

### **Annual Report** Fiscal Year 2024

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 | stjo.org/report

We serve and terms for the Whole Child Mind, Body, Heart and Spirit



#### OUR HISTORY

St. Joseph's Indian School has been serving Native American children and their families for 97 years.

# OUR

#### VISION

St. Joseph's Indian School strives to be national leaders in advancing Native American lives.



#### OUR MISSION

To educate Native American children and their families for life — mind, body, heart and spirit.



Poverty is a serious issue in South Dakota reservation communities with the potential to fuel other negative issues – violence, addiction, neglect and more. At St. Joseph's, children connect with their culture, receive an education and heal from the negative effects of generations of poverty.

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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.



### **Letter from Development**

Dear Friends,

In my 31 years at St. Joseph's Indian School, one thing has been a constant: change. The other constant? You. The tremendous generosity we receive from you, and others like you, never ceases to amaze and inspire. We are blessed and grateful for your support. Because of you, we once again:

- Managed programs, services and physical plant needs without loans or financial debt.
- Expanded our use of technology to help offset increasing postage and paper costs.
- Saved for new program initiatives and ensured current programs continue unabated.

Your support has allowed for the expansion of programs available to Lakota (Sioux) children and their families at St. Joseph's, which included an emphasis on health and wellness during Fiscal Year 24:

- The resurfacing of our playground, allowing for countless hours of safe play on campus for Lakota children.
- The completion of the first phase of the Recreation Center Renovation and Expansion.
- Rebuilding student enrollment by focusing on student belonging, parent/guardian involvement and concentrated retention strategies.

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 children. With a steady income and sound financial management, you are helping break the cycle of poverty in and out of the classroom through education for life *mind, body, heart and spirit*. Thanks to you, a brighter future for Native American children is within reach.

Wóphila thánka – thank you – for your generous support.

God bless,

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

### **Board of Directors**



Larry Jandreau Chairperson



Vice Chairperson



Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ Board Member



Sr. Catherine Bertrand, SSND, Board Member



Board Member



Board Member



Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ Board Member



Dn. David Nagel Board Member



Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ Board Member



Emmet M. Kenney, Jr., MD, Board Member



Mike Tyrell, SJIS President Non-Voting Member



Jennifer Renner-Meyer Director of Child Services Non-Voting Member



Kory Christianson Secretary Non-Voting Member





#### **Parent Advisory Committee**

Because families are such an integral part of a child's education, health and growth, St. Joseph's Indian School relies on members of the Parent Advisory Committee to provide insight and feedback on programs, services and challenges. The group consists of parents, grandparents and guardians of students.

### A Call to South Dakota

In 1923, Fr. Henry Hogebach, 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.

Ninety-seven 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 – over 98%! 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 **wačháŋtognaka** – *generosity*!



Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Gres

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ Chaplain





#### 1923: The Search is On

Fr. Henry Hogebach, SCJ, arrived in South Dakota from Germany and searched for a location to start a school for the Lakota (Sioux).

#### 1923-27: Strong Community Ties

Because the SCJs had been in the Cheyenne River community for several years, they had a positive relationship with the Native American community, who felt confident in sending their children to what would become St. Joseph's Indian School.

#### 1927: The Purchase was Made

In April 1927, Fr. Hogebach, on behalf of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, purchased the property near the beautiful Missouri River that is now St. Joseph's Indian School for \$40,000 in Chamberlain, SD. A busy summer of preparation took place to make way for children in September.

