

	FISCAL YEAR		
	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018
INCOME			
BRIDGES RETREAT*	\$26,954	\$15,887	\$14,041
MAGIS*	\$17,143	\$16,336	\$13,376
IGNATIAN COMMUNITY RETREAT (ICR)**	\$6,452	\$3,729	\$4,295
OTHER SOURCES	\$1,101	\$1,565	\$1,735
TOTAL INCOME	\$51,650	\$37,517	\$33,447
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$13,941	\$10,850	\$13,406
BRIDGES RETREAT	\$13,639	\$12,386	\$11,680
MAGIS	\$8,515	\$7,940	\$8,445
IGNATIAN COMMUNITY RETREAT (ICR)**	***	\$3,812	\$2,773
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,095	\$34,988	\$36,304
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$15,555	\$2,529	\$(2,857)
Donations/Fundraising	\$10,628	\$8,609	\$11,855

* Includes donated services
** Because we are cash basis, the ICR income and expenses are sometimes reflected in a different fiscal year than when the event actually occurred.
*** There was no ICR in July 2015, so there are no expenses to report for FY 2015-2016



2018 Ignatian Community Retreat “Fire Starters—Mature Disciples in the Ignatian Way”

Directed by Carol Ackels
Executive Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Center in Dallas, TX

Ms. Ackels led the 50 participants through nine hours of talks, silent prayer and round table discussion examining the authority and responsibility of lay ministry in the Church. Interweaving Scripture, theology, and Ignatian Spirituality, Carol kept the participants’ interest and challenged their conventional thinking about lay ministry.

She presented three topics for consideration and prayer—the gifts offered to all who are baptized—to be priest (genuine worshiper), prophet (speaker of God’s truth), and king (a compassionate leader). Authority lies in the gifts of the Holy Spirit as lay ministers focus their ministry on the ability to love as Jesus loves. His love is the foundation of all ministry.

BRIDGES DATES OF INTEREST

Bridges Retreat Registration Deadline:

August 23, 2019—On line registration is available at: <http://bridgesfoundation.org/bridges-retreat-registration/>

2019-2020 Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service Planning is in progress and the first session will be the Saturday, September 21, 2019.



30th Year Celebration: **Friday Evening, October 4, 2019.** Joseph Tetlow, S.J., will be the Honoree. The event will be held at The Parish of Annunziata Hall.

BRIDGES INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Bridges Retreat is a program for those who want to make the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. Information sessions listed on the website.

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10am

Webster Groves Christian Church

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7-9 p.m.

St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church

Tuesday, July 23, 2019 7-9 p.m.

Annunziata School

Sunday August 4, 2019 following the 8 a.m.

Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Sunday, August 11, 2019 following the

10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Tuesday, August 13, 2019 7-9 p.m.

Annunziata School

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 7-9 p.m.

Webster Groves Christian Church

Find us at:

bridgesfoundation.org
facebook.com/bridgesfoundationstl/
twitter.com/IgnatianSTL

Bridges Foundation, Inc.

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St. Louis, MO 63141-9998

MISSION STATEMENT

Bridges Foundation offers opportunities to anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with God and God’s people through ongoing formation grounded in the experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Everyday Life. The foundation members assist individuals in spiritual growth so they can transform themselves and their world.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Bridges Foundation continues its mission of offering the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola through the 19th Annotation, the Exercises in Everyday Life, to the people of St. Louis and the surrounding area. The program currently utilizes four sites in Missouri, where coordinators and prayer companions are leading 27 exertants in the Spiritual Exercises. In addition, there are 48 participants in the Magis Program, with 11 small group facilitators. Magis, through the great work and dedication of the Magis Planning Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Hsin-Hsin Huang, PhD., continues to provide participants with great speakers and stimulating small groups. Among the participants, there are now six people in the Prayer Companion Training small group.

The Foundation’s finances continue to be stable. In addition, the Board is continuing to look at ways to reach a wider and more diverse audience in its promotion and offering of the Exercises. These efforts include funding a newly stipend position and naming Steve Givens as Webmaster; who, as well as redesigning the website, is also working with Facebook and Twitter. The position of Marketing Director, AKA Promotion Minister, is directed to focus on these activities. The current Promotion Minister, Linda Leib, is also our Executive Director; Linda has suggested that another person needs to be chosen to concentrate on marketing. The Board is currently searching for a new Promotion Minister. But, let me note, all members of the Bridges community can promote the Bridges Exercises in Daily Life.

We have four dynamic Committees supporting the mission of the Foundation. Each Committee continues to work toward the goals set in the Five Year Plan, as well as bringing innovative ideas forward for consideration. These committees are vital to the work of the Foundation and its mission.

