

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



everyone has a sacred story



our mission

The Ignatian Spirituality Project invites people recovering from homelessness and addiction to **encounter God's love, hope and healing** through spiritual companionship that transforms lives.

what we do

ISP offers overnight retreats and spiritual reflection programs based in Ignatian spirituality and the 12 step tradition for people rebuilding their lives from homelessness and substance use addiction. Though founded in the Jesuit tradition, ISP welcomes people of all (or no) faith backgrounds. Our programs invite participants to take time away to deepen their relationship with the God of their understanding, gently name the places inside that need healing, and bond with others on the recovery journey.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Partners,

It is with deep gratitude and joy that I write to thank you for your abiding care of the Ignatian Spirituality Project and your faithful support of our mission to create communities of God's love, hope and healing with those in recovery from homelessness and addiction. This year, ISP celebrates our **25th anniversary**—a quarter century of lighting the path of recovery! The ISP movement has thrived for 25 years because of you and many other individuals and organizations who have believed in our work and walked with us, helping to bring light into dark places and connection into lonely places.

"Now, I can see the infinite depth of value of each person of God. What a joyful difference! ISP has given me this gift of God."

—Kevin

This quote from Kevin, whose story is featured on page 4, gets right to the heart of what we do at ISP: create sacred spaces where we can recognize our own personal worth and dignity and that of our fellow travelers on the journey... where we are reminded that we are beloved of a God who makes all things new. And what is right there waiting for us? Joy! What a gift, indeed.

All this year, we've been embracing the joy inherent in an anniversary celebration. We're looking back at old memories, recalling the community members who helped to pave the path that we walk today. And we're looking ahead, too, dreaming about what is possible as the ISP movement continues to evolve to meet the needs in our communities today.

Thank you for being a part of the sacred story of ISP. I can't wait to see what we can build together in the next 25 years.

In gratitude and hope,



Christine Curran
Executive Director

Dorothy's story

In 2018, I was coming out of the hardship of drug addiction. I had nowhere to turn, I didn't know which way to go, and I didn't have much to live for. I was staying in a halfway house full of chaos—until I was invited on my first ISP retreat. **That retreat changed my life, and I believe God led me straight there.**

After only 2 days on retreat, I started to feel hope. I found God in the place of quiet and peace, the sharing, the experience of the care of the facilitators, and especially the witness talk where I saw mirrored my own story of abandonment.

That night, the witness on the retreat came to talk to me. She asked me about my future, where I wanted to go from there. She could have gone to talk to any of the other women, but she came to me. I truly believe it was all the work of God. It was a beautiful weekend.

I received so much hope from my retreat experience that I wanted to stay connected to ISP and to give back. **Today, I am a witness and facilitator for my ISP retreat team and an Ambassador of Hope. I get to share my hope and share how I live my faith with my higher power.** I'm learning new ways to listen, to observe others and their feelings. I just love this community!

"I just love this community!"



Anthony's story



I discovered Ignatian spirituality and did the Spiritual Exercises with my spiritual director. I was amazed at the overlap with the 12 step spiritual fitness program. Thus, I did a Google search for AA 12 steps and Ignatian spirituality and BOOM ISP showed up. **I have been involved ever since that day**, and love the overlap that helps me grow and blossom in God's light.

The ability to be present for participants as they walk through a spiritual retreat

has had a great impact on me. I remember one guy named Joe, a 60 year old man from Washington DC living in transitional housing, who joined us in 2019 for a retreat. He had never been out of DC in his life. When he saw his retreat room overlooking the Potomac River he grabbed me from behind and with tears streaming down his face said: 'Thank you, this is the most beautiful place I have ever been in my life!' **The God in Joe spilled all over me that day** and I was the beneficiary of His presence.

"BOOM ...
ISP showed up."

Kevin's story

As a case manager for people who were homeless and suffered from substance use addiction, I knew lots of stories, lots of excuses, lots of ways to hide, lots of means of deception. I used that knowledge and became darned good at masking my own behaviors, hiding and isolating. I was in and out of recovery programs, but I always went back out.

At one point, with no place else to go, I ended up in a homeless shelter myself. It was at this shelter that I first heard about ISP: 'Who is that?' 'What is that?' I wondered. It wasn't long before I met Larry, an ISP leader, who eventually became my spiritual mentor. I went to ISP gatherings and



"If I hadn't found ISP,
I question whether I
would've made it."

spiritual reflections. Eventually Larry asked if I would be a witness at an ISP retreat. After giving my witness and being on that retreat **I could see that this was the start and the middle of something that would have no end.**

If I hadn't found ISP, I question whether I could have made it. I could never stay sober because there was a component of sobriety that was missing—spirituality.

