

“We Live and Work That All May Be One”

2020 Annual Program Report

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Congregation of St. Joseph Mission Network and Partners



“We Live and Work That All May Be One”

Annual Program Report 2020

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NAZARETH ACADEMY 2019-2020

Scholarship

- Successfully implemented a new modified-block schedule and adapted to extended eLearning for the 4th quarter
- 187 graduates will attend 105 different colleges in 29 states and abroad, earning over \$20 million in merit scholarships
- One Appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point; 5 National Merit Letters of Commendation; 3 National Hispanic Scholars; 35 Illinois State Scholars; 2 Chick Evans Scholars
- Math Team qualified for State Competition for the 6th consecutive year
- The 20 ESCC Scholar-Athletes from the Class of 2020 graduated with an average GPA of 4.62

Service

- 15,000 hours of service
- YC2 philanthropy students awarded grant money to TEACH and Alivio Medical Center; CSJ Community Builders for Peace program culminated in service to children at the Quinn Center
- Student-led drives and fundraising for multiple local and national charities and organizations
- Circle the City Drive-thru Food Drive and letter writing campaigns for CSJ sisters in quarantine and frontline workers at St. Anthony Hospital in response to the coronavirus pandemic

Nazareth Academy is a Catholic, coed, college prep high school dedicated to living Jesus' mission of unity.

*Educating the whole person
since 1900.*

Spirit

- Girls Volleyball made school history, qualifying for IHSA State finals and ultimately finishing 3rd; Football finished 2nd in State
- 25 student-athletes from the Class of 2020 committed to play college-level sports including 10 Division 1 programs in 5 different sports
- Naz Drama, Bands and Choirs offered plays and concerts open to the community; 2nd Place for Band at the State of the Art competition
- New mid-day Activity Period offered deeper engagement & leadership in extra-curriculars
- New Naz clubs - Debate, Future Healthcare Professionals, Programming Club and Robotics Team

Unity

- 39 students mandated as Eucharistic Ministers
- Diversity initiatives include Diversity Club, Multicultural Festival Week, activities for Black History and Hispanic Heritage months, affinity groups and a Parent Speaker Series
- Spiritual retreat and student-led Masses and Prayer Services for every student, including virtual prayer celebrations in the 4th Quarter
- The Naz Family united during stay-at-home via video daily prayers, State of the Heart prayer services and videos to and from students
- Widening Our Lens...That All May be One school theme focused on expanding our vision, practicing empathy and exploring ways to truly see the four pillars in action each day



2019-2020 Annual Report to CSJ Ministries

The 2019-2020 year will be long remembered for the abrupt end of classes on campus. The worldwide pandemic is so significant; it overshadows the first three quarters of the school year. But if we go back to the start of the year, we began with a celebration of the 162nd birthday of Mother Theresa Fitzmaurice, CSJ on August 29th and a blessing from the CLT for the Fitzmaurice Hall renovation project. Nearly 20 students participated in Construction Academy, getting hands-on experience alongside the architects, engineers, the trades. Ten new classrooms are now ready for classes in August 2020. What a blessing - this 25,000 square feet of additional space is so needed in this time of social distancing!



We welcomed new Vice President of Mission Dr. Jessica Wroblecki, who introduced #Maxim Mondays on social media, sharing a new maxim each week with a reflection. The **Character of a Saint Joseph Academy Graduate** trait of “serving the dear neighbor without distinction” was the annual school theme. The students performed 20,585 hours of community service, despite the challenges of stay-at-home orders and social distancing in the final quarter of the year. Over 80% of the student body exceeded their 20-hour requirement. Sadly, many service trips planned for June had to be cancelled, including our annual two weeks with ABLE Families in Kermit, WV.

Enrollment was again strong, with an average of 692 young women from 62 zip codes. We also hosted international students from Peru, Chile, Guatemala and Spain as the Global Program, our newest program of distinction, was officially launched. Both the Health Sciences Honors Program and the Engineering & Design Honors Program continued to thrive, with more than 100 students enrolled. The Class of 2020 has been accepted at some very prestigious engineering schools, including Georgia Tech. Academic achievements included one National Merit Finalist, a National Merit Commended Scholar, a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar, an English Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition finalist, and various other awards. The biggest award, however, should go to our faculty led by Principal Jeff Sutliff. When the governor ordered schools closed, Saint Joseph Academy responded beautifully, implementing our Instructional Continuity Plan, smoothly moving to an online environment that would continue until the end of May. With all these challenges, we still have more than 500 AP exams taken by our students!



The Jaguar athletic teams had great seasons in the fall and winter, including winning the district championship in volleyball and going to States in cross country and swimming. Again this year, 54% of the student body were on a team. Fourteen seniors will continue as student-athletes in college, including highly selective Tufts and Emory universities.

Annual financial operating results are positive and the PPP loan in the amount of \$1,641,800 which we received will help with the year ahead. We awarded more than \$2.2 million in tuition assistance to 73% of our families. The **With Lifted Hearts** capital campaign continues forward with more than \$6.4 million in gifts/pledges. The Makerspace will be expanded to 4800 square feet, four times its current size, and will be completed this summer. We have executed the loan in \$6.0 million to cover construction costs for Fitzmaurice Hall and the Makerspace projects.

Lastly, Saint Joseph Academy remains dedicated to excellence in education for the next 130 years! Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis '71 is retiring after serving fourteen years as president and Kathryn Purcell will lead the Academy forward. We are grateful for the all the ways the Congregation of St. Joseph supports our community. *Sursum corda*, indeed!



Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Annual Report, August 2020

On Friday, March 13, 2020, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards announced that because of the growing threat of the coronavirus, schools statewide would close effective Monday, March 16. At St. Joseph's Academy, a Continuous Learning Plan was devised, taking advantage of the school's long-standing use of technology in the classroom, to enable virtual teaching and learning from home. Interactive teaching platforms and other technology tools, including Skype, screencasting, Moodle Choice and Google Classroom, plus a "subject block" approach ensured a connection between the teacher and the learner.

When schools were ordered closed for the remainder of the semester, end-of-the-year events were cancelled or held virtually. Science students competed in an online version of the Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair. Ten seniors participated in the traditional May Crowning ceremony from their homes. SJA recognized the many achievements of the senior class with a virtual Honors Convocation, and on May 17, the 262 members of the class of 2020 experienced a unique graduation ceremony. Observing social-distancing and crowd-size restrictions, the graduates came to campus with their parents/stepparents in groups of 16 or 17 in 30-minute intervals to receive their diplomas.



Following a tightly choreographed schedule, the first group of families arrived at 9 a.m., with the last group of graduates receiving their diplomas at 5 p.m. A video of the commencement exercises was produced by the SJA Communications Department and was shared on several media platforms for the entire school community to enjoy.

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors took their fourth-quarter assessments online, and on May 21, the year came to a close.

Throughout the year, the SJA community was guided by the charisma theme of *Great-Hearted Love: Serving the Dear Neighbor*. Students, faculty and staff were called to address the needs of the times and of all people without distinction. SJA students contributed 39,435 hours of service during this shortened school year. One hundred-twelve seniors dedicated 50 or more hours to service during each of their four years.

