provide food for those in need, predominately the street children, the elderly and the physically challenged. The Sisters have taken a special interest in getting the children into safe and secure settings through orphanages sponsored by the Church. This is not an easy task. It requires plenty of work to convince the children, their parents and extended family. The Sisters also sponsor scholarships for young adults who have the potential and abilities for higher education but not the financial resources. Most of these students volunteer at the Shelter on a routine basis. This ongoing contact with them fosters deeper relationships.

The Barn

Spirituality Programs at the Barn seeks to nurture personal faith, inspire individual spiritual growth and foster an inclusive community. Programs in dance, music, art, crafts and yoga build upon the theory that spirituality and worship

can be enriched through all of the senses and need not take place only in a formal setting. The Sisters' envision the Barn as an essential spiritual center that will help others experience God's presence in their everyday lives.

The Youth Ministry provides opportunities for young people to learn and mature in their faith. Creative, vibrant, intergenerational activities, retreats, and discussion bring participants together as community in this unique environment. Since its renovation and reopening in 2008, the Barn has served some 400 guests on their spiritual journey under the direction of Sr. Joann Jackowski and a core group from the local community. Retreats, meditation, faith sharing activities, classes and community celebrations are created in response to the local community. Most are free to the public. For information, see the Barn website: <http://www.centennialbarn.org>.

Your gift to the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation is a lifeline to those in need.

\$5 Provides a professional haircut and self-respect for an out-of-work adult or a school child living in poverty in Cincinnati

\$25 Funds breakfast and lunch for one month for a child in a daycare center in Brazil

\$50 Delivers life-saving milk for one infant at a Senegal clinic for one month

\$100 Supports academic instruction for Philippine "street kids" to prepare them for school

\$500 Provides tuition for one elementary school child in Senegal for one year

The Fund for Women and Girls is intended as a resource for all related issues

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Linda Christian and Finance Committee member Tom McArdle

The Sisters and the Foundation's Board

leaves her position as Executive Director of the Foundation after eleven years of service.

HOPE & HEALING

Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation
708 Third Avenue, Suite 1858
New York, NY 10017



You may remember the poorest of the poor in perpetuity by supporting the programs of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor with a gift of cash, an annuity, a bequest, a gift of stock, insurance or real property.

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