



IGNATIAN  
SPIRITUALITY  
PROJECT

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

*Lighting the Path*



# 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 spiritual retreat and reflection programs based in Ignatian spirituality and the 12-step tradition for people rebuilding their lives from homelessness and substance use addiction. Founded in the Jesuit tradition, ISP welcomes people of all faiths and backgrounds. We create safe spaces for our participants to deepen their relationship with God, bond with others in recovery, and find renewed hope and purpose for the journey ahead.



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of ISP,

Last year was a milestone year for ISP as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of our founding—a quarter century of walking with individuals on the journey of recovery from homelessness and addiction. Over the years, ISP has grown into a national movement offering spiritual retreats and reflection circles in 20+ cities. This small but mighty volunteer-led ministry has welcomed over 20,000 individuals since our inception, fostering healing, connection, and personal transformation. Grounded in our core values, honoring the sacredness of every story, and believing in the power and gifts of our community, we marked this anniversary by reflecting on the collective impact of our work and setting bold intentions for the future.

The centerpiece of our 25th anniversary celebration was our 2024 *Company of Grace: The Power of Sacred Stories* event on April 25. Held as a hybrid gathering, it offered many of us the joy of connecting in person in Chicago for the first time in years while extending a virtual welcome to a nationwide audience. This special evening brought together our community for storytelling, conversation, and reflection on the values that guide our work. Highlights included a thought-provoking conversation with *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, as well as moving testimonies from alumni and participants whose lives have been transformed by ISP’s programs. It was both a celebration of all we’ve accomplished and a powerful call to action in support of this vital work. Thanks to a matching gift from our Board of Directors, we raised crucial funds to sustain ISP programs, ensuring we can continue creating transformative spaces for connection, healing and growth.

**Thank you** for being an essential part of ISP’s story of growth and change over these last 25 years. After celebrating all we’ve achieved together, we now look to the next quarter century with hope and purpose. Together, we will continue to light the path!

In gratitude and hope,

*Christine*

Christine Curran  
Executive Director



- Margaret Burke  
Associate Vice President, DePaul University (Retired), Chicago, IL
- Todd Chermak  
Chief Regulatory and Government Affairs Officer, Caprion Biosciences, Lake Forest, IL
- Elizabeth Collins  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sharing Ministry, Glenview, IL
- Christine Curran  
Executive Director, Ignatian Spirituality Project, Chicago, IL
- Kelley Dare  
Human Resources Leader, Molex, St. Simons Island, GA
- Theodore DeZabala  
Founder and Executive Director, Lead2Change, Brookside, NJ
- Michael Graham, SJ  
President, Xavier University (Retired), Cincinnati, OH
- Stephen Holte  
President, Cristo Rey Orange County High School, Costa Mesa, CA
- Erin D. Lanzo  
Chief Strategy and External Relations Officer, Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, Boston, MA
- David McNulty  
Provincial Assistant for Operations, Midwest Jesuits, Chicago, IL
- Michael O'Loughlin  
Executive Director, Outreach, Bristol, RI
- Marianna Pierce  
Massachusetts Institute for Technology/MIT (Retired), Portland, ME
- Joyce Shanabarger, OSF  
General Community Leader, Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Frankfort, IL
- Jordan Skarr\*  
Provincial Assistant for Pastoral Ministries, Midwest Jesuits, Chicago, IL
- Robert Stephan  
Director, Office for Mission, Loyola High School, Los Angeles, CA
- Mary Tracy  
Contemplative Leaders in Action (Retired), Boston, MA

\* Midwest Jesuits liaison



Lisa Marie's Story

A Spiritual Journey of Recovery and Renewal

For most of my life, I carried the weight of addiction, pain, and responsibility. My path to sobriety has been tough but transformative. My journey began with a struggle against a Suboxone addiction that left me feeling lost and disconnected.

In 2022, I turned to Saint Francis House. It became my sanctuary, offering not just treatment but compassion and dignity. **I learned that recovery wasn't just about being clean; it was about rebuilding, rediscovering, and reconnecting with myself.**



"ISP gave me a sense of purpose, connection, and community."

A pivotal moment came when I attended an ISP overnight retreat. For the first time, I felt safe enough to let my guard down and talk about the burdens I'd carried for years. That experience helped me realize that spirituality was the missing piece in my recovery. **ISP gave me a sense of purpose, connection, and community. I found strength in quiet reflection and support from others.** Now, sharing my story and spreading the word about ISP feels incredible.

Today, I'm 2 ½ years sober. Recovery is not a straight path but one full of twists, setbacks, and moments of grace. I'm no longer just surviving—I'm living, learning, and growing! For those who feel lost, know that the journey is possible and can be beautiful. ISP has shown me that there's more to life than surviving. There's **joy, growth, and true freedom**. And while the road ahead is uncertain, I know I'm not walking it alone.



"I feel heard and accepted."

-ISP Boston retreat alum



Healing happens in relationship.