As the academic year came to a close, SJA announced that Dr. Katrice A. Albert, a leading national voice for equity-minded, culturally responsive leadership practices, will lead the school's work toward achieving inclusive excellence. Dr. Albert will provide support, guidance and coaching with specific emphasis on cultural understanding, school and community needs and strategic visioning juxtaposed with Catholic traditions and philosophies.

A Diversity Action Committee will meet in late August, then Dr. Albert and trained facilitators will host approximately 10 focus groups/listening sessions comprised of the 200 members of the SJA community who expressed a desire to be part of the process. Following COVID-19 guidelines, participants will gather to share experiences, concerns and recommendations for creating common ground and a path toward greater inclusion.

Working with SJA's leadership team and the Diversity Action Committee, Dr. Albert will help create the strategic vision and priorities that will allow a take-action approach to achieving organizational alignment and impactful, transformational change.

The SJA Foundation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Annual Report

“We live and work that all may be one.”

August 2020

The SJA Foundation preserves the mission and charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph and ensures the permanence and viability of St. Joseph’s Academy. Since SJA’s founding in Baton Rouge in 1868, the Sisters of St. Joseph have partnered with generous benefactors of all income levels to provide a Catholic school of excellence for young women. In keeping with the legacy of the Sisters, no student has ever been denied admission solely on the basis of ability to pay. Such a custom demands financial resources, and it is contributions from parents, alumnae and friends which provide the funds necessary to build endowed scholarships and maintain this significant legacy at SJA.

During 2019-2020, the SJA Foundation provided 152 students with assistance totaling \$674,207. The SJA Foundation holds 67 scholarships, 56 of which are fully endowed. Scholarships are fully endowed and perpetual when they reach \$40,000. During 2019-2020, two new scholarships were established.

The **Toni Silva Kirby ’80 Scholarship** was established by Antoinette (Toni) and Michael Kirby to help make an Academy education possible for deserving young women whose families may not be able to afford the full cost of tuition.

The Kirbys both attended Catholic schools throughout their elementary and high school years and believe strongly in the value of a Catholic education. “I personally have wonderful memories of my 14 years – pre-K through 12th grade – at SJA and will never forget the lifelong friendships I made there,” Toni said.

Toni especially acknowledged the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught her and had a profound and lasting impact on her life. Calling a Catholic-based education the “single greatest gift we could possibly provide a deserving student,” Toni said her hope for the scholarship in her name is to provide the necessary tuition assistance for a young woman to attend SJA who otherwise would not have the opportunity.

The **SJA Tennis Classic Scholarship** was established to offer need-based tuition assistance to deserving students and their families.

In 2021, the SJA Tennis Classic will celebrate its eighth year. Begun in 2013 as the St. Joseph’s Academy & Catholic High School Tennis Classic, the inaugural event drew 103 players, with proceeds benefitting both schools. The tournament continued as a joint event for one more year, until a group of SJA alumnae assumed responsibility for its planning and organization.

The 2015-2017 tournaments benefited SJA’s STEM curriculum, while the 2018 and 2019 events, both drawing 260 players, raised nearly \$30,000 for the new Academy Student Center. Indeed, these two tournament years were so successful that the five-year commitment to the Academy Student Center was met three years ahead of schedule.

Wendy Williams Lutgring, SJA class of 1984, has been a member of the planning committee since 2015. She became committee chair in 2016. “After we paid off our commitment to the Academy Student Center in two years’ time, we decided to do something more long term that would have an even bigger impact on our SJA community,” she said.

The Tennis Classic committee is comprised of alumnae who know firsthand the transformative value of an SJA education. “We couldn’t think of a more meaningful way to give back to the school that gave us so much,” Wendy said. “It is so fulfilling to know that the SJA Tennis Classic Scholarship will help families send their daughters to the Academy.”

Fiscal Year 2020 Impact Report



**CATHOLIC
MOBILIZING
NETWORK**

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY.
PROMOTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.

Abolition Milestone

Colorado repeals the death penalty on March 24, 2020.



Top CMN Resource

'Just Mercy' Catholic Study Guide accessed more than **20,000 times**



36,972 minutes

of CMN videos viewed

MOST WATCHED VIDEO:

Pope Francis and U.S. Bishops Respond to the Killing of George Floyd



27,000 views

9 Webinars

reaching 3,800 people

27 Presentations

reaching 3,156 people

3 Intensives & Trainings

building capacity of 61 ministry leaders

139,337 visitors

to CMN's website



94% increase over last fiscal year

77,417 engagements on social media

ADVOCATING FOR IMPACT

27,224

total advocacy actions taken by **9,656** CMN supporters



A LEADING CATHOLIC VOICE

More than **87** distinct media appearances, including in the following outlets:



Conferences and Events

CMN organized or participated in 22 conferences and events attended by an estimated **33,900 people**.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER

REUTERS
CRUX
Taking the Catholic Pulse

OSV

NATIONAL CATHOLIC

REPORTER

THE CHRISTIAN POST

America
THE JESUIT REVIEW

Aleteia

RNS
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

FY 2020 Financials

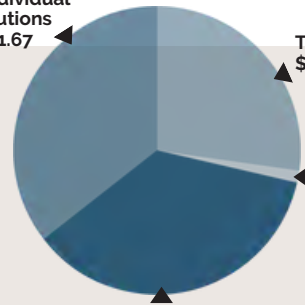
CMN's mission is made possible through a diverse array of revenue streams, including: a widening base of support, a faithful and growing Monthly Steward Circle, income generated from events, generous major donors, loyal support from men and women religious, welcome diocesan gifts, and an increase in the number of family foundations.

Total Individual Contributions
\$192,321.67

Total Events
\$147,099.97

Total Other
\$7,257.93

Total Grants
\$190,000.00





The launch of Sr. Helen's new book *River of Fire* took place in the Fall of 2019, with a Random House sponsored cross country book tour. The book has been critically well received and the book signings have been an opportunity to connect with a wide audience.

As we face the new realities the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to all of us, MADP is developing alternative ways to reach out to people to continue to deliver our message. Large speaking engagements will not be held for the foreseeable future, so we have begun to offer talks in a virtual format, and interactive classroom experiences with Sr. Helen via Zoom.

Several detailed modules are in final development, that will offer classroom teaching modules based on Helen's books. The modules have a virtual component with Sr. Helen interacting with classes at the beginning and end of the experience. The modules can be used by professors in a variety of disciplines as part of the curriculum and will be particularly useful since so much content is being taught online.

MADP's social media has continued to be highly active both before and throughout the pandemic. In the Fall, MADP launched an intensive social media campaign to save the life of Rodney Reed, scheduled for execution in Texas. Our Facebook and Twitter posts drew over 12 million views on this issue and his execution was stayed just days before it was due to be carried out last November amidst great public scrutiny. Since the pandemic began, we have sought to draw attention to the plight of the incarcerated on several issues including:

- increased vulnerability to the virus in prisons and detention centers for prisoners and detainees as well as guards and their families;
- the increased isolation;
- delays in court appearances;
- and finally serious outbreaks and deaths.



Sr. Helen with workers from Melba's Poboy's. *River of Fire* was featured in the restaurant's famous literacy program.



