

Dear SMC Supporter,

I am grateful that I once again have the privilege to pen a message of gratitude and reflection for the support Sister Mary's Children has received during this past year. Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate our work together, and share our continued vision for the future. The impact in 2024 to our beneficiaries is tangible, it is powerful and its impact is cascading. Your support is the catalyst that enables our mission to actively change the story for so many.

It is my sincerest wish that these stories and reflections may remind us all of the power of partnership, collaboration and shared purpose.

Brenna Riggers-Brewster
SMC Board President

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sister Mary's Children's Board of Directors:

Brenna Riggers-Brewster, Joan Riggers, Mary Lytle, Steve Tacke, and Joan Brown

Thanks to Sue Tacke

Sue Tacke has resigned from formally serving as a Sister Mary's Children Board Member. After much reflection, Sue has graciously stepped down due to a busy schedule. The SMC Board would like to express our sincere gratitude for Sue's service as a board of director for the past 8 years, during which time she served with dedication, grace, and creativity.

We were so lucky to have Sue join the SMC Board in 2016 and share her accounting skills, visions for the future, and creative fundraising ideas. Soon after she joined the Board, she jumped right in bringing positivity and energy to our first fundraiser. The next year she created and chaired the very successful SMC Chair-ity Fundraiser. Many of those beautiful chairs are still adorning homes. In addition, Sue introduced many of our faithful donors to SMC.

The SMC Board would like to express our deepest appreciation for Sue's incredible contributions to our team. We will miss her insights, energy, and dedication. Sue will forever be a part of SMC!

Welcome Home!

These words were given as a greeting over and over to board members Steve Tacke and Joan Brown as they visited the three SMC partner projects in Mthatha this past October. They truly felt welcomed as family members!! Formally meeting with each of the directors, visiting with staff members, interacting with the children and young adults, and joining in spontaneous singing and dancing kept these SMC delegates busy throughout the week.

Our board goals for onsite visits were all met:

- Relationships strengthened!
- Feet "on the ground" to ensure our donors that SMC funds are being used thoughtfully and creatively by our partners.
- Face to face conversations that help SMC board members have a deeper understanding of everyday challenges and joys our partner projects experience.



Celebrating Local Mthatha Partnerships

One of the questions that each director was asked by our SMC traveling delegation was, "What has brought you unexpected joy this past year?" One common joy described was gratefulness for not feeling alone in the difficult work that is before them each and every day. In addition to expressions of much gratitude for SMC, stories of unexpected generosity from people in the community of Mthatha were also shared. Board members, Joan Brown and Steve Tacke, witnessed three examples of local support during their short visit:

- Mr. Bread : Delivery of BREAD and WARM BLANKETS for the babies and toddlers!
- High school students walking from a local school to help prepare NUTRITIOUS MEALS!
- Local grocery store leaders celebrating a 2nd year of PARTNERSHIP with the Sinako GARDEN PROJECT (growing and selling back vegetables to the store).

Siyabulela!! (We are grateful)



Become a sustaining donor!

Our new website now has a monthly automatic donation feature. Visit **sistermaryschildren.org** and become part of our monthly giving campaign!



**\$5/month =
\$60/year =**

School uniform for a child at
Thembelihle Home

**\$25/month =
\$300/year =**

2 weeks of lunches for the
60+ young adult learners
at Ikhwezi Lokusa
Rehabilitation &
Development Society



**\$50/month =
\$600/year =**

Care of one child in the
nursery of Bethany
Children's Home for 6
months.

Set up your monthly donation at **sistermaryschildren.org** or send a check addressed to SMC.

Sister Mary's Children 501(c)3



Contact Us:

sistermaryschildren.org

 @sistermaryschildren

 facebook.com/sistermaryschildren

On-site Visit

Providing Perspective

It is truly hard to describe the depth of feeling I experienced on my visit to South Africa and the projects of SMC. This was my second visit to South Africa and Mthatha. The first time in 2006 with my dad was to visit my aunt, Sister Mary Paule, and get a sense of her life and purpose there. It got in my heart and stayed there. When Joan Brown said she was going back and asked if any of the board members wanted to accompany her, I knew it had to be me. I was being called back and could not deny it. This visit showed me why Sister Mary Paule loved these people and worked so hard to help them in any way she could, especially the little people.

Steve Tacke - SMC Board Secretary

