



Putting our resources in common

Duchesne Trust CIO
June 2026, No. 1



What is the Duchesne Trust CIO?

The DT CIO is a charity organization that receives funds from donors and provinces and redistributes them to sustain and develop the mission of the Society to discover and manifest the love of Jesus through the service of education around the world.

This world in which so many of our sisters and brothers are suffering calls into question our own way of living, and makes a lasting mark upon the way we use financial resources. Living and acting as One Body means articulating and creating new ways of living out our mission across existential and geographic boundaries for the sake of our blessed and broken world.

One of the decisions of the General Chapter 2024 was to put our resources in common to sustain and support the Society's mission, expressed through the Apostolic Priorities of Education, Spirituality, JPIC and Formation.

We want to make a genuine effort to bring about a more just distribution of the world's resources, in solidarity with all who suffer.

We build communion with them by setting aside our own interests, by giving, without seeking reward or gain, by sharing at every level in the Society and by depriving ourselves for the benefit of those who are in need of everything.

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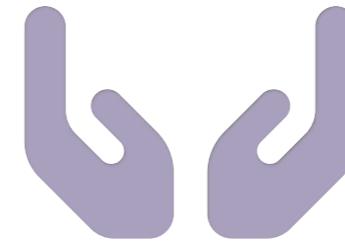
Sharing

our

*What is the Duchesne Trust
CIO used for?*

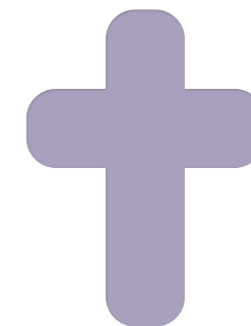
resources

A more equitable sharing
of resources for provinces
who are in need



Supporting the mission in
education, formation, JPIC
and spirituality

Providing direct
aid to provinces



Supporting provinces, the life of
the sisters, and sustaining the
functioning of the Generalate

Helping preserve the
Society's spiritual heritage





Going into the deep to accompany with love

Beth Sulleza rscj is participating in the UISG Programme for the Preparation of Formators 2026, a journey that encourages participants to “go into the deep” of their personal vocation, congregational charism and the calls of the Church and the world today. Beth shares this formative experience with forty-five other sisters, coming from forty-two different congregations and from twenty-two countries all over the world. For six months,

the sisters are journeying together exploring themes, experiences, processes and tools that would deepen their own understanding of the different aspects of consecrated life lived in the context of an ever-evolving reality. The calls for interculturality, self-care, discernment, mission and synodality are interwoven in the different topics throughout the program.

As the program aspires to prepare the sisters for their future work in initial formation, it is first of all, for their own formation. The program offers a constant invitation to deepen their knowledge of their inner world: for them to recognize their personal dynamics, acknowledge their gifts and vulnerabilities, from which they can discern the ways of God in their lives. They went through a rich and meaningful preparation and eight-day retreat in

Nemi in March. It is through their personal experience of transformation that they can more effectively journey with young women discerning God’s call in their lives. For Beth, this is a grace-filled journey of entering her own heart, finding treasures that she will carry with her in the future as she accompanies others in discovering and manifesting their own experiences of God’s love.

Beth Sulleza rscj (PHI)

Formation to sustain our mission...



The Impact of Ongoing Formation

The participants in the Renewal Program that took place in the spring of 2025 offer a taste of this experience:

It is a grace, it is a gift to the Society and a gift to me, because it is a great opportunity to return to saying yes in the Society, but with the support of Sophie, with the impetus of the Church and with my sisters of the International Society.

Conny Mateos rscj (MEX)

I have closed my beloved school and so I came here torn, with a dark hole in my heart. And Jesus was waiting here, and He said, "I am the fisherman that mends your net and I embrace you and draw you closer to me." And here I found a home away from home, a family away from home. They were so wonderful and I'm filled with love.

Yasuko Taguchi rscj (NEANZ)



Ensuring insightful leadership at a time of transition

Thanks to the support of the Duchesne Trust CIO, the Society's provincials, provincial teams, and provincial treasurers were able to benefit from a Leadership Formation Program. Ninety-four sisters participated in these eight sessions of three hours each, focusing on leadership in a time of transition. A second module will be held in the autumn of 2026 and winter/spring of 2027.

One staff member who worked on the program explains why it is so needed at this time:

Truly effective leadership first requires inner clarity: knowing where our authority comes from, how our power affects others, and what invisible dynamics run through our organizations.

Recent training sessions in the RSCJ's global leadership program, facilitated by Piluca Benavente MSOLA, facilitator from Faith and Praxis, have invited the participants to distinguish between authority—which emanates from the system—and power, which emerges from the individual and can exist with or without a formal mandate. Choosing to exercise authority with humility, transparency, and discernment is an ethical act, in the service of something greater than oneself.

In the multicultural contexts of the Society, forces are filtered through history, language, and collective memories, which means that leadership actions could risk being perceived as domination or power. As we transition toward the new provinces, we must implement practices for ethical leadership and exercise it conscientiously, discerning needs, acknowledging limits, managing emotions, and fostering dialogue, to better nourish our vibrant interculturality and our commitment to mission.

