



FRANCISCAN SISTERS of the POOR FOUNDATION

Summer 2017

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

I travel a lot and I've seen a lot of people in need around the world. I come from Latin America, where poverty and social injustice are everywhere, so I know the importance of **giving back** and being thankful when you have a job, a house and food on your table. That is why I'm writing today: I want people to know how important it is to give a donation to the Foundation programs. It doesn't matter if you can give \$5.00 or \$5 million. For a lot of people in poor communities, \$5.00 means a couple of meals and it can even save a life. I grew up in **Brazil** and I landed in the U.S. almost twenty years ago. Among the many experiences of immigrating to a new country, one of the most rewarding for me was to meet the **Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation**. It has been an honor to be a member of the Board of Governors.

I couldn't wait to see what the Sisters do in **Brazil**, the place I know better. Last year, I decided to take my daughter, Laura, to work for a few days with Sr. Maria Helena Carvalho, the Congregational Councilor in Goiás, a state close to the capital, Brasília. We spent time at the APAI, a daycare run by the Sisters and supported with donations from our Foundation benefactors. The APAI provides free education and meals for 100 children from four months old to age five. These children are from low-income families with full time working parents. If there was no childcare available, they wouldn't have the same access to healthy food, could end up in the streets or under the care of siblings as young as ten, as it happens in many other places.

I was amazed by the Sister's work and how creative and resourceful they can be: they run a daycare, they organize a bazaar to raise funds for their charities, and they have a very small **after school program for young girls**. This program helps girls from ages 7 to 17. Instead of being on their own at home, they learn arts and crafts every afternoon, embroidery and crocheting, and do their homework together. The program has just one teacher and is in need of funds to hire another, in order to divide the group by age. As the teacher says, "It is difficult to answer questions from 17 year olds in front of 7 year old girls. They need orientation in different forms. It would be very effective to have another teacher and expand the program."

After being with Sr. Maria Helena, Sr. Tania, Sr. Goreti, Sr. Marcia Lucia and Sr. Julia in Goiás and seeing what they do with such limited resources, I am hopeful that I can bring a little of my trip to you, so you can witness the importance of helping these Sisters. You do not need to be a traveler to understand how many people out there need our help. Please donate now and keep these programs alive. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Board Member

Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation



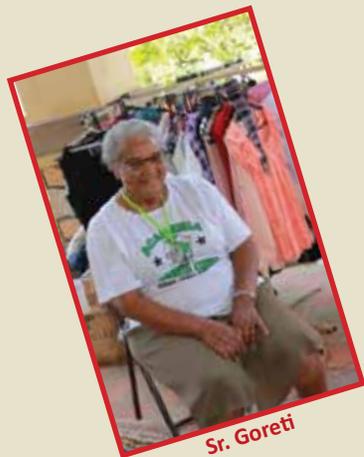
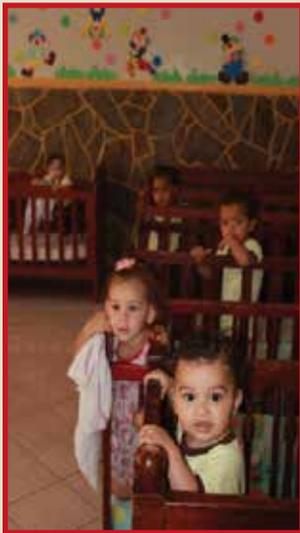
Ines Rodrigues with
Sr. Maria Helena Carvalho, SFP

All donations received from this newsletter will benefit the after-school program at the APAI in Brazil. We hope to empower these girls with the importance of being self-sufficient, confident and educated young women!!

Thanks solely to people like YOU, we can help the Sisters in their ministries not only in Brazil, but in the five countries we serve around the world.