Another major focus of our Facebook and Twitter campaigns has been opposition to the recent resumption of federal executions. MADP's Facebook and Twitter content was displayed directly to users 51.8 million times, a 65% increase on last year. Between Twitter and Facebook, we have a total of 171,455 followers with over 70% of Twitter followers in the core 18-44 demographic.

Work is continuing to progress on the graphic version of *Dead Man Walking*. The draft of the Prologue, the first three illustrated chapters, and the script of the first five chapters are ready to be sent to Random House. This graphic retelling of Sr. Helen's book will use storytelling devices to bring in new content particularly focusing on racism in the criminal justice system.

MADP has also formed a working group to plan how best to continue its core mission and use Sr. Helen's voice and inspiration if the day comes when she is no longer here (we do not anticipate that happening anytime soon!)



Ministry of the Arts

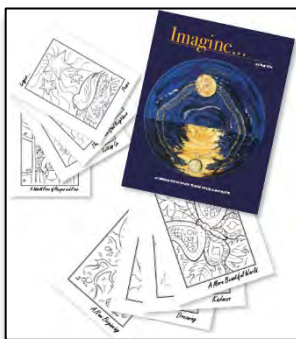
2019-2020

MOTA's premier product, our calendar for 2020 was themed *Imagine This...* The cover image, by Sandy Bot-Miller, is titled "Cradling the Gift of Reflection". It invites us to imagine the outcome if we all took time to reflect on our actions and words, personally and collectively, and their effects on others. In addition to our traditional calendar, we produced a coloring book with the simple title "Imagine". Pages were simple line drawings based around the theme of each month. What started out as a project geared at younger teens morphed into an adult coloring book.



This past year was one of imagining of discernment for our ministry. In late spring, the Congregation announced the transformation of Ministry of the Arts (MOTA) from a non-profit business and ministry as we've known it, into an arts ministry for the Congregation. It's a time for us to envision a new way for MOTA that focuses on the art and continues to allow the art to minister in our name in new and expanded ways that are responsive to the times.

We, along with our sister artists, are passionate about the transformative power of art to inspire positive change in hearts, minds and the world. By going digital, we are able to make our artwork more accessible to people everywhere through technology, and by lowering overhead, greatly reduce our costs. This transition will mean that our products will no longer be available for sale. Many will soon be available digitally. This next year, both our printed annual calendar and our Advent reflection booklet, *Winter's Wisdom*, will be available at no cost (while supplies last).



By letting go of some things – like our printing business, print cards and items and the holding of large amounts of inventory, we believe we will actually be able to make the art of our sisters more widely available digitally at the cost of licensing, via iTunes and/or through a donation-based model for a few items. We are grateful to our MOTA employees, many of whom have been ministering with us for many years.



20-Year Commitment
to addressing
Mental Health and Addiction

Our board and staff participated in an in-depth strategic planning process in 2019, which resulted in a revision of our grantmaking priority areas and a **bold 20-year commitment to support Mental Health and Addiction efforts**. This long-term commitment will allow us to highlight these important issues on a larger scale, provide community leadership, and have an impact on multiple systems that impact health. Two signature grants have been made so far.

provide community leadership, and have an impact on multiple systems that impact health. Two signature grants have been made so far.

Hope Recovery Manor

\$300,000 multi-year grant to launch the 1st women’s recovery residence in Wood County. Women will have stable housing while continuing their recovery, attending peer support groups, and strengthening coping and relationship skills. As of early July, they welcomed their 3rd resident and they look forward to welcoming more women over the coming months.

Substance Use Disorder Collaborative

\$67,500 multi-year grant to create a dedicated entity focused on building collaboration and improving access to prevention, treatment, and recovery resources. Along with our four funding partners, we welcomed John Leite as the first SUD Collaborative Director in February 2020! Total commitment from all funding partners is \$270,000.

Caring amid COVID-19
THROUGH COLLABORATION



When COVID-19 affected our region, we pivoted quickly to respond to urgent needs by pooling our grant funds with other foundations to maximize our impact. By collaborating with the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, Marietta Community Foundation, United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley, Athens County Foundation, and the Meigs County Community Fund, we

leveraged an additional \$155,000 to assist people in need. Through a unique partnership with the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, we were able to jointly fund 13 nonprofits with flexible operating support dollars as many organizations experienced an increased demand for services and revenue loss.



HEIGHTENED CALL
FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

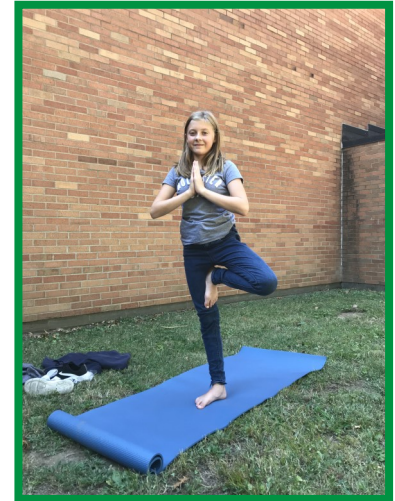


We added a question in our grant application asking applicants to respond to how their grant request and/or their organization is working to build an **inclusive community**. Looking ahead to the coming year, we are sponsoring a WV Summit on Race Matters which will be held in monthly virtual sessions. Expected outcomes include raising awareness of systemic inequalities, fostering increased collaborative leadership, and developing policies and practices that **empower Black West Virginians**.

SHF awarded 100 grants totaling \$1,292,280 during the year.

2019-2020 Program Report

The Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation has been **continuing the mission** of promoting the holistic health of children and their families in both a short and long-term approach during this unprecedented time. The former required us to act quickly toward responding to the needs of our nonprofit partners. With our board’s prudence and ingenuity, we were able to shift our budget and provide **\$156,000 in emergency Covid-19 aid**. Our primary focus was on **securing rural health care** through a \$75,000 grant to Federally Qualified Health Centers and **preventing and responding to child abuse** with a \$45,000 grant to our state’s Child Advocacy Centers. We also were able to provide \$36,000 in mini-grants for programs offering **free meals and housing/utility assistance for families, PPE and sanitation for childcare centers and nonprofits, testing kits for schools, a statewide conference on Covid-19 response for each county’s health department**, and much more. We intentionally made our Covid-19 emergency grant applications simple and allowed for agencies to use the funds at their discretion. This last piece led to a long-term discussion of how we plan to continue the mission while also shifting the dynamic of power back into the hands of our community.



Whether it is big businesses receiving an overabundance of PPP funding while simultaneously laying off minimum wage workers who struggle to access unemployment benefits or the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless others—these past months have revealed the dangers of “institutionalized power and privilege” and the sincere need for a shift to a **“culture of inclusivity and mutuality.”** Our foundation also realizes that

philanthropy, historically, has had an obvious power imbalance—we call for collaboration but encourage competition among our nonprofit partners, require lengthy and confusing applications with strict guidelines on what funds can be used for, and generally make a subtle assumption that we know what’s best for our grantees rather than deferring to their leadership and expertise. The SSJHWF changed our approach to grantmaking with our Covid-19 response, and we are hopeful that shift can carry over to our operations beyond the pandemic. **We are eager not to return to “normal,” but to work toward a more equitable and sustainable approach to promote the health and wellbeing of WV’s children.**

2019-2020 Funding Snapshot:

- \$156,000 - COVID-19 emergency response
- \$529,342 - School-Based Health funding
- \$138,000 - Substance Use Recovery and Job Readiness programming
- \$71,332 - Anti-Human Trafficking efforts
- \$9,795 - Child Advocacy Centers
- \$33,500 - Mini-Grants to support statewide efforts focused on advocacy training, capacity building, environmental health, disability services for children, and more



ABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



MISSION STATEMENT

ABLE Families, as a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, through action and collaboration confronts the systemic causes of poverty by supporting families as they make positive changes in their lives.