While drinking, I recall thinking that any given person's life was worth about \$2.99. If I could get \$2.99 from this person (the cost of a bottle of vodka) then I could go on living. **Now, I can see the infinite depth of value of each person of God. What a joyful difference!** ISP has given me this gift of God.

Cathy's story



Witnessing the different gifts brought by each team member has been a gift of the Holy Spirit. I have witnessed God's gifts through each of these women. I have learned to trust that God will provide what is called for and that I am not in control. **It fills me with hope and joy... healing is mutually experienced.**

Over the last 20 years, my journey has been to learn of my blindness, to seek truth so that I may dismantle the armor learned in my young life and live in the present moment. I desire for my relationships to be truly grounded in sincerity, honesty, and respect. While I have been a part of several small Christian communities over the last 20 years, communities focused on the spiritual life that have brought me great inner joy and peace, **ISP has deeply informed my journey unlike any other spiritual undertakings.** Ignatian spirituality and 12 Step spirituality encourages me to expand my definition of God which is evolving.

"I have learned to
trust in God."



25 YEARS ...

... OF LOVE, HOPE & HEALING

*"I am loved,
I matter,
I belong."*

Fr. Bill and Ed gather 12 men together to experience the first ISP retreat in the fall of 1998.

First Men's Overnight Retreat



ISP grows rapidly, primarily by word of mouth. Responding to the need and invitation of over a dozen cities, we grow into a national movement to walk with people recovering from homelessness and addiction.

ISP Spreads Far and Wide



In celebration of ISP's 15th Anniversary, we launch this event to honor local and national champions of compassion, justice, care, and community.

A Tradition is Born: the Company of Grace



Whispers of our success lead to people from other countries reaching out to ISP, and we open our first international ministry in Canada.

ISP Goes International



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for new ways to gather, pray, and reflect as a community, we launch the ISP Journey mobile app.

On the "ISP Journey" Together: Mobile App Launches

Our Beginning

1998

2006

2008-2013

2012

2013

2016

2019

2020

2021 - Today

We're Official

ISP incorporates to form a national network and the first staff are hired.

First Women's Overnight Retreat

A dedicated group of women in Chicagoland comes together to form the first women's volunteer retreat team and offer ISP's inaugural overnight retreat to women in recovery.



First Witness Retreats

Listening to the wisdom of volunteers, ISP develops a formation program for participants to become leaders.



Inaugural Ambassadors of Hope Cohort Convenes

Alumni are on fire to serve! ISP launches the Ambassadors of Hope, a 2-year leadership and formation program for ISP alumni team members.



Deepening Our Roots... a New Vision for ISP

ISP emerges from the pandemic to build back even stronger, investing in the development of robust ISP communities across the entire network.





