

VOICES *of* COMPASSION



maryknoll
lay
missioners

prayer christian holy
Dignity of Each
Human Person
GOSPEL
VALUES
Stewardship
SERVICE
Inculturation
BIBLE spiritual
sacrifice
reconciliation
WAY Transformation
SOLIDARITY
life
Love
worship
hope
FAITH
generatio

MKLM Mission Statement

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work in poor communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.



Contact Us

To visit us, learn more about becoming a lay missioner or to support us please visit our website
www.mklm.org



*Find Us on
Facebook.*



**Please Visit
our Chapel**
on the Maryknoll Lay
Missioners website
and light a candle.



*Maryknoll Lay
Missioners meets
all 20 charity
standards of the
Better Business
Bureau.*



*Maryknoll Lay Missioners
is a proud member
of the National
Catholic Development
Conference.*

Dear Friends,

We have a saying here - a phrase. It's something we have believed in since our founding in 1975. "Once a missionary, always a missionary. Once a Maryknoller, always a Maryknoller."

More than 700 lay Catholics from the United States have given at least three and a half years of service to those in need around the world. Many have given more. Some have made the mission of MKLM their own, and have dedicated their lives to fulfilling it.

We are called to fulfill the basic needs in the communities in which we serve, and the way we do that is by opening ourselves to the Spirit. We read about that Spirit in the Gospels, and about the qualities that flow from it. Those are the qualities and values demonstrated by our lay missionaries, and they are the qualities and values that are reinforced during their service.



Sam Stanton, Executive Director, lights our Paschal Candle calling us to worship.

When I reflect on the dedication and the generosity demonstrated by our missionaries, and by the wonderful people who support them, I am overwhelmed by the love shown to us, and to the people we serve. As Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians, "Faith, hope and love abide; but the greatest of these is love."

So when you read Michele Otte's reflection on solidarity, or Fr. Charlie Dittmeier's words on inculturation, know that behind those words are a wealth of experience, and a deep love of service.

We are reminded that a simple "yes" is what is asked of each of us; to humbly do our part with dedication and faithfulness so that this lay mission organization, formed in the tradition of Maryknoll, can flourish and be leaven for many years to come.

Our missionaries serve the people of the Beatitudes - the ones Jesus called "blessed." The poor in Africa, the marginalized in Asia, the sick in Central and South America - these are the people that we are blessed to serve. And in that service we become a part of their communities. I think that is why so many of our returned missionaries end up returning to the United States and working with the populations they served in mission. I've seen it in Seattle, in Ohio,

here in New York and all over the country. "Once a missionary, always a missionary. Once a Maryknoller, always a Maryknoller." We are changed for life.

This lasting transformation is made possible by the Spirit - by God's guidance in our work. It is made possible by our missionaries—these generous folks who dedicate so much of their time and energy to our mission. And it is made possible by our friends, who pray for us and support us in our work.

