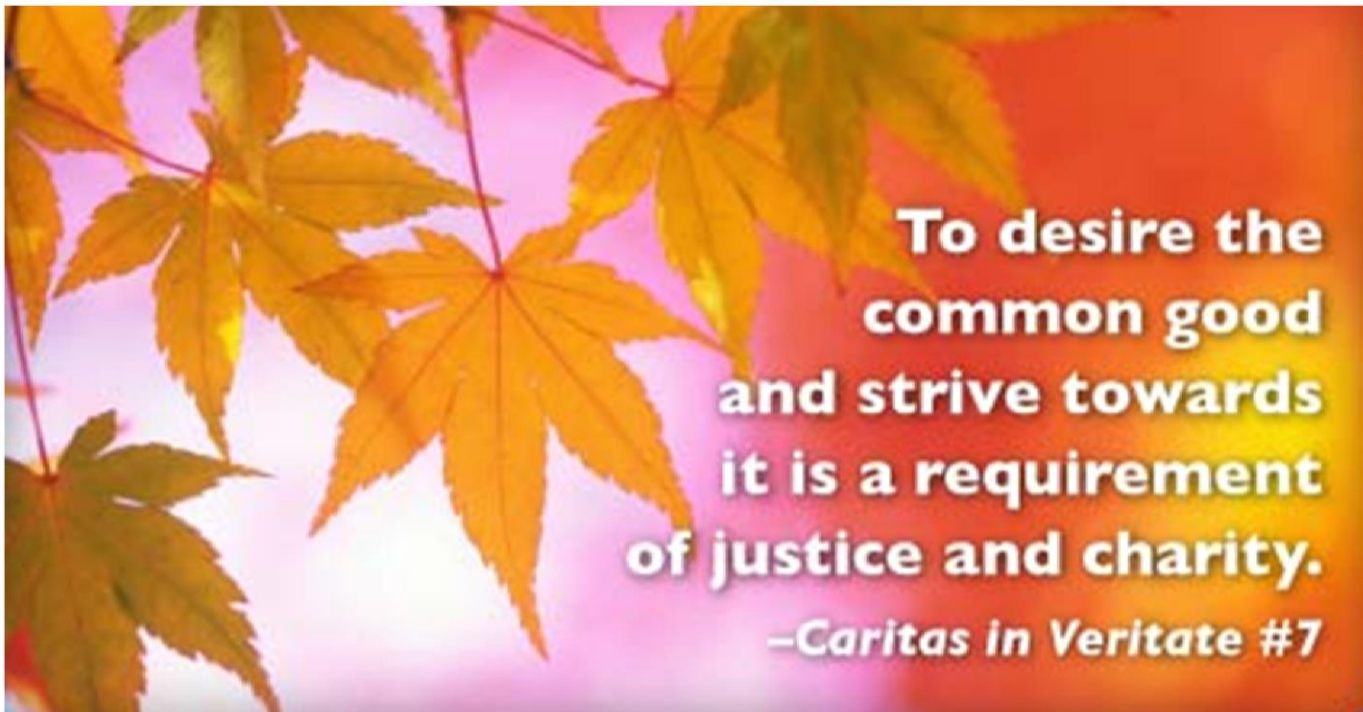




Allegany
Franciscan
Ministries

Common Good Initiative





Allegany Franciscan Ministries

March 2014

It is with great pleasure that Allegany Franciscan Ministries announces a new strategic endeavor, the “Common Good Initiative,” designed to mobilize communities towards better health and wellness through community engagement, a long-term commitment of resources, and increased collaboration of citizens and stakeholders.

In keeping with the legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and with our mission to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities, this initiative will bring hope, inspire residents to embrace opportunities to improve their health and wellness, and make a transformative and measurable impact for the poor and underserved.

While Allegany Franciscan Ministries has committed a significant amount of resources to the initiative, we recognize that success will require that 1) stakeholders in the community take an active role in identifying opportunities, making recommendations and implementing the plan, and 2) other philanthropic, public, private, non-profit, and faith-based organizations come together to leverage funding, take leadership roles, and commit to a sustainable effort for the long-haul.

We look forward to working with a broad spectrum of stakeholders to become a part of improving health and wellness for community residents. As we move further along in the process to identify three communities, we encourage you to stay connected to see how you can help us. We value your input and guidance.

Peace and all good,

*Sr. Jo Streva, OSF
Chairperson, Board of Trustees*

*Eileen Coogan Boyle
President & CEO*

Special thanks to everyone on the staff team, regional commissions and board of trustees at Allegany Franciscan Ministries. The Common Good Initiative Task Force committed countless hours in developing this initiative. Led by Task Force chairman Carl Lavender, its volunteer members included: Alma Ayala, Arlease Hall, Emery Ivery, Sr. Jo Streva, John Flanigan, Sr. Lucy Cardet, Sr. Margaret Mary Kimmins, Margie Walden and Dr. Peter Gorski.



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Common Good Initiative

A Focused, Community-Driven Approach for the Common Good

In late 2011, the Allegany Franciscan Ministries Board of Trustees began a process to identify a new strategic opportunity that would allow the organization to more deeply fulfill its mission, be open to new and innovative ways to create healthier communities, provide for the highest and best use of available funding, promote systemic change, and energize our community, volunteers and staff.

This past December, the Board of Trustees approved a new strategic initiative called the “Common Good Initiative.” The “common good” term comes from a central concept in the modern teaching of Catholic Social Teaching and is summarized in the 2004 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #164, chapter 4, part II:

The principle of the common good, to which every aspect of social life must be related if it is to attain its fullest meaning, stems from the dignity, unity and equality of all people. According to its primary and broadly accepted sense, the common good indicates “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily”.

In keeping with our mission to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities, Allegany Franciscan Ministries will identify **one community** in each of the three regions we serve and **work with its citizens and stakeholders** to create opportunities, develop strategies and make investments that lead to positive health outcomes in each community.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries will focus the Common Good Initiative in under-resourced communities, increasing access to health and related resources necessary to bring about change towards better health and wellness.

A Common Good Community Starts with...

A Community with Health and Wellness Challenges, Ready to Partner with Us

Through analysis of a host of social, health and economic indicators, communities will be identified for the Common Good Initiative. Further work will be done to assess each community’s strengths, assets and to gather input directly from persons in the community. The Regional Commissions and Board of Trustees will make a final decision on one geographic community per region by June 2014.

Collaboration and Partnerships

While Allegany Franciscan Ministries has committed a significant amount of resources to the initiative, we recognize that success will require that 1) stakeholders in the community take an active role in identifying opportunities, making recommendations and implementing the plan, and 2) other philanthropic, public, private, non-profit, and faith-based organizations come together to leverage funding, take leadership roles, and commit to a sustainable effort for the long-haul.

Long-Term Commitment and Resources

The time invested in a community will depend on the community and the strategies chosen. While recognizing that this work takes a long-term commitment, reasonable expectations will be set for results and benchmarks to ensure that the work is on the path to success.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries plans to commit over \$6.5 Million to the Common Good Initiative over the next two years, while we anticipate working with communities for at least five to seven years. The total amount available and flow of resources needed over time may change depending on the community, strategies chosen, and availability of funds.

Belief that an Impact can result from the Common Good Initiative

Allegany Franciscan Ministries believes and expects the following outcomes from this initiative:

1. Positive movement in health and wellness indicators.
2. Documented changes in systems that improve a community's health and wellness. These will be determined collectively by the community and Allegany Franciscan Ministries and must address causes and lead to outcomes.
3. Evidence that efforts will be sustained.
4. Evidence of community engagement, collaboration and partnership.
5. Evidence of community mobilization and capacity.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How did this program come about?

In late 2011, the Allegany Franciscan Ministries Board of Trustees began a process to identify a new strategic opportunity that would allow the organization to more deeply fulfill its mission, be more open to new and innovative ways to create healthier communities, provide for the highest and best use of available funding, promote systemic change, and continue to energize our community, volunteers and staff.

This past December, the Board of Trustees approved a new strategic enterprise called the “Common Good Initiative.” In keeping with our mission to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities, Allegany Franciscan Ministries will identify one community in each of the three regions we serve and work with residents and stakeholders to create opportunities, develop strategies and make investments that lead to positive health outcomes in each community.