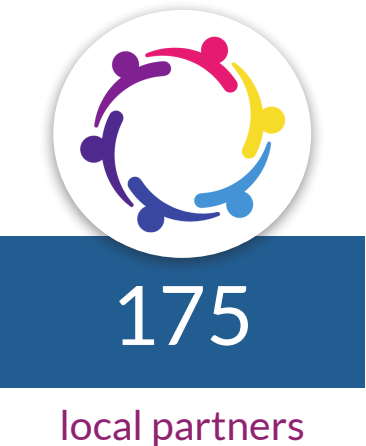
ISP believes that transformation begins from the inside out—when individuals are invited into caring communities where they can strengthen their walk with God, build new relationships, and forge a deeper connection with themselves. Our *Theory of Change* is grounded in this vision, symbolized by intertwining cords that represent the love, companionship, and transformational support so essential to the journey of recovery—elements often overlooked in traditional approaches to homelessness and addiction.



Where We Are

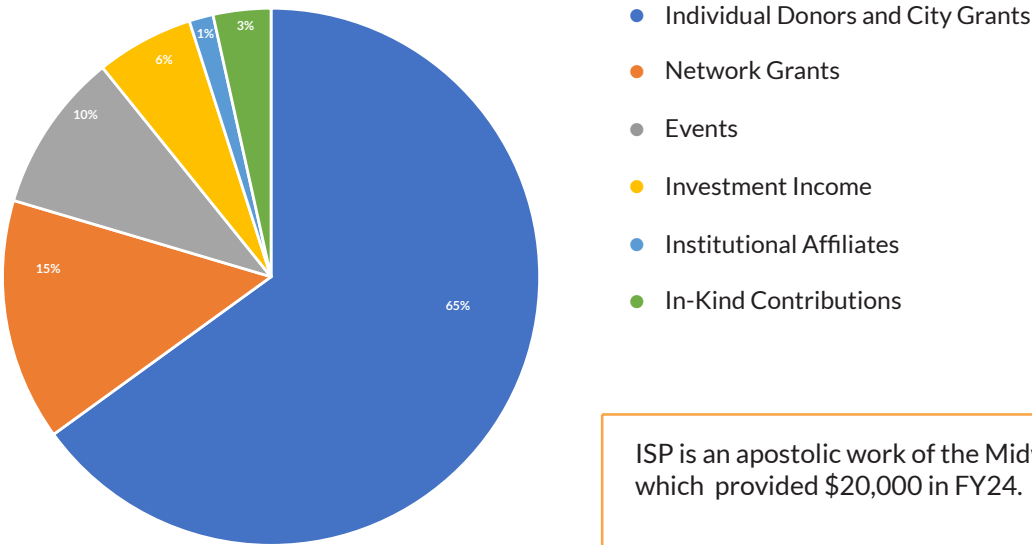
The Ignatian Spirituality Project offers spiritual retreat and reflection programs in 20 cities across the United States:

- |                |               |                   |                          |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Atlanta, GA    | Cleveland, OH | Louisville, KY    | Ridgewood, NJ            |
| Bay Area, CA   | Dayton, OH    | New Orleans, LA   | St. Louis, MO            |
| Boston, MA     | Denver, CO    | Oklahoma City, OK | San Diego, CA            |
| Chicago, IL    | Detroit, MI   | Orange County, CA | Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN |
| Cincinnati, OH | Houston, TX   | Providence, RI    | Washington, DC           |



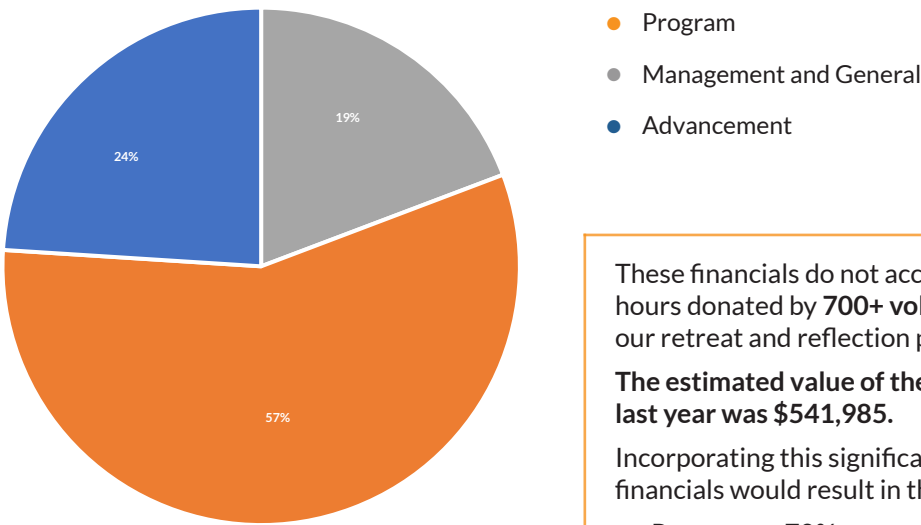
ISP is in the fourth year of our 5-year effort to increase program capacity and impact. The FY24 revenue surplus is due in part to multi-year pledge commitments.

