



2026 Giving Guide

Mission: *Through collective giving, collaboration, and shared faith, the Women's Giving Circle of the Diocese of Baton Rouge seeks to promote philanthropy that glorifies God, compels action, and empowers women.*

2026 Key Dates

Tuesday February 10th 10:00 AM Kick-off Mass/Lunch
St. George Church – 7808 St George Dr, Baton Rouge Fr. Paul Yi, celebrant Lunch at Bonnie's House

Wednesday, Feb. 11th: Round 1 of voting opens **Tuesday, Feb. 24th :** Round 1 of voting closes

Wednesday, March 25th 6:00 PM Sip and Learn – Mass/Nonprofit Presentations
St. Thomas More Church – 11441 Goodwood Dr, Baton Rouge Fr. Eddie Martin, celebrant

Thursday, March 26th: Round 2 of voting opens **Friday, April 3rd :** Round 2 of voting closes

Tuesday, April 21st 10:30 AM Celebration, Mass/Luncheon/Grant Awards
Mercedarian Prayer Center 17560 George O'Neal Rd. Baton Rouge Fr. Tom Ranzino, celebrant

2026 WGC Grants Committee

Thank you to our volunteers for their guidance, wisdom, and prayers: Jan Ross, Gwenette Albert, Coletta Barrett, Staci Duhe, Carolyn Dyer, Carol Goldsmith, Kori Guglio, Barbara Golden, Sarah Losavio, Maria Mathews, and Julie Millard.

Funding Eligibility

Organizations Eligible to Receive Funding: The organizations included in your Giving Guide have been confirmed as being in relationship with the Diocese of Baton Rouge or are non-diocesan organizations which have been reviewed by Circle leadership on a case-by-case basis to ensure that their missions/programs comply with Roman Catholic Church teachings.

2026 Focus Area: Ministries that build Community in the Body of Christ

This ministry focus includes any service or program that promotes community bonding or fellowship within our church community. Organizations that serve individuals under this umbrella through evangelization, education, or corporal and spiritual works of mercy build up the Body of Christ and follow our Lord's example of ministering to body, mind and spirit. By assisting ministries who seek to build fellowship within the Body of Christ, our Circle helps the individuals touched by these ministries to realize their own worth as children of God, nurtures within them a relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ, and helps them to focus on our need to respect and support each other as individuals created in the image and likeness of God our Creator. By supporting these selected ministries, the WGC joins in Jesus' command to love one another.

The Grants Committee has already ensured that the organizations listed in this Giving Guide fit this year's focus area, reach the target group, and are affiliated with our Catholic faith in purpose and mission. To aid you in your discernment process, here are some questions to consider as you review each organization. If it is helpful, please use the checklist below each organization's description to help you in determining your ranking of organizations.

1. **Reputation:** Do you know this organization to be a reputable and worthy organization?
2. **Proposed Work:** Is this organization doing valuable work in the community?
3. **Connection:** Do you feel a connection to this ministry and the population they serve?

2026 Potential Grantees (to appear on Ballot for Voting Round 1)

All are Welcome Ministry DioBR
BraveHeart Children in Need
Campus Ministries in DioBR
Community Builders
Dorothy Day Café Sacred Heart Church

Families Helping Families GBR
LA Org. for Refugees & Immigrants
Mercedarian Sisters Novitiate
Office of Youth and YA Ministry DioBR
Ozanam, a SVdP ministry

Pregnancy Problem Center
Prison Ministry DioBR
St. Paul the Apostle Outreach Program
Stanley Rother House of Discernment

Please review the information on each of these organizations and take it to prayer. You are encouraged to visit the websites to learn more about each. When you receive an email for voting, follow the instructions and vote online. Voting will be open for one week only, so please do this promptly. During the first round, you will be asked to vote for FIVE organizations. If you have any questions or run into technical problems when voting, please send an email to womensgivingcirclebr@gmail.com or call Bonnie at 225.223.3211.

Holiness consists of one thing: to do God's will, as He wills it, because He wills it.
St. Katharine Drexel

Thank you for seeking to do God's will as a WGC partner.