BY THE NUMBERS



fiscal year
2023

over
25 years

4,912

20,000+

people served



105

2,292

overnight and 1-day retreats



175

500+

partners on the ground across the Network



fiscal year
2023

over
25 years

600+

1,936

people who have volunteered with our ministry



1,156

4,706

spiritual reflection sessions



immeasurable

joy, hope and transformation experienced

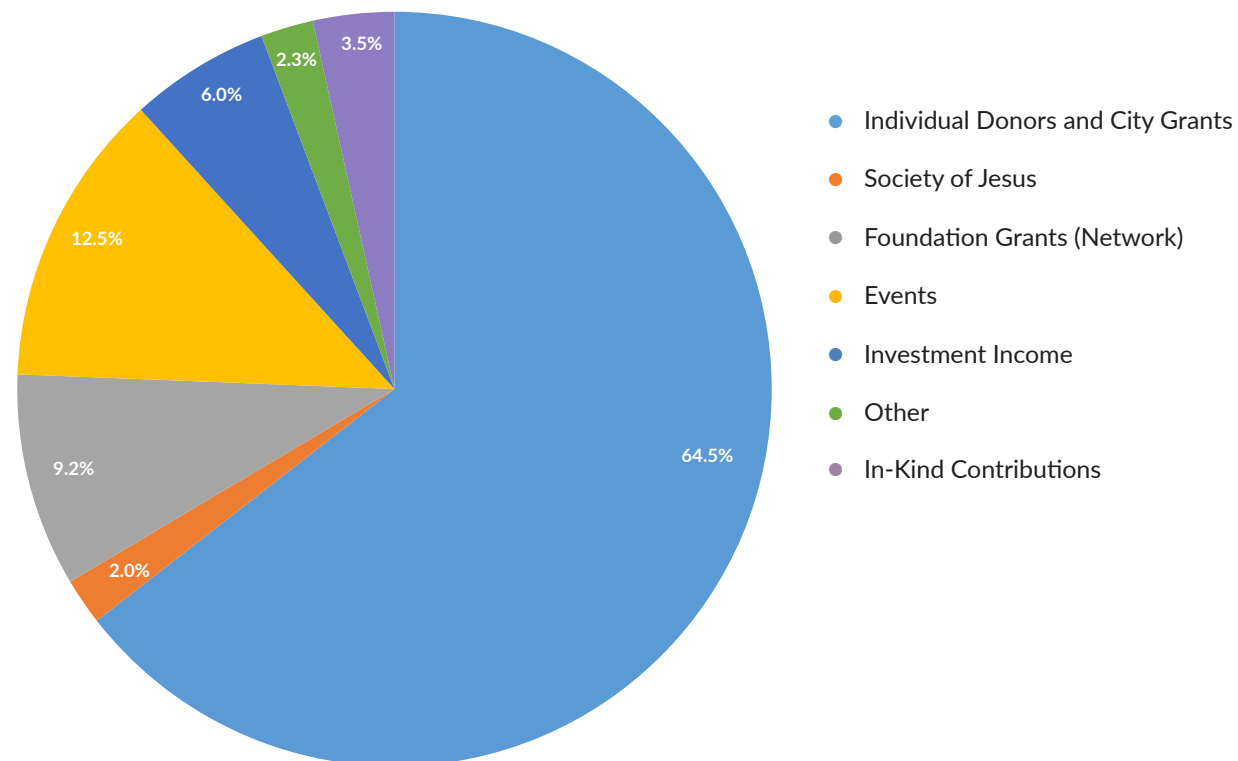


FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2023

In FY23, ISP invested in additional staff to lay the foundation for program growth and financial sustainability. The Board of Directors approved the release of a portion of ISP's reserves fund to cover these short-term deficits as we create a runway for future growth.

support & revenue

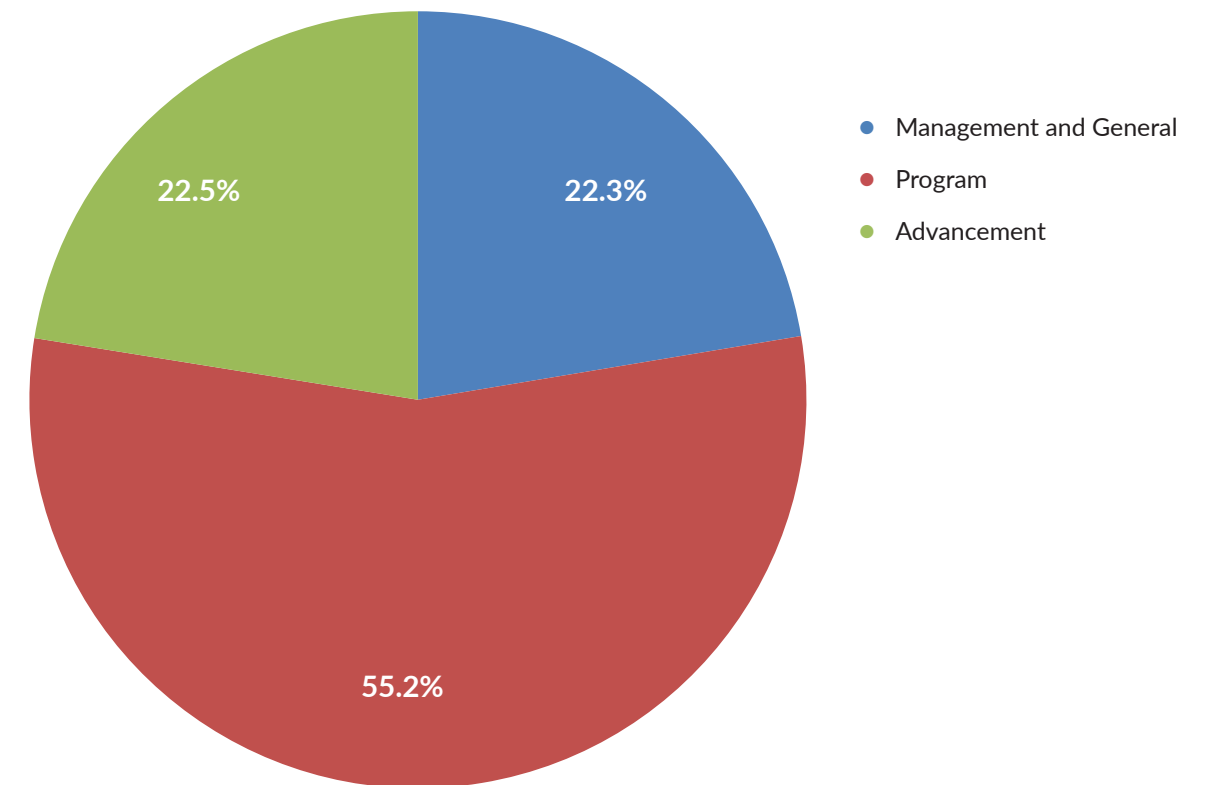
Total: \$877,278¹



ISP is in the midst of a 5-year effort to dramatically increase our *program capacity* and *program impact* across the network. As a result of these investments, we anticipate program expenses will reach 70% of ISP's total budget by 2025.

expenses

Total: \$1,251,127



¹These financials do not account for the in-kind hours donated by 600+ volunteers who run our retreat and reflection programs. The value of their time is estimated to be \$494,808 in FY23.

