40,000 and growing!
By Pat Schlauderaff

Seven years ago the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls were dreaming dreams and creating new avenues for ministry in Christ’s name. One vision was to open an opportunity for young adults to grow in a community of Franciscan spirituality AND to serve the broader community, volunteering in nonprofit organizations. Seeds were planted in the garden of faith. To God’s delight up sprung Franciscan Community Volunteers.

Sister Clara Stang was called to be the first gardener and, with the prayers and financial resources of the Franciscan Sisters, FCV has grown, flourished and changed lives. I came to the program in July 2013, the seeds that had been planted were and continue to flourish. What a gift to see the bounty.

40,000! 40,000!! 40,000 HOURS of volunteer service! FCV just passed that milestone. That is the equivalent of one person working 20 years. What an amazing accomplishment! 40,000 hours of service with children, Hispanic immigrants, the homeless, the elderly, the poor and disenfranchised. This is only the tip of the iceberg seen by others. Below the surface are all these wonderful people made and remade again and again in the image of Christ... those served, the volunteers, myself as the program director, the sisters both at the Motherhouse and here at the Welcoming House, the companions, the praying sisters, the companion sisters, the legions of angels watching over us and dancing with delight in heaven.

We sing praises to God from whom all good things flow. Please join us in celebration and support of this amazing ministry at the Taste of St. Cloud on Monday, May 4, 2015.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day honored in style

Every year, to honor Martin Luther King Jr., the Franciscan Community Volunteers set aside a day to reach out to others as a group. This year we did something different. Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell was hosting a large Kids Fighting Hunger food packaging event with the hope of packing over 50,000 meals to send to West Africa to help people that are starving from the effects of Ebola.

The FCV’s challenged their community companions to come and volunteer with them for this event. Every one of them came! Together they helped package over 51,600 meals! They helped behind the scenes, hauling rice, checking people in, loading the truck and filling boxes. Many hands make light work…. Well, this wasn’t light work, but together they made a difference and had fun while doing it!

Seeds planted have grown in the Taste of St. Cloud

By Sister Cordy Korkowski

The springtime and summertime seasons bring Taste events to many communities. Each has its own unique purpose and flavor. The first Taste I attended was the Taste of Blaine, organized by my brother Cliff for the benefit of families in need of cars. He now enjoys our Taste of St. Cloud along with many other guests. Our Franciscan Community Volunteers benefit from the Taste of St. Cloud event and the seeds of support, partnership and friendship are strong flavors at Coyote Moon Grille.

Every year I look forward to the Taste of St. Cloud, because it is a meeting place for family, friends, lots of Franciscan Sisters and supporters. The food is great, as evidenced by Molly Weyrens and me. One needs to keep on the move to taste all the delicious food from the 16 restaurants. I enjoy supporting this event and our Franciscan Volunteers who share our home at the Franciscan Welcoming House, our values and great mission of community, faith and outreach during their 11 months. Let’s meet our fundraising goal of $30,000 this year.

We can do this, and have lots of fun on May 4. Please mark your calendars TODAY!

A sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota

Counting our blessings

By Sister Clara Stang

From its inception in 2009, the Franciscan Community Volunteer program (FCV) has been blessed with support from the “Taste of St. Cloud,” held annually at the Coyote Moon Grille.

I still recall the day I spoke with my nephew, Mike Stang, who readily referred me to his brothers Dan and Jess, all employees at Coyote Moon about the possibility of this kind of fundraiser. Since then, owners Mike and Mar Dols, have hosted this grand event at Coyote Moon. Many of you have appreciated Coyote Moon’s distinctive features—a dining room on two levels, an outdoor terrace and a patio. Everyone enjoys the comradery among the enthusiastic guests.

This year’s “Taste” will be held on Monday, May 4. Mark your calendars now. We thank in advance all the generous participating restaurants whose delicious entrees are always amazing and scrumptious! Thanks, also, to the contributors to the silent auction. My painting, “Springtime in Full Bloom” (see photo) will be among the offerings this year. Contact the FCV office (320) 229-0307 if you wish to be a contributor.

Without a fundraiser like this it would be impossible to maintain our great FCV program, which welcomes young men and women to live with us while doing fulltime community service. For eleven months they share community life and Franciscan spirituality with Franciscan Sisters.

Sister Clara showing her donation for the Silent Auction

“Springtime in Full Bloom”
To purchase advance tickets:

Complete form below.
Mail a check payable to:
Franciscan Sisters
1600 11th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Or Purchase online by May 1:
www.fcVoltine.org or FSLF.org
Specify “Taste of St. Cloud Tickets”
Your tickets will be at the welcome table at the Taste of St. Cloud.

□ I wish to purchase ________ tickets at $25 each for the 2015 Taste of St. Cloud. I understand that the tickets will be at the welcome table at the Taste of St. Cloud under my name or the name designated: ____________________________

□ I am unable to attend the 2015 Taste of St. Cloud yet wish to support the mission of the Franciscan Community Volunteers.

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
E-Mail: _________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________

What do the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls offer today? By their professed lifestyle, holding lightly to the goods of the earth and walking gently and reverently through the world, they seek to remind the world that everything and every single human being is a gift from God.

Thank you sisters for sharing yourselves with us! Pat, Breanna, Karina, Kristen, Hannah, Shaina, Kevin

Check us out on Facebook! Visit us on the web! www.fcVoltine.org
You can support FCV

- Send a note to one or all of our new volunteers.
- Volunteer to cook at the Welcoming House on a Monday night for the group or for other special occasions.
- Partner with us financially. Your dollars go a long way in supporting the needs of social service agencies in the St. Cloud area.
- Check us out on the Internet . . . Let other people know about our program by liking, sharing and commenting our Facebook and Blog posts!

Looking ahead

March 23: St. John’s Illuminated Bible Tour
March 29: Help set-up for Place of Hope Empty Bowl Fundraiser
March 30: Visit to Motherhouse dinner/conversation
April 20: Earth Day Celebration

SAVE THE DATE: Taste of St. Cloud Monday, May 4, 2015 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Green tip

Did you know you can receive this newsletter electronically? If you would like to save some trees, go to www.fcvonline.org. On the right hand side of the homepage, you can enter your name and e-mail address to receive our newsletter electronically instead of through the mail.

Franciscan Community Volunteers is based on three pillars: service, community living and Franciscan spirituality. Volunteers make a yearlong commitment to work full time in local nonprofit agencies that serve the needs of those who are poor and marginalized while accepting the challenge of living simply and in accordance with Gospel values.