



FY2021 Annual Report
July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2021



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

www.stjo.org/report



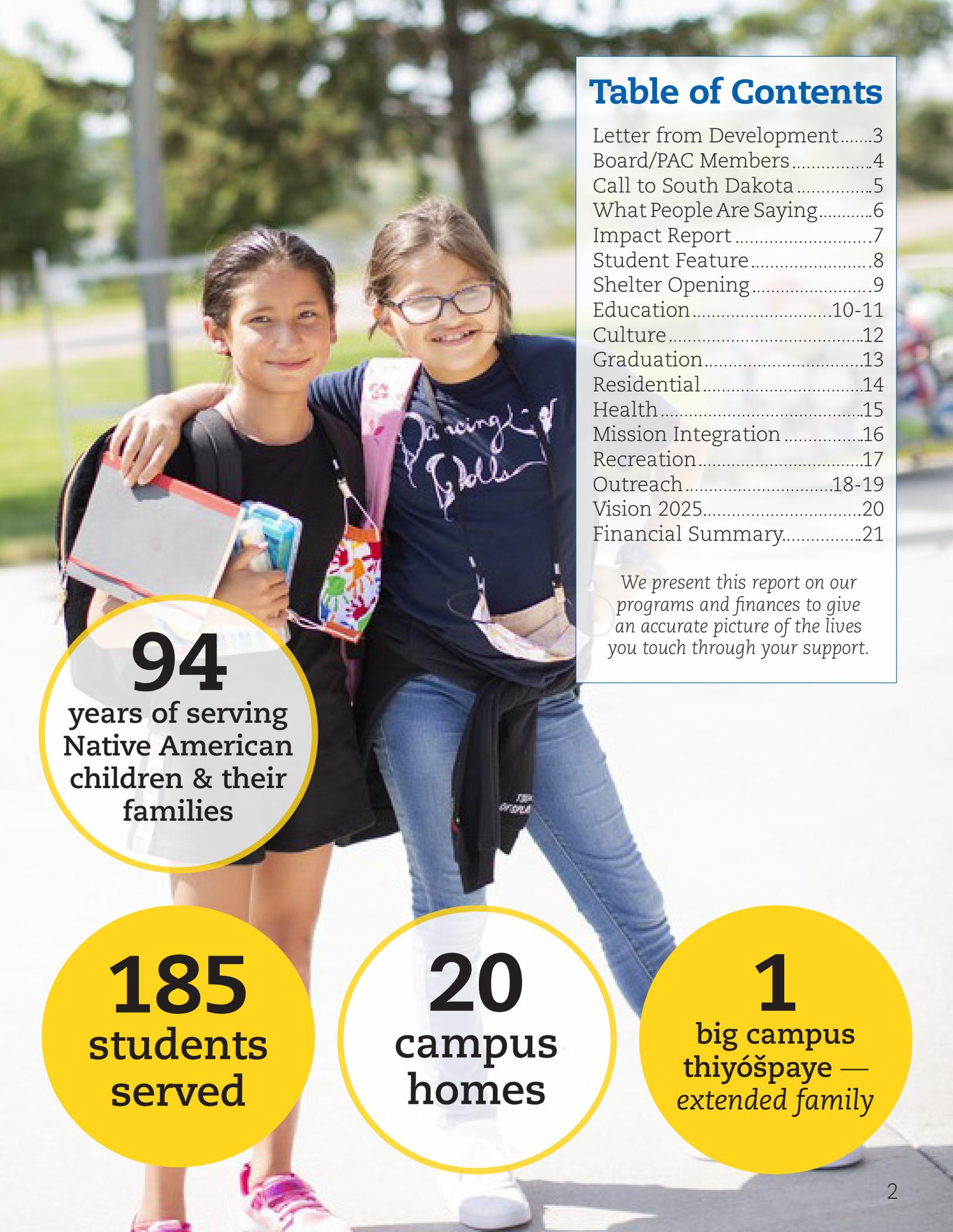


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We present this report on our programs and finances to give an accurate picture of the lives you touch through your support.

94

years of serving
Native American
children & their
families

185

students
served

20

campus
homes

1

big campus
thiyóšpaye —
extended family

Dear friends,

My name is Kory Christianson and I have worked at St. Joseph's Indian School for over 28 years. Your support is a tremendous blessing. Because of you, we met several important financial goals last year:

- Managed the growth of our programs and physical plant needs without loans or financial debt.
- Expanded our use of technology to help offset ever-increasing postage and paper costs.
- Continued saving for the future as new initiatives to improve programming and opportunities for our students will be forthcoming.

