Caring for the whole child
mind, body, heart and spirit

FY2020 Annual Report
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

www.stjo.org/report
We present this report on our programs and finances to give an accurate picture of the lives you touch through your support.
Dear friends,

My name is Kory Christianson and I have been at St. Joseph’s Indian School for over 27 years. Your support is a tremendous blessing. Because of you, we met some important financial goals last year:

- Managed the growth of our programs and physical plant needs without loans or financial debt.
- Continued saving for the future and used technology more because, as we are sure you have also noticed, postage costs have increased along with the ever-changing paper costs.

Your support has allowed for the expansion of programs available to Lakota (Sioux) children and their families at St. Joseph’s, which include:

- More Lakota language and cultural education.
- Better healthcare with an emphasis on mental health and counseling, including our expanding equine therapy program that now has seven horses.

Because you are part of St. Joseph’s thiyóšpaye — extended family — and stand beside us in our mission, we are working toward long-term solutions for the Lakota (Sioux) children. With steady income and sound management of finances, you are helping break the cycle of poverty in and out of the classroom through education for life — mind, body, heart and spirit.

Thank you for your generous support,

Kory Christianson, CFRE
Executive Director of Development
St. Joseph’s Indian School
Board of Directors

Doug Knust  
Chairperson

Terry Johnson  
Vice Chairperson

Dn. David Nagel, SCJ  
Provincial Treasurer

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Francis Whitebird  
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Kory Christianson  
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Parent Advisory Committee

Avis Dion  
Jewel Jandreau  
Larry Jandreau  
Valentina Merritt  
Florine Burning Breast  
Beverly Running Bear  
Carla Thompson

Arnold Sazue  
Teri Sazue  
Carmen Harrison  
Sharisse Sitting Bear  
Robert Kelly  
Lydia Sazue
Call to South Dakota

In 1924, Fr. Henry Hogebach, SCJ, traveled to the United States from Germany. Knowing education would be vital to Native American children in South Dakota, he began work to found a school shortly after his arrival. In April 1927, he, on behalf of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, purchased the property that is now St. Joseph’s Indian School. In September 1927, classes began.

Over 90 years later, thanks to your kindness, our work continues for Lakota (Sioux) children to educate for life — **mind, body, heart and spirit**.

St. Joseph’s Indian School is almost entirely funded by private donations — 98% to be exact. The programs and support offered to Native American children and their families would not be possible without donors like YOU.

Thank you for your caring **wačháŋtognaka** — generosity!

God bless,

Fr. J. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ
Chaplain, St. Joseph’s Indian School
What People are Saying ...

“The care package came at the most needed time and everyone was excited for the new stuff they got. We want to say a BIG ‘thank you’ to you all for always keeping us in your hearts and making sure we are taken care of.”

— Cordell, father of students at St. Joseph’s

“I am happy that I am here. My favorite things to do are basketball and archery!”

— Brooklynn, St. Joseph’s student

“After many years of donating to St. Joseph’s my husband and I we able to attend the annual powwow in 2019. What an experience! The school was everything we thought it would be but even better! We could immediately see that all the donors’ money is well spent. The grounds are beautiful and well cared for, but most importantly, the children are loved and well cared for.”

— Annie, St. Joseph’s donor

“I really enjoy St. Joseph’s Indian School. Helping young children discover more about their culture and faith is very rewarding work.”

— Joe, St. Joseph’s Director of Mission Integration

The Streak Continues!

Due to the great reviews we receive from benefactors, GreatNonprofits named St. Joseph’s Indian School a Top-Rated Charity for the fourth year in a row!
The Impact Your Gift Makes

At St. Joseph’s, we celebrate victories both big and small. Here is a look at some of the victories your gifts made possible for Lakota children.

227 students were fed, clothed, educated and lovingly cared for. 161 students received specialized counseling services. 97.7% was the average attendance rate of first-eighth grade students. 400 supporters attended St. Joseph’s Indian School 43rd Annual Powwow. 108 students danced at powwow. Over 9,000 books were put in the hands of people living on SD reservations.

Let’s not forget ...

644 food boxes were delivered to student families as part of COVID-19 relief. 67 total houseparents cared for children in safe, loving homes. 7 inípi — sweat lodge — ceremonies were held on campus (a school record). 10 students represented St. Joseph’s at the Lakota Nation Invitational, a multi-sport event that hosts 40 different Native American schools in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming.

over $164,000 in college scholarships awarded

over 24,400 dining hall meals served

over 9,900 campus health center visits
Student Feature: Jackson

Jackson was one of our great 2020 eighth grade graduates.