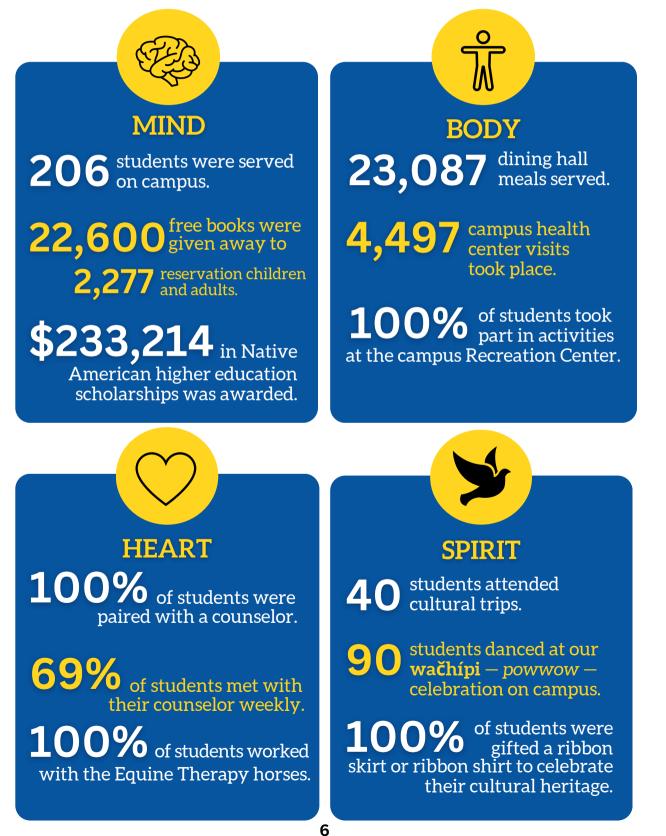
#### **Today: 97 Years and Counting**

The first class of St. Joseph's Indian School took place in September 1927 with 53 Lakota children. Now, 97 years later, the legacy continues with enrollment at approximately 200 each year.

#### Learn more about St. Joseph's history at <u>stjo.org/about</u>.

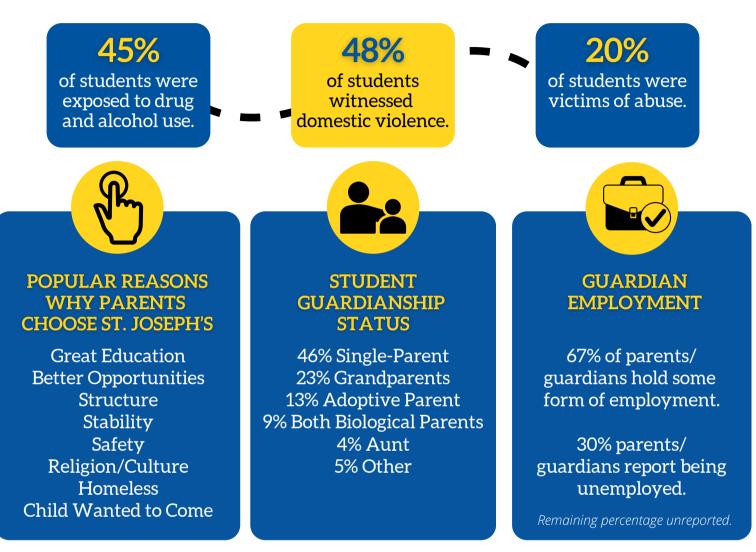
### THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

2024 was a year of growth at St. Joseph's Indian School. Thank you for being our **kholá** – friend – as we care for Native American children.



# WHY ST. JOSEPH'S?

St. Joseph's Indian School students come from an array of backgrounds. Below is information as to why guardians choose to enroll their children at St. Joseph's.



Despite those difficult statistics, our Lakota students are strong. They are resilient. They dream of a brighter future and we are here to help them accomplish just that.









#### TINA ALUMNA



Even when I left St. Joe's, [my houseparents] made the trip to my high school graduation. They were the best. They got me through a lot, and I am ever so thankful. They helped shape the woman I am today.

#### ALBERT DONOR

I became a donor 10 years ago. We're blessed with two sons and a daughter. We saw the opportunity to help other kids who don't have the same opportunities our kids had. It's become a passion of ours.

#### ANNIE TEACHER



Students who attend St. Joseph's are motivated to learn through fostering positive emotions, relationships and routines. Through this they gain independence and confidence and are happier, healthier students.

#### CHARGES STUDENT



I like St. Joseph's because of the sports I can play here and my friends I can make jokes with. When I grow up, I want to come back and work at St. Joe's.



St. Joseph's Indian School received recognition in 2024 from numerous sources. Learn more about each of these accomplishments by visiting <u>stjo.org/awards</u>.



Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.







#### ALUM FEATURE: CHELSEA

The slogan for Chelsea's "RezKutz" business is, "Your satisfaction is my goal," and it's something she lives out through the satisfaction of giving back to the school she attended from 1st through 8th grade: St. Joseph's Indian School.

Chelsea recently offered two three-hour hair cutting sessions for boys in 1st through 12th grades.

Conversations with Frank, a Residential Coordinator at St. Joseph's, were the spark that grew into the haircut clinic. Chelsea wanted to have a positive impact on current students and show them they can be anything they want to be.

As she set up, she began laying out a spread of razors, clips, sprays, combs and scissors. As a stylist, she offers a sophisticated range from trims to line-art cuts, 12 different styles in all.

With a little help from the students, the satisfaction speaks for itself.

#### "I liked getting my hair cut. It made it so I'm not so hot. Chelsea was good to me," said fourth-grader Kaiden.

Stephen and Robbie, houseparents at St. Joseph's, vouched for the students in their home who were all happy about their haircuts.

