Our sisters provide critical Social services for those living in poverty in our local neighborhoods and global communities. Others have called us trailblazers and leaders in our respective fields. We feel blessed to walk with and support individuals and families as they create brighter futures.

Camp Mariastella

Started by SSS in 1942, Camp Mariastella is located in the mountains of Wrightwood, California. Our mission is to enhance the life skills of people of all ages, cultures and walks of life by fostering an awareness of the beauty of creation and the action of God in their lives. 600 girls can participate in camp each summer, and year-round hundreds attend spiritual retreats and confirmation classes.

Holy Spirit Retreat Center

The Holy Spirit Retreat Center was founded by the SSS at the request of Archbishop Cantwell in the early 1930’s. It was the first retreat center for women in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. While we have always maintained our Catholic roots and Benedictine charism, it is our desire to provide an atmosphere of peace and hospitality to all people. We welcome nearly 18,000 retreatants to our social justice and interfaith programs each year.

For more information, please contact:

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Sisters of Social Service
MEXICO
TAIWAN
UNITED STATES
PHILIPPINES

Working with people living in poverty to plant seeds for healthier tomorrows.
**Brief History**

Sr. Frederica Horvath immigrated to the U.S. from Hungary and in 1926 founded the Sisters of Social Service in Los Angeles. The SSS ministries addressed the needs and challenges of those struggling individuals and families living in poverty. We have always had a special emphasis on women and children living on the margins.

**Mission**

The Sisters of Social Service is a religious community whose mission is to share in the social mission of the Church by embracing the many needs of society arising from social, religious, economic, environmental, cultural and civic conditions.

**International Expansion**

In 1963, our Sisters began ministries in Mexico and Taiwan, and in 1994, we expanded our works to serve the people of the Philippines, as well.

Currently, our Sisters work in these four countries, and are connected in mission and charism to the International Federation of the Sisters of Social Service, whose 300 members improve the lives of people in need throughout the world.

**Ministries and Collaborations**

Our Sisters have brought direct social services, community development and systemic support to hundreds of thousands of people in need.

We work with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures to build a better future together.

**Global Reach—Current Ministries**

Our Sisters are called to serve in a variety of fields to meet the needs of those on the margins. Below is a list representing many of the works in which Sisters are engaged in a chartered SSS ministry, an outside agency, in private practice or as a part of another non-profit or faith-based organization.

**Art and Music Ministries**
- Camps
- Chaplaincy
- Community Collaboration
- Community Organizing
- Counseling
- Education
- Family Nutrition
- Health Care
- Interfaith Ministries

**Immigrant rights and support**
- Neighborhood Centers
- Nursing
- Pastoral Care
- Prison Ministries
- Programs for Children and Teens

**Retreats and Spiritual Direction**
- Religious Education
- Shelters
- Social Work Education
- Women’s Development