At 14-years-old, Jackson stays busy with baseball, archery, football, track and field, cross country and participating in the Chalk Hills Singers drum group. Like any typical teenage boy, Jackson enjoys listening to music, playing video games and socializing with his friends.

Jackson is a well-versed speaker and leader in and out of the classroom. This year, he traveled to Orlando, Fla., to speak with St. Joseph’s Indian School donors about the impact they help create for over 200 students at our school. He has also represented St. Joseph’s at the Lakota Nation Invitational, among other things.

As a freshman in high school, his goal is to get good grades and start his high school career off right so he can be prepared for college. He also says he might join the military, but he has a few years to sort out his journey to see what the future has in store for him.

But, whatever that is, his family remains a top priority.

“I want to go to college or the military so I will be able to help my mom out,” said Jackson.

That kind heart was fostered because of so many caring people like you.

Jackson knows he can make a difference, because you made a difference for him.
“I want to go to college or the military so I will be able to help my mom out.”

— Jackson
St. Joseph’s student
Education

Educating the Native American children in the classroom is a core part of St. Joseph’s mission. We partner with Native American children and their families to educate for life — *mind, body, heart and spirit*.

Children at St. Joseph’s benefit from individualized care plans following nationally approved and accredited techniques.

Inside the Classroom

Students study a variety of subjects from the typical core classes of math, reading, English, science and social studies, to the more specialized courses of Native American Studies and Religion. Students also have opportunities to participate in private music lessons during the school day.

WoLakota Project

The WoLakota Project is an educational program that provides an opportunity for cultural understanding and exchange in the classroom. Recognized by the State of South Dakota and intended to complement Common Core State Standards, the WoLakota Project seeks to promote cultural understanding among non-Native students and teachers and help Native American students embrace their identity.

Accreditation

St. Joseph’s is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, which imposes rigid standards in all aspects of our organization, particularly regarding the health, safety and rights of students.
Education

Outside the Classroom

Students are given the opportunity to take part in numerous events and activities off campus. Homes take annual trips to new cities. Seventh grade students take an annual cultural trip. High school students fly to Germany every summer. Select students also fly to major U.S. cities to visit with donors all over the country.

“Thank you so much for everything you do. I wouldn’t be at St. Joseph’s if it wasn’t for you. I’m learning new things about my language, culture, myself and my people.”

— Jade, St. Joseph’s student

Exchange Program

St. Joseph’s high school students and their chaperones typically visit Germany as part of an annual exchange program with Gymnasium Leonium in Handrup. Both founded by the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph’s and Gymnasium Leonium have partnered in an exchange program for more than 10 years. The trip was put on hold in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students presented about their culture to students, and also donors during a former donor luncheon event in Germany.
Education — Cultural

**Annual Powwow**
Since 1976, St. Joseph's has hosted an annual weekend of Lakota culture. A traditional Lakota (Sioux) powwow helps Native American children share their culture, heritage and traditions.

“I love dancing at powwow! It feels like praying.”
— Andre, St. Joseph’s student

**Cultural Trip**
St. Joseph’s seventh grade class embarked on a week-long cultural trip after it was rescheduled to the Fall of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The journey took them to Native American sites of cultural, spiritual and historical significance in South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. Some of the sites included Bear Butte, Black Elk Peak and Devil’s Tower.

**Native American Studies**
Preserving and sharing Native American culture and tradition is a core part of our mission at St. Joseph’s Indian School. In this class, students learn about their culture’s traditions, heritage, language and more.

**Chalk Hills Singers**
The drum is the center of the community. Young boys in grades fourth and up are able to learn how to drum and sing in Lakota. They perform at various events and ceremonies throughout the year.

**Aktá Lakota Museum**
An educational outreach of St. Joseph’s, the museum is committed to promoting the knowledge and understanding of the Native American culture past, present and future.

Learn more at stjo.org/culture.
Education — Graduation

Eighth grade and high school students were honored in June and August with social distanced ceremonies and celebrations. Graduation is a huge victory for some of these students, who are sometimes one of the first in their families to accomplish this goal.

We Celebrated ...

23 Eighth Grade Graduates

2 High School Graduates

Eighth grade graduates had an average length of stay of 4.8 years. High school graduates had an average length of stay of 7.5 years at St. Joseph’s.

High school graduation rates of Native Americans differ greatly when comparing the state average to St. Joseph’s students.