#### "I enjoyed visiting with Chelsea while she cut hair," said Robbie, who added that Chelsea interacted well with the students.

From a cultural perspective, hair has powerful significance to the Native American students who attend St. Joseph's Indian School. Some prefer to wear their hair long and in a braid, which, in part, signifies the strength of the intertwined hairs over the single strand. The expression one makes by the



Chelsea, an alum of St. Joseph's, recently visited to host a hair clinic to help students express themselves through their hair.

way their hair is worn is respected at St. Joseph's, and students make their own choices about it. Chelsea respectfully asked each student permission to touch their hair before beginning.

Chelsea feels especially connected to the school these days. Her mother passed away in late 2020, and her three siblings currently attend.

#### "This place is a good place with a lot of fun and more activities than home," Chelsea said.

All involved felt the clinic was a success, and plans are in the works for another clinic in the near future.



To read more of our alumni success stories, please visit <u>stjo.org/alumni</u> today.

# **CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**

Fiscal Year 2024 included the sounds of construction and creation across campus.

#### PLAYGROUND RESURFACING

Without question, the playground is a wildly beloved place on campus. It's our happy place. From a distance, our playground looked fine and ready to host countless hours of play. However, from up-close it told a very different story. The black playground surface was littered with cracks, holes, uneven divots and tripping hazards. Thanks to donor support, the playground surface was given an overhaul and is back to being a favorite spot.



Click here to watch a construction video on our YouTube Channel.

#### RECREATION CENTER RENOVATION/EXPANSION

In support of the children's physical health today, and for years to come, we are remodeling our Rec Center to keep up with today's needs. What was once a modern facility when it was built in 1975 needs a complete redo. **The renovated and expanded Rec Center will include:** 

- A second full-sized basketball court.
- New entryway with storage.
- Two new locker rooms.
- Office space and conference room.
- On-site equipment storage.
- Separate workout areas for staff and students.
- Plus: the whole building will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Phase I of the project is complete. Phase II is estimated to finish Spring/Summer 2025.





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### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Providing experiences for students they might've not had otherwise creates meaningful childhoods. Here are two examples of events your generosity makes possible.

#### 47th ANNUAL POWWOW

After the sun sets on another successful powwow, we are reminded of the power of unity and community. The annual gathering serves as a beacon of hope and a testament of the resilience of the Lakota (Sioux) people.

The impact of this event is why St. Joseph's holds a powwow each year in celebration of the rich and vibrant Lakota culture. People from all walks of life came together to participate in the festivities:

- 90 students danced, with 132 dancers total
- 350 donors attended from across the U.S.
- Clarysia, Persais and Caden were crowned St. Joseph's Powwow Royalty





Click here to watch the 47th Annual Powwow video.



#### **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

Christmas comes a few weeks late at St. Joseph's Indian School — but for good reason! Most of our students are away from campus for Winter Break, so we wait until everyone is back to celebrate.

The wait is worth it because in January our students were abundantly blessed with Christmas gifts, a holiday meal, fun activities and more! This special time of year overflows with joy thanks to generous donor support during the holiday season.

#### Click here to watch the joy unfold in St. Joseph's 2023 Christmas video.

Children were also given the opportunity to shop for gifts for their family members in reservation communities at our Annual Christmas Store event.

**<u>Click here to watch the Christmas Store video.</u>** 





# EDUCATION

Educating 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. We're pleased to report we have a 12:1 student to teacher ratio.

#### **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.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

At St. Joseph's, 18% of students qualified for special education services.

- 44% of those students received academic assistance.
- 26% received speech and language assistance.
- 30% received both academic and speech and language support.

Support is provided through in-class assistance, pull-out programs and the use of a resource room for additional help.

#### 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 CONTINUED**

#### **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 also take cultural day trips. Select students also fly to major U.S. cities to visit with donors all over the country.





#### ATTENDANCE IS KEY: 96% VS. 56%

Average daily attendance at St. Joseph's was 96%. This can be compared to the South Dakota average of 56% for Native Americans in public schools over the last two years.

students took part and passed Drivers Education. **31%** of students took part in our mentorship program.

#### 1,213

hours were logged at the High School Learning Center.

Thank you for donating to St. Joe's! I love everything I get when you donate to our school to make it even better than before. You help me do things I didn't know how to do. You are very wonderful!

– Melissa, student

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- Archery
- Boys & Girls Basketball
- Basketball Skills Camp
- Bowling
- Cheer
- Cross Country
- Dance
- High School Intramural Sports

- Honor Choir
- Fitness Boards Program
- Flag Football
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Softball
- Swimming Lessons
- T-Ball

- Track
- Volleyball
- Weight Training
- Wellness Programming
- Wrestling
- Ribbon Skirt Making
- Visiting Artist Sessions
- Dog Rescue Missions
- And More!