Revenue: \$1,406,827



ISP is an apostolic work of the Midwest Jesuits which provided \$20,000 in FY24.

Expenses: \$1,242,359



These financials do not account for the in-kind hours donated by **700+ volunteers** who make our retreat and reflection programs possible. **The estimated value of these volunteer hours last year was \$541,985.** Incorporating this significant investment into our financials would result in the following:

- Program — 70%
- Management and General — 13%
- Advancement — 17%

In honor of our 25th anniversary, ISP leadership, alumni and community stakeholders worked together to develop organizational core values that will guide our ministry into the future.

Lived Experience Matters

Because we believe that God can be found in our own life experiences, ISP affirms that everyone has a sacred story and wisdom to share.

Recovery is for Everyone

Though not everyone has experienced homelessness or substance use addiction, each one of us has places of struggle in our lives. At ISP, we walk together on the journey of healing and recovery.

Invitation Opens Doors

We believe that one of the greatest invitations is to belong to something greater than ourselves. ISP invites people into a community of love where God can reveal new life and possibilities.

Transformed People Transform Others

Authentic recovery is powerful and ongoing. As we are transformed through mutual trust and vulnerability, we in turn create ripples of change in our communities.

God is Still Speaking

Because ISP believes God has a dream for our community and our world, we continue to listen, discern and move forward in hope.

*We need your help!*

ISP relies on the generosity of individuals like you to make our spiritual retreat and reflection programs possible. Your prayers and support will help **light the path** to healing and transformation for over **6,000** people in the year ahead.

*Thank you for joining us on this journey.*





Community Partners



We are grateful to the over 175 program and service partners who help to make our work possible! We also offer a special thanks to this year's Community Partners.

**Community Partners** are organizations who believe in our mission and play a vital role in championing, engaging, and investing in ISP's work. The following committed \$2,500 or more in FY24 via financial gift or in-kind retreat support:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Bellarmino Chapel                      | Cincinnati          |
| Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House        | Barrington          |
| Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning   | Dayton              |
| Central Lutheran Church                | Minneapolis         |
| Church of the Gesu                     | Cleveland           |
| Church of the Incarnation              | Dayton              |
| Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart | Chicago             |
| Holy Trinity Catholic Church           | Washington, DC      |
| Jesuit Retreat Center                  | Cleveland           |
| Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford     | Cincinnati          |
| Loyola University Chicago              | Chicago             |
| Loyola University New Orleans          | New Orleans         |
| Manresa House of Retreats              | New Orleans         |
| Manresa Jesuit Retreat House           | Detroit             |
| Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati       | Cincinnati & Dayton |
| St. Clement Parish                     | Chicago             |
| St. Joseph Provincial House            | St. Louis           |
| St. Xavier Parish                      | Cincinnati          |
| Transfiguration Spirituality Center    | Cincinnati          |
| White House Jesuit Retreat             | St. Louis           |

Magis Partners



Magis Partners are individuals who make a financial commitment to ISP of \$2,500 or more annually for 3 years. We are grateful to the following Magis Partners who made their commitment between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024:

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ronnie and Gwen Briggs     | Marianna Pierce               |
| Peggy and Pat Burke        | Marta and Hassan Sayeed       |
| Linda and Philip Catanzaro | Bill and Liz Schlater         |
| Betty Collins              | Bob Stephan and Carrie Fuller |
| Joe Dimberio               | Jim and Ferne Sweany          |
| Karen Kane                 | Mary and Jim Tracy            |
| Dr. Richard Kim            | Ellen Wiggins                 |
| Dave and Judy McNulty      |                               |

The Impact is Profound

by Deacon Mark Danis

Deacon Mark Danis, Director of Spirituality at the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Dayton, OH, shares how ISP programs have transformed the clients he serves.



The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) has been a steady presence for several years at St. Vincent de Paul Society in Dayton. ISP spiritual reflections create a space for participants to share their trials and triumphs, fostering **connection and healing**.

The women and facilitators support one another in heartfelt prayer for their journeys. Creative projects, such as coloring, crafting, and making gift baskets provide a tactile outlet for reflection and joy. Especially during Christmas, these gatherings take on deeper meaning as the women create artistic depictions of the holiday's sacred scenes, affirming the divine presence that calls each of us by name.

"ISP offers peace, hope, and a place to be truly seen."

The impact is profound. With an average of 25 attendees, **ISP provides a practical yet spiritual foundation**. Many women who attend the spiritual reflections have gone on to attend an ISP overnight retreat, where they encountered God not only through

the retreat, but through the compassionate presence of the ISP facilitators—individuals who listened, cared, and **met them where they were**.

At St. Vincent's, the women feel safe enough to share their deeply personal stories—something they rarely do elsewhere. **ISP offers more than ministry; it offers peace, hope, and a place to be truly seen.**





We are incredibly grateful for  
your generous support.

You have helped change the lives of  
thousands of people in recovery from  
homelessness and addiction this year.

Make a gift  
to help transform lives at  
*[ispretreats.org/gift](https://ispretreats.org/gift)*



*Thank you for  
lighting the  
path!*