2026 Listing of Organizations

All are Welcome Ministry of the Diocese of Baton Rouge

<https://diobr.org/special-needs>

Location: Baton Rouge Impact Area: All parishes in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Monthly masses usually see between 70 and 100 attendees. The last annual retreat had 125 attendees and 200 people came to the last Family Fun Day.

- History & Mission: Since 2022, the All Are Welcome ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge has been dedicated to fostering an adaptive and supportive environment for individuals with exceptional or special needs and their families. Through sensory-friendly Masses, fellowship opportunities, tailored spiritual growth initiatives, and education, we strive to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their abilities, can fully participate in the Catholic Church. Guided by the teachings of Christ, we aim to create a church community that celebrates the unique gifts of God's children with special needs and builds lasting relationships between families that are rooted in faith and understanding. The building up of this community for families with special needs brings hope and healing to members of our church who often feel excluded from typical parish activities. Depending on an individual family member's disability, the family may not feel able to attend mass together during a regular liturgy, something that families without special needs are able to take for granted. Sensory Friendly masses are designed to reduce sensory input that may cause individuals with special needs to become anxious or act out. Retreats provide respite for parents as volunteers and staff help to ensure their family members with special needs are lovingly engaged while parents learn how to best serve out their vocation and find community with other Catholic parents. Family Fun Days build community and allow families to build relationships with other families walking similar paths.
- Request: If funded, we would use the resources to underwrite the cost of our Annual Family Retreat and to develop a fellowship community for young adults with special needs that would meet in conjunction with our Sensory Friendly masses.
- Other Funding Sources: We receive funding from the diocese and from individual donations. All events are free.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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BraveHeart – Children in Need

www.braveheartchildren.org

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: Statewide

- History & Mission: Founded in 2004, Brave Heart (BH) provides comfort and instills hope for children and youth transitioning in or out of foster care. We seek to build a community around these most vulnerable children of God when their families cannot. BH serves approximately 2500 individuals each year. Our Youth Transition Program assists youth who are aging out of foster care at the age of 18. We assist these youth in opening bank accounts, learning financial literacy skills and career planning. We also provide them with a head start on forming a household by purchasing items such as small appliances, laptop for education/career use, or a bicycle for transportation.
- Request: First, we would fund our “Duffle Bag Initiative”, in response to a new state law that requires the 4000 youth coming into or out of foster care each year to have an appropriate piece of luggage so that they don’t have to carry their belongings in trash bags (yes, that is correct, many children come into foster care with only a trash bag to carry a few personal items). Second, we would fund our Youth in Transition program for youth turning 18 and exiting the foster care system. This program assists these youth in establishing independent living and pursuing educational goals once they are not eligible for foster care.
- Other Funding Sources: We have applied for funding this year from Attic Trash and Treasure, ForeKids Foundation and the 1924 Fund. Other than these grants, the majority of our funding comes from individual donors and in-kind donations from community members, civic organizations and church groups.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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Campus Ministries of DioBR (LSU, FranU, Southern, Southeastern) <https://www.cklsu.org/>

<https://diobr.org/st-albert-the-great-hammond> <https://franu.edu/mission/campus-ministry/index.html>

<https://diobr.org/st-joseph-chapel-martin-luther-king-jr-student-center-baton-rouge>

Location: Baton Rouge & Hammond

Impact Area: Serving Catholic students from across the nation

- Mission: The Campus ministries in our Diocese serve the spiritual needs of over 30,000 College students. This period of life presents a great challenge as studies show as many as 8 in 10 students walk away from the faith in college. Campus ministry and student centers remind students of God’s great love for them and provide excellent formation that encourages students to understand why their faith is so important and to make a commitment to God on their own, many for the first time independent of their family upbringing.
- Request: If funded, the campus ministries will use their funds as follows: CTK@LSU: FOCUS Missionaries who work one on one with students to develop their personal faith lives. FranU: fund the Franciscan Experience that brings high school students to campus to build their community connections to their Catholic faith. St. Albert: expand the choral music ministry. St. Joseph’s Chapel & MLK Jr. Student Center at Southern University: fund evangelization retreats.
- Other Funding Sources: All campus ministries are subsidized by the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Each individual ministry has different fundraising and donation efforts to help offset the cost of student ministry.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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Catholic Community Media

