

Improving the Living Conditions for Divine Word College Sisters

Megan Hall has been a worthy structure for many years, but now it needs help. With more than 40 religious sisters living in the only original building on campus, the College has identified repairs and updates that the building needs badly.

The old outer stucco is falling off and the thin insulation makes it hard to keep the sisters warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Drainage around the building flows to the building instead of away from it, resulting in water leaking into the bottom floor.



Sr. Norelly Rodriguez Manosalva, RCS

Sr. Norelly Rodriguez Manosalva, RCS has been living in Megan Hall for six years and said the dormitory is a blessing to her.

“I am on campus and know it is a safe place to live,” she said. “On the other hand, we have some challenges due to the many years the building has been used by DWC students. It is clean and nice but an old structure. Overall, the building is still fine, but it needs some repairs before serious structural damage occurs. Hopefully, with the generosity of friends and benefactors of DWC, this place will stand for many more years to come and benefit future missionaries who come to study at DWC.”

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- Stucco is falling away from the building
- The lower window wells fill with water during significant rain events
- Gutters are deteriorating
- Ice dams form on the ground in early spring during freeze and thaw cycles

Fixing the problems

To help with energy efficiency, all the stucco will be removed, then the entire building will be wrapped with insulation and covered with vinyl siding. To remedy the drainage problem, the immediate area around the building will be landscaped and tiled to make sure rainwater and melting snow flows away from the building. New gutters and downspouts will also be installed to take water away from the building. The last piece of the project is the installation of a backup generator. The generator will ensure the sisters will always have electricity in case of a power outage and protect against frozen pipes in the winter.

After thoroughly considering a number of options, College leaders determined that the outlined course of action will repair or improve the structure in the most cost effective, long-lasting and impactful way possible. The general contractor, Gronen Corporation, assessed the building and reported that overall, Megan Hall is generally in good condition. The structure may be old, but it has been well maintained and shown much love by its residents over the years.



What Will It Cost?

The total cost for the exterior updates is approximately \$474,000.

Removal, disposal and replacement of exterior — \$150,200

Landscaping and tiling — \$29,400

Wrap, insulation, gutter and siding — \$114,000

Generator — \$98,600

Construction management/contingency/fees — \$81,800

Devoted donors have already given gifts that will help cover about half of the total project cost. We are thankful for their generous spirit and enthusiastic support of the DWC mission.

You can help the sisters have better living conditions, too! *Your donations always make a difference.*



To contribute to the Megan Hall project, please contact:

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Or send your gift to:

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