



SIENA RETREAT CENTER

2018-2019
Annual Report

The Year in Review: Programming Responds to Today's Spiritual Needs

Racial justice, grieving, aging, and hope are a few of the 80+ topics and themes which engaged a record 3,065 participants through the course of the year.

Among the many highlights were "Lessons on Becoming a Better Ally to People of Color" facilitated by Joan Crawford, "Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart" with author Robert Wicks, and the Holy Week Retreat with Diarmuid O'Murchu.

In observance of the 50th anniversary of Thomas Merton's death,

environmentalist Eric Anglada presented a day on Merton's ecological writings,

Racine Dominican Sister Vivian Giddings presented an indigenous perspective of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Franciscan Sister Bea Eichten led a day on healing family memory,

and theologian and Racine native Heidi Russell offered the latest on the intersection between quantum science and spirituality.

The popular Situations of Substance series covered such topics as the meaning of democracy today and racial and immigrant justice.

Mindfulness, creativity, empathy, and interspirituality were also among the topics of our sponsored retreats.

I gained new insights into the core of my being.

—Judith,
Retreat Participant



Singer-Songwriter Sara Thomsen Warms Hearts at Annual Spring Concert

Siena Retreat Center welcomed a record crowd for its annual fundraising event on Sunday, April 28, 2019. The event included a silent auction and concert. Singer-songwriter Sara Thomsen warmed the hearts of attendees with her inspiring song lyrics and storytelling.

Sara engaged the audience in several songs. As the crowd left, many people commented that the event was "like a retreat." We wish to thank Sara and all who attended.

Sara's latest CD is expected to be released in November of 2019,

just in time for holiday gift giving.

We plan to stock it in the Bookstore where purchases support the mission and ministry of the Center.

Sara will join us again in concert on April 18, 2021. We encourage you to mark your calendars and invite a friend.



In 2020, the Choral Arts Society will return to perform in concert for Siena Retreat Center's annual fundraising event on April 26. The Choral Arts Society is an auditioned community chorus that "celebrates the human spirit through choral music." The Chorus is looking forward to

inspiring and entertaining another capacity crowd, celebrating the human spirit through song.



National Honor Society Students from Racine, Emily (left) and Andrea (right) have been bringing their youthful enthusiasm to Siena Retreat Center as volunteers since May. They have cheerfully taken on a wide range of tasks, from pulling weeds to cleaning and organizing closets to serving meals. Andrea says, "I like how friendly the atmosphere is here. It makes me want to keep coming back."



Associate Director of Programming Jim Gill joined Siena Retreat Center's staff in October of 2018. Reflecting on the mission of the Center, Jim observes, "In today's fast-paced and demanding world, it's more important than ever to take time to be in touch with the movement of the Divine in our lives."

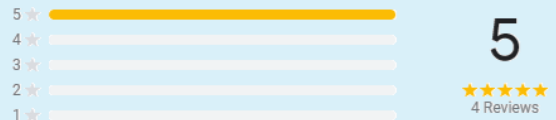


Congratulations to Tod Nielsen and Erica Hodgson who won quilts in Siena Retreat Center's quilt raffle! Tod won a twin-size quilt and Erica won a lap quilt. Thanks to those who donated the quilts and to all who purchased a ticket in support Siena Retreat Center's mission.

Siena Retreat Center Clicks into Social Media

Popular social media platforms, search engines, and public online events calendars are no-charge ways that Siena Retreat Center's mission and message are connecting with tech-savvy and mobile audiences. With a combined following of 1,289 people on major social media platforms, Siena Retreat Center enjoys a 5-star rating. Our online presence may be a contributing factor to a very successful year (please see page 5).

LATEST REVIEWS



Erica Hodgson

★★★★★ 5 weeks ago

Such a divine space for inner peace and healing! I did a private retreat and loved every second of it!



Siena Retreat Center Invites You for Spiritual Time Away

Siena Retreat Center



n to your heart. Learn more about Siena between Chicago and ...

Instagram



Like Follow Share ...