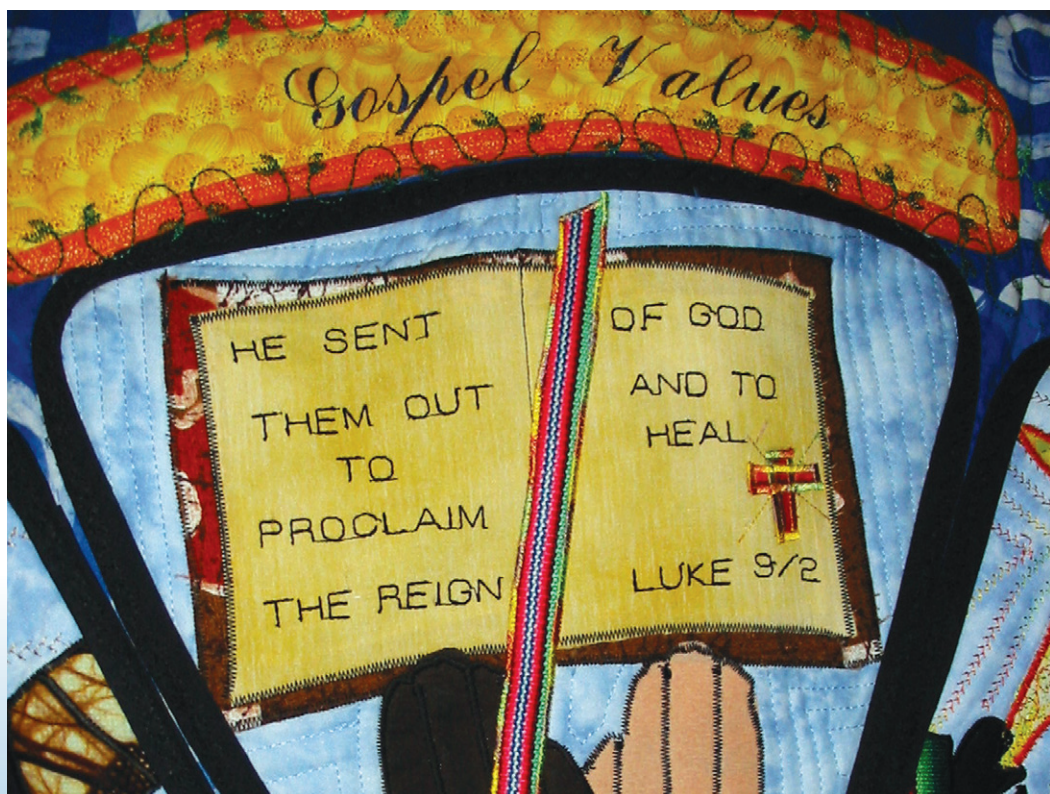
God bless you. Please continue praying for us, that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us to serve those who truly need it - as we continue our mission, to bring about a more compassionate and just world.

Sincerely,



Sam Stanton
Executive Director

In addition to the inspiring stories about how our missionaries live the Gospel Values which animate our mission please refer to pages 20 and 21 for our financial statement.



“Where the Compassion of the Faithful Transforms Lives”

It's amazing what faith can do. We read about that in the Gospels, don't we? Jesus told his followers that faith the size of a mustard seed – a mustard seed! – could move a mountain.

worship **to** sacrifice **I** *reconciliation*

Now, moving a mountain would truly be a miracle. It would be in all the newspapers. It would be all over television and the internet; people would be blogging about it, posting it on Facebook, Tweeting and Re-Tweeting it. Well, what about a different kind of miracle?

Have you ever seen someone who is trapped in poverty get a second chance? The look on their face when they realize that someone wants to help them, rather than exploit them – that's a miracle. Or a child who struggles to learn – who wants to learn – but just has a hard time; until





one day, she finally understands. She gets it, because someone took the time to be patient, and treat her with dignity. The happiness in her eyes – that’s a miracle.

You won’t see stories like those on the nightly news, nor will you

read about them in tomorrow’s newspaper. But those are the stories being told each and every day by our missionaries in their work. We are teachers and preachers, talkers and listeners. We are whatever we need to be in the communities in which we serve. That’s how we live our faith – that’s how we transform lives.



We express our faith joyfully with the people we serve in Bolivia.

Being a Maryknoll Lay Missioner is more than just serving others. It is a way of being and it changes everything.

Each missionary has a wealth of stories. Sometimes they end in laughter – the kind of laughter that makes your cheeks hurt. And sometimes they end in tears. They are stories of triumphs – of grace that we didn’t know was possible until we saw them with our own eyes. And at other times they are stories of sadness. But each story, regardless of the outcome, is only told because these generous people choose to go in the first place – they choose to answer the call.

worship sacrifice reconciliation

Maryknoll Lay Missioners want to transform the lives of the less fortunate, and we want to do it in very tangible ways. We become a part of the community, and they in turn become a part of us.

We live a Gospel centered faith based on unconditional love, compassion and justice. By living this faith the work we do becomes more than just a job or a commitment. It becomes a Gospel centered ministry. For us, the Gospel is fundamental to our identity.

By coming into contact with the diverse human community we encounter more of the beauty that is God.

Some of our missionaries have taken the time to share how these Gospel Values have been made known to them during their service. Their stories are a modern day interpretation of the Gospel Values that have been a hallmark of the Christian faith for 2000 years. They come from all over the world, but they all come from the heart.