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.
- Finished and opened the Sacred Heart Chacon Family Safe Shelter in Eagle Butte, S.D.
- Better healthcare with an emphasis on mental health and counseling, including our expanding Equine Therapy program that now includes nine horses.

Because you are a 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kory Christianson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kory Christianson, CFRE
Executive Director of Development
St. Joseph's Indian School

Board of Directors



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Chairperson



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Board Member



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Board Member



Mike Tyrell
President



**Kory
Christianson**
*Secretary,
Non-voting member*

Parent Advisory Committee

Avis Dion	Carla Thompson
Jewel Jandreau	Arnold Sazue
Larry Jandreau	Teri Sazue
Valentina Merritt	Lydia Sazue
Beverly Running Bear	Carmen Harrison
Sharisse Sitting Bear	

Call to South Dakota

In 1924, Fr. Henry Hogeback, SCJ, traveled to the United States from Germany. Knowing education would be vital to Native American children in South Dakota, he began work to establish 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 **wačhántognaka** — *generosity!*

Peace and Blessings

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain
St. Joseph's Indian School



What People are Saying ...

“I attended St. Joe’s from 1968 to 1975. St. Joe’s provides excellent support to students and their families. They provide medical care, which many families cannot afford. Along with schooling, clothes, bedding, school supplies, food, counseling, you name it, they provide it.”

— Jeannie, St. Joseph’s alumna

“Thank you for donating to St. Joseph’s. My favorite things are basketball, soccer and volleyball. The classes I like are Native American Studies, Math, Social Studies, Reading, Art and P.E.”

— Myah, St. Joseph’s student

“I have donated to St. Joseph’s Indian School for many years. I enjoy receiving letters, notes and although not a necessary, small gifts like dreamcatchers, pens and cards. I love the birthday card and note they just send to me with a picture of some of the children. I feel this is a very good and appreciative cause.”

— Karen C., St. Joseph’s donor

“The children here at St. Joe’s are humble, genuine and resilient. In fact my time at St. Joe’s has been marked by lessons of resiliency from the children and the adversities they’ve overcome. My family and I have been blessed to be able to play a small part of the village that it takes to raise a child.”

— Benny M., St. Joseph’s houseparent



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 fifth year in a row!

The Impact Your Gift Makes

2021 was a year of overcoming challenges for St. Joseph's Indian School. Thank you for being our **kǎholá** — *friend* — as we care for Native American children.



Mind

185 students were served on campus.

6,500 free books were given to **1,300** adults & youth living on S.D. reservations.

Over \$176,000 was awarded in scholarships to Native American students seeking higher education.



Body

25,063 meals were served from the dining hall.

3,259 medical visits took place in our campus health center.

274 food boxes were delivered to students and families as an outreach effort.



Heart

146 students received specialized counseling services.

128 students received individual & **65** received group counseling.

49 students took part in Equine Therapy.

20 homes with **2** houseparents at a time provided 24/7 care.

Spirit

34 students attended a cultural trip to sacred sites.

17 eighth grade students took part in a buffalo harvest.

65 students danced at the first-ever **wačhípi** — *powwow* — live streamed from campus.

Over
\$176,000
in college
scholarships
awarded

Over
25,000
dining hall
meals served

Over
3,250
campus
health center
visits

Letter from a Thankful Student

Dear Friend,

Thank you for all of the kind things you do for us here at St. Joseph's Indian School. In school my favorite subjects are Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science. My favorite specialists are Music, Art, P.E., Native American Studies and Library. I will join the basketball, softball and gymnastics teams.

Last week, 5th grade had STAR BASE, which had lots of fun activities that involve Science and Math. My favorite thing we did were Happy Atoms. We also made water out of atoms (H₂O).

What I want to be when I grow up is a famous singer because I like it and I am very good at it. I'd like to live in New York City or Los Angeles.

I hope you enjoyed the letter. Again, thank you for all you do for us.

Your friend,

Zuela

5th grade student

St. Joseph's Indian School



Shelter Grand Opening

On June 22, 2021 a dedication was held for the Sacred Heart Chacon Family Shelter in Eagle Butte, S.D. As an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School, this center plays a vital role for people seeking shelter, healing and a new beginning.

- Donors contributed to help make this center a reality for victims in-need
- A new 10,523 sq. ft. building
- Enhanced security, including a control room and a locked vestibule
- Rooms for 10 families (an increase from the previous 4 family maximum)
- Fenced courtyard for safety and privacy
- Large shared kitchen

“This building is a testament to the power of a vision that goes back to 2012 and the power of sustainability and commitment on the part of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.”

— Mike Tyrell, St. Joseph's President



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.

12:1
student
to teacher
ratio

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 South Dakota Department of Education and 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 have traveled to Germany. Select students also fly to major U.S. cities to visit with donors all over the country.

“Thank you so I can learn and so I can have everything I need to learn. I love math and I want to be a math teacher when I grow up.” — LaShanti, 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.*



Education — Cultural

Annual Powwow

Since 1976, St. Joseph's has hosted a traditional Lakota (Sioux) powwow for Native American children to share their culture, heritage and traditions. This event was live streamed for the first time ever from campus, Sept. 2020.

Cultural Trip

St. Joseph's seventh grade class embarked on a week-long cultural trip. 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.

Buffalo Harvest

The first event of its kind for St. Joseph's, students were able to learn about the cultural significance of the ceremony. All meat was used on campus or shared with families.

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 with small social 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 ...

14 Eighth Grade Graduates

5 High School Graduates

Our average daily attendance was 96.5%, compared to South Dakota's average of 72% for Native Americans in public school.



Learn more at stjo.org/success.

St. Joseph's Has Had ...

22 high school graduates over the last ...

4 years. Of those students ...

95% are currently employed, in the military or pursuing higher education.

\$176,000!

The amount of scholarships friends of St. Joseph's helped provide Native American students pursuing higher education!

Misc. Items of Note ...

12 students were involved in Native American Club.

26 high school students participated in sports.

13 students had a part-time job during the school year.



Residential Programs

St. Joseph's provides a nationally accredited home-away-from-home for Native American children in grades 1-12. Native American families enroll their children at St. Joseph's knowing they 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.

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. The program currently includes 12 dogs.

20
campus homes

David	Fisher	Stevens
Ambrose	Perky	Giles
Raphael	Cyr	Sheehy
Dennis	Summerlee	Hogebach
Afra	William	Crane
Pinger	Rooney	Carola
	Speyer	
	Mathias	

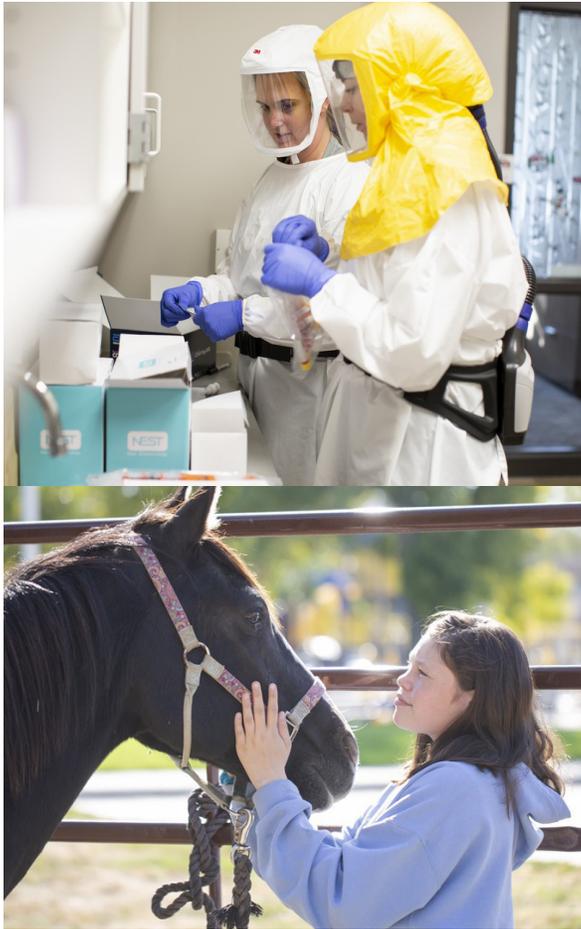
6:1
campus home
student to
adult ratio



Health

Proper healthcare 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.

A large accomplishment for the Health Center in Fiscal Year 2021 was collaborating with the Department of Health, local healthcare, student families and all service lines within St. Joseph's to stay open the entire school year.



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

146

students received specialized services.

11,676

contacts with parents/guardians were made by counselors ...

averaging

80

contacts per student.

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.

\$15,000

the amount St. Joseph's covered for student prescriptions that Medicaid did not.

Mission Integration



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 known as a “sweat lodge”, and Christian ceremonies, like baptism.

During Catholic Schools Week, students took part in a cultural scavenger hunt inside Our Lady of the Sioux Chapel, to see where faith and culture unite within the building.

71%
of students
identify as
Catholic.

25
students received
the Sacraments
in the Spring
of 2020.



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*

In pre-pandemic years, children from two nearby reservation communities attended Rising Eagle Day Camp (REDC). As some families have little to no transportation options, St. Joseph's bus travels 120 miles each day to pick-up and drop-off. Children 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.



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.

15
high school
students
graduated from
Driver's
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!



**REDC was unfortunately cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will possibly resume in 2022.*

Outreach Programs

The work at St. Joseph's is not confined to our campus in 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 6,500 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.

6,500
free books were given to people living in reservation communities.

1,800
of the books were Native American books by Native American authors.

Adolescent Care Center

For youth needing a stable home environment, the Adolescent Care Center in Eagle Butte, S.D., provides residential care for children, ages 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

The events of the COVID-19 pandemic sparked a new summer outreach program to regularly distribute food to families living in South Dakota reservation communities, some which are food deserts. Three food drops are made throughout the summer, once per month, to make sure children do not go hungry while home for the summer break.

Food Boxes

Native American families are 400% more likely to experience food insecurity compared to the average U.S. family.* The addition of the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened this issue.

To combat hunger, St. Joseph's sent 274 food boxes to families in-need in reservation communities, including:



- Milk
- Eggs
- Bread
- Cans of soup, fruits & veggies
- Cereal
- Apples
- Oranges
- Peanut butter
- Flour
- Rice
- Dairy/produce/meat
- So much more!



274
food boxes were delivered to students and families as an outreach effort.

Reservation Mission Runs

When St. Joseph's is blessed with a surplus of items, we hand deliver them to people in over 30 reservation communities spanning South Dakota's nine reservations. These mission runs often include supplies of clothing, books, toys, diapers, blankets and household essentials. During South Dakota's harsh winters, mission runs can sometimes provide warm coats, blankets, hats, gloves and more to people in-need.

Approx.
90
educational packets were sent home to students for fun summer learning activities.

*Partnership with Native Americans

Looking Ahead ...

St. Joseph's Strategic Plan: A Decade of Inclusion, 2020-2030

We walk alongside our students and their families as partners in their lives, education and faith formation. To meet this mission, this 2020-2030 St. Joseph's Indian School Strategic Plan contains a bold vision to be national leaders in advancing Native American lives.

Our Decade of Inclusion Challenges Us

To partner with our students, their families and supporters to meet the strategic vision of national leadership, we will implement these four primary strategies:

- **We will stand firm in our strengths and knowingly maintain what we do well.**
- **We will recognize and rectify our flaws.**
- **We will reach and partner beyond our walls physically and digitally.**
- **We will think and act boldly and ethically — and lead the way nationally.**

We will recognize and keep doing what we do well, improve upon our flaws, reach beyond our walls, and go boldly into the national conversation regarding Native life. We will be actively present in shaping our internal systems and showcase our mission on the national stage. We will take action. We will lead. We will be St. Joe Strong.



St. Joseph's Financial Report

for the Year Ended June 30, 2021

COST TO RAISE A DOLLAR

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



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



Contributions

Contributions	107,590,202
Bequests	13,589,612
Restricted Contributions	3,006,611
Other Earned Income	1,297,189
Other Contributions	58,992
Government Support	4,548,990
Total Contributions & Support	130,091,596

Expenditures

Program Services

Education, Residential, Cultural	35,265,224
Apostolate of Prayer, Spiritual / MAP	12,928,471
Total Program Services	48,193,695

Supporting Services

Administration/ Depreciation/ Non-Program Sales	5,328,149
Fund-Raising	26,620,213
Donor Development	8,150,138
Total Support Services	40,098,500

Total Expenditures **88,292,195**

Excess (Shortfall) **41,799,401**

Results from Investments

Investment Income	44,429,901
Net Interest CGA Program	12,135,692
Total Investment Returns	56,565,593

Change in Net Assets

Net Assets, Beginning of Year	226,919,268
Change in Net Assets	98,364,994
Net Assets, End of Year	325,284,262

Financials audited annually by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.



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