Siena Campus Welcomes Chef Jasen Lohr

With a background as a chef in catering, hotel, restaurant, and educational settings, Jasen Lohr is looking forward to working in a holistic setting on the Siena campus.

Raised on Milwaukee's south side, Jasen attended Thomas More High School and

Milwaukee's MATC culinary school.



He has local Racine connections, having served as a chef at Johnson's Wingspread and Council House.

"Food connects mind and body," states Jasen. "The better one eats the better one feels."

Jasen began his work supporting

and cooking for all entities on the Siena campus in August of 2019. This fall he is making local, farm-to-table connections for Siena's meals.

"Food is usually the central part of any celebration worldwide," he adds.

Jasen and his wife live in Caledonia with their two children. The family enjoys fishing, camping, hiking and gardening.

Grief Facilitation Training Inspires a Profession of Service

By Catherine Horzewski

Two years ago I began volunteering as the facilitator of a support group for those who had lost a loved one to suicide.

I volunteered as a chaplain and crisis counselor, and gradually a higher calling to bear witness to others' experiences was revealed to me.

Siena Retreat Center's grief support training team created sacred community and allowed space for my deeper work to transpire.

Thank you for giving life and a beautiful home to these meaningful programs through Siena Retreat Center!

—Grief Facilitation
Training Participant
Catherine Horzewski

I gained insight through training opportunities at Siena Retreat Center, and, coupled with personal discernment, I solidified my decision to move more deeply into this work of spirit.

Last fall I enrolled in graduate Thanatology studies at Marian University and look forward to continuing to

develop my skills in order to best companion those who entrust me with their stories.

The accessibility of Siena Retreat Center's offerings made my participation in workshops focused on loss and healing a reality.

Thank you for giving life and a beautiful home to these meaningful programs through Siena Retreat Center!



Catherine Horzewski



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

Siena Retreat Center is a ministry of the Racine Dominican Sisters. Through communal and contemplative presence, rooted in God's transformational Word, the Racine Dominicans are committed to truth and compelled to justice.

Institute for Spiritual Guidance Graduates First Group of Supervisors



Annette (Jo) Giarrante and Terry Johnson (seated) pose with the first graduates of the Institute for Spiritual Guidance's supervisor training.

The paradigm of the Universe Story was the foundation for Siena Retreat Center's first supervision training, an initiative within Siena Retreat Center's Institute for Spiritual Guidance.

Supervision addresses what lies beneath the surface of the spiritual guide as he or she companions others on their spiritual journey.

The program leaders, Annette (Jo) Giarrante and Terry Johnson commented, "We were both impressed with the skill and wisdom of this group of participants. They will make great

supervisors!"

Siena Retreat Center developed the Institute for Spiritual Guidance in response to a need for on-going education and skill-building for spiritual guides. Since 2015, the Institute has provided numerous enrichment opportunities and expanded to include supervision training in 2018-2019.

The Institute will celebrate its fifth anniversary in 2020, the same year in which Siena Retreat Center's well known Spiritual Guidance Training Program will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Diverse Donation Opportunities Allow Donors to Match Their Interest and Giving Level

Because retreat fees comprise only a certain percentage of the operating budget, Siena Retreat Center relies on individual donations, bequests, and grants to support its mission.