Dina Carchereux
Secretariat, Casa Generalizia



A Retreat with Sophie

During this time of transition in the Society, we are each experiencing our own personal transformations. What better time to retreat, to meet God and be inspired by Sophie?

This question, posed during an Advisory Council meeting last November, led to the Retreats with Sophie, the first of which took place in April 2026. The idea is to provide a listening and receiving space for each retreatant to take time apart, to touch back into her passion for her vocation, to recall and deepen her sense of belonging and identity as an RSCJ, to be enlivened and to integrate life and mission in her reality, to be with God, to be with Sophie.

The same retreat will be offered twice and is for RSCJ who are transitioning to a new moment on their journey. The first, with twelve RSCJ, took place at the Villa Lante in Rome, while the second one, open to twenty RSCJ, will be held at the Centre Sophie Barat in Joigny from October 19 - November 2, 2026.

During the Retreat with Sophie at the Villa Lante, in which twelve RSCJ from nine provinces and eleven nationalities participated, the group felt that Sophie was always present, in the church where many had made their final profession and the chapels of the Villa Lante, in the beauty of its park and gardens, and in the historical

richness of Rome. The book *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Madeleine Sophie Barat*, by Marie-Paule Pr at, published in 2025 on the 100th anniversary of Sophie Barat's canonization, served as a guide for the retreat, which helped the sisters reconnect with Sophie and with themselves. In the words of those who took part:

Before the retreat, Sophie was absent. I now feel the need to not cut off the thread between us.

I have a deeper understanding of what it means to be 'One Body, One Heart' across different cultures and situations, grounded in God's love and desire for all of us.

I felt a profound love from Sophie for me, as I was her daughter and have my place in the Society.

The Retreat Team
 Donna Dolan rscj (USC)
 Marie-Paule Pr at rscj (BFN)
 Kim, Hyo-Seung rscj (NEANZ)



...to discover the love of the Heart of Jesus...



Caring for prayer spaces at the Villa Lante

As part of the plan to include some new outdoor prayer spaces in the Villa Lante's park and gardens, Mary Finlayson rscj came up with the idea for a meditation garden at the Villa Lante containing a labyrinth, a very simple unicursal spiral heart, surrounded by benches, trees, flowers and plants.

Another new contemplative space is Sophie's Vineyard, a series of paths, staircases and benches under a trellis of grapevines, culminating in a spectacular view of Rome's skyline. Rita de Martino rscj remounted the stations of the cross throughout the park and prepared a prayer guide. Finally, the beloved white marble

statue of St. Madeleine Sophie in the front courtyard is now surrounded by blooming rose bushes, rosemary, alyssum, and small stone benches enveloped in daisies.

In Mary's words:

A labyrinth is not a maze which one walks for fun, making choices about turns and getting lost, but rather is unicursal, with one path leading to the centre and out again, a form of walking prayer. I shall walk the heart labyrinth today, as I do most days, and pray for you and pray for peace.

Mary Finlayson rscj (USC)



Tradition meets development in Peru

While visiting the soon-to-be new province of Rosa Filipina Sur, three members of the General Council were able to see some of the impacts of the Bambamarca project in Peru, funded by the Duchesne Trust's Solidarity Fund.

Andean traditions, it offers a peaceful environment and a deep connection to Peru's natural beauty and community spirit.

Noellina Namusisi rscj, General Councilor, recounts her impressions:

Here we saw up close the results of the RSCJ educational project, which is helping people of different ages gain professional and vocational skills and develop confidence, while maintaining their cultural identity. This increases their access to jobs in teaching, business, agriculture and other public sectors. The project emphasizes moral values, self-esteem, and social responsibility, helping people participate more effectively in community development.

My time in Bambamarca was truly unforgettable. In the midst of the Andes, surrounded by rolling green hills and fresh mountain air, each day felt calm and refreshing. But it was the warmth of the sisters and the local people - their kindness, traditions, and simple way of life - that made every moment feel genuine. Deeply rooted in indigenous