Faith

Jason Obergfell has been a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Bolivia since 2006. His focus is on sustainable development, with particular care for environmental safety and sanitation. Through his work, Jason serves anywhere from 100 to 1000 people, depending on the project.

“When I reflect on my own experience of God, I feel more alive because of my faith,” Jason says. “My ever deepening understanding of the Gospels and the values they promote has stoked a fire within my being. I actually care about how my faith relates to my life. It generates a passion within me about what I do and how I live.”

The life giving faith that Jason alludes to is a very real part of being a lay missionary. It has to be. Living far from family and friends, and from the comforts to which we all grow accustomed, can be draining. But when guided by that faith, as Jason says, *“It becomes more than just serving others. It is a way of being, and it changes everything.”*



Our missionaries in Brazil accompany God's people because we are all created in God's image.

Dignity of Each Human Person

Katie Coldwell and **Carolyn Trumble** are both lay missionaries in São Paulo, Brazil. Both work in education, and in addition to promoting dignity in their own work, they are conscious of how other missionaries in the Brazil Community do the same.

"We accompany people who are often faced with situations where poverty isolates them, and challenges their self worth," they said. "In our work we encounter daily both the beauty and sacredness of every person."

Katie and Carolyn are quick to point toward the work their companion missionaries are doing, too, to promote the dignity of each person.

worship **to** sacrifice **I** reconciliation

Whether working with prisoners, or teaching catechism classes to children, or working with women who have suffered domestic violence, The Brazil Mission Community is consistently reminding those they serve that they are valued, that they are respected, and most of all that they are loved.

Service

"Africa is a continent in crisis," says **Russ Brine**. Russ has been a lay missionary in Kenya since 2000, and in his current ministry he works to

rescue destitute children from the streets, to get them into school and reunite them with their families. He works to give kids a second chance.

We believe that God is present wherever we go. Our task is to help people discover God's presence.



"Our lay missionaries in Kenya serve in two areas of ministry – healthcare and education," Russ explains. *"In dispensaries and schools, in projects for street children and AIDS orphans, we serve in collaboration with the Catholic Church which is so vital in Africa. It is rewarding to serve as a part of this large, international Catholic community."*

Our missionaries are a very important part of Kenyan healthcare.



Our missionaries in Tanzania believe that solidarity differentiates mission from ordinary service work.

Solidarity

Michele **Otte** and her husband, **George**, have been in Tanzania since 2008. Through their work in education and healthcare, Michele and George have become vital parts of the community. They are respected, and loved, because of the work they do. But it wasn't until a heartbreaking experience that they truly got a sense of the solidarity that exists on mission.

"A year and a half after our arrival in Tanzania, George's mother passed away. When we returned to Tanzania after the funeral in the States, the staff at the school, and several Maryknoll Affiliates arranged a memorial Mass for George's mom. We know in our heads that all people experience the same challenges in life – it is usually not until we have walked with others through sorrow that we truly know this in our hearts."



Art can be a tool for change – especially in El Salvador

A few months later, when one of the teachers at the school lost her father, Michele and George walked with her through her sorrow. *“Through these experiences we truly felt a sense of solidarity with the people in Tanzania.”*

Transformation

When **Mary Ann Carmel** began her service in 2010, she never could have imagined how quickly the impact would be felt. A lifelong teacher from Florida, Mary Ann brought those skills to the children of the Adescomiiz Indigenous Art School in Izalco, El Salvador.

“The school began with only pencils and paper outdoors under a canopy in September, 2011. Today the school resides in a beautiful building which represents a visible exterior transformation of our ministry. But what really animates and brings life into a ministry are the people in the community. Art can be a tool for social change by engaging youth and families for positive social and personal transformation.”

The Indigenous Art School is an important beginning for the local

FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

What animates and brings life into a ministry are the people in the community.

indigenous population who will be able to represent and identify with their rich cultural heritage. They want their stories to be told and displayed through public murals and paintings, crafts, dance, music, poetry, the Nahuat language, food, and traditional medicines. The art school will also train mentors to teach, students to paint murals and paintings to sell.

ministers and religious to be members with the approval of their bishop or religious superior. For the first 13 years of his service he was in Hong Kong, and since 2000 he has been working with the deaf in Cambodia.