50% Native American graduation rate
(South Dakota Dept. of Education)

96% St. Joseph’s graduation rate

$164,000!
The amount of scholarships friends of St. Joseph’s helped provide Native American students!

Learn more at stjo.org/success.
**Campus Homes**

St. Joseph’s provides a nationally accredited home-away-from-home for Native American children in grades one through 12. Native American families bring youngsters to St. Joseph’s knowing their children will be safe, loved and cared for in every way.

**Elementary Residential Program**

There are no dorms at St. Joseph’s. Children live in one of our campus homes with two specially trained houseparents. They live and play together as any family would. The boys and girls learn life skills from personal health and home finances to communication and teamwork.

**High School Residential Program**

Young adults complete an application and interview process to ensure they are open to accepting the opportunities and guidance they will be given through St. Joseph’s High School Program. Once accepted, students live on St. Joseph’s campus in residential homes, but attend classes at the local, public high school. Just like St. Joseph’s younger children, our high school students are expected to be participants in family living.
Proper healthcare — physical and mental — is vital to our students’ well-being. Thanks to caring donors, students receive regular medical, dental, vision and hearing check-ups, all at no cost to their families.

Counseling

Every student has a counselor at St. Joseph’s. Counselors are the primary contact with parents and guardians, and work with students in a number of ways:

- One-on-one therapy
- Group therapy
- Art therapy
- Play therapy
- Equine therapy
- Teaching stress management

“Horses are nice. It’s okay to tell horses anything. They can’t tell anyone.”
— St. Joseph’s student

Other programs on campus also offer indirect forms of therapy, such as participating in yoga and our Houseparents and Pets in (HAPI) Homes program. This program allows certain homes to include a dog to offer quiet friendship and comfort to students who might not be ready to open-up to an adult yet.

Healthcare

A full-time nursing staff works with physicians who visit campus regularly from the local hospital. This team ensures each child’s health needs are met. Whether it’s a visit to our campus health center, or a trip off-campus for specialized services, the Lakota (Sioux) children receive the treatment they need for physical and mental well-being.
As a Catholic organization, spirituality is a basis of our programs. Although, students are not required to be Catholic.

Students have opportunities to participate in traditional Lakota ceremonies like inípi, also know as a “sweat lodge” and Christian ceremonies, like baptism.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sacramental Preparation did not happen, as students were unable to return in the spring.
Recreation — Summer Programs

Students do not have regular classes during the summer. However, a summer residential program provides children in-need with a stable home environment through mid-July. Students live in our summer homes and take part in all kinds of summer fun!

Rising Eagle Day Camp*

For children from two nearby reservation communities, Rising Eagle Day Camp (REDC) is a great experience. As some families have little to no transportation options, St. Joseph’s bus travels 120 miles each day for pick-up and drop-off. Students take part in arts and crafts, Lakota language class, swimming and playing indoor and outdoor games. They’re provided a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack. Everything is free-of-charge.

“I love camp so much and wish we could stay here forever!”
— Kenzii, REDC camper

High School Prep*

The High School Prep Program helps incoming freshmen students transition to high school. They spend two weeks on campus and visit Chamberlain High School. During these visits, students meet with teachers and staff, get acquainted with the layout of the school and take a few summer classes, such as time management skills. After their freshman year, high school students have the option of staying on campus during the summer to work part-time jobs, attend camps and take Drivers Education.

Summer School*

For students whose families have chosen to have their children remain at St. Joseph’s for the summer, many activities are planned to keep them busy! Along with regular outings to the beach, playground and movie theatre, students take part in fun summer school lessons that allow them to have fun while learning new skills!

*These three programs were unfortunately cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Outreach Programs

The work at St. Joseph’s isn’t confined to Chamberlain, S.D. Thanks to donor support, we can bless Native Americans near and far!

Bookmobile
Libraries can be a rarity in reservation communities, and the closest one may be more than 50 miles away! Each summer, St. Joseph’s Bookmobile travels nearly 3,000 miles across South Dakota to reservation communities to give free reading materials to children and families in-need. This program put over 9,000 new books into the hands of Native American youth and adults last summer. Our staff also uses the time in each community to visit with former and current students, meet prospective families and hand out student applications.

Domestic Violence Shelter
The only shelter of its kind within an 80-mile radius, the Sacred Heart Center in Eagle Butte, S.D., offers victims safety and support after escaping a dangerous situation. We broke ground on a new facility in October 2019 to double the amount of victims we can serve.