Noellina Namusisi rscj



...through the service of education



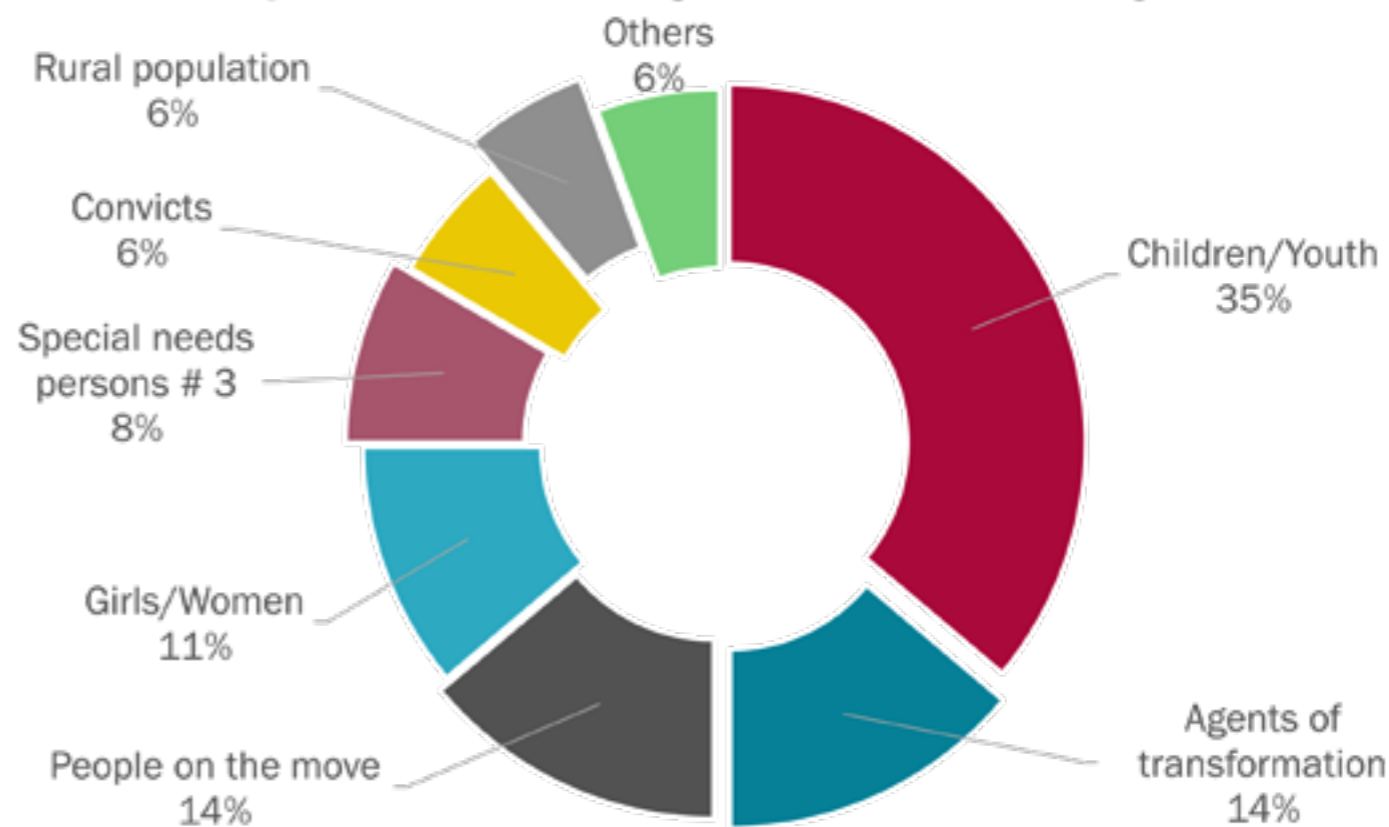
Education was the focus of 57% of the projects funded by the Mother House Solidarity Fund of the Duchesne Trust. Twenty projects were aimed at schools, highlighting the apostolic priority of empowering individuals and communities through knowledge and skill development.

The Mobile Library Project in Vietnam

Access to books or spaces encouraging reading are limited for many Vietnamese youth, especially those in rural and marginalized areas. Reaching over 2000 people, the Mobile Library became more than a book service, it fostered a culture of reading, community involvement, and empowerment, offering a transformative space for vulnerable youth and families. *Photo to left*



People served by the Solidarity Fund



Literacy education for Somali refugees in Ethiopia

The project sought to reduce illiteracy among adult Somali refugees, providing literacy, numeracy, and life skills education to 856 adult learners. Beyond literacy and numeracy skills, it fostered dignity, confidence, and social cohesion, strengthening their sense of belonging and empowerment.

An in-depth look...

Building skills and confidence among those with special needs



In Karamoja, Uganda, children with special needs face serious challenges, including limited access to healthcare, education, and social support. These difficulties are worsened by cultural stigmas and a lack of resources. This project addressed these issues by offering capacity-building workshops in craft-making, cosmetic production, and sustainable agriculture. It also strengthened parental involvement through regular meetings and home visits, ensuring that knowledge and skills gained at the center were applied in households.

As a result, ten persons with special needs improved their practical skills and hygiene practices, particularly through soap-making. Parents became more actively engaged in supporting their children's development both at home and at the CLHBC center. During home visits, project staff observed learners assisting their families



“We used to be considered useless, outcast. When people see what we can make, their attitude towards us changes, we are valued, they see us as persons who can contribute to society. Our parents now care about us... not like before.”

with daily tasks such as fetching water, cleaning the compound, and managing kitchen gardens. Growing their own vegetables also contributed to better nutrition and

overall health. Importantly, the participants now feel more confident to engage and speak openly in their communities without fear.



More Solidarity Fund projects



Duchesne Trust CIO

Registered Charity number 1210066

9 Bute Gardens

London W6 7DR, England

To make a contribution:

Name: Duchesne Trust CIO

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