# GRADUATION

Eighth grade and high school students were honored with social ceremonies and celebrations. Graduation is a huge victory for our students, who are sometimes the first in their families to graduate.

**90%** of recent grads are in school, working or in the military.



#### **EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES**

Seventeen students graduated from the eighth grade in May 2024. All 17 students applied for, and were accepted into, the high school program.





#### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Our high school students graduated in May 2024! Graduates planned to attend college or begin their careers the following Fall semester.



### We're ready for college! We're ready to move on and experience a new chapter.

- Taylor, High School Class of 2024





#### A NEW HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECORD

The scholarship fund is made possible by the generosity of the school's donors. Financial need and academic performance are the basis for determining the awards. Applications are due each fall and spring and are awarded based on proof of tribal enrollment, the number of applicants and available funds. Also considered are returning scholars who are continuing their education journey.

# LAKOTA CULTURE

Honoring and celebrating the Lakota culture is at the forefront of everything we do. Whether it's incorporating Lakota words into our morning announcements, visiting the Aktá Lakota Museum on campus, or hosting special events, providing students with opportunities to connect to their heritage is vital to shaping their cultural identity.

#### **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 in-person event included campus tours, a dreamcatcher making workshop, a powwow and more.



#### **CULTURAL TRIPS**



St. Joseph's seventh grade class embarked on a week-long cultural trip. The journey took them to sites of cultural, spiritual and historical significance in South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. Some locations included Bear Butte, Black Elk Peak and Devil's Tower. High school students also took cultural day trips.

#### RIBBON SKIRTS/SHIRTS

Every female student is gifted a ribbon skirt and every male is gifted a ribbon shirt to honor their heritage.

#### AKTÁ LAKOTA MUSEUM

The museum is committed to promoting the knowledge and understanding of Native American culture.

#### CHALK HILLS SINGERS

**N**XX

Boys in grades four and up are able to learn how to drum and sing in Lakota.



#### NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

Students learn Lakota traditions, heritage, language and more in an effort to preserve the Lakota culture.

sweat lodge ceremonies were held on campus for students. Learn Lakota with our students on our YouTube channel.



Learn more about the Lakota culture at stjo.org/culture.

### **RESIDENTIAL LIFE**

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 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 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

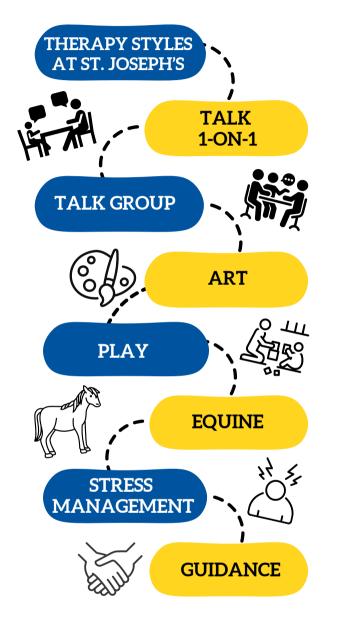
This program allows homes to include a dog to offer quiet friendship and comfort to students who might not be ready to open-up to an adult yet, while also teaching them the responsibility of caring for an animal.

20 **CAMPUS HOMES** David Ambrose Raphael Dennis Afra Pinger Fisher Perky Cyr **Summerlee** William Roonev Speyer **Mathias** Stevens Giles Sheehy Hogebach Crane Carola

Click

# 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.



#### MENTAL HEALTH

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.

We're proud to say students have reported our mental health programs have helped them develop greater self-esteem, positive relationships with others and a brighter outlook on life. Guardians echo similar sentiments — reporting they see positive growth in their children following participation in our mental health programs.



**Click for Equine Therapy Center Tour** 

#### PHYSICAL HEALTH

A full-time nursing staff works with physicians who visit campus 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 children receive the treatment they need for physical and mental wellbeing.

#### 4,497 HEALTH CENTER VISITS TOOK PLACE!



## **MISSION INTEGRATION**

As a Catholic organization, spirituality is a basis of our programs. Although, students are not required to be Catholic to be enrolled. St. Joseph's has a unique way of incorporating both Christian and Native American traditions into daily activities. The values and traditions of both the Catholic faith and Lakota culture are interwoven to create spiritual balance for our students.

#### SPIRITUAL CEREMONIES

Students have opportunities to participate in traditional Lakota ceremonies like **inípi**, also known as a "*sweat lodge*", and Christian ceremonies, like baptism.



#### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

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.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven." — Matthew 18:10

#### **RELIGION & SACRAMENTAL PREP**

Students take a Religion Studies class as part of their school coursework. Twenty-one students received the Sacraments per parental request.



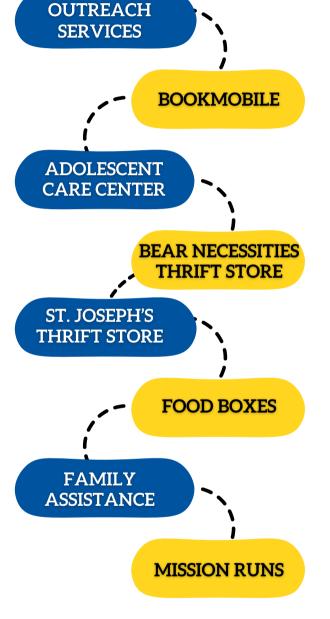
# **OUTREACH SERVICES**

The work at St. Joseph's is not confined to our campus in Chamberlain, SD. 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. Our staff also uses the time in each community to visit with former and current students, meet prospective families and hand out student applications.



#### BEAR NECESSITIES THRIFT STORE

This thrift store is located in Eagle Butte, SD. 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.

# **22,600** FREE books were given to children and adults in reservation communities summer 2024.

**Click for Bookmobile Video** 

#### ADOLESCENT CARE CENTER

For youth needing a stable home environment, the Adolescent Care Center in Eagle Butte, SD, provides residential care for children, ages 10 to 18 years old. Fully licensed care teams work together with families to provide counseling and guidance toward family reunification.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S THRIFT STORE

Located on Main Street in Chamberlain, SD, 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 SERVICES CONTINUED**

**JDIAN** 

SCHOOL

CHAMBERLAI

#### SUMMER FOOD BOXES

Making sure our students and their families have enough food for summer break, and other times throughout the year, is important to keep everyone safe and healthy. Hundreds of miles are driven to deliver boxes.



FREE food boxes worth \$175+ in value were delivered to students and families during summer 2024.

#### Click for Food Box Video

#### A TYPICAL BOX INCLUDES

Food boxes include as many shelf-stable foods as possible: powdered milk, bread, canned soup, canned fruits and veggies, cereal, peanut butter, flour, rice, meats, snacks and more. Boxes value approximately \$175!

#### FAMILY ASSISTANCE

At St. Joseph's Indian School, the word "help" is never ignored. Struggling Native American families can reach out without fear, because in some way, they know we will help them with funding for groceries, bills, gas and/or transportation.

#### **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.

# **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! For those who live off campus, there is a summer day camp opportunity!

#### RISING EAGLE DAY CAMP

Children from two nearby reservation communities attended Rising Eagle Day Camp. 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.** 



#### 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!

#### HS SUMMER PROGRAM

We are blessed to have some high school students remain on campus through the summer months. These students choose to work on or off campus, take part in sports camps, the Germany Exchange Program and more! If they have younger siblings on campus, summers also provide opportunities for extra family time.



#### 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, the 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. Joseph's Strong.

# We are national leaders in advancing Native American lives.





St. Joseph's Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions Contributions of Non-Financial Assets	\$95,588,195 \$12,302,938
Bequests	\$16,368,377
Restricted Contributions	\$4,205,395
Other Earned Income	\$1,716,331
Other Contributions	\$83,607
Government Support	\$6,666
Total Contributions & Support	\$130,271,509
EXPENDITURES	

#### **Program Services** Education, Residential, Cultural \$40,859,587 Apostolate of Prayer, Spiritual/MAP \$13,816,539 Total Program Services \$54.676.126 Support Services Administration/Depreciation/Non-Program Sales \$5.869.548 Advertising and Exhibits\* \$6,690,043 Fundraising \$28.451.843 **Donor Development** \$9.181.829 **Total Support Services** <u>\$50.193.263</u> **Total Expenditures** \$104.869.389 Excess (Shortfall) \$25,402,120 **Results from Investments** \$37.497.488 Investment Income Net Interest CGA Program \$6,944,137 Total Investment Returns \$44,441,625 **Change in Net Assets** Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$341,564,815 Changes in Net Assets \$69,843,745 Net Assets, End of Year 5411,408,560

\*Public Service Announcements were continued in Fiscal Year 2024. They created a non-financial contribution of \$12,036,618 which is offset in Support and Program Services. Actual cash outlays for Advertising and Exhibits was \$277,153.





#### COST TO RAISE A DOLLAR

**68 cents** goes to children at St. Joseph's, reservation families and cultural and faith development.



**32 cents** goes to support services, fundraising & development of future donors.