Parents as Teachers



Our in-home family education program served 92 families this year. Up until the end of March, we were in the homes and gathering for social events. The pandemic has changed the platform of how we serve our community but not why. We have worked hard to have thriving families during this challenging time to ensure kids are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

After School Program



For most of the year, our students were able to participate on-site with caring and supportive mentors where they could build confidence and feel a sense of belonging. When in-person afterschool stopped due to COVID-19, the focus quickly changed to feeding the children. 30 meals were prepared daily and delivered to homes making sure kids did not go hungry.

Summer Camps



Even though children have been stuck inside, we wanted to make the most of these precious days at home. 86 children were engaged through our six summer camps with enriching activities. By innovating new ways to serve campers, our experienced instructors dropped off fun learning supplies and materials directly to their homes.

Lafayette, IN



Our mission continues as we bring community to struggling caregivers and isolated and often vulnerable seniors this past year. It has required more creativity, ingenuity, and wisdom with the concern of COVID-19. It continues because love is alive and active in the heart and soul of Caregiver Companion volunteers, neighbors, donors, governing board and staff through the generous leadership and support of CSJ Ministries staff and CSJ sisters!

Beta Sigma Phi Service Sorority identified Caregiver Companion as the organization they will come alongside to support for the next two years in the Greater Lafayette area. They awarded monies to the ministry, celebrated our volunteers in February at our annual “We Love our Volunteers” Appreciation Event, and provided gifts to

both our volunteers and neighbors. It was a fun-filled evening recognizing the selfless loving care our volunteers extend to neighbors and their families throughout Greater Lafayette area.

Glick Foundation recognized our efforts to improve the quality of life for the elderly without discrimination through a couple of larger grants. We have a longstanding and professional relationship with their local staff of one of their apartment communities in our area. For nearly 25 years we have provided life-affirming volunteer care to their aging residents. One grant was given specifically to support the ministry needs during COVID-19.

This past year has certainly been a time of change and transition that is readying us for a deeper connection to God’s work in our community through several staff and board changes. We seek to find ways individually, and as a team, to bring this ministry to be more diverse as we intentionally seek to collaborate with people of various interests, races, cultures, ages, and lifestyles to broaden our reach. Our staff attended a local pastoral event calling for racial justice in our community. Caregiver Companion volunteers include Purdue students from different nations, retirees, professionals, and families of various faith walks. We provided over 3,200 hours of free non-medical in-home care to nearly 160 families with over 110 faithful volunteers.



MISSION - We are a network of interfaith volunteers committed to improving the quality of life in the homes of our elderly and disabled neighbors, as well as their caregivers. As a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, we work together so that “all may be one.”

ROOTED IN HILLTOP. NURTURED BY GRACE. IMPACTING LIVES.



Delivering fresh produce to neighbors in Hilltop



All smiles after receiving Christmas gifts at the Hilltop Community Center



Distributing Easter Baskets while social distancing



The last birthday celebration with Sr. Ann Catherine

Dear Neighbor Ministries, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph Mission Network, was created in and for the Hilltop neighborhood of Wichita, KS, one of the poorest in the city. Motivated by the God-given dignity of each person, we've journeyed with people towards lives of stability and self-sufficiency since 2001. Using a combination of financial support, case management, and individualized strategies, Dear Neighbor Ministries has become an important part of the community.

Dear Neighbor Ministries continues to rely on the support of many volunteers. During fiscal year 2020, 8,066 volunteer hours were logged for 150 volunteers. A total of 5 volunteers prepared 799 tax returns and 13 volunteers assisted 85 disabled social security recipients with managing their finances.

A total of \$17,515 was spent to assist Hilltop residents with rent and utilities during fiscal year 2020, and while most programs are specifically for Hilltop residents, the food pantry is open to anyone in need and serves on average 430 people each month. The food pantry has remained open during the pandemic; however, the service has been modified to adjust to current safety protocols.

Since managing the Hilltop Community Center, Dear Neighbor Ministries has hosted several neighborhood association meetings. Tuesday morning was reserved for Coffee with Friends. The computer lab was open one day a week for adults and children. In March, as a result of the pandemic, the Hilltop Community Center closed, with plans to reopen soon as the facility is being prepared for social distancing.

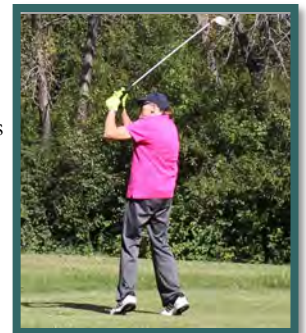
Last December, 105 kids participated in the annual Hilltop Christmas party. Unfortunately, the Easter Egg Hunt, Cinco de Mayo, Spring and Summer camp activities had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a crisis like no other the world has faced in recent decades in terms of its potential economic and social impacts. This crisis has weighed heavily on the poor and elderly in our state, including those in the Hilltop community.

In January, the Hilltop Neighborhood lost a very dear friend, Sister Ann Catherine Burger, one of the co-founders of the Sisters of St. Joseph Dear Neighbor Ministries. The neighborhood was blessed to have one more opportunity to celebrate with her last August when she turned 98 years young. Sister Ann Catherine loved the people of Hilltop and wanted to serve them. She would be pleased that her work in Hilltop continues in her honor.

Before the pandemic, neighbors in Hilltop would stop in to visit or ask for advice on a regular basis. Now that Dear Neighbor Ministries has closed the lobby because of the Coronavirus, neighbors are missing that interaction. The "extended family" role has been compromised.

Staff felt it was important to find a way to reach out to Hilltop families while keeping everyone safe and healthy. The Hilltop Family Camp Home Edition packet was created which includes an instructional DVD along with written instructions on projects the entire family can enjoy during the summer. Each kit includes 27 activities, as well as conversation starters and riddles.

Fundraising efforts for FY 20 included the 16th annual Shamrock Open Charity Golf Tournament which raised its all-time high of \$75,900. The annual year-end appeal was successful. Then when the pandemic hit, many pending grant requests were postponed or turned down. The 3rd annual ICT Bee Adult Spelling Bee event was scheduled for June and with the increased concerns around COVID-19, the event was postponed and then eventually cancelled. Despite the circumstances, fundraising efforts continue to be a priority.



Sr. Susanne Daniels drives the golf ball.





Throughout this past year, Holy Family served 97 children in early care and education. What started out as a vision of love and service years ago has now thrived into a full-grown passion for so many, no matter what faith or background they come from. Thirty-five years later, Sr. Barbara Campbell’s legacy is still growing and the Center took a moment to celebrate in honor of her vision. We were excited to mark this milestone by singing “Happy Birthday” on our Center’s playground with birthday hats and party favors and having a pizza party at lunchtime. Of course, what better way to end a celebration than by having birthday cake! This day was a favorite with the children and we were so glad to share it with those who love us, like Sr. Mary Clark and Sr. Ellen Poche.



