

# Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation

## Promise of the Prairie

WINTER AND  
SPRING 2017

SACRED HEART MONASTERY ~ SUBIACO MANOR

## Generous Hearts Grace Giving Hearts Day with the Best Year Yet!

Henry Ford once commented, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." While it is doubtful, to say the least, that he had our southwest North Dakota Giving Hearts Day (GHD) collaborative in mind, his statement clearly describes us! This year marked Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation's fourth year of participation in Giving Hearts Day (we were in the initial group of invited participants in our area) and we rejoice to say we get better with each year's experience. Even more notable, perhaps, is that our *results* get better. This year we received more than we ever imagined possible thanks to so many generous people! We are finding that an "ask" is really an invitation to give and to participate in meeting the needs of others.

Let us first set the context for this year's results. In 2014 when we first participated, there were eight nonprofits in our collaborative, we had only a few weeks to prepare, and the Impact Foundation in Fargo provided us with our required \$4,000 match in order to participate. With 102 donors our community raised over \$11,000 (including the match).

In 2015, we received \$2500 toward our match from Impact, and, though we had slightly fewer donors on GHD, our donations increased to well over \$17,000. Our eleven-member collaborative met several times to figure how to maximize our efforts. Members stepped up with a bit more assurance than in our first year, we were able to brainstorm ideas for increasing awareness of this day of giving, and our common efforts in mailing, speaking and general outreach benefited all of us.

Our collaborative grew to thirteen members in 2016. We each had to provide our own \$4,000 minimum match prior to the event, yet our Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation donors as well as our donations increased. We were able to raise well over \$18,000 in our third year of participation. The three of us here in Richardton (Assumption Abbey, the Richardton Healthcare Foundation and us) visited local businesses prior to the event and hosted lunch at our new Richardton City Hall. It gave us a chance to tell people directly about GHD on a local level.

But none of this history prepared us for all the good news in 2017! After a small mention in our *Benedictine Witness*, donors stepped up to help us raise our match funds the first time we asked. Our collaborative of ten hosted an event at the West River



The members of the 2017 southwest Giving Hearts Day collaborative include Amen Food Pantry, Assumption Abbey, Badlands Choice Clinic, Badlands Ministries, Best Friends Mentoring, Dickinson Backpack, Dickinson Catholic Schools, Home on the Range, Richardton Healthcare Foundation and Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation.

Community Center to spread the word and add some fun to Giving Hearts Day. Furthermore, not only did we receive more gifts, our *donors* increased by more than a hundred! We had 117 more gifts than last year, including 22 donors who have never given to us before. Our donations increased to an impressive total of well over \$28,000. We are immensely grateful for this year's amazing generosity!

For our first three years of participation, Impact required that any checks received for Giving Hearts Day had to be \$5,000 or more before they could count toward our online total. Last year representatives from Impact came to listen to our collaborative's concern about that requirement and other issues we had here on the

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**APRIL SHOWERS**  
Sacred Heart  
Benedictine Foundation  
Spring Giveaway!  
Check out pages 3 & 4!



western edge. We know many of our donors prefer to use checks rather than credit cards. They obviously took our concerns seriously because this year for the first time in GHD's ten-year history, checks could be sent in ahead of time and, if dated February 9, could be scanned on the day of the event to count toward our online total. This made a big difference for us and for others because this year's statewide increase was over \$2.3 million, the largest increase in its history!

This year our collaborative of ten charities worked together well. In combining our outreach with an oversized postcard with a description of Giving Hearts Day and naming our charities, our merged list kept households from receiving multiple mailings and we saved money by doing this together. Different participants took responsibility to appear on radio and TV shows, provide interviews for the feature article in the *Dickinson Press*, maintain a special Facebook page, prepare a video highlighting the work of our various charities, design and produce posters and business cards for distribution, speak at various business and service clubs, prepare announcements for church bulletins, and engage in countless one-on-one conversations about this event.

