



## Attracting the Next Generation of Franciscans

Rhett Engelking has just taken a leap of faith. He left a promising career as a health professional in Milwaukee and moved to Washington, D.C., to help launch Franciscan Earth Corps—a national community of young adults engaging in Franciscan spirituality and care for creation. Rhett and Lonnie Ellis, two young Secular Franciscans working for Franciscan Action Network (FAN), have already helped start Franciscan Earth Corps groups of young adults (aged 18-35) in Syracuse, Long Island, Camden, Tampa, Milwaukee, Silver Spring, Md., and the town of Nogales on the Arizona-Mexico border. Many of these young adults are already becoming interested in the Secular Franciscan Order. The goal for Rhett and Lonnie is to create sustainable groups of Franciscan-hearted young adults in 25 cities and an online membership of 1,000 individuals at the end of 3 years.

Rhett will receive a stipend through FAN and has a place to stay through the kindness of friends, but we need your support—

**Please help Rhett take this leap of faith and recruit the next generation of Franciscans. We ask that you give generously—we need to raise \$45,000 to support him and his work to bring hundreds of young adults into the Franciscan family.**



Young adults from St. Francis of Assisi parish in Milwaukee work on a garden that provides food to St. Ben's Meal Program.



**“Our way of engaging young adults in the Franciscan charism is by digging in the dirt together, learning to see everything as sacred, and cultivating our universal sense of belonging.”**

- Rhett Engelking, from an article in the National Catholic Reporter

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[www.FranciscanAction.org/Donate](http://www.FranciscanAction.org/Donate)

Rhett's passion is exactly what we need to recruit young Franciscans—he is committed to living like St. Francis, energetic for justice, and a student of contemplative spirituality. Young adults are attracted to action that makes the world a better place and vibrant spirituality that provides meaning.

We owe a great deal to Rob Breen, Franciscan Youth Chair of NAFRA, who is advising FAN on the project and who has been running Franciscan Earth Corps in upstate New York since 2003. We look forward to continuing to work alongside the NAFRA commission—while Franciscan Earth Corps casts the net broadly and ecumenically, the NAFRA YouFra program will help deepen the journey for young Catholics.

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Read more:

[www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org](http://www.FranciscanEarthCorps.org)

Or by mail:

**Franciscan Action Network  
3025 4th Street NE, Suite 18  
Washington, DC 20017**

Email us to get involved with young adults and care for creation in your community:  
[earthcorps@franciscanaction.org](mailto:earthcorps@franciscanaction.org)