

CCVI CATHOLIC SISTERS INTERCONGREGATIONAL NETWORK UNITED STATES/MEXICO & SISTER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE LATIN AMERICA HIGHLIGHTS

HILTON FOUNDATION PROJECTS—BUILDING RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES' CAPACITY TO SERVE COMMUNITIES

Dedicated to providing quarterly updates on the Hilton Project's progress toward building the capacity of religious sisters, ministries, and congregations in serving impoverished indigenous and migrating children, youth, women and families.

CCVI-Hilton Projects Highlights

October-September FY2024-2025		December-November FY2024-2025	
CCVI-Hilton Network Funds Year One		SLDI Religious Sisters Leadership Training Year One	
Beneficiaries (U.S. and Mexico)/Goal U.S. (9,625); MX (121,619)	131,244 /328%	Sisters Trained via SLDI –new students registered	134
Money Disbursed to Ministries	\$514,997	Sisters Trained via SLDI –graduate students	137
Sisters Participating in Funded Ministries/ # of Congregations	170/64	SLDI Countries Served	16
Partnerships	116		

Note: Data is current as of September 26, 2025

- For year to date, Network Funds requests included family/social services (53%), educational needs (30%), healthcare (17%), and entrepreneurship (<1%);
- The majority of the Network Funds requests in Mexico (34) were concentrated in Mexico City, Chilón, and Sitalá;
- The majority of the Network Funds requests in the United States (18) were concentrated in Missouri and Texas;
- SLDI Leadership Certification modules, March 2025 through February 2026, will cover topics such as collective human development, transformational leadership, institutional development, project management, impact assessment and learning communities to build religious sisters' knowledge and skills toward effective management of their ministries;
- SLDI continuing education modules for sisters completing certification course has continued with the current webinar session on *Impact Evaluation*.

Holding on to Faith and Hope: Searching for Loved Ones

The issue of missing migrant children in Central America and the United States stems from complex political and economic factors driving migration, compounded by systemic failures in tracking and protection. Thousands of children go missing leaving them vulnerable to trafficking and abuse.

- **Causes of missing children:** Children go missing due to separation from parents during travel routes, U.S. border policies like the 2017-2018 zero tolerance policy, and the influx of unaccompanied minors entering sponsorship or detention centers.
- **Failures in tracking and protection:** Lack of reporting, discrepancies in tracking by government agencies, and absence of reunification processes have led to thousands of children disappearing, with an estimated 5,000 separated under zero tolerance having no tracking system.
- **Detention and care process:** Unaccompanied minors detained at the U.S.-Mexico border are processed by Customs and Border Patrol, then transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement, which places children in shelters or foster care and seeks reunification with family or sponsors.
- **Large numbers unaccounted for:** Since 2015, over 550,000 unaccompanied migrant children have arrived in U.S. cities, with significant lapses including over 291,000 children lacking court appearance notices and over 32,000 missing court date monitoring between 2019 and 2023. Major receiving cities include Houston, Los Angeles, and Dallas.
- **Mothers Search:** For many years, migrant and refugee women have desperately searched for children left behind, separated at borders, or missing during journeys. For decades, mothers from Central American countries like Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador have organized caravans searching for their children who disappeared while migrating through Mexico.
- **Organizations that help:** For many years, human rights and advocacy organizations have worked to reunite families separated at the border or along dangerous travel routes, including las buscadoras, The Committee for Missing Children and Sabuesos Guerreras among others.



CCVI Projects at Work: Carmelitas del Sagrado Corazón

Mission: Comprehensive accompaniment to families in search of their disappeared children. We do so from the pastoral care of listening. We provide lodging and food to families who come from various states of Mexico. Families look for their children who have suffered from forced disappearance in Mexico. We serve people in a comprehensive way by giving them spaces for spirituality, personal and group psychological therapy, and health care through alternative medicine with various natural healing techniques.



Name of Project: Familias Buscadoras de Desaparecidos – FABHID CSC (families searching for those disappeared).

Community Served: The beneficiaries are mainly mothers who are looking for their children, also other family members such as wives, sisters, fathers, children who are looking for their loved ones who have disappeared. Family members such as grandmothers and relatives who have been affected by this pain that changes the life of the whole family also attend the meetings and therapies.

Project Activities: Provide lodging and food to the searching mothers who come to carry out procedures and search. Support and reception to search brigades carried out in the State of Jalisco and support to other States. Personal and group attention in psychology.

Projected Estimated Number of Beneficiaries to be Served: 600, including people on the move and indigenous communities – families: mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, wives, husbands, grandmothers, and grandfathers who suffer from the forced disappearance of their loved ones. Most of them are poor, displaced by violence, workers, other elderly and/or disabled. There are also very young families since those who disappear are in the range of 16 to 35 years of age.

How Can you Help?

- **Educate and Inform:** Share accurate information about migrant and refugee experiences to combat misinformation and foster empathy;
- **Support Frontline Organizations:** Donate to or volunteer with groups providing critical resources like shelter, legal aid, and healthcare;

- **Amplify Migrant Voices:** Highlight stories of migrants and refugees to raise awareness and promote understanding;
- **Engage Your Community:** Organize discussions, events, or fundraisers to inspire collective action for migrant support;
- **Demand Accountability:** Urge lawmakers to ensure humane treatment in immigration and deportation policies.

Meet our Team!!

-  **Rocio De Hoyos – Hilton Project Administrative Manager, United States and Mexico**
-  **Denise Krohn Peña – Project Evaluator**
-  **Idalia Sanchez – Project Consultant**

Recognizing our Sisters Network Coordinators

CCVI Coordinators:

- * **Sr. Maria Elena Corripio, CCVI**
- * **Sr. Bertha Elena Flores, CCVI**

SLDI Coordinators:

- **Sr. Ma. De la Luz Cardona Cerda, CCVI - General Coordinator**
- **Hna. Lilia Guillermina Gutiérrez Aguirre; Hermanas de los Pobres Siervas del Sagrado Corazón - Wednesday Morning Group Coordinator**
- **Hna. Guadalupe Andrea Hernández S., Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús de Xalapa - Wednesday Afternoon Group Coordinator**
- **Hna. María Guadalupe Martínez González, Misioneras Guadalupeanas del Espíritu Santo - Thursday Morning Group Coordinator**
- **Hna. Carmen Daniela Arteaga Soto, Instituto de Hermanas de San José de Tarbes - Thursday Afternoon Group Coordinator**