At the City Commission meeting in early February, the mayor of Dickinson proclaimed February 9 Giving Hearts Day in which he recognized the charitable nonprofit sector for providing essential services that improve the quality of life for citizens, acknowledged that the nonprofit sector is beneficial in southwest North Dakota because it improves life outcomes and strengthens community, called for support for the charitable nonprofit sector that equips our citizens with the tools necessary to lead safe, healthy and productive lives,



and encouraged support for Giving Hearts Day by volunteering or making financial donations to local charities in our area.

Businesses again were willing to join us in a significant way. Gate City

Bank donated \$2,500 to the winner of the drawing from our area and we are happy for the monks Assumption Abbey who claimed this year's prize. Fifteen businesses here in southwest North Dakota offered free or discounted items on February 9 and 10 to anyone wearing a "I Have a Giving Heart" sticker that was distributed to those who donated at least \$10 to any of the charities at the Cookie Challenge at the West River Community Center in Dickinson. The "Cookie Challenge" was one of our new activities this year and we hope to keep some variation of this in the future. From 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. folks could pass through, sample cookies from each of the ten stations and then could cast their ballot for their favorite cookie. Amen Food Pantry was this year's winner with Susie Kapelovitz as the baker and Marlene Schopp as the decorator (each one was a work of art!).

As individual nonprofits and as a collaborative, we still have an opportunity to win more prizes at Impact's Giving Hearts Day awards banquet in Bismarck on April 12. As a registered charity on the [impactgiveback.org](http://impactgiveback.org) site, donors can contribute online to Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation and other charities throughout the year. We have a link to this site on our website [sacredheartmonastery.com](http://sacredheartmonastery.com) also.

"We are well aware that God works with those who love him, those who have been called in accordance with his purpose, and turns everything to their good" (Romans 8:28).

**(Clockwise) Leading up to Giving Hearts Day, Fran Hauck and Sister Renée made and frosted hundreds of cookies; Sisters Phoebe and Michael called donors to thank them; Ila worked tirelessly for our collaborative, spearheaded our Foundation's efforts for this event, and entered the gifts as they came in; and we ALL prayed. It takes a village to pull off Giving Hearts Day!**





# APRIL SHOWERS

Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation

April 2017

Spring Giveaway!



April showers not only bring May flowers, but also beautiful rainbows and when we think of rainbows ... we think of the "pot of gold" at the end of each one! Even though no one has ever found the magical pot of gold the Sisters at Sacred Heart know that there is one. Each year they receive generous donations from those of you who support this fundraiser. The exciting part for them is that you, the donor, have a chance to share in the "pot of gold" if you are one of 30 lucky winners of the daily drawings.

To register for our April Calendar Giveaway, simply cut off the entry form on the next page and return it to:

**Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation**  
P.O. Box 364  
Richardton, ND 58652

The suggested donation is \$10.00 per entry. If you would like to enter more than once, you may send in the additional donation and we will fill out the forms for you. Each chance is entered in our daily drawing. If your name is drawn, you will win the amount listed for that date. Your name will then be

returned to the drawing for a second, third, and thirtieth chance! Each day a \$50 winner will be drawn, with a \$250 drawing on April 15 – a little extra on that dreaded Tax Day!

A different Sister will draw each evening before supper throughout April. Weekend drawings will be held on the Friday preceding the weekend. The daily winners will be mailed their winnings with 14 days.

Check out our website for a complete list of winners.  
[www.sacredheartmonastery.com](http://www.sacredheartmonastery.com)

If you have any questions, call the Foundation Office  
(701) 974-2121

**Thank you for your participation and support!**

*Drawings held April 1 through April 30, 2017  
Need not be present to win  
No purchase necessary  
Purchase of ticket is not a charitable donation  
Permit #112*