The Foundation Board, through the efforts of several Board Members, developed and approved a new set of Bi-Laws for the Foundation. This milestone will serve us well in the future.

This year’s Ignatian Community Retreat (ICR), “Fire Starters: Mature Discipleship in the Ignatian Way,” was conducted by Carol Ackels in July at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Provincial House. Carol is the Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute in Lake Dallas, Texas and is a frequent Retreat Director at White House. The retreat was very dynamic. An article about the retreat with more details can be found in this report and on the Bridges website, bridgesfoundation.org. There will be

no ICR in 2019, as the Bridges Community concentrates on celebrating its thirty year anniversary (more details below).

Two Board members left the board this year: Cindy Mackey, whose term on the board expired in February, and Frieda Siebel-Spath, Treasurer, by way of resignation. We thank them for their years of faithful service to the Foundation. Anne Knight, who joined the Board in February, died this fall while in office; we dearly miss her warmth, enthusiasm, and smile. One new Board Member was added, Sue Givens, who is our Treasurer and serves as the newly funded stipend position of Bridges Bookkeeper. New board members will be commissioned throughout the coming year. While the selection process is not yet complete, Kathy Gibler, Vicki Harpring, Joan Kletzker, and Mary Jane Lane have accepted invitations to join the Board. The Foundation is continually blessed to have talented people accept leadership responsibility as members of the Board.

We also want to remember Darlene Zoll, a dear Bridges member and supporter who passed away this spring. Darlene was always ready to help out as needed, and she was instrumental in planning and organizing a May

accomplishments of the standing committees

PROGRAM CREATION AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- Offered and assessed the **19th Annotation Retreat**, including a Faith Sharing Day, a Marketplace Spirituality Retreat and a Sending Celebration Prayer Service and Dinner.
- Added and supported the addition of the **Annunziata School Site**.
- Planned, offered and assessed **Magis — Greater Understanding, Love and Service** which provides ongoing formation of prayer companions and past retreatants, and training of new prayer companions. Included a new small group: **Living the 5th Week: Putting on the Heart and Mind of Christ**.

2018 Day of Reflection for prayer companions. Her Ignatian spirit permeates our Foundation.

Linda Leib took over as Executive Director of the Bridges Foundation in February. Linda has tirelessly worked to make the Bridges Foundation a highly functioning organization. Her efforts are helping Bridges be a more effective body. She is also currently serving as the Promotion Minister. We cannot express how much we appreciate her dedication.

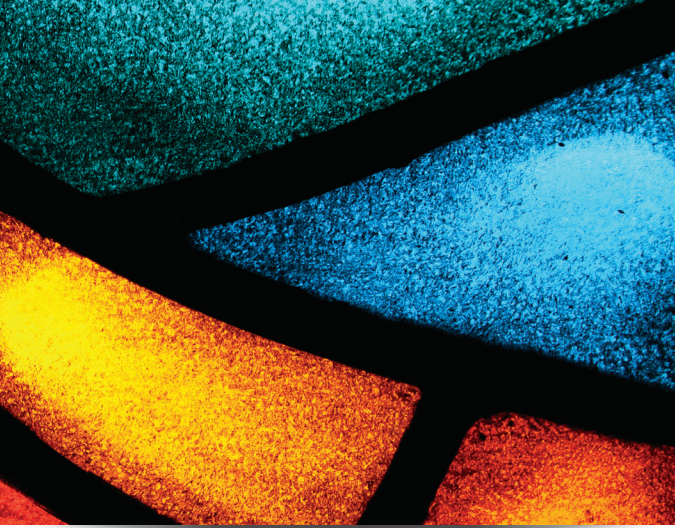
Finally, we are happy to announce that the Bridges Foundation will be marking its 30th year in 2019. There will be an anniversary celebration on Friday evening 4 October 2019 at Annunziata Parish. Fr. Joe Tetlow, S.J., will be our featured honoree. Please, mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Thank you to Amy Fister of Fister, Inc., who, since 2009 and for no charge, has designed this Annual Report. To Amy and to the entire Bridges Community, your prayers, commitment and financial generosity, enables Bridges to continue providing the Spiritual Exercises to the people of the St. Louis region.

