

## Annual Report 2022

The year 2022 marked the fifth year of Sister-Corps and it has been one of enormous growth in all ways: financial – donations, projects, volunteers, and organizational flexibility. This review is to inform and to serve as a document for the records.

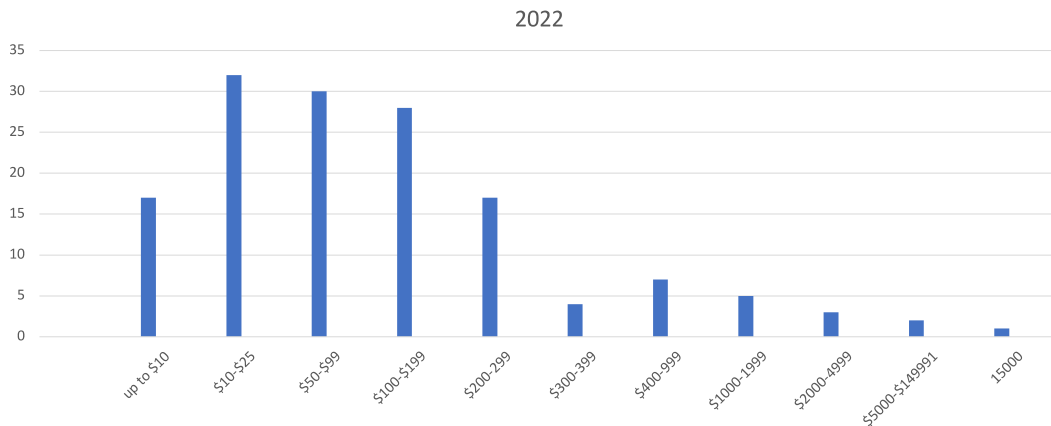
### **Financial-**

Sister–Corps relies completely on donations or grants to provide for our necessary expenses as an organization (office software, postage, insurance, etc.) in order that we can DO the work that we are formed to do—to fulfill our mission. Ending 2021, Sister-Corps showed a financial position of total assets of \$46,490. A budget for 2022 was set at \$32000 to cover our organization expenses and to hold one large project. Our proposed budget included \$10000 earmarked for three regional/ smaller projects (one at \$5000 and two at \$2500). We knew we had to have sizeable donations to fulfill the *mission* —to DO the work that disaster relief. Therefore, the Board stated the goal of receiving around \$30,000 in donations during the year 2022 to bring us to \$62,000 for 2022. We had an ambitious budget for ambitious goals. It is a thrill to report that the ambitious goal was exceeded by more than double! Our 2022 end of year financial statement shows assets to be \$139,899 – a 204% increase! Our goal of having \$30000 was met and more with a total of cash donations this year of \$88, 000. We reaped the benefits of two \$10000 donations- one was from a private foundation, and other large donations such as a very generous crowd at the anniversary auction, and the proceeds of a music concert the Nashville entertainer, Jamey Johnson.

Donations increased dramatically this past year from increased donations through typical donations from supporters in the under \$100 range and donations through Facebook Birthday fundraisers, to substantial donations of \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$15,000. The latter donation was given by entertainer, Jamey Johnson as proceeds from a concert. *Total donations for year 2021 were \$28, 679 with total for 2022 of \$129,306 (cash and in-kind) for an increase of over 320%.*

## Donation amounts received 2022 (Paypal primarily)

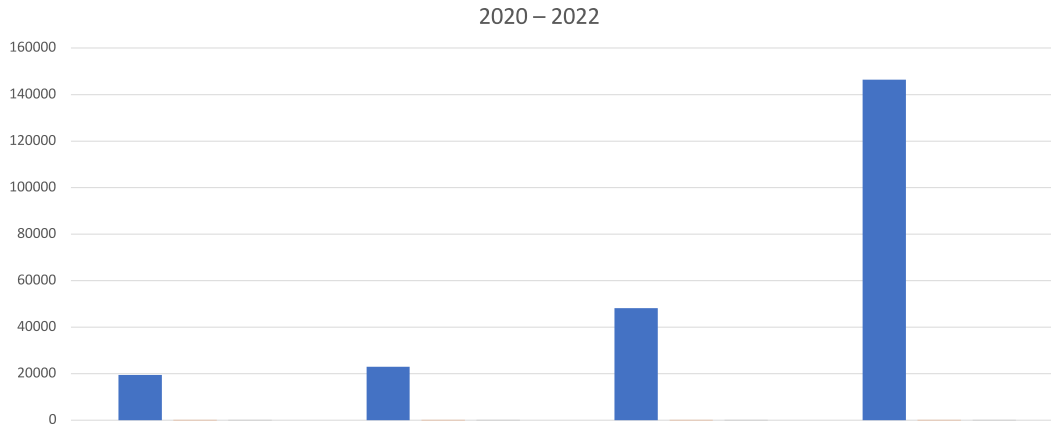
Mean (avg) \$545  
Mode \$25  
Median= \$60



In 2022, Sister-Corps also was the recipient of two substantial in-kind donations. Hilti Tool company donated over \$15000 in power tools for our use and a one of our own volunteers, Danna Roberts, donated a 22-foot enclosed cargo trailer for us to use to transport tools and equipment to projects.