<https://catholiccommunityradio.org/>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: Greater BR and New Orleans area

- History & Mission: Since 2009, Catholic Community Media has broadcasted the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Southeastern Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. Our combination of local and national Catholic programming inspire, inform and educate the faithful whenever and wherever they tune in.
- Request: Funding would be used to replace and upgrade outdated material and paint and light our towers for WPYR-AM, our Baton Rouge station to reach more listeners. By expanding our reach, we can include more church parishes in our listening audience and serve as a conduit for public announcements for parish activities. We will also be able to reach a larger community of people with the gospel through our broadcasts, increasing evangelization and bringing hope to the virtual Body of Christ that may have difficulty getting to church.
- Other Funding Sources: We are strictly funded by our listeners and viewers donations via pledge drives, mailouts and underwriting sponsorships. We do not charge fees. We'll always keep God's Word free to all who hear that they may listen!

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Community Builders - Compass Initiative

<http://cbinc.org>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: East Baton Rouge parish

- History & Mission: Since 2008, Community Builders has guided individuals and families out of poverty and despair and toward lives of stability, dignity, and self-reliance. Through a holistic approach that addresses addiction recovery, housing stability, education, workforce development, and sustainable employment, we equip people with the tools, accountability, and support needed to break generational cycles, restore families, and build thriving communities.
- Request: Funds would be used for the Compass Initiative, a faith-rooted community effort designed to restore individuals and families through love, structure, and accountability. Guided by biblical principles, Compass exists to help those facing poverty, addiction, instability, and broken relationships find healing, purpose, and direction through Christ-centered teachings and support. Recognizing that transformation happens best in relationship, Compass brings churches, ministries, and faith-based partners together to address both spiritual and practical needs. Through addiction recovery support, housing stabilization, education, job readiness, and sustainable employment pathways, Compass equips participants to move from survival to self-reliance while growing in faith and fellowship. Compass utilizes programs such as Faithfully Employed and Rebuild Academy, Compass emphasizes discipleship, stewardship, and service. Participants are not only supported but empowered to help build and strengthen the community within their local neighborhoods.
- Other Funding Sources: Community Builders is funded by private and individual donations. Fees are never charged for program participation.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Dorothy Day Café at the Underground Hub - Sacred Heart Church

<https://catholicworker.org/directory/the-dorothy-day-cafe/>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: Neighborhoods surrounding Sacred Heart Church

- **History & Mission:** Since early 2025 the Dorothy Day Café has offered free coffee and a welcoming, safe place for neighbors to gather in fellowship on the campus of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Located within The Underground Hub, home to Vagabond Missions' youth outreach and the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, the café strengthens community ties, promotes spiritual and social connection, and serves as a gentle doorway to other ministries to address physical, mental, and spiritual health needs. Over 100 individuals a week utilize the café for support and fellowship.
- **Request:** Dorothy Day Café will expand a visible, reliable "front-porch" ministry that builds community in the Body of Christ by uniting three works under one roof: hospitality (the Café), corporal mercy (SVdP Food Pantry), and youth evangelization (Vagabond Missions). Grant funds will add outdoor seating to invite neighbors; increase capacity to sustain longer, predictable hours; and add cold storage plus café equipment so we can consistently offer warm drinks and simple food (e.g., breakfast sandwiches, hot cocoa). These tangible upgrades make it easy to co-schedule SVdP pantry days during Café hours ("come for coffee; pick up food"), and to engage Vagabond high-school students in creative service that draws in their friends, families, and neighbors. It will also welcome our neighbors within parish boundaries, offering a place to share and learn the Gospel, witness Jesus's love and compassion in action, be met where they are, connect with resources, and find a safe, prayerful space for fellowship and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- **Other Funding Sources:** The café is entirely volunteer run, operating under the parish/Diocese; in-kind donations already cover basic drip coffee. No fees are charged; specialty drinks (enabled by the equipment) may be donation-optional, with all offerings available regardless of ability to pay.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge

www.fhfgbr.org

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: 1000 families in EBR, WBR, Felicianas, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Ascension