.....There shall be showers of blessing. Eze 34:26

# APRIL SHOWERS 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<sup>1</sup> \$50
<sup>2</sup> \$50	<sup>3</sup> \$50	<sup>4</sup> \$50	<sup>5</sup> \$50	<sup>6</sup> \$50	<sup>7</sup> \$50	<sup>8</sup> \$50
<sup>9</sup> \$50	<sup>10</sup> \$50	<sup>11</sup> \$50	<sup>12</sup> \$50	<sup>13</sup> \$50	<sup>14</sup> \$50	<sup>15</sup> \$250
<sup>16</sup> \$50	<sup>17</sup> \$50	<sup>18</sup> \$50	<sup>19</sup> \$50	<sup>20</sup> \$50	<sup>21</sup> \$50	<sup>22</sup> \$50
<sup>23</sup> \$50	<sup>24</sup> \$50	<sup>25</sup> \$50	<sup>26</sup> \$50	<sup>27</sup> \$50	<sup>28</sup> \$50	<sup>29</sup> \$50
<sup>30</sup> \$50						

**To register for our April Calendar Giveaway**, simple cut off this entry form and return it to : Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation, P.O. Box 364, Richardton, ND 58652. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per entry. For more information, see the letter on the opposite side of this form. **Receipts sent only upon request.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

April Showers Chances: \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Other Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please send receipt



8969 Hwy 10  
P.O. Box 364  
Richardton, ND 58652

*Please help keep our mailing list current:*

- ☐ New address  
☐ Please remove my name  
☐ Receiving more than one copy

Mission Statement: Benedictine Sisters of Richardton

We are a vibrant community of Catholic Benedictine women who strive to deepen our relationship with God and one another through sharing the spiritual and material gifts God has given to us on this prairie.

## Q & A

### Donors ask, "Do you have a gift shop at the Monastery?"

Indeed we do! About half of what is in our gift shop are items crafted by the Sisters. For instance, you will find "llama pouches." We are not saying that llamas are like kangaroos! Rather, Sister Kathleen Kuntz likes to use smaller pieces of yarn to make small woven pouches for rosaries, change, jewelry, etc. They are colorful and have unique buttons. They are practical and youngsters are drawn to them immediately.

Sisters Dolores and Lucille Heidt both embroider lovely dishtowels. They are always in great demand for gifts and usually one or two of them are put in with any of our donations to various fundraisers. They also do pillowcases. Sister Carol Axtmann does all sorts of caps and scarves from yarn, as well as greeting cards and small gift boxes. You can't move around too far in the gift shop without finding something she has created. Sister Michael Emond usually spearheads the homemade jelly which is quite popular. She also looms scarves from Sister Patti's yarn. Sister Renée Branigan cross stitches cards for various occasions—occasionally!

Sister Patti Koehler does colorful "doily art" (Sister Kathleen named it that and the name has stuck) abstract paintings and mixed media. It cannot be described—it is definitely a "come and see" art. She always dyes our llama wool and silk scarves that are utterly exquisite. By time this newsletter comes out, she will have invented another artistic expression.

Other than homemade items, there is a nice variety of religious items and greeting cards. We have a "vintage" section. It will make sense when you come and see it! Our hours are totally flexible, so all you need to do is come or call and it will be opened for you!



## A Donor's Glossary

**Impact Giveback** ([impactgiveback.org](http://impactgiveback.org)) is a secure website that is home to Giving Hearts Day, but also one in which we can receive online donations all year round because we are a registered nonprofit.

**North Dakota Community Foundation** ([NDCF.net](http://NDCF.net)) Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation has a permanent endowment fund here that offers donors federal and North Dakota state tax benefits.

**April Showers** is not an online site, but you can enter that way! On pages 3 and 4 of this issue, you will find a way to join in the fun. For a recommended donation of \$10, your name will be entered into a daily drawing throughout April for \$50. On April 15, you can win \$250! After we have drawn your name, it goes right back into the pile—yes, we have drawn the same ticket more than once in a month—and we will mail your check within a week.

*If you choose to enter April Showers online, we will fill out the form for you! Just indicate it in the message line.*

**Sacredheartmonastery.com** is a great place to visit! Besides having a link to our Facebook page, our webpage has a donate button that offers two options for secure giving online. One is the Impact site mentioned above and the second is through PayPal. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to use this option; you simply enter your credit card number per transaction.