

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM MOUNT ST. JOSEPH

Sisters of St. Joseph Health & Wellness Foundation

Celebrating 25 Years of Community Impact and Systemic Change

As the Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation in Wheeling marks its milestone 25th anniversary, it looks back on a legacy defined by care, prevention, and a rethink of traditional funding structures. Since its inception in 2001, the foundation has evolved into a multi-faceted philanthropic force, distributing over \$21 million in funding to 390 partner organizations in community outreach.

During its first 20 years, the foundation dedicated itself to the growth of school-based healthcare centers located across West Virginia that make healthcare available to students and members of the community who may not have other options. That footprint has expanded from just a few centers to more than 200 locations across 45 counties. Reflecting on this history, Beth Collins (left), the foundation's Executive Director describes this as a cornerstone of their mission.



"School-based healthcare leads to prevention, which leads to systemic change. This has been our focus since our founding."

In the last five years, the foundation has moved toward a trust-based philanthropy model, a shift inspired by the values of inclusivity championed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Collins notes that traditional models are often rooted in a systemic imbalance in power. "By dismantling these barriers, the foundation now aims to treat its 40 to 60 annual grant recipients not as grantees, but as true mutual partners," she said.

This progressive philosophy influences what and who the foundation chooses to fund. Office and Grants Manager Sarah Dean (above, right) emphasizes that their unique



framework intentionally supports elements that are frequently overlooked by traditional donors. "A lot of our partners are happy to see that we'll fund advocacy efforts or general operating costs, things other funders typically don't cover," Dean notes.

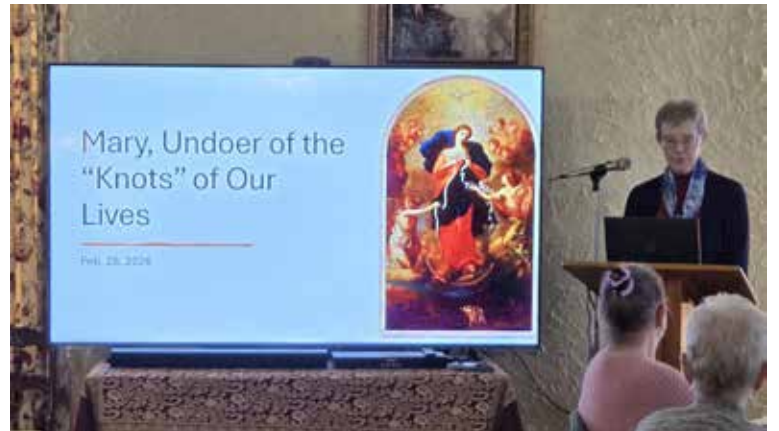
Rooted in relationship building, the organization now distributes over \$1 million annually. By marrying systemic change with mutual trust, the foundation's 25th anniversary celebration echoes a long-standing history of transforming community support from the ground up. ●

Learn more at SSJHealthandWellnessFoundation.org

WELCOMED GUESTS



In June, St. Joseph Retreat Center welcomed a group of young adults for a Young Adult Pilgrimage of Hope. The retreat was a collaboration between the Congregation of St. Joseph and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Led by Sister Erin McDonald (far left), the pilgrims reflected on the themes, “How do I live faithfully with the land?” and “How do I practice resurrection in crucified places?” Helping out from the congregation were Sister Kathleen Durkin (above right, second from left), and Sister Helen Skormisley, a member of the Congregational Leadership Team, and Kascha Sanor, Director of Social and Environmental Justice.



St. Joseph Retreat Center welcomed eighteen guests recently for a meaningful day of reflection led by Maureen O’Brien, PhD, entitled, “Mary, Undoer of Knots.”



This spring, students from Brophy College Preparatory school in Phoenix, Arizona, volunteered to help clean up and plant the vegetable garden at Mount St. Joseph. The garden is a collaborative effort with Wheeling Hospital. Afterward, the students enjoyed having lunch with the sisters. We are so grateful to these students and their teachers for so generously donating their time and energy to help us!

LIFE AT THE MOUNT



In June, sisters at Mount St. Joseph packed bags full of personal care items, socks, snacks, journals, prayer cards, and other items which were then picked up by Cheryl Kline (right), who volunteers with Street MOMs, an outreach program serving the needs of homeless neighbors in our community. Street MOMs is a program of the Mother Jones Center for Resilient Community in Wheeling.



Each year on the first Friday of February, sisters and staff participate in Wear Red day in support of the American Heart Association. Wear Red is a national campaign that raises awareness of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death for women.



Sisters at Mount St. Joseph enjoy cooking together and trying new recipes! Recently, Sisters Mary Clark, Alicia Weiskircher, Rosie Coughlin, and Joan Kreyenbuhl made noodles by hand using a hand cranked noodle machine. The noodles were then dropped into chicken broth to cook. Everyone enjoyed sampling the fresh noodles!



Welcome Bishop Evelio

In May, sisters in West Virginia attended the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Mark Brennan. In attendance was the newly designated bishop for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Evelio Manjivar-Ayala (pictured). He will be installed in early July as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Pictured from left are Sisters Marguerite O'Brien, Kathleen Durkin, and Mary Ann Rosenbaum, Bishop Evelio Manjivar-Ayala, and Sisters Illeana Fernandez and Nancy White.

Honoring Sister Carmella Campione

The staff at the Mother Jones Center for Resilient Community in Wheeling recently gifted sisters with a raised garden box in memory of Sister Carmella Campione, who passed away in May. We have a long history of collaboration with the Mother Jones Center which empowers youth and adults to be agents of change in West Virginia. From left are Mother Jones Center staffers Todd Blakely and Elise Tedesco, and Sisters Kathleen Durkin and Alicia Marie Weiskircher. We are so grateful for this thoughtful memorial to Sister Carmella and beautiful addition to Mount St. Joseph.