- **History & Mission:** Since 1998, our mission is to provide the individualized services, information, and support, needed to positively enhance the independence, productivity, and integration of persons with disabilities into the community.
- **Request:** FHF is a non-profit, family-directed resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families. We provide information and referrals, education and training, and peer-to-peer support across all of our program areas. Our programs include the Bureau of Family Health, Family 2 Family Health Information Center, Early Steps, The Empowerment Program, Inclusive Education, the Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder (RCASD), and Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN). We are requesting funding consideration for the RCASD, a comprehensive information hub for anyone living with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The RCASD offers peer support to parents, self-advocates, family members and caregivers. Staff provide families with referrals to the medical, therapeutic, educational and legal resources they need. This program also provides a variety of social interaction activities for children and adults living with ASD, i.e. Sunshine Social Dances, Friday Night Out Game Nights, Sensory Santa, Sensory Bunny, and an Aloha Luau.
- **Other Funding Sources:** FHF has state contracts to administer other programs and we receive private donations and funds from our fundraisers.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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LORI – Louisiana Organization for Refugees & Immigrants

www.mylori.org

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette areas

- History & Mission: Established in 2017, LORI serves over 3300 individuals annually. Our mission is to empower immigrant and refugee communities to become self-reliant and civically engaged by providing social integration support, economic advancement opportunities, immigration legal aid, and advocacy.
- Request: LORI's Women's Empowerment Program affirms the inherent dignity of every person by supporting immigrant and refugee women as they grow into leadership within their families, workplaces, and communities. Grounded in LORI's mission to welcome the stranger and accompany immigrants and refugees toward full participation in civic life, the program strengthens women's capacity to serve, lead, and advocate for just and compassionate systems. Since 2023, participation in the Women's Wing has grown from 110 women to over 150 participants by 2025. This growth reflects the resilience, trust, and leadership of immigrant women who continue to show up for one another in challenging times. LORI expanded its summer camp into three cohorts, organized back-to-school drives, and launched a Community Food Pantry that has supported more than 300 households with food, diapers, and essential goods. LORI's programs help these women to build a strong community where they can support and serve each other.
- Other Funding Sources: LORI receives funding from philanthropic organizations and individual donors. All programs and services offered to women, as part of the Women's Empowerment Program and free of charge and multilingual.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Mercedarian Sisters Novitiate (Sr. Dulce Foundation)

cyressspringsprayercenter.org

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: individuals from all over the state are served by our ministry

- History & Mission: Since 2001, Sister Dulce, a religious Sister of the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, along with her order, has offered a place of healing and evangelization where God's suffering people and their families, young and old, can find spiritual consolation and guidance, comfort and peace. A place, Cypress Springs Mercedarian Prayer Center, that will continue to nurture families even after the journey of their loved one is complete. The ministry has grown to include a thriving novitiate where young women dedicate themselves to our Lord's service in formation to become religious Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Request: Funds would be used to provide for expenses required to train, house and form the young women who have come to our novitiate. These beautiful sisters help to build the Body of Christ both by ministering to those in the local Catholic schools, campus ministry at LSU and many other religious events. An example of this is the partnership between the Sisters and Sacred Heart School, where the Sisters commit to weekly time with the students to help them grow spiritually. This funding will help to continue providing a spiritual environment for Sister Dulce and the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve those seeking God's healing of their minds, bodies, and souls.
- Other Funding Sources: Dining by Design raises about 75-80% of operating funds annually. Our Shepherd's Staff Gift Shop raises enough to pay for utilities annually. Events that require an expenditure by the ministry are the Guest Speaker events where a donation fee is charged to cover cost. Our Patron events (those religious organizations using CSMPC facilities) often donate something for usage of the facilities. All seeking God's spiritual touch are welcomed.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries DioBR <https://diobr.org/youth-and-young-adult-ministry>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: Serving 10,000 youth across the entire diocese