We experience God through the eyes and ears of the Cambodian people.

Inculturation

Fr. Charlie Dittmeier is a diocesan priest from Kentucky, and is a member of the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful (popularly known as Maryknoll Lay Missioners). Although MKLM is largely made up of laity their constitutions allow for ordained

“We believe that God is already present wherever we go, and our task is to find ways to help the people of Cambodia discover that presence and come to know the loving God as we do. That task is made possible by inculturation—being with people, truly appreciating and sharing their language, their foods, their culture, their celebrations.”

worship **to** sacrifice **I** reconciliation

For us in Cambodia, that means engagement with Buddhism, the foundation of Cambodian society; eating prahok, a pungent fish sauce; learning Khmer, a language with 77 letters in the alphabet; and celebrating interminable holidays which limit the work we can do. But it's all part of mission and experiencing our God through the eyes and ears of the Cambodian people."

Stewardship of Creation

When **Jim Weaver** came to Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 1994, he had been a farmer in Colorado. His understanding of nature and his ability to use what was available were valuable assets when he was sent to Peru. Since then, Jim has been working throughout Latin America on sustainable development



We respect the integrity of God's creation wherever we serve.



and farming. He reflects on an experience earlier this year where God was made known to him during a special occasion in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where he currently ministers.

“Earlier this year we celebrated the annual Feast of the True Holy Cross, which our parish is named for. This celebration of blessing and gratitude proclaim how God is present to us in all of creation. Thousands of people come from rural communities all around Cochabamba to give thanks for the harvest. In my ministry with these families, it is enriching to see the kids get their hands dirty seeing all the life in the soil and being amazed by the beauty of nature.”

Through his work in Bolivia, and throughout Latin America, Jim has made a lasting impact on the people he serves. When he and his family leave Cochabamba, whenever that day may come, the lessons he has taught the people there will live on – and the lessons Jim has learned will carry on with him.

It is enriching to see kids get their hands dirty and see the life in the soil and the beauty of nature.

Lives are being transformed through the work of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. These are just a few stories, but we have hundreds. Hundreds of men and women have answered the call to serve over the years, and each and every one of them could tell similar stories. In Bolivia, Kenya, Cambodia, El Salvador, Brazil and Tanzania, Gospel Values have guided our missionaries and their work.

Jesus calls all of us – not necessarily to be lay missionaries – to live by these values. Faith, Respecting the Dignity of the Human Person, Service, Solidarity, Transformation, Inculturation and the Stewardship of Creation – these values are how we make known the Risen Jesus who walks in our midst. This is how we work toward a more just and compassionate world.

Blessed With Good Friends

“You are the light of the world.... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven...” (Matthew 5:14, 16)

Maryknoll Lay Missioners has always been blessed to have good friends. Some of those friends come to us to serve in mission. Others join with us in prayer, offering their intentions for us and for those we serve. Our friends support us in any number of ways, and Rhonda Paver is a good friend to Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Rhonda comes from Anchorage, Alaska, where she lived in a Jesuit mission. When she was deciding where she wanted to go to college, she wanted to maintain that Catholic, Jesuit identity – so she chose to attend Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. While a student there, she met Marj Humphrey.

“Marj and I were in the same class,” Rhonda recalls. “We lived together, studied together, we became best friends.”

After they graduated, Rhonda and Marj went their separate ways – Marj to New York to work for The

Catholic Worker, and Rhonda to Texas where she began an early childhood education school. But they never lost touch.

Marj introduced Rhonda to Maryknoll Lay Missioners. From 1987 until 2005, Marj served as a lay missionary in Kenya. When she returned, she recommended that her friend, Rhonda, join our Board of Directors– and Rhonda has been with us ever since.

“What I like most about Maryknoll Lay Missioners is the work they do. This group, they’re doing the hardest work on the planet, working with those who need it most,” she says. “I think their mission is most aligned with Christ.”