Adolescent Care Center
For youth in need of a stable home environment, the Adolescent Care Center in Eagle Butte, S.D., provides residential care for children 10-18 years old. Fully licensed care teams work together with families to provide counseling and guidance toward family reunification.

Bear Necessities Thrift Store
This thrift store is located in Eagle Butte, S.D. It provides products at a minimal cost for those in need. Items include clothing, shoes, household items, bedding, books and other products that help make a house a home.

St. Joseph’s Thrift Store
Located on Main Street in Chamberlain, S.D., this thrift store allows St. Joseph’s to use every resource we generously receive in the best way. Items not immediately needed by our students, families or outreach programs are made available to the public. Excess items are taken on mission runs to reservations throughout South Dakota. The thrift store also provides high school students with work opportunities. All sales help fund St. Joseph’s Indian School programs for children in our care.
Outreach Programs — COVID-19

Students left for Spring Break in March 2020 and were unable to return for the remainder of the school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff quickly began serving them from afar by sending homework packets so they could continue their studies, care packages and food boxes to make sure they were taken care of during an especially difficult time.

Food Boxes

Native American families are 400% more likely to experience food insecurity than the average U.S. family.* Because no one could have foreseen the effects of the pandemic, the extended break from school was unplanned. Families can already struggle to feed their families, so the addition of the pandemic multiplied this issue. (* Indian Health Services report)

To combat hunger, St. Joseph’s sent 644 food boxes to families in-need in reservation communities, totaling:

- 2,269 gallons of milk
- 9,720 eggs
- 2,168 loaves of bread
- 1,712 cans of soup
- 428 boxes of cereal
- 9,030 apples
- 7,232 oranges
- 730 lbs of bananas
- 2,140 lbs of flour
- 600 lbs of rice
- 972 cases of dairy/produce/meat

Care Packages

To provide extra care for students, their families and community members near and far, St. Joseph’s sent out an array of care packages.

- 130 to elders, handicapped persons and the Indian Health Service on the Crow Creek Indian reservation
- 240 to local healthcare employees
- 117 families received misc. care packages (cards, games, crayons, etc.)
More Than Possible ...

St. Joseph’s Indian School’s current strategic plan identifies four distinct focal points for our work in the coming years:

• High School and Beyond
• Wellness
• Family and Organizational Integration
• Future Planning

“The phrase ‘More Than Possible’ is a challenge to look beyond the present realities for some Native American youth and families we serve. It seeks a mindset that, with the right opportunities, our students can attain their hopes and dreams. It also invites staff and supporters to be part of this growth and accomplishment through their contributions to our mission.”

— Mike, St. Joseph’s President
St. Joseph’s Financial Report
for the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Revenue and Support

Unrestricted Contributions 85,141,149
Bequests 7,192,943
Restricted Contributions 6,211,095
Other Earned Income 1,504,430
Other Contributions 91,126
Government Support 3,033
Total Revenue and Support 100,143,776

Expenditures

Program Services
Education, Residential and Cultural Programs
Education Activities 13,562,102
Promotion of Lakota 15,576,786
Cultural Heritage
Plant 3,807,928
Depreciation 2,454,715
Program Grants 377,357
Support of Indian Missions 2,618,917
Total Education, Residential and Cultural Programs 38,397,805
Apostolate of Prayer Programs
St. Joseph’s Apostolate of Prayer 7,052,436
Province Support 5,245,837
Total Apostolate of Prayer Programs 12,298,273
Total Program Services 50,696,078
Supporting Services
Administration 4,015,832
Non-Program Sales Departments 330,020
Depreciation 818,238
Fundraising 24,534,424
Donor Development 8,119,693
Total Supporting Services 37,818,207
Total Expenditures 88,514,285
Excess (Shortfall) of Revenue and Support Over Expenditures
Results from Investments
Investment Income 3,667,814
Net Interest Earned, Gift Annuity Program (629,079)
Total Investment Returns 3,038,735
Change in Net Assets
Net Assets, Beginning of Year 212,251,042
Change in Net Assets 14,668,226
Net Assets, End of Year 226,919,268

COST TO RAISE A DOLLAR

67 cents goes to Lakota children attending St. Joseph’s, families living on reservations and cultural and faith development.

33 cents goes to support services, fundraising and development of future donors.

St. Joseph’s Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
PO Box 326
Chamberlain, SD 57326
1-800-341-2235 • www.stjo.org/report