Then the unthinkable happened, COVID-19. For the safety of all involved, the Board of Directors made the hard decision to close the Center on March 16, 2020 to all the families and employees. Throughout the closure, the executive director and assistant director worked closely with the local Health Department and the WV Department of Health & Human Resources to establish policies in preparation of reopening the Center. On May 18th, the Center opened its doors under an emergency license to help essential workers. During this period, the Center felt another sadness; Kathy Dietrich, Lead Teacher of the Infants decided to retire after 34 years of service, along with Michele Forsythe, who served for 15 years as Executive Director. Celebrations honoring them both were held and many tears were shed. Both will be greatly missed.



As we close our year under the looming of COVID-19, the Center decided to participate in its first ever “International Mud Day” to bring some hope of better days ahead. This day is a way to help all the children of the Earth feel closer to each other and to encourage feelings of community and appreciation for the world around us. The collaboration has inspired many across the globe from Holland to Nepal to the United States to celebrate together regardless of age, race, and religion; covered in mud, we all look the same!



July 2019 - June 2020

For the first time People Program received funding from The Brown Foundation. It is in the top five biggest foundations in the state.

We received the most support on GiveNOLA since we have been in operation.

We raised more funding during our annual appeal than we have over the past three years.

We served the most students in our spring semester than we had in 7 years (since we were on the cover of the Clarion Herald). We also had 172 classes.

We recruited and trained 132 volunteers this past year.

Once COVID 19 hit we called over 600 students and did wellness checks. Those students that needed additional support were referred to our newest community partners Tulane's Senior Sidekick program.

We held 35 classes and had 98 students during our inaugural virtual summer session. Multiple benefits of virtual classes include:

1. We could reach a much larger number of participants 50 years and older who were lonely, depressed or simply wanted to continue their mental or physical education.
2. Class times could be flexible. We had considered night and weekend classes in the past but it was cost prohibitive. With virtual classes teachers could offer classes 7 days a week at any time.
3. We could provide services to our students for a lot longer time. The worst part about onsite classes is when a student had a surgery or had a health issue they would have to temporarily stop coming. Virtual classes come right into your living room.

We received sponsorship at our postponed from Blue Cross Blue Shield (\$1,000), People's Health (\$3,000) and LCMC Health (\$3,000) for the first time.

We wrote a grant to Jefferson Parish CDBG and we were awarded \$15,000 for first time funding.

We have severely enhanced our online presence through Facebook by adding over 110 people who now follow us and getting strong measurable results from advertising on the site.

We worked with the family of Janet Giselson to start the process of establishing a scholarship program in her name.

We wrote the grant that awarded us \$12,000 from Sisters of Orange Fund.

We wrote the grant to Small Business Association and was awarded two and half months' worth of staff salaries that doesn't need to be paid back.



Adoption Stretches You



This is what adopting at this time feels like. When we were matched, COVID was only a glimpse of the shadow it would become. By the time our daughter was born, restrictions were already in place. Things did not look the way we thought they were going to. Moments, pictures, experiences we thought we would have were replaced with ones we never expected. Some were so isolating, scary, or even traumatic, but others have become cherished. No, my husband was not allowed to be present for the birth, but because of the shut down, he worked from home for two months, and was able to spend so much more time with us than he would have otherwise. Things are still moving slowly because of court backlogs. We still have unexpected requirements. We won't finalize our adoption when we thought. You may find yourself here too. You, like me, will feel frustration, exasperation, and impatience. You may feel like Sisyphus rolling the boulder up the hill only to have it roll back down again.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM A FAMILY OF ADOPTION

- 1. SUPPORT SYSTEM.** *Who is your team? Who will be in the trenches for you?* Some are your friends and family, your agency, or your attorney. **USE THEM.** Do NOT be afraid to ASK QUESTIONS. There is no way you can be expected to know how to do this, even if you've done it before. Even if you spent a year researching how to do it.
- 2. FEELINGS – you are human.** Humans have feelings. Guess what? That is okay. Feel them. Acknowledge them. Don't bury them. Talk to someone on your team. Work out the “why” for your feelings, and address them. Don't let the bad linger. If they are, get help. Help is GOOD.
- 3. ORGANIZE AND COPY.** Copy, copy, copy. Keep a hard copy. Keep pdf copies that are easily accessible, and in more than one place – on a hard drive, USB flash drive, or in an email. If information comes via phone call, type notes of the conversation in an email and send it to yourself. Save your emails.
- 4. PAY IT FORWARD.** If you learn something that you think might help someone else, see if you can pass along the knowledge. It will give your suffering value.
- 5. FAITH – bring it to Him.** Even when all you can get out is incoherent noises. Even when He feels far. He can take it.
- 6. PAUSE.** Look around you. Take a breath. Hold your spouse. Hold your baby. Go for a walk, run, bike, kayak. Physical activity and fresh air help.
- 7. FIND THE GOOD.** Fix your eye upon the good. It is still there.

We're being stretched. We're made to stretch. Growing is never easy, nor rarely pretty. No, it's not what you expected or what you thought it would be. Look to your right and left. See your team. See the life in front of you. You are not alone. You can do hard things. And be better for it on the other side.



St. JOSEPH
ADOPTION
MINISTRY

A licensed child placement agency.

Sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph 

STATISTICS: The data of **seven new babies** for the fiscal year 2020 reflects a lower birth/adoption statistic which in large part is attributable to the restrictions caused by the COVID virus.



2019-2020

As a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph. TEACH empowers English language learners to make their voices heard through integrating practical one-on-one English literacy education, individualized cultural mentoring and coaching, and citizenship test preparation. Tutors help learners build their proficiency in communicating and understanding English to succeed in our culture and be effective advocates for themselves and their families. TEACH is dedicated to promoting systemic change to reduce inequities and injustices confronting immigrants of all nations. TEACH's vision is to build bridges between cultures and foster unity while embracing diversity "That All May Be One." Since 1993, over 3,000 volunteer tutors have served over 6,750 adult learners. TEACH reaches 48 communities in Western Cook, DuPage and Will counties. Students come from 37 countries around the world.

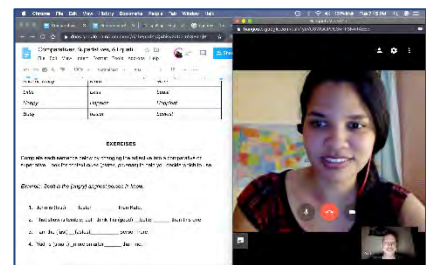
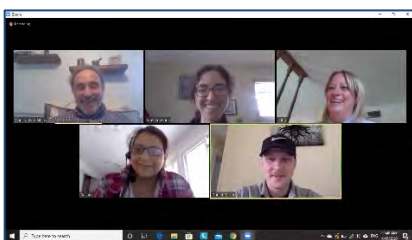
While other agencies assisting immigrants responded to COVID 19 restrictions by shuttering their doors to all but receiving phone calls, TEACH's mission impelled it to continue proactively serving limited English-speaking immigrant communities, who are underserved, marginalized or excluded.