Rhonda’s life in Texas has been a good one. The early childhood education school she started in Texas, called Stepping Stone, has blossomed into the largest private provider of childcare in the entire state. But regardless of what Rhonda



Our Eight Core Values are the foundation of our mission.

has on her plate, she always makes time for MKLM.

As Rhonda looks toward the future of MKLM, she wonders what that future will bring. *"We define ourselves differently,"* she says. *"I really believe in the mission, and the work being done, but I worry about attracting the next generation. I want this to be sustainable."*

As the laity assumes more of a role in the Church, organizations like Maryknoll Lay Missioners will have increasing responsibility. And we do need to attract the next generation of supporters, missionaries and friends. For nearly 30 years, Marj has been blessed to call Rhonda a friend. Now, Maryknoll Lay Missioners is blessed to be able to do the same.



Did You Know?

The three branches of Maryknoll

- Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers,
- Maryknoll Sisters,
- and us, Maryknoll Lay Missioners – are each separately funded and operated.

Although we often join together to serve in mission, each entity depends on its donors for support.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners serves the poor in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

To learn more about us, and how your support creates lasting improvements worldwide, visit **www.mkmlm.org**.

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS!



Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) offers U.S. Catholics, like Minh Nguyen, pictured above, the opportunity to respond to their mission call by living and working with poor communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We invite you to give back from the skills

and gifts with which you have been blessed, and work for sustainable change in an overseas community, in yourself, and in our global church.

*Become a Lay
Missioner and
Make a Difference
in the World!*

If you would like to learn more, or speak with a lay missionary, contact Debbie Northern at (800) 818-5276, ext. 123 (dnorthern@mkml.org) or Joe Regotti at ext. 122 (jregotti@mkml.org).

Congratulations to Doctor Susan Nagele, MKLM

The entire Maryknoll community celebrates and congratulates Dr. Susan Nagele, MKLM, who has been awarded the Medal of Valor Award by the American Medical Association (AMA). She has been a Maryknoll Lay Missioner since 1984 and has spent her entire 28 years as a lay missioner in East Africa sharing her skills as a physician and medical advisor to the most vulnerable populations in Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania.

Dr. Nagele received the Medal of Valor at the American Medical Association's 2012 Interim Meeting on Saturday, November 10, 2012, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The AMA Medal of Valor is awarded to an AMA member or members who demonstrate courage under extraordinary circumstances in non-wartime situations. The award consists of a gold medal and the recipients are selected by the Board of Trustees.

Susan is originally from Urbana, Illinois, in the Diocese of Peoria. She completed her undergraduate studies at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and received her medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. In 1984, Susan began her first six years as a lay missioner in Tanzania and was instrumental in establishing a hospital



there. In 1991, she moved to southern Sudan to begin a primary health-care program for the Diocese of Torit. She established several dispensaries and health centers in various parishes. She also began a TB treatment program that treated over 500 people before it had to be closed because of the war. At one point she was the only doctor for more than 30,000 displaced persons in two camps. Susan lived in Kitale, Kenya from 2003 until 2010 and worked in Kiminini, a small town 12 miles from Kitale. The District has an absolute poverty level of 55%.

Currently Susan works as a medical consultant to Sr. Pauline Nthenya, a registered nurse and Diocesan Health Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Mombasa, Kenya. Together, the two women are working to improve the standard of care in the 19 health-care units overseen by the Archdiocese.

Dear Friends of Maryknoll

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, our missionaries and especially those whom we serve, I am proud to present you with our 2011 Financial Statement.

Each one of you who supports us is a vital member of our mission-sending community. You are absolutely critical in making it possible for us to call forth and send committed Catholic lay men and women to Asia, Africa and Latin America each year.

My personal experience of 19 years in Africa with our lay missionaries inspires my own ongoing commitment to them and to mission. It is because of you that we have been able to send and sustain the hundreds of lay missionaries sent overseas in the past 37 years. Many of these faith-based lay missionaries have continued their service to the needy for more than 20 years.