- History & Mission: The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Diocese of Baton Rouge exists for youth and young adults of the Diocese of Baton Rouge to know and love Jesus. Our Mission is to support parishes in youth and young adult ministry. We provide resources and formation and collaborative support for our youth and young adult ministers. We create opportunities for community and faith formation for our young adults across the diocese.
- Request: Funds would be used for a Diocesan Youth Discipleship Retreat; a weekend retreat where the purpose is threefold: 1. To foster personal discipleship in our young people, 2. To encourage youth discipleship within parishes, 3. To deepen our young people's faith through encounter with Christ, the Sacraments, community, and mission. Based on Biblical characters and modern-day Saints and the qualities they exemplified as disciples of Jesus Christ. The biggest expense for this retreat is the bus required to transport participants. We plan to use some of the funds to underwrite the cost of the discipleship retreat for students in need.
- Other Funding Sources: This program is not part of our regular budget. Youth participants will pay \$400 to attend this retreat and adult volunteers will pay \$150. It is our hope that the parishes will help to defray costs for individual participants.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Ozanam Initiative – a St. Vincent de Paul ministry

www.svdpbr.net

Location: Diocese of Baton Rouge Impact Area: serving over 350 people annually across all civil parishes in the diocese

- History & Mission: Since 1865, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Baton Rouge has been a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.
- Request: The Ozanam Initiative serves families in need by assisting to pay mostly rent and utilities (No work of charity is foreign to the Society). The Initiative serves areas of the Diocese that are not served by a Conference of the Society. Thus, any family in the Diocese of Baton Rouge has an opportunity to be assisted by the Baton Rouge Council either through a conference or the Ozanam Initiative. The goal is to get families through an immediate financial crisis with a place to live and with the utilities working. Every small act of charity is an act of love in imitation of Christ's love for every person. With our the Ozanam Initiative the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is able to serve those in need who live anywhere in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.
- Other Funding Sources: All other funding for the Ozanam Initiative comes from the annual budget of the Baton Rouge Council. Money for the Baton Rouge Council comes from generous donors. No fees are charged. All money goes directly to assist people in need.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Pregnancy Problem Center

www.pregnancyproblemcenterbr.com

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: over 100 women annual in GBR and outlying parishes

- History & Mission: Since 1981, the Pregnancy Problem Center, has believed that God is the Author of life and that abortion is never the answer. We are dedicated to encouraging a culture of life by giving compassionate, practical assistance to those who have experienced an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Welcome to the world of often overlooked first responders addressing daily crisis within our own immediate community: the staff and volunteers of the Pregnancy Problem Center. Our doors open daily to offer women experiencing the uncertainties of an unplanned pregnancy a place of solace and support for navigating through their journeys for life-affirming outcomes. Often the women arrive bearing not only new life, but a plethora of emotional, physical, financial, and spiritual conflicts that accompany the realization of an unplanned pregnancy. The center's accessibility in the heart of mid-city Baton Rouge is crucial for serving a population wherein the obstacles of dysfunctional home life, poor or no housing, low-to-no-income and unreliable transportation are daily deterrents to healthy lifestyles for birthing and raising a family. Our small staff and volunteers provide counseling, support, and options to abortion to women in their time of crisis.
- Request: Funding would allow us to hire an assistant director to lead and guide our dedicated volunteers who work one on one with women seeking our help.
- Other Funding Sources: The Pregnancy Problem Center does not charge fees for those who receive our services. We rely upon the monetary and in-kind generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations within the communities we serve. We receive no income from local, state, or national governmental funding. Our primary sources of income are generated by our quarterly newsletter and our year-round Baby Bottle Campaigns conducted by faith communities which have largely been Catholic church parishes and Knights of Columbus Councils.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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Prison Ministry of DioBR

<https://www.diobr.org/prison-ministry>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: all parishes in Louisiana – 1500 prisoners annually