Although in-person instruction was suspended, TEACH made a commitment to engage students through other means. TEACH staff and tutors/mentors kept in regular contact with them and were creative in incorporating new technology, while respecting the varied access to technology of their students. These contacts served to a) maintain connections to the TEACH community, b) teach learners English essential to survive in this new environment, c) perform "wellness checks", especially for isolated students or those in particularly challenging circumstances, and d) identify unmet needs arising due to illness, job loss, layoffs or children's education activities resulting from COVID 19 restrictions.

As a way to track individual and aggregate needs of its learners and the immigrant community at large on an ongoing basis as the health and social crisis grew longer and deeper, TEACH set up an open-ended survey easily accessed and completed via text on a smartphone. TEACH's intent was to fill in the gap left by other immigrant assistance agencies. By shifting its resources to proactively reach out to the community, TEACH identified needs and located appropriate referrals.

TEACH also turned its attention to a new need in the immigrant community: closing the equity gap that immigrant-owned small businesses are facing in terms of accessing COVID-19 relief funds. TEACH conducted pro-active outreach, resulting in holding three presentations on funding opportunities and offering assistance in preparing applications – all in English. To date, at least 10 Latinx small business owners were awarded grants as a result of attending the workshops.

Despite the “new normal”, our volunteer tutors' commitment to their students and integration of the mission and vision of TEACH and CSJ continued as strong as ever. Over the course of the past 12 months, 328 volunteer tutors provided one- on-one tutoring to 550 students at 18 tutoring sites, transitioning to remote learning in March. In addition, tutors assisted over 15 students to become U.S. citizens.





STEPSTONE

FY 2020

TRANSFORMING LIVES



Wichita Police Officers peruse art on display at StepStone's Final Friday Event



Realtors of South central Kansas donate much-needed items to StepStone



Members of Junior League of Wichita present StepStone a donation for children's activities



StepStone was founded in 1995 by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Sisters of St. Joseph in response to a community needs assessment which found that upon leaving Wichita's short-term domestic violence shelters, many survivors find themselves without the economic or social resources to support themselves or their families, causing many to feel forced to choose between homelessness or returning to an abusive home.

Twenty-five years later, StepStone continues to respond to the critical needs of survivors of domestic violence by providing supportive services and transitional housing to nurture lives of stability and hope. Survivors can stay for up to two years in StepStone housing while building the skills they need to transform their lives. It is the only longer-term transitional housing program for survivors in the area.

StepStone served 1,228 clients this past fiscal year. Of those individuals, 118 participated in StepStone's transitional housing program, which consisted of 78 children and 40 adults.

Last October, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, StepStone hosted a Final Friday art show. All artwork was created by survivors of domestic violence, their children, and community members. Art allows StepStone participants to transcend their emotional pain while creating a narrative through an image.

In December, StepStone hired a Community Outreach Liaison to engage the community through presentations and social media to raise awareness of domestic violence. Several in-person meetings and presentations took place between January and March. During the pandemic, the Outreach Liaison has been connecting by phone and/or mail with several local churches.

Also, in December, StepStone was blessed with several donations of toiletry items, cleaning products, toys, and gift cards from local churches and organizations, like the Realtors of South central Kansas. Junior League of Wichita also presented a check to StepStone to be used for children's activities.

While measures were put in place to keep communities safe during the pandemic, for some it created a dangerous pressure cooker of uncertainty as financial, emotional, and societal stress and panic took hold.

The Wichita community saw an increase in domestic violence compared to the average of the past three years during the same period. There was a 65% increase in domestic violence aggravated battery, and a 39% increase in domestic violence aggravated assault.

As StepStone residents and outreach clients adjusted to a new normal life during COVID-19, staff were busy adapting their work strategies to continue meeting the needs of domestic violence survivors. StepStone maintained the highest level of service for survivors while striving to achieve that delicate balance between safety and meeting the need for a nurturing and therapeutic environment.

A minute is all it takes for an abuser to destroy or even end someone's life, while a minute of inspiration can make all the difference for a survivor.





Taller de José accompanies individuals, serving as a bridge to connect them to the health, legal, and social services needed to achieve their goals. As a sponsored ministry, we create more connected communities.

The Mission of Inclusive Love Continues

Taller de José advocates with individuals for equitable access to resources, regardless of language barriers, immigration status, socioeconomic status, or other frequent barriers. We offer the following free of charge:

- ◆ Referrals to other services
- ◆ Offsite accompaniment via public transportation
- ◆ Assistance with basic language translation
- ◆ Case management

The pandemic this year has made this work more crucial than ever, as our community has suffered some of the highest rates of COVID-19 in the state of Illinois, further exacerbating racial disparities in health outcomes. Financial assistance, especially for rent, has emerged as one of the most urgent needs, especially since many in our community do not have professional jobs where remote work is possible, and some are not eligible for federal relief and unemployment benefits because of their immigration status. Taller de Jose responded by providing accompaniment remotely through telephone calls and by staying current on emergency response programs. Through funds provided by the Congregation for emergency financial need, we have distributed emergency funds to 38 families (and counting) that will help them thrive during the pandemic. Staff and volunteers also worked to distribute face masks sewn by sisters and associates of the Congregation.

1400%

Increase in clients requesting assistance in accessing food (April- June)*

\$66,000+

Amount of financial assistance distributed to families hardest hit by impact of COVID-19

75%

Increase in clients requesting financial assistance (April – June)*

*As compared to clients served April -June 2019



Prior to the pandemic, Taller de José staff and volunteers were hard already at work to connect community members with important services and resources. New this year, Taller de José partnered with other immigrant-serving organizations across the state to help provide education about the importance of the 2020 Census. The communities we serve are traditionally undercounted, so we sought to ensure that community members understood that the Census was safe to complete and important for determining future community resources.

2.88 hours

Average Offsite Accompaniment Length

540

Number of offsite Accompaniments (primarily prior to mid-March)

Most Frequently Requested Service Areas FY 20:

- ◆ Legal
- ◆ Immigration
- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Health & Counseling
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Public Benefits

775

Total Clients Served this year

571

New Clients Served this year

CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

A place for solitude, prayer and reflection

Annual Report 2019 - 2020

The Mission of Christ in the Wilderness is to provide retreatants an environment that is conducive to silence, solitude, prayer and reflection.

Christ in the Wilderness, in rural northwest Illinois, served our dear neighbors seeking a respite from the busyness in their day-to-day lives. We foster an environment of oneness with God, self, others and nature. Christ in the Wilderness has been offering a place of quiet and solitude for 40 years. It is only in embracing all, that one becomes whole, celebrating life with joy and peace inspite of the struggles in life. During their time away in the wilderness, very transformative things can and do happen. One retreatant wrote, "This is the place (CITW) I have tasted of God's unconditional love deeply. This is where I have heard His voice and experienced much healing."

For the fiscal year, we welcomed 130 individuals who stayed a combined 559 days (142 retreats) in our three hermitages. This translates into an occupancy rate of 51% for the fiscal year. Although most of our retreatants come from the Midwest, primarily Illinois, we also welcomed people from Minnesota and Missouri. While a majority of the retreatants are affiliated with Christian faith traditions, retreatants of other faiths also found their way to *Christ in the Wilderness* seeking time to refresh and renew in our quiet and secure environment, giving testimony to our value of inclusivity. As one retreatant noted, "I always try to take a little bit of the retreat spirit with me when I leave, and while I'm not successful for very long, I am trying to incorporate more prayer/reflection time into my life as regularly as I can."