Thank You! You have invested in an essential venture of our Global Catholic Church: Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

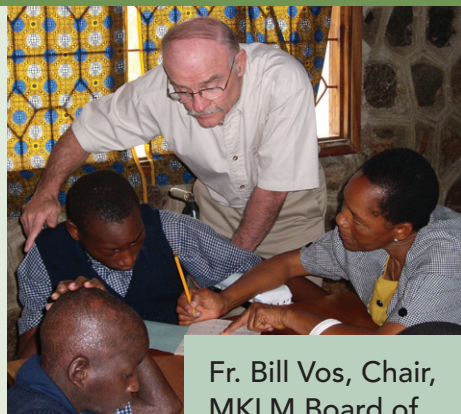
As you read this current issue of *Voices of Compassion*, I hope that you will find it engaging and inspiring and know that all of this is possible because of people like you. During this current year, we anticipate a fiscal upswing and as a result look forward to increasing the number of new missionaries. Moreover, we look forward to our continued partnership with you.

We are excited about our future and hope that you will share in it with us. Please contact me if you would like further information about us and our mission work.

In the Mission of Christ,



Father Bill Vos, Chair, MKLM Board of Directors
mklmchair@gmail.com



Fr. Bill Vos, Chair,
MKLM Board of
Directors with
students.

Lay Missioners,

FINANCES

2011 Operating Income and Expenses

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
General Public Support, Bequests, Foundation Support, & Legacies	\$2,601,856
Grants from Trust	1,330,063
Investments & Reserves	(46,732)
Other Revenue	87,617
Revenue Total	\$3,972,804
Program Services	
Mission Work	\$3,021,024
Education & Recruitment	625,683
Subtotal	\$3,646,707
Support Services	
Fundraising	\$710,949
Administration	532,968
Subtotal	\$1,243,917
PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SERVICES EXPENSES TOTAL	\$4,890,624
NET ASSET BALANCE	\$4,778,621



Kids Only

Maryknoll Lay Missioners help people around the globe.
Unscramble the words and find out about animals
in their neck of the woods.



f i e a g r f

The _ _ _ _ _

can be seen in **Kenya**.

Its tongue is a blueish-purple color and can be 18 to 20 inches long.



t l r e u t

The green sea
_ _ _ _ _

sometime swims off the coast of **Cambodia**. Its shell can be shades of many colors; yellow, green, brown, black or grey.



c e o t l o

The _ _ _ _ _ is a medium sized wild cat that makes its home in **El Salvador**. It hunts at night and sleeps in a tree during the day.

a t n u c o

The toco
_ _ _ _ _

is a bird found in **Brazil**.

Its beak looks large and heavy, but is actually light, almost hollow.



Friends Across Borders



Friends Across Borders is Maryknoll Lay Missioners' mission awareness program. We invite you to deepen and enrich your understanding of mission by joining us on an exciting mission trip.

You will have the opportunity to experience what you could never discover in travel brochures, films, or books. You will experience what life is really like in communities where MKLM missionaries are living out their faith, and working for, and with, the local people.

We look forward to hearing from you and accompanying you on an experience that will change and enrich your life.

Upcoming Mission Awareness Trips

- **CAMBODIA**
Feb. 15 - March 1, 2013
- **BRAZIL**
March 9 - 21, 2013
- **BOLIVIA**
June 21 - 30, 2013
(tentative)
- **TANZANIA**
August 8 - 20, 2013
- **KENYA**
September 6 - 23, 2013
- **EL SALVADOR**
TBD, 2013

Contact Us Today:

CECILIA ESPINOZA

Maryknoll Lay Missioner

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www.friendsacrossborders.org



You can Give and Receive at the same time.

Want to know how?

There is a way to make a gift to Maryknoll Lay Missioners and get something back in return. It's called a Charitable Gift Annuity, and it makes stable, fixed payments to you for life in return for your gift. It's a great way to both give and receive.

Through our partnership with the National Catholic Community Foundation, MKLM is able to offer this gift opportunity to our donors. Establishing a charitable gift annuity is smart, rewarding and simple! In just five steps, you can create a gift that will provide for your future as well as ours.

To learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities and other life income gifts, please contact Margaret Cuccinello, Advancement Director at: (800)867-2980 or via e-mail at mcuccinello@mkmlm.org.



Did you know?

Charitable gift annuities have been around since the early 1800s. Over the years they have evolved into one of the most popular charitable life income plans.