- History & Mission: The prison ministry in the Diocese of Baton Rouge seeks to build the Body of Christ by responding to His call in Matthew 25 to visit the imprisoned and that in Hebrews 13:3 to be “mindful of those in prison as though you were imprisoned yourself”. We see in this call as one to not only serve those in prison but also to everyone in our community impacted by incarceration and crime. Our ministry builds community in the Body of Christ through its very active involvement in five state prisons and several civil parish jails. We have dedicated Spanish language activities to reach our Hispanic brothers and sisters who are incarcerated. Priests celebrate Masses and bring the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick to the incarcerated. We provide pastoral care offering Communion services, spiritual guidance and daily companionship to the imprisoned men and women. Lay volunteers visit common areas and cell blocks in prisons to bring fellowship and the Eucharist, including to those in Death Row. They lead retreats, OCIA and spiritual formation classes, Bible studies and Faith sharing. They form bonds of friendship with the imprisoned and bring food and gifts for holidays and other celebrations. Volunteers assist Bishop Duca when he visits each facility to confer the Sacraments of Initiation to prisoners who completed instruction in the rites of the Catholic Church. Our prison ministry continues this corporal work of mercy once the prisoner re-enters society.
- Request: Funding would be used for Speakers for Days of Fellowship and Formation for Volunteers; Bibles, spiritual books, videos and resources for studies led by deacons, lay ministers and prisoners themselves. Materials for OCIA classes inside prisons. Food and supplies for Days of Fellowship and Formation, retreats, Holiday celebrations.
- Other Funding Sources: Diocese of Baton Rouge and small private donations.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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St. Paul the Apostle Outreach Program

<https://stpaulbr.org>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: over 4200 people in the St. Paul area of Baton Rouge

- History & Mission: Founded in 1960, St. Paul the Apostle Church is bound by our faith and guided by the Holy Spirit, we, the children of God, within the Community of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, are called to celebrate the redeeming actions of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and to teach and bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Request: Funding would be used for our Outreach Program, borne out of the assessed needs of students enrolled in St. Paul Adult Learning Center, as identified by Sr. Kathleen Bahlinger and Sr. Lory Schaff. The services continue with enhancements for people in the North Baton Rouge area. Since the service's inception in 1983, the outreach program has operated within the initial allotted space in St. Paul Activity Center, assisting over 4,000 families and individuals annually. The free services include monthly food boxes, alternating monthly hot breakfasts and lunches, care packages for the homeless, monthly health screenings, health fairs, new or gently used clothing, rent and utilities assistance, and visits to the sick and shut-ins. If awarded, the funds from the Women's Giving Circle Grant will be essential to our mission of nourishing and supporting our community. Specifically, these funds will allow us to provide more monthly alternating hot breakfasts and lunches, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables for our clients' food boxes. Additionally, the grant will enable the increase of the number of care packages that include hygiene items, non-perishable snacks, socks, blankets, and more. Furthermore, the funding will be crucial for acquiring shelving and storage solutions, making necessary repairs to our building, and purchasing a commercial refrigerator and freezer to enhance our food preservation efforts. This support can make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.
- Other Funding Sources: We receive donations from the parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle and partnerships through the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, the St. Paul Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, and a local Catholic church.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Stanley Rother House of Discernment

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/752638094375470>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: all parishes in the Diocese of Baton Rouge

- History & Mission: Created in 2025 as a partnership between the DioBR Vocations Office and FranU, the Stanley Rother House's purpose is to form future priests for the diocese during their foundational stage, emphasizing prayer, community, and service. Activities include daily prayer, Mass, study, community meals, and service projects with local partners, and limited technology use. Named for the first U.S.-born priest beatified as a martyr, this house serves as the Propaedeutic Phase (initial stage) of formation, offering a model of sacrificial service and deep commitment to the poor, reflecting Father Rother's life. Prospective seminarians attend FranU while undergoing discernment at Stanley Rother, supported by a rich community of priests, religious and scholars, all serving to form these men as they consider God's call to the priesthood. Fr. Josh Johnson serves as the Director of Vocations and the Stanley Rother house.
- Request: Funds would help to complete renovations to the house so that the diocese can welcome more seminary applicants to this discernment program.
- Other Funding Sources: The Diocese of Baton Rouge funds the Stanley Rother House.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection