



2024-2025

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year this has been! Just some high lights that come to mind!

- All our locations continue to function and serve their communities. Some with large amounts of youth being affected and some with few. We remember that we would continue to make a “safe place”, if only ‘one’ young person had need. We never forget that one lost sheep parable.
- Our volunteer help has grown and thank goodness as the needs have grown! Where we only needed two people, we now need three!
- The needs are great e.g. our drop-in lunch program, in Madoc, what used to be daily 30-40 youth is now 50-60. That means food prep 5 days a week for probably 250 – 300 meals weekly, = 1000 to 1200 meals a month.
- We have local grocery stores that share with us surplus/and/or salvage items, local food banks, Gleaners, plus donations from Churches, Lions Club, Kiwanis and private fresh produce that turn into home cooked meals! I am always amazed when we run low how God provides! I.E. We are out of potatoes, and I am wishing we had some for that day and someone comes to the door- “could you use 50 pounds of potatoes?” YES! By

God's grace, listening hearts and financial blessings we can also purchase items that we need, like olive oil and flour and dish soap!

- In many instances we have also helped families, old and young with some of our surplus and take-home food. Sent with love and maybe even a blessed medal or the Good News of John.
- In Madoc, we were able to have a beautiful Community Advent Dinner- we called it our Celebration of Appreciation. The SDF was able to provide a meal for over two hundred men women and children, young and old and rich and poor all together remembering the importance of family and the coming of Christmas and Jesus! We had lovely music; door prizes and a community sing along! We recognized our volunteers and had fun as each table unbeknownst to them were to sing a verse of the 12 days of Christmas! Barn and Country Catering gave us an exceptional meal deal! We were able to cover the costs of this "free will offering" dinner, by donations! Local Youth assisted in directing and welcoming, setting up and tearing down. There were turkey dinners in all our locations over this festive time! This year Celebration 2025 will be held at the Kiwanis NOV. 26th MARK your CALENDAR.
- Youth submit a tree to the" Festival of Trees "in Tweed! The Festival Committee share the proceeds with various youth organizations, and Foundations is usually one of those recognized!
- Youth in Tweed also volunteer to help in the local community in many ways. Local Dinners, Art Shows and have been recognized.
- One of our Tweed volunteers and excellent male mentor, Travis Kellar, received the "Volunteer of the Year", award, from the Municipality of Tweed just last week!!

- Joel Palmateer, the Program Director/Facilitator for Tweed Foundations, also still has a Male Mentoring group, for our male youth, teaching good moral practices and lifestyle. He also facilitated a workshop, housed at the Lions Club, for same, open to other youth who pre-registered. Using art as a form of therapy in expressing emotions and thoughts. **It is our hope to copy this program in our other locations. As well as expand to start a Clare's Club, a similar program for girls.**
- The Foundations Youth in Tweed are also working with Food Insecurity in the area by shopping for and helping local families, churches and community organizations. The Municipality of Tweed is very supportive of our group and our Foundations Youth Centre is housed in the Municipal Building lower area and has a paid lease for the next 5 years.
- We were able to take a bus trip to Madonna House with some of our Youth and Volunteers! An experience everyone loved! This could well be an annual event! We were able to take some of our surplus items needed i.e. soap and pots! They needed shampoo and we had just received 3 cases of it! We helped 😊
- The Trenton location continues to be open and reach out. The local Director there, Murray Black is seeking more volunteers and some local youth input. The dynamics of the downtown location and youth has changed since the COVID closures, and that isolation mind set has not yet left.
- We have provided food to area families and the little lambs that come to Murray are still fed and nurtured! Gifts and leadership are promoted with the open mike every Friday night on the special "stage".
- We received a sizable legacy donation to be used to keep programs running for all the youth in QUINTE WEST.
- St. Francis House has been a quiet retreat place for those the Lord sends! Our office here is crowded but it is still working ok!

- At this old farm, we are in the process of repairs, painting and even tractor fixing. It is our hope to have a spring event on the property, like the Monkfest that were held from 2003 – 2013. The big job will be barn repair, will need help with this! We lost several trees in the ice storm this spring, but no buildings were affected but a lot of chain saw work! Looking at May 30th, 2026, for “FAMILYFEST”!
- I found myself without, a reliable vehicle and one of our young people, Mary H. sadly passed away at a young age, her mother gave her car to the SDF, stating to me that she knew Mary would want me to have it! I now have a little inexpensive vehicle to fly around in! a 2014 Chevy Spark! Our gas expenses are down! I have already used this SOOO much! Truly a God Send, RIP dear Mary. I pray for you every time I get in the car. The car was blessed, by Fr. Justin and has had several road trips already! I am so grateful! Everything works, it's easy to park, can take bags of food and my guitar still fits in the back seat!
- The SDF is a registered Charity that is totally volunteer based. We have no paid personal and are not government funded. We do our very best and trust God with the rest. AND through His beautiful people and organizations, we receive all that we need. Enough to cover our expenses, to help others and to do more. Working together we are all supporting our communities! For example, when you support and donate goods to the Madoc Thrift Store, you are helping us too! The Thrift store gives all profits back to the community and they are a special benefactor to our Madoc Foundation!
- Also in 2025, For the **1st** time the San Damiano Foundation was recognized as a worthy recipient Charity, that benefited from the Lenten Collection in the Archdiocese of Kingston.
- **Much thanks to those anonymous donors!! Bless you!**

- My prayer is that the San Damiano Foundation continues to be blessed that we truly may be the living walking prayer of St. Francis, in all our locations and that we continue to grow and expand into as many communities as the Lord wills.
- The youth are always grateful and respectful! We experience food, fun, friendship and faith! Smiles and tears together! One of the youths did a polar plunge and the money he raised he proudly brought into Foundations!

**So, on behalf of our SDF Board, our Directors, Facilitators,
Volunteers and our Youth,
may God bless you and all of us, as we look to Him for our
guidance and support, together navigating the troubled waters
of the world.**

**It is not His will that any are hungry, and feel they have no one
and no place to belong. It is truly His love and a mother's heart
we share with our meals and activities. It is family.**

Thank you for being part of this "family".

Sincerely,

**Colleen MacAlister ofs
President- Foundress
San Damiano Foundation inc.**

**c.c. Mr. Murray Black
Br. Alan Gaebel ofm cap
Mr. Chad Duff
Mr. Donald MacAlister ofs
Mr. Joel Palmateer**