Our fundraising reached new levels in 2022 with a 750% increase over 2021. Our auctions and the fifth anniversary celebration as well brought in over \$13, 600 (after expenses).

# Financial total liabilities and equity



## Projects

Sister-Corps is defined by our projects- our service opportunities. In 2022, we reached all new levels of service, in numbers of projects, numbers of volunteers involved, and types of projects. Prior to 2022, we held only one large project each year, but the need to assist in Kentucky's tornado area was presented after the SELA (Southeast Louisiana Project) was being organized. It was decided that we had enough funds and volunteer numbers that we would add a second large project in spring 2022. These two large projects so very positive aspects of having projects close together: we were able to take many of the same tools and equipment from one to the next, we did not have to totally do separate planning- as much of one plan could roll to the

next one, our cachet was in fact impacted positively and our visibility increased. In fact, the planners saw some distinct advantages to tapping into one project with another one right away.

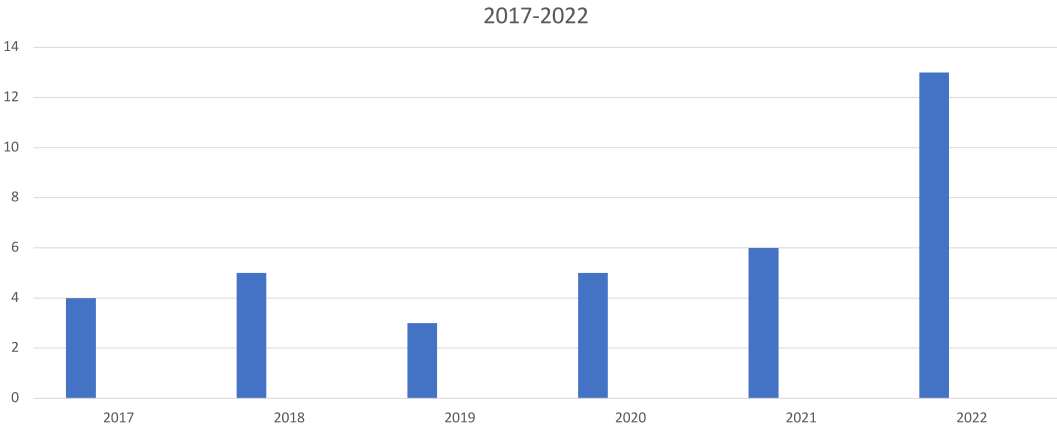
We also developed a partnership this year with the National Park Service by working with holding the ranger in Sequoia National Park to hold three environmental projects; our volunteers worked under the training and supervision of a Park Ranger. The projects worked on a variety of environmental issues: meadow restoration, mapping and counting of the Giant Sequoias, and collected seeds from endangered native plants for a reseeded program.

Along with working on environmental issues in a national park, we also held a state park cleanup- this time in Colorado at Mueller State Park where the Sister-Corps volunteers helped with fire mitigation. There were three beach cleanups- two at Port Aransas (in May and in November) and one on South Padre Island (TX) . Two mini-projects were held, both in response to flooding (Washington State and eastern Kentucky). This was the first time Sister-Corps has responded to flooding. A blood drive was held in February 2022 with about 35 donors from across the nation. Luggage of Love was renamed “Serving Community” and Sister-Corps partnered with Sisters on the Fly to co-host this holiday drive to support Food Banks (or the group could choose to conduct a drive with the same goal as LOL did- Women’s shelters for domestic violence ). We also sponsored four classes to enhance skills and knowledge of our volunteers first aid (two times,) basic carpentry, and flooring.