Sister Rosie Hefner participates in press conference

In January, Sister Rosie Hefner (far left) participated in a press conference along with the West Virginia Criminal Law Reform Coalition at the WV State Capitol to underscore the ongoing crisis in West Virginia jails, the ineffectiveness of enhanced penalties, and to encourage the legislature to reduce the prison population.

Cathedral of St. Joseph Turns 100!



On April 21, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The event marks not only the passing of time, but also a century of faith in a sacred space designed to teach, inspire, and reveal the presence of God. Our sisters in Wheeling have a long standing relationship with the diocese and history with the cathedral. Pictured from left are Sister Kathleen Durkin, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Mark Brennan, Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes, former Apostolic Nuncio, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, and Sisters Nancy White and Mary Ann Rosenbaum. Also attending but not pictured were Sister Marguerite O'Brien and CSJ associates Anna Marie Troiani and Linda Ferns. ●



St. Joseph Retreat Center Looks Forward to Welcoming You!

St. Joseph Retreat Center located on the grounds at Mount St. Joseph serves the community as a means of extending the sister's mission of loving unity to which we are all called.

The center offers a variety of retreats, programs, and workshops year-round, and welcomes people of all faith traditions. Through our programming and natural, peaceful environment, the retreat center is a place where groups and individuals can nourish their spirit and spiritual lives. The center also offers spiritual direction, therapeutic massage, and other wellness options.

Upcoming Opportunities:

Programs

Conference Retreat with Sister Sallie Latkovich, CSJ
July 6-10, 2026. In person or on Zoom.

Directed Retreat with Sister Paula Drass, CSJ
August 7-14, 2026. In person.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction provides an opportunity to reflect with another in faith and prayer on one's life in relationship to God, self, and others.

On-Line Directed Retreat

This silent, individual retreat is for persons who are interested in committing to times of silence and prayer each day. In addition to several periods of intentional prayer each day, the retreatant meets with an experienced spiritual director to share the fruit of prayer and how God is speaking in his or her life. In between, the retreatant can rest, walk, journal, etc. 6 or 8-day retreats are offered with shorter retreats considered upon request.

To register or to learn more, visit StJosephRetreatCenter.org



Jubilee

2026

The following sisters from our founding community of Wheeling are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.



Sister Jane
Cain, CSJ

70 Years



Sister Helen
Skormisley, CSJ

60 Years



Sister Virginia (Ginny)
Yeager, CSJ

65 Years



Sister Mary Ann
Rosenbaum, CSJ

40 Years

Congratulations to all our sisters celebrating Jubilees this year!
To view Jubilarian biographies, visit CSJoseph.org.



In Memoriam



Sister Carmella
Campione, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on
May 7th, 2026, after
70 years of religious life.

Sister Caroline
Benken, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on
March 9th, 2026, after
76 years of religious life.



Sister Patricia
Sullivan, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on
February 20th, 2026, after
73 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Alice
McMaster, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on
November 15th, 2025, after
75 years of religious life.



Sister Ruth Kettman, CSJ

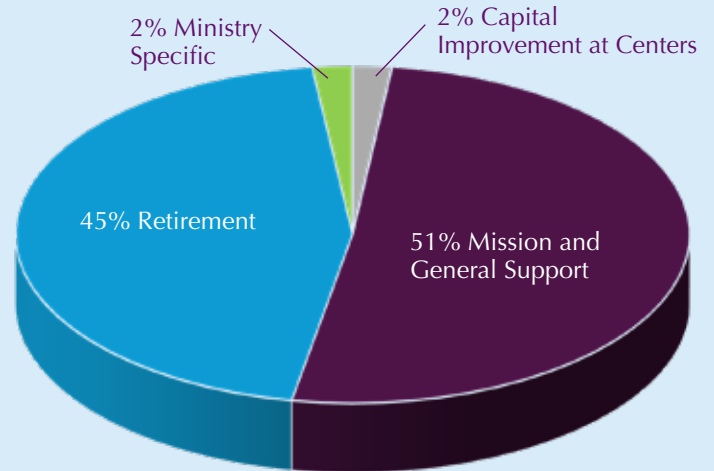
Entered into eternal life on
November 10th, 2025, after
66 years of religious life.



*We celebrate the lives of all our
sisters who have passed away.*

Thank You!

Your gifts of support are a blessing! Thank you for partnering with us in mission and helping us provide for our retired sisters. Here is how we used your charitable contributions July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025:



Other Ways to Give

• Qualified Charitable Distribution

Did you know that you can direct unneeded required minimum distributions (RMDs) to us through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA? If you don't need the income, or the taxes it may incur, ask your advisor about a QCD.

• Donor Advised Fund

If you have a donor advised fund (DAF), please consider including us in your grant recommendations this year. We welcome DAF gifts!

• Leave a Legacy of Love

You can continue to partner with us in our mission of unifying love and service even after your lifetime by including the congregation in your plans. A planned gift may also reduce your estate taxes. Request our Legacy of Love brochure today.

To Learn More, contact Melissa Haley O'Leary at moleary@csjoseph.org or 216-688-3474

The Congregation of St. Joseph cannot give you financial or tax advice, so please consult with a financial or tax advisor before making any financial decisions.



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Spotlight Photo



Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl made fast friends with a special visitor to the Mount recently during a pet therapy session as Sister Alicia Marie Weiskircher looks on.

If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email communications@csjoseph.org.

BEYOND THE HABIT

The podcast that moves beyond everyday assumptions of what it means to be Catholic.

Season 8 Out Now!

Season 9 Coming Soon!

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Hosted by Sisters
Erin McDonald, CSJ
and Colleen Gibson, SSJ