DayCare in Pires do Rio

Every Monday, 7 a.m., parents start to arrive to the APAI building in Pires do Rio, pulling their young children by the hand or holding babies in their arms. Another working week starts and they need a safe place for the children. In daycare, the little ones will have a healthy breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner, and they can be picked up until 5 p.m. They have lots of pre-school activities and time to play outside and enjoy the all-year-round good weather of Brazil. Until two years ago, the playground that serves for the daily outdoor activities was so damaged it couldn't be used. Thanks to a successful campaign by the Foundation, the money was raised for the renovation in just a few short months.



Sr. Goreti

Bazaar

“We help the poor and the poor help us” says Sr. Julia, who lives at the convent adjacent to the APAI. A few times each year, Sr. Julia runs a second hand clothes and shoes bazaar where the people from the community can buy donated clothing for as little as fifty cents each piece. On the first day of sales, a line is formed outside the gates as early as half an hour before the bazaar opens. Sr. Julia explains that it is better to sell things at a very reasonable price than simply giving them away. “People value what they buy. The money we get here is used to purchase supplies for the after school girls’ program.”



Sr. Julia

An American in Brazil

Laura O'Connor, daughter of Foundation Board Member, Ines Rodrigues, spent some quality time with the Sisters in Brazil on her summer vacation. Laura worked in the APAI at both the daycare center and the after-school program. We are thrilled to welcome a new generation of love, care and compassion in action!!! **Thank You, Laura!**



“I had an amazing experience. I love the kids, they are all so cute! The Sisters were very welcoming and excited to work with me”...Laura O'Connor

Franciscan Sisters of the Poor in Brazil



Sr. Maria Lucia



Sr. Licia Mazzia and Sr. Maria Helena

“We must be most grateful to the Lord for calling us to his service. Let us, therefore, strive to serve him wholeheartedly, eagerly and faithfully.”

Blessed Frances Schervier

February 9, 1875



Sr. Thalyta



Sr. Helena Paula



Sr. Maria Goreti

Your donations help the Sisters in Brazil, Italy, United States, Philippines and Senegal provide loving support for countless individuals in need of our help!



Thank You, Art4Moore Fund !!!

Art4Moore is a non-profit organization established in 2006 in memory of Marjory Moore Brooks, by her daughter, Stephanie Brooks Dains and created with

the mission of providing art supplies, support and funding for youth, teachers and students of all ages.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation was chosen as the recipient of a generous 2017 grant of \$2,000 to offset the cost of art supplies for our new after school program in Pires do Rio. This grant will aid in the purchase of materials and also free up budgetary restraints to allow for the eventual expansion of the program.

We are grateful to the Art4Moore Fund of the Tides Foundation for its vision to aid in the creative education and empowerment of young women in Brazil.



Girls After-School Program

At approximately 1:30 each afternoon, a group of about 20 girls from age 7-17 arrive at the APAI, the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor daycare center in Pires do Rio in Brazil. They spend the afternoon together doing their homework, learning crafting skills such as embroidery and crocheting and most importantly have a place to go for a good start on their future. The Sisters would like to hire an additional teacher to separate the teens from the youngsters.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation is responding to a request to expand this program.

All donations received from this newsletter will go directly to the after-school program as part of our continuing effort to empower and educate young women.



Congratulations to our very own, Ines Rodrigues, for publishing her first novel, Days of Bossa Nova.

Her first work of fiction, published in May 2017 by Black Opal Books is an historical novel that narrates the adventures of a family in the city of São Paulo, the largest in South America. Through the eyes of Felipe Navarra, the main character, we see Brazilian history in the last 70 years and we also have a taste of the music—like Samba and Bossa Nova—and the flavors of this multicultural country.

***“I promise to support the girls after-school program at APAI with proceeds from the sale of my book, and if you are able to donate \$100, I will send you a signed copy of the Days of Bossa Nova for your summer reading pleasure!!
God bless the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor and all who help them in their mission.” --Ines***

*Please visit our website at www.franciscanfoundation.org
OR TO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE,
For more information on the Sisters and ALL their Missions*

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