Although we had fewer retreats and retreatants this year due to the shut down for 2 months with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to sustain ourselves with the generous commitment of our benefactors. We were able to connect with our followers on social media by giving them reflective thoughts, readings and blogs. Since people have been allowed to resume more activity, many have been seeking time away in our safe environment to be renewed and restored. We are welcoming many new people because they seek time away to be healed. All come to seek some time away in quiet and solitude to reconnect with God, self, others, and nature. I hear the comment frequently, that they know this is sacred ground on which they feel safe, secure and cared for.

Representative comments from retreatants:



"I love being alone and safe (not a given in a woman's life) and I love the woods, so I loved being alone, and safe, and in a natural wooded environment. It was also good to have some completely uninterrupted time, when I knew no one was expected to come by, no interaction was required, etc. and I could do what I preferred when I preferred it without any reference to anyone else"

"The nourishing beauty of nature; the quiet, the solitude, the break from routine and the barrage of information."

"The escape from technology, the peace and solitude, the welcoming Hermitage, the screened porch, the uninterrupted time alone with God"

Christ in the Wilderness reflects the charism of the Congregation of St. Joseph, "We live and work that all may be one." May our charism be manifested at CITW for many years as we welcome people who are seeking to be still, to be silent and to be restored.

Submitted by Julia Bathon, OSF Executive Director July 31, 2020



BY THE NUMBERS

Total Clients - 1560

Programs

Total Clients 452

Yoga

In-Person Clients 275

Virtual Clients 126

Mindfulness

In-Person Clients 174

Virtual Clients 14

Trainings

Total Clients 36

Speakers

Total Clients 29

Retreats

Total Clients 9

Women's Outreach

Apprx. Total Visits 700

SD In-Person Visits 37

THE MISSION CONTINUES

River's Edge closed its physical doors on March 12, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. While our doors may be closed, our hearts and minds remain open as we continue to explore new locations for our ministry.

In the meantime, we have moved our full slate of programming online. Participants can safely access important resources from their homes at this time when spiritual support is needed most. We also provide resources to help support wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Our virtual programming has included:

- Weekly Mission-Based Spirituality Programs
- Mindful Self-Compassion 8-Week Course
- Weekly FREE "Weaving into Deeper Living" Reflection
- Enneagram Monthly Study Circle
- Six Weekly Yoga Classes
- Weekly Meditation Class

River's Edge partnered with a local retreat center to offer a July 2020 Quiet Directed Retreat that filled to capacity.

Practitioners continue to offer private services such as spiritual direction and counseling virtually to those in need.

River's Edge is committed to continuing to invest in the vibrant spiritual community that we have built together in the Cleveland area!



Women's Outreach Center

Partnering with women on their journeys from homelessness to self-sufficiency

- Typically serves approximately **1400** women each year
- Suspended operations in March 2020 due to COVID-19
- Safely ministered to **37** women outside at local parks during pandemic time
- Ministered to many more women in need by phone and email



2019-2020

Theme: Finding God Everywhere

St. Joseph Retreat Center, a non-profit ministry located at the Wheeling Center, serves as a means of extending the mission of loving unity to which the Congregation of St. Joseph is called. Through our programs and peaceful environment, we strive to provide a place where individuals and groups may nourish their spiritual lives. People of all faith traditions are welcome.

St. Joseph Retreat Center became a member of the CSJ Mission Network in February, 2020. We are grateful to be a part of the network and for the opportunity to develop a larger collaborative network and resources with other ministries that share the mission and charism of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

We offer retreats, programs and prayer experiences to enhance a person's Spiritual life and draw them closer to God. Through workshops, presentations, and ongoing programs, we offer participants **Health and Wellness** opportunities to strengthen and educate them regarding self-awareness and care. As an integral part of the community, St. Joseph Retreat Center provides **Outreach and Service** to those with whom we live and minister. We offer experiences which raise **Awareness** to those in attendance of social, ecological and culture issues. **Hosting Groups** not only provides convenience and hospitality to those who use the Center, but also a way to spread the word about our beautiful facility and grounds.

St. Joseph Retreat Center is also vital part of the Wheeling and surrounding areas, as we seek to live out the both the mission of our Center and the mission of the Congregation of Saint Joseph on which we are founded. Our goal is to reach a wide variety of people and interests with a wide variety of programs. Our offerings are developed around opportunities to deepen people's own lives (body, mind, spirit) and to move outward to grow in awareness of the larger world... planet, racism, etc. All we offer has equal importance, and Covid-19 called us to develop a *new* response - monthly online Healing Circles that invite people to pray for their individual needs and the needs of the world.

Beginning in mid-March, Covid-19 impacted the retreat center, challenging us to think creatively about virtual programming, with an enhanced online presence. We added more resources on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#), developed an online newsletter and staff and consultants are meeting once a month through zoom with support staff and consultants. These adjustments have allowed us to continue our ministry, but our inability to gather onsite has adversely affected those who do not utilize technology.

We appreciate that the following programs that have continued successfully: 'Dear Neighbor' Knitting Circle, Drumming, Group Spiritual Direction, Dream Work as Spiritual Practice, Healing Circles – (Created during pandemic and created due to the longing of people to gather as a community in prayer). In this past year we have offered programs that are in alignment with the Congregation's direction regarding racism, environment, peace and justice, milkweed planting and fostering the monarch butterfly habitat. St. Joseph Retreat Center, pays attention to those we serve and how they might be awakened to God's presence in their ordinary lives and new ways of experiencing that presence beyond what they may have experienced previously in their parish or church communities.

Our theme for 2020: All creation groans and is in waiting. (Romans 8:22). New programs, still in the developing stages to offer online include: Introduction to spiritual direction, Introduction to dream work, Finding Hope and Resilience in Uncertain Times, Celtic Spirituality, Thomas Merton's Christian Center, 15 minute online-prayer experiences (maybe through the liturgical cycle), This Land is Home to Me" (Appalachian Pastoral Letter), Grief and Loss, Celtic Practices for seeking the sacred, 2021 virtual dream retreat.

THE MISSION CONTINUES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELL 2019-20

COVID-ERA
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS
HAIL FROM:

17 STATES
3 PROVINCES
6 COUNTRIES

111 DAYS
IN OUR NEW SPACE
BEFORE
STAY-AT-HOME
ORDER

2
ONE-WEEK
RETREATS ON
ZOOM IN JUNE



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS

400+

MEET
HELEN PREJEAN
IN OCTOBER



7125
PRAYERFUL PAUSE
PROGRAM VISITS
MAR. 17 - JUN. 17

\$112,931
IN DONATIONS VIA
1 VIRTUAL EVENT,
2 "FUN-RAISERS,"
& GENERAL
FUNDRAISING

29%
EBLAST
OPEN RATE
12% GROWTH
IN LIST SIZE



MORE FIGURES & HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Added 1 staff member; can do more in-house
- ◆ Launched new website
- ◆ 74 programs offered / 11,350 program visits
- ◆ First offsite "Adventure Retreat," in Michigan
- ◆ Moved to our new space in late November; held 2 overnight retreats and hosted 2 individuals on sabbatical in early 2020 before Covid-19 shut-down.
- ◆ Racial justice film series and book study lead to 4 upcoming programs on anti-racism, restorative justice and inter-racial relationship circles.
- ◆ Integral ecology programs multiply: Season of Creation, Earth Day, Evolving Universe....
- ◆ Adapted to Zoom with increased involvement of CSJ Sisters and Well staff as facilitators



2019-20 Program Report - Transformations Spirituality Center

“May we be close, may we claim our delight, may we grieve our losses, may we be truthful, may we tend well and generously to ourselves and one another with ever-more-spacious hearts, may we be happy, and may we be free from suffering.” Wayne Muller

In the last 6 months of calendar year 2019 we were on a roll.