Dave Harpring
President

Bridges Retreat Program

In the current session, the 19th Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola sponsored by the Bridges Foundation, Inc. has four operating sites serving 27 retreatants. The retreatants and prayer companions meet for 34 one-hour sessions on a one to one basis that began in September 2018 and will conclude in May 2019. This retreat bridges one’s spiritual life with everyday life and provides a structure and process aimed at assisting the retreatants in an ever-deepening relationship with God and increasing awareness in ridding oneself of inordinate attachments. God breaks through into the life of the retreatants in such a way that it brings greater spiritual freedom and an increased desire to serve God especially through other people and all of creation. In addition to the individual sessions, weekly or monthly group meetings are held at each site for the purpose of providing a communal experience and to offer reflections and encourage faith sharing on various movements of the Exercises. Three events are offered during the year at a central location bringing together retreatants and prayer companions from all sites. These include: a Faith Sharing Retreat in October, a Marketplace Spirituality Retreat that will be held in April and a Sending Celebration in mid-May.



Magis—Greater Understanding, Love and Service

Our Magis Program is for those who have completed the 18th, 19th or 20th Annotation Retreat and desire to continue growing and living the Ignatian Way, while receiving support in a community setting. Participants of our Magis Program meet for 7-three-hour gatherings, beginning in September and concluding in April. Currently we have 46 participants and 11 small group facilitators. Each gathering begins with two presentations on various movements of the Exercises. Jeff Putthoff, S.J., Joseph Hill, S.J., Anthony Wieck, S.J., Michael Dooley, S.J., Hsin-Hsin Huang, Ph.D. and Madeleine Lane, SSND are among the presenters.

After the presentation, each person participates in one of 6 small groups. These include:

Dynamics of the Exercises led by Hsin-Hsin Huang, Ph.D. This group integrates psychology, spirituality and theology with the Exercises. It also begins the discernment process for those leaning toward becoming prayer companions.

Prayer Companion Training Program led by Marian Love, MAPS and Rosemarie Parsons. This program prepares participants to lead others through the Bridges Retreat.

Peer Group Supervision and Consultation led by Julie Harig and Linda Leib focuses on the movements of the prayer companion while interacting with the retreatant. The focus is to be able to discern God’s presence in the interaction.

Ignatian Discernment led by Katherine Rucinsky and Tom Simon. Using God’s Voice Within by Mark Thibodeaux, S.J. the group examines the discernment process as developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Teilhard and the Spiritual Exercises led by Miriam Wesselmann, SSND and Ron Nimer. Teilhard believed that any new scientific truth discovered reveals who God is, who we are and the plans God has for us and for all of creation. The group explores how these truths are integrated within their spirituality and share insights from the Spiritual Exercises as viewed through the lens of the spirituality of Fr. Teilhard, S.J.

Living the Fifth Week: Putting on the Heart of Christ led by Janet Nimer and Kathryn Kolacz. Using Putting on the Heart of Christ by Gerald Fagin, S.J. the participants consider and discuss the virtues presented and how living each virtue in light of the Spiritual Exercises can result in the discernment of Godly choices.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Development Committee completed **two fundraisers** in 2018, an e-mail blast in July near the feast of St. Ignatius and the annual solicitation letter in November.
- Updated the policy and “Thank you” letter to Bridges Foundation Board donors.
- In accordance with the Bridges Foundation Five Year Plan the committee investigated interest in attending a Bridges Community “event” by developing and conducting a survey. As a result, plans are underway for a **30-Year Anniversary Celebration** to be held on Friday evening, **October 4, 2019 at The Parish of Annunziata Hall**. More details to follow.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

- Made frequent contact with the Bridges Community regarding appropriate information, program reminders, registration

deadlines, and updates via Bridges website, Facebook, St. Louis Review, emails and other social media. Established Twitter account. Placed large and effective feature article in the Review.

- Reviewed the means by which the 2017-2018 Bridges Retreat participants learned about the Program’s Information Sessions’ dates and locations to inform planning for future advertising of the Information Sessions.
- Updated the web site and social media outlets in a timely manner. Created web coordinator position.
- Refreshed design of the website and made adjustments to settings to allow for better search engine optimization.
- Created a timeline for disseminating information in a timely manner.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- For the most recent fiscal year, subsidized 48% Bridges Retreatants and 30% Magis attendees in varying amounts, facilitated by participant donations as well as by the donated services of some Prayer Companions and Magis speakers and facilitators. Payments for both Bridges and Magis are based on a pledge made by retreatants and attendees in any amount they can afford.
- Received a \$2,000 grant from the Angela Merici Fund. This is the 10th year of this grant made possible by Sr. Thomas More Daly, OSU.
- Received a \$2000 grant from the School Sisters of Notre Dame through the efforts of Sr. Miriam Wesselmann, SSND.
- Filed tax return for fiscal year 2017-2018 and issued a 2017 Form 1099 to any person who provided services to the Bridges Foundation and was paid in excess of \$600 during this calendar year.
- Worked with the Marketing Committee to enhance the registration forms and to increase the use of the on-line payment system which has improved cash flow.
- Able to receive qualified donations of appreciated equities.