The Common Good and Catholic Social Teaching

The “common good” is a central concept of Catholic Social Teaching and is summarized in the 2004 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #164, chapter 4, part II:

The principle of the common good, to which every aspect of social life must be related if it is to attain its fullest meaning, stems from the dignity, unity and equality of all people. According to its primary and broadly accepted sense, the common good indicates “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily”.

Why one community or neighborhood, we have needs throughout the counties we serve?

Evidence suggests that a focused approach in one geographic area will help us leverage resources and make a greater, measurable impact. Allegany Franciscan Ministries expects to utilize our limited resources to build in-depth relationships in each community, involve residents in creating or developing creative and innovative opportunities, and direct our investments towards the long-term success of those initiatives and programs.

While Allegany Franciscan Ministries will begin dedicating a substantial amount of its available grant funds to the Common Good Initiative, we will maintain a limited number of our more traditional grants in each region. (See question “Will you still maintain a competitive grants program?” on the next page).

How will the communities be chosen?

Communities will initially be identified through analysis of social, health and economic indicators. In order to be consistent across regions, we are using data sources including, but not limited to, our local Children’s Services Councils, Census Bureau, County Health Departments and Florida Department of Health. Then, further work will be done to assess each community’s strengths and assets and to gather input directly from persons in the community. The Regional Commissions and Board of Trustees will make a final decision on one geographic community per region.

How much money will be committed to the Common Good Initiative?

Allegany Franciscan Ministries typically awards \$6 million annually through its available grants programs. There will be no change to the total grant budget for this year, nor any change to the total grant budget by region.

Of the total \$12 million anticipated to be available in the next two years, approximately \$6.5 million will be committed to the Common Good Initiative. The Miami-Dade Region will have \$1 million; Palm Beach Region will have \$2.5 million and the Tampa Bay Region will have \$3.2 million available for the Common Good Initiative.

Why is there a different allocation per region?

Total funds available in each region for our ministry are legally restricted to specific counties based on agreements made when Allegany Franciscan Ministries was formed. The allocation is in large part based on the total assets originally contributed to create Allegany Franciscan Ministries from each region. While the amount of available funds varies per region, Allegany Franciscan Ministries maintains equal staffing support in each region and through its central office.

Will you still maintain the competitive grants programs?

Allegany Franciscan Ministries offers several competitive and non-competitive grant programs. However, with the launch of the Common Good Initiative, there will be a significant reduction in the total amount of funds available for these grant programs making the selection of recipients more competitive.

In 2014, the Palm Beach and Tampa Bay regions will continue to offer both Major Grants and Tau Grants. Again, the total funds for the Major Grants and Tau Grant programs will be decreased. In Miami-Dade, nearly all the funds available will be directed to the Common Good Initiative with a small reserve of funds for other purposes that may or may not be directly related to the Common Good Initiative.

Each year, the allocation may change based on the needs of the community, available funds, and partners engaged with the initiative.

What do you expect to achieve through this initiative?

Allegany Franciscan Ministries believes and expects the following outcomes from this initiative:

1. Positive movement in health and wellness indicators.
2. Documented changes in systems that improve a community's health and wellness. These will be determined collectively by the community and Allegany Franciscan Ministries and must address causes and lead to outcomes.
3. Evidence that efforts will be sustained.
4. Evidence of community engagement, collaboration and partnership.
5. Evidence of community mobilization and capacity.

How do I get involved in this initiative?

As we begin to develop, refine and engage in this initiative, we will be looking to our current and past grant partners, community stakeholders, and residents to help us understand the community, share best practices, and connect us to others with whom we can partner and leverage resources. How can you help?

1. Get to know our organization, mission, and staff.
 - a. Attend an information sessions, lunch and learns, or other events
 - b. Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter
 - c. “Like” us on Facebook
2. Help us get to know you.
 - a. Tell us what trends you see in your community, programs, and amongst your peers
 - b. Share a success story
 - c. Make sure we are “following” you on your social networks

Next Steps and Timeline:

Beginning in January 2014, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has the following anticipated timeline to launch the Common Good Initiative.

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| January - February | Allegany Franciscan Ministries announces the Common Good Initiative and Grant programs for 2014 |
| February - June | Community research, asset & readiness assessment conducted. Regional Commissions’ community selection recommendations presented to Board of Trustees for final selection in early Summer 2014. |
| June - October | Additional work in the community will be done to further identify opportunities, develop partnerships, and begin to set strategies for implementation. |