- ~New series of Group Spiritual Direction, and another 9 month section of Spiritual Exercises
- ~Partnered with the League of Women Voters to host a non-partisan Candidate Forum (150+)
- ~Conducted a successful Fall campaign, and Voices of Wisdom dinner
- ~Held a day retreat for 120 with Mirabai Starr
- ~Partnered with Fetzer, Kalamazoo College, and Western Michigan University to host Richard Lapchick who addressed ~400 people about issues of racial justice and activism in sports.
- ~Partnered with Fetzer, St Thomas More Catholic Parish, and local presenters to build awareness of inclusion of those considered disabled.
- ~With 30 days lead time, organized a community talk by Rev. Jim Wallace attended by 250+



2020 began well.

- ~Screened the film Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story
- ~Partnered with Ascension/Borgess, Peace House and CSJ Office of Peace & Justice to screen and discuss the film Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story with a diverse group of 183
- ~Hosted the Re-Creating a Life retreat at Fetzer which was life-changing for all 33 attendees
- ~Partnered with CSJ and gun violence prevention groups to host two screenings of “Armor of Light” about ethics and gun violence, which was well received by 60 people.



Then March came in like a lion, but left like ... a dragon.

~On March 12 all public gatherings and non-essential travel stopped; most of the human activity on the planet ceased – including the film series we had planned to show the impact of human activity on our planet. We worked with Bullfrog Films and offered the series on-line to 120 people. Many told us that it was profound.

~In the COVID environment, we cancelled most of the many in-person events that were to have taken place in April and May, and refunded a lot of registration money for events. We worked from home, moved programs online, and offered prayer practices online twice a week via zoom. This worked fairly well until the weather improved, and then attendance plummeted.

It became apparent that we were out of options for continuing this ministry in a financially viable way. The decision was made to bring Transformations Spirituality Center to closure as of 10/30/2020. The sisters, through the Congregation of St Joseph, will continue to offer spiritual direction. Prayer practices will be shared through zoom as long as there is sufficient interest.

Our prayer is that the seeds that have been planted over many years will bring new growth and fruitfulness in ways too wonderful to imagine. As one patron wrote, “Your gifts to me are beyond words and will remain with me...”. May it be so.



Healing Action Team

Katie Rhoades, MSW Founding Executive Director	Jason Seward, MA Director of Development	Kabrina Forrest, LPC Clinical Director	Louis Killebrew, LPC Quality Assurance Director	Emma Puls, LMSW Senior Service Manager
Danni Stennett, LMSW Service Manager	Julie Schenberg, LMSW Service Manager	Libby Trammel, LMSW Housing Service Manager	Karen Cole, LPC Trauma Therapist	Morgan Larch, CPS Peer Specialist
Lauren Masten, MSW Membership Coordinator	Mikayla Duncan, MSW Development Coordinator	Timothy Stout Community Educator AmeriCorps State	Hannah Fox Service Coordinator AmeriCorps State	Thersea Schafer Service Coordinator AmeriCorps State
Jessica Street Service Coordinator AmeriCorps State	Iris Bencomo Service Coordinator AmeriCorps State	Sydney Compton Service Coordinator AmeriCorps State	Tess Hankin Service Coordinator AmeriCorps State	Ellen Hair Trauma Therapy Practicum AmeriCorps State
Chelsea Case Digital Media & Community Engagement AmeriCorps VISTA		Alexandra Munoz Volunteer & Grant Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA		Marisa Kutchma Coalition & Operational Support AmeriCorps VISTA

Impacts

109 Active Clients throughout this grant year	70 Clients completed a goal	350 Biweekly food drops made during the pandemic	426 Individuals educated through CATE	18 Individuals/ families housed
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A Reflection

As we approach the 5th anniversary of receiving the first transformational gift from your organization, it is amazing to see how far our organization has come. The last year has been an unprecedented one for individuals and organizations across the world. To address the changes in our community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our team quickly pivoted in March to providing all services virtually through secure phone and video technology to keep our staff and clients safe. Our organization secured over \$10,000 in emergency grant funding and developed partnerships with local area non-profits to provide food, hygiene products, clothing, Narcan, updated cell phones, pet food and litter to our clients through bi-weekly no-contact door drops which have continued through today.

Our long-time funding partners, including CSJ Ministries, continued to support our mission through renewed grants this year. We have received additional multi-year commitments for our coalition work through the Marillac Mission Fund, and to expand out direct services through a three-year grant from the Office for Victims of Crime. Through these continued partnerships, there is no doubt that our organization will make incredible impact in the anti-trafficking field for years to come.

Despite the challenges, we have continued to see success. Our staff, direct services and coalition continued to grow over the last year. We added two new positions, the Quality Assurance Director and Development Coordinator to continue to increase the infrastructure of our organizations and improving our reporting and evaluation capacity. Our direct service team continued to make significant impacts in the lives of survivors. Providing hundreds of hours of case management and trauma therapy, housing families, and providing active clients access to transportation assistance through bus passed and gas cards. Our coalition expanded to over 20 members, including organizations and individuals.

Final Messages

As the organization continues to face challenges and successes in the coming months, it can not be expressed enough how grateful our staff and clients are for the generous support of CSJ Ministries that has gotten us to where we are and where we look forward to going!

For more information and to stay current with CSJ Mission Network members and ministry partners, visit these websites:

ABLE Families	www.ablefamilies.org
Caregiver Companion	www.caregivercompanion.org
Catholic Mobilizing Network	www.catholicsmobilizing.org
Christ in the Wilderness	www.citwretreat.com
Dear Neighbor Ministries	www.dearneighbor.org
Healing Action	www.healingaction.org
Holy Family Child Care & Dev. Center	www.holyfamilychildcarecenter.com
Ministry Against the Death Penalty	www.sisterhelen.org
Ministry of the Arts	www.ministryofthearts.org
Nazareth Academy	www.nazarethacademy.com
People Program	www.peopleprogram.org
River's Edge	www.riversedgecleveland.com
Saint Joseph Academy, Cleveland	www.sja1890.org
St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge	www.sjabr.org
St. Joseph Adoption Ministry	www.catholicadoptionministry.org
St. Joseph Retreat Center	www.stjosephretreatcenter.org
Sisters Health Foundation	www.sistershealthfdn.org
SSJ Health & Wellness Foundation	www.ssjhealthandwellnessfoundation.org
StepStone	www.stepstoneks.org
Taller de José	www.tallerdejose.org
The Well	www.csjthewell.org
Tutoring English to Advance Change	www.teachempowers.org
Congregation of St. Joseph	www.csjoseph.org