A most unusual project was proposed and conducted this year – it is a community service, environmental and historical preservation. A pauper’s cemetery dating to the 1880s was extremely neglected with no entity or private group or even individuals taking responsibility for the ruin that was taking place. The vegetation was very overgrown and was literally ruining

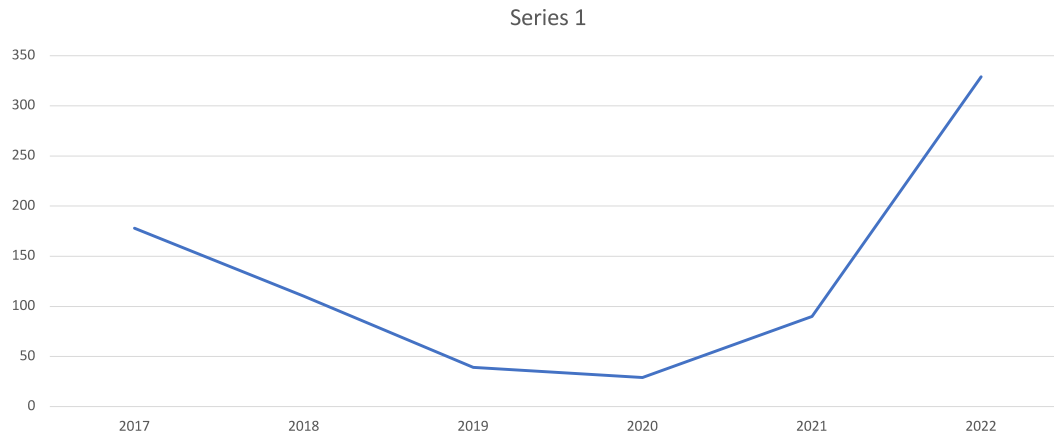
gravesites, headstones were turned over, and overgrown with moss, and litter was everywhere. A group in Spokane WA, proposed and later held a project in which they cleaned up and restored the cemetery, bringing some dignity back to the historic cemetery.

## Number of projects by year



## Number of Volunteers

### Number of volunteers in projects\* 2022 (not counting national drives)



## Organizational Flexibility

One expressed goal is that we want to be “nimble” and able to respond in a quicker response when new opportunities are presented. That was the case in two small responses this past summer. The first was dubbed a “lightening response” when a small group of 7 mobilized in under a week to go into Vicco, KY to distribute food and water to the victims of massive flooding in an already very economically stressed community in Appalachia. This group is now taking the lead on a return project this coming spring when the goal is to have a group of around 50 respond to needs on a more organized basis. The second nimble response was to respond to a need to help in Whatcom County, Washington. The flood had occurred several months prior, but

there was still a need for help. The nimble part of this response was that because a board member was in the area, and no one there has worked on a Sister Corps project before, we put it together quickly in order to have the experience involved. Several involved are planning to hold another relief project in the area in the coming year.

### **Leadership density**

Sister-Corps started small, and the board had to assume an active role in doing much of the work of keeping the organization growing and performing. The board has a lot of talent, skill, and experience, but this level of work is having the effect of wearing people out and ultimately resigning from the Board. Without an Executive Director or any paid staff, the officers and directors are the administration, the governance, and day-to-day operations of Sister-Corps. In reality, we are probably three or more years away, *and if the financial growth continues, from being able to hire even a part-time Executive Director.* Therefore, it has been a goal to do to share the load, and each year some progress is made in that regard. The emphasis is to farm more out to committees, who then study an issue and make recommendations in a report that goes to the Board. (See suggested goals for 2023 below). The Advisory Panel is one vehicle that was designed to be a leadership pool, and we need to continue to improve on using those identified leaders and to “groom” them for even more responsibilities.

The Board has a responsibility to carefully observed art any of our projects, and to identify skills and experience that we can call on to be leaders in Sister-Corps.

In 2022, the Board was increased by two director positions. There has been discussion on the optimum number and if we could add more. Other leadership opportunities are filled as

Project Directors, Committee Chair (such as donor Relations), and Task Force leaders. The board rule that a Project Director cannot be on the Board, may need to be reexamined in order to make best use of the demonstrated skilled leadership in some of our past Project Directors. Further, the Board may need to reexamine the requirement of membership in Sisters on the fly as a requisite for being in Sister-Corps in order not to preclude highly skilled women from joining S-C.( see more on this topic below)

This year, two volunteers with high background in technology were added to assist in the volunteer Management software system we are using (Galaxy). We need two (or three) volunteers with high commitment and ample free hours to work on our web page and all social media.

**Board development-** Some members of the board committed to further study by reading in designated areas: for example, Board Development, Strategic Planning, funding, tax law, Board Structure, strategic planning, bookkeeping, and accounting. There were several webinars and online training that were attended such as OSHA safety training.

**Loyola Study-** One of the most beneficial external contributions to the organization's health was a four-month study conducted by a graduate school marketing class at Loyola University, Chicago. These students reviewed our printed and e-materials to examine our strengths and challenges in marketing and compared our marketing with our stated Mission. We were then provided with a well-developed final presentation and a printed report. All this under the guidance of their professor. Such study in the corporate world (of which they will be a part within a year) would have been tens of thousands of dollars.



In January, the board will meet in a three-day, face-to-face retreat. The board will develop a strategic plan with a long-range look at one year, three-year, five year and ten-year goals along with plans on how to achieve those goals.