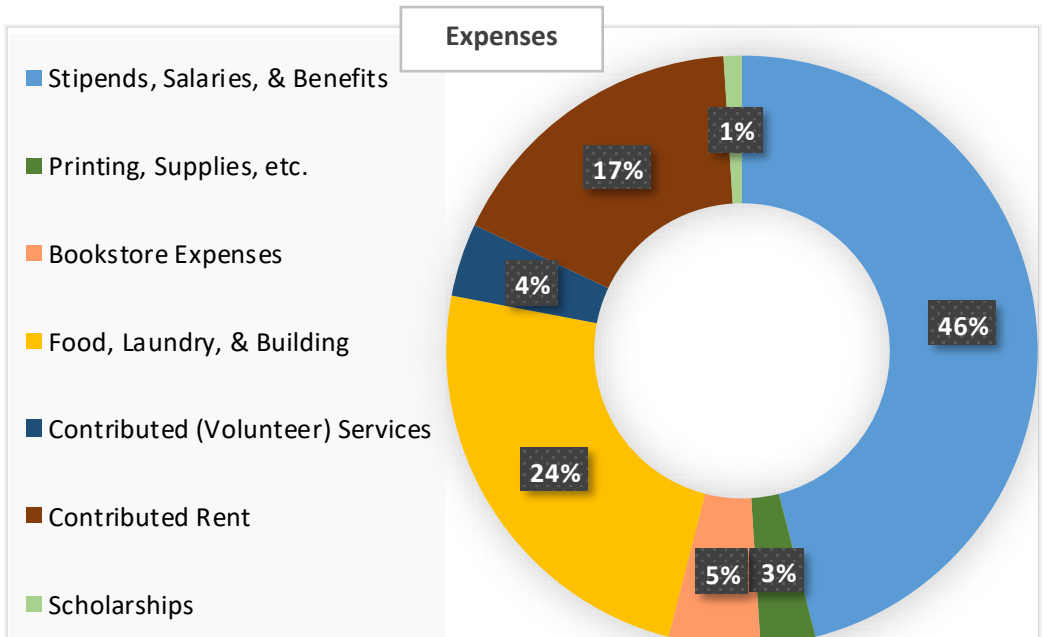
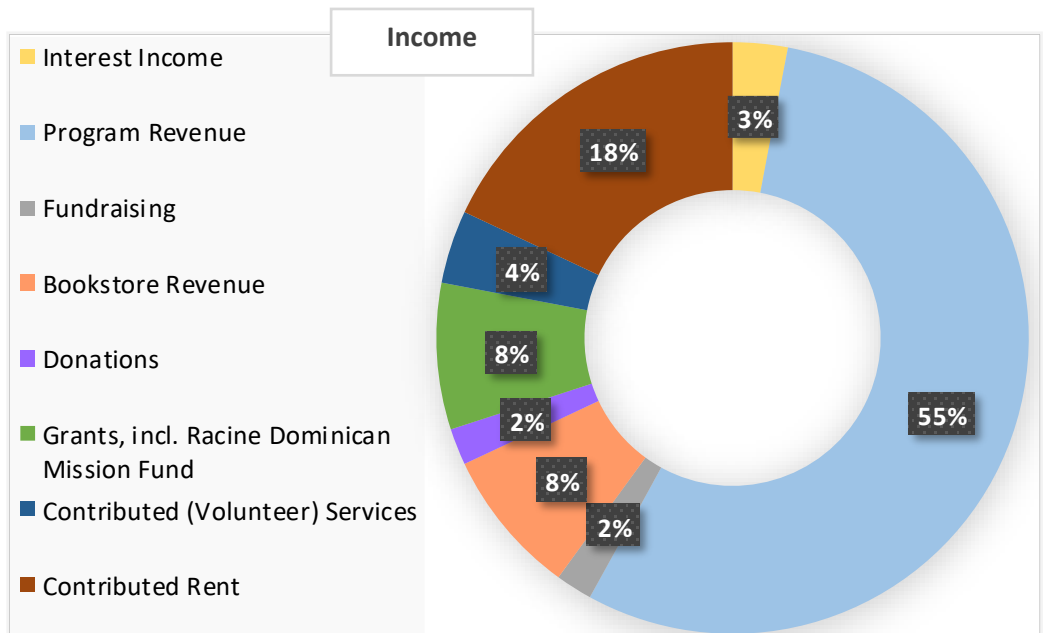
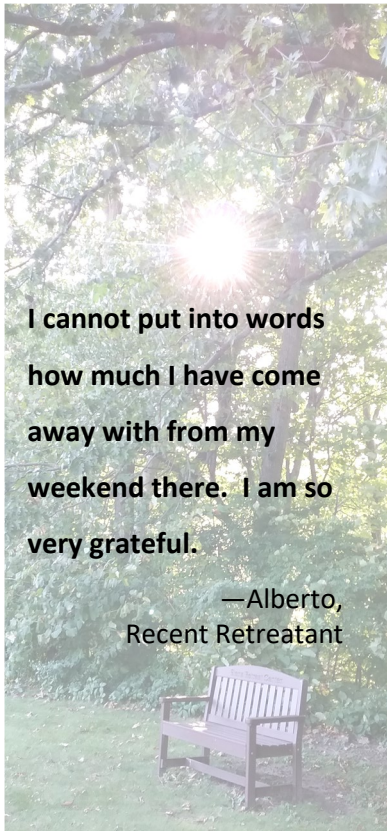
Donors may select from a wide range of donation options:

- donating online at www.SienaRetreatCenter.org
- rolling over a pre-retirement IRA distribution
- designating Siena Retreat Center as a beneficiary of your will, estate plan, annuity, or life insurance policy
- connecting us with granting foundations whose giving interests are in line with our mission
- naming Siena Retreat Center as a suggested charity in memory of a deceased loved one
- pursuing workplace matching opportunities such as matching funds
- contributing to our annual fund appeal

- making a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one
- donating to the Memorial Plaque or the Mary N. (Gallo) Iaquina Endowed Fund for Scholarships.

Siena Retreat Center, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible. To discuss specific opportunities, please contact Diane Poplawski, OP, at dpoplawski@racinedominicans.org or (262) 898-2586.

Siena Retreat Center's diverse revenue streams make up a budget of approximately \$1,600,000.





In March, Siena Retreat Center staffed a booth at the Aging Symposium at St. John's on the Lake in Milwaukee.

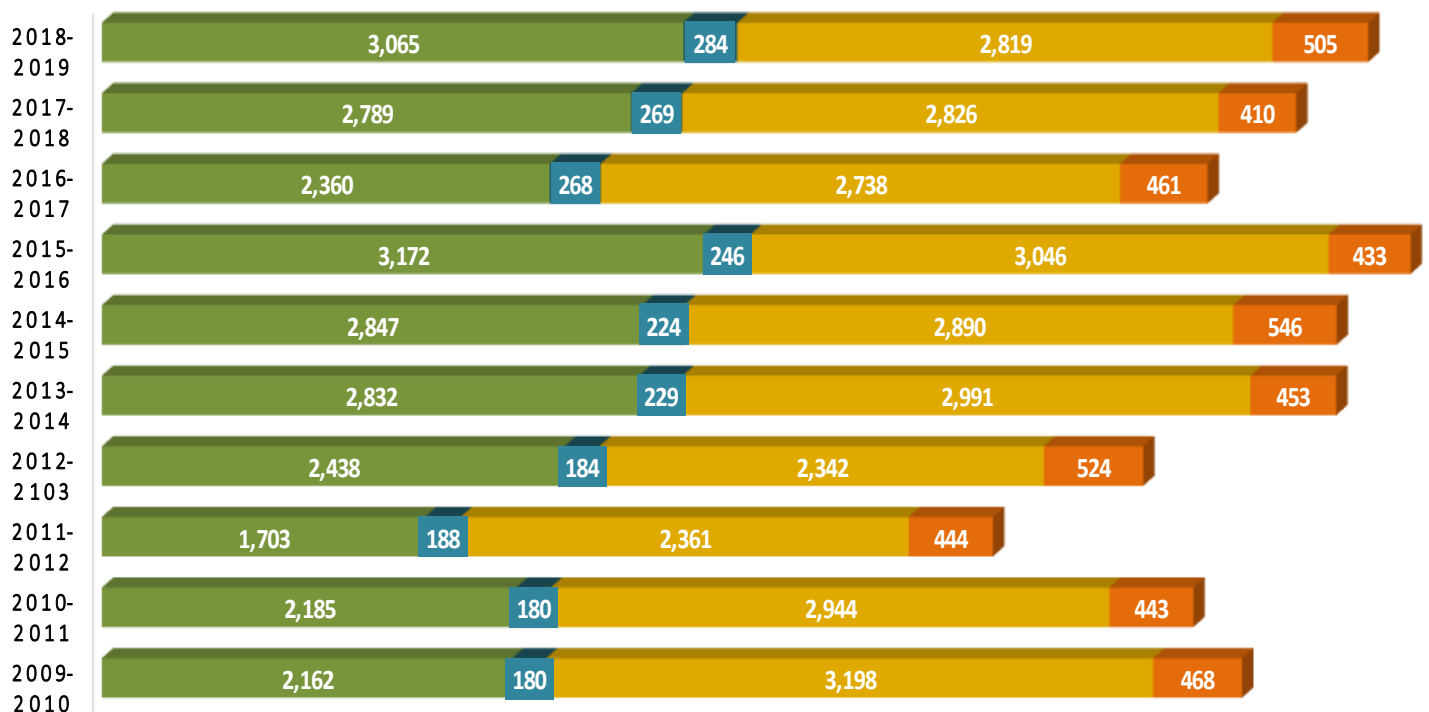
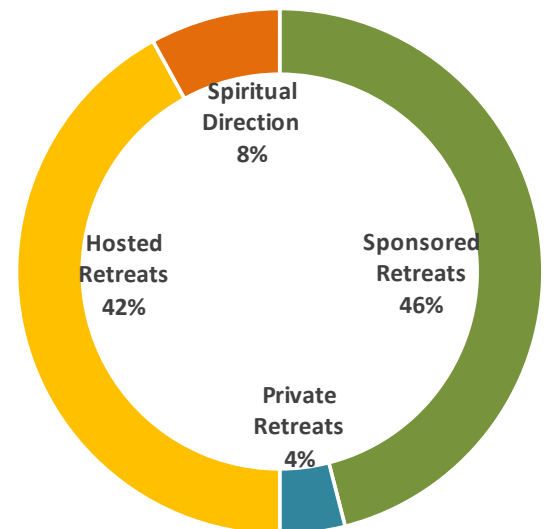


On March 18th, the staff honored Siena Retreat Center's volunteers with a special dinner and program. Volunteers are essential to our mission to be a welcoming community. More than 100 volunteers serve meals, staff the front desk and Bookstore, welcome groups, serve on committees and the Board of Directors, help with special projects, and carry out a host of other important roles. Heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jane Czarnecki at jczarnecki@racinedominicans.org or (262) 898-2591.

The Year in Numbers

Right: During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, 46% of those who came through our doors came for a sponsored retreat or program, 4% came for a private retreat, 42% came for a retreat hosted at Siena Retreat Center, and 8% came for a one-on-one spiritual guidance (spiritual direction) appointment.

Below: This year volunteers, staff, spiritual guides, and retreat leaders served a total of 6,673 people, the second highest number in recent years. Among those served, 3,065 came for sponsored retreats and programs, 284 people enjoyed a private retreat, and 2,819 people came for a hosted retreat. There were 505 spiritual guidance appointments throughout the year.



Siena Retreat Center Expresses Gratitude to These Donors Who Made General Donations or Scholarship Donations

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Special Thanks to These Memorial Plaque Donors

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Siena Retreat Center's Memorial Plaque honors living and deceased friends, mentors, and family members with a minimum donation of \$250. The lovely, artistic Plaque is viewed by the many retreatants who come to Siena Retreat Center seeking a peaceful space.



Siena Retreat Center is grateful for funding from the following grants:

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation's
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Ann Wirtz & Clement Knight



Donors listed on these pages are acknowledged for having made a contribution between September 1, 2018, and August 31, 2019.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If you notice an error, please bring it to our attention. Thank you.

Special Thanks to the Supporters of the Mary N. (Gallo) Iaquina Endowed Scholarship Fund

Longtime resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin, Mary N. (Gallo) Iaquina (1920-2016) devoted her life to literacy and literature, to her family and community, and to philosophy and the spiritual quest. The Mary N. (Gallo) Iaquina Endowed Scholarship Fund provides partial scholarships for those with financial need who are otherwise unable to pay retreat fees.



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