ISP relies 100% on donations to deliver our programs. We need your **prayers and support** to sustain this ministry and ensure we can light a path towards healing and transformation for the next 25 years. **Thank you for joining us on this journey!**



2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President, Xavier Jesuit Academy, Cincinnati, OH

*Midwest Jesuits Liaison

"I was created for a purpose and I found it with ISP."

23 CITIES

*"I'm grateful to
not feel alone
anymore."*

The Ignatian Spirituality Project offers spiritual retreats and companionship programs in the following cities across the U.S., Canada and Ireland:

Atlanta

Bay Area

Boston

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dayton

Denver

Detroit

Dublin

Houston

Louisville

Montreal

New Orleans

Oklahoma City

Orange County, CA

Providence, RI

Ridgewood, NJ

St. Louis

San Diego

Toronto

Twin Cities

Washington DC

175 PARTNERS



We are grateful to all our partners, agencies, shelters, and retreat houses.

600+ ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



\$494,808

estimated value of
volunteer hours in FY23

CHAMPIONS FOR HOPE AND HEALING



The financial gifts we've received from thousands of individuals, families, companies and foundations over the past 25 years have powered our ministry. It's only with your generous support that we've been able to walk beside over 20,000 individuals on their journey to recovery. We especially recognize those individuals and institutions who have donated over \$25,000 cumulatively to ISP over the past 25 years. For these and all gifts to ISP, we are so grateful.

LIFETIME GIVING OVER \$25,000

ACTA Foundation
Margaret Anderson
Anonymous
Anonymous
Cheryl Boldrini
Ronald and Gwen
Briggs
Margaret and Patrick
Burke
California Province of
the Society of Jesus
CHM Fund
Church of the
Incarnation
Cincinnati Jesuit
Community
Guy and Karen Clifton
CNA
Congregation of St.
Joseph
Conrad Hilton
Foundation
Cushman Foundation
Camille Devaney
Fred Faulstich

Katherine Letourneau
and Thomas Fineis
Denice and Gary
Foose
Louis Glunz III
John and Maureen
Graf
Allen M. and Patti J.
Gustafson
Scott and JoAnn
Haner
Peter and Susan
Hasselquist
Helen Brach
Foundation
Holy Trinity Catholic
Church
John and Laura
Howard
Ignatius House Jesuit
Community
Jesuit Retreat House
John Joseph Sigstein
Foundation
Knights of Columbus -
Council 524
Koch Foundation
William Koloseike
Ernest and Joan
Lausier

Frank Liccardo
Loyola University
Chicago
Mathile Family
Foundation
Jack and Hawley
McAuliffe
Julia McGee
Joseph O'Brien
Maureen Orth
Our Sunday Visitor
Ralph and Jane
Pfeiffer Foundation
Richard Pozdol
Raskob Foundation
for Catholic
Activities
Society of Jesus,
Midwest Province
Society of the Sacred
Heart, United States
Province
St. Ignatius Jesuit
Community
Preya and Peter
Tarsney
Tracy Family
Foundation
W.P. & H.B. White
Foundation

W. Joseph and Judy R.
Williams
Karen Winterburn

*"When I'm
with ISP,
I feel
trusted,
connected
and loved."*



Football after football ...

Football after football,
weary or fresh, a pilgrim
never walks alone:
Christ the Lord is beside you
on your way.

Places are made holy
by their story,
the spirit in which you
journey to receive their gift,
and leave them.

The stars will guide you,
people you meet will be signs,
and your prayerful heart
your compass.

You meet the world
on the way
but are not held by it.
For pilgrims, the horizon is
always the universe.

Your destination is
always a surprise,
a holy place always
gifts you with silence:
leave the Holy Land and it
remains with you for ever.

- Andrew Bullen, SJ



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We are incredibly grateful for your support and generosity.

You have helped to change the lives of thousands of men and women in recovery from homelessness and addiction through spiritual retreat and reflection programs.

Your continued support will help ISP more than double our programs for those in recovery from homelessness and addiction over the next 3 years.

On behalf of all those striving for recovery in their lives, thank you!

Make a gift to help transform lives at ispretreats.org/gift

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Thank you for supporting our ministry!

