Practicing the teaching, compassion, and love of Jesus Christ, St. Francis Community Services walks with our vulnerable neighbors to create opportunities, to build resiliency, and to advocate for justice.

“When you achieve something you set out to do it feels incredible.”
Our namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, encourages us to be unafraid of a challenge. He tells us, "start by doing what is necessary, then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." For the first years of our organization, we were certainly doing what was necessary - by providing expert services, building relationships with community partners, and responding to urgent needs. Now, because of the ever-growing support of our donors and partners, we are reimagining our services as we tackle “what’s possible.” This year we grew our Bilingual Mental Health team; trained pro bono lawyers for guardian ad litem work with abused and neglected children; and expanded our intensive case management program to serve all of North St. Louis County. You can read more in this report. Ultimately, you should know that energy from our supporters, whether they are volunteers, community advocates, or donors, touches all of our staff and clients, making the impossible a reality.

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Karen Wallensak, Executive Director

Marina A. Cahill, Board President

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Our Mission at Work

2,623
Direct Clients Served

9,979
Indirect Clients Served

6,603
Hours of Contributed Volunteer Work

103+
Zip Codes Served in Missouri

74%
Of Clients Below the Poverty Line
Serving the St. Louis area for more than 30 years, our legal assistance office ensures that clients have their day in court even if they are not able to afford an attorney. Last year, we served 1,532 individuals by providing trauma-informed legal counsel to resolve civil matters and increase our clients’ quality of life.

Our [Immigration Law Department](#) assists immigrants as they seek asylum, gain citizenship, reunite with family, and avoid deportation.

Our [Family Law Department](#) advocates for domestic violence victims, protects the rights of abused or neglected children, and assists families in guardianship petitions.

Our [Veterans Advocacy Project](#) works with marginalized veterans to resolve outstanding traffic tickets or warrants, regain their driver’s license, stabilize housing, and obtain community resources.

Our [Housing Law Department](#) assists clients as they fight to avoid eviction or foreclosure.

We also assist [Pathways to Progress](#) clients with outstanding traffic tickets and warrants, restoring their driver’s license and increasing their ability to obtain employment.

**Aleyah: A Client Story**

Aleyah Brown is an Army veteran, a young woman of slight build and quick wit. Brown encountered challenges faced by many veterans when she returned home, including post traumatic stress disorder and other mental health challenges catalyzed by military service. She experienced abuse by a former partner, unemployment, and homelessness. During this time she committed traffic violations which resulted in the loss of her license and also received minor nuisance charges. Her attorney with the Veterans Advocacy Project went to court in each municipality where she had violations, ensuring these charges were dismissed or the fines converted to community service, clearing the way for her to regain her license. With advocacy from her lawyer and her tenacious nature, Brown has found housing and regained stability in her life.
A trusted community resource, our immigrant services focus on the Spanish-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking populations in the St. Louis region. By offering integrated social, therapeutic, and youth programs in a fully bilingual setting, we are able to provide a space of comfort to immigrant neighbors while ensuring they access the resources they need. Last year, we served 957 clients in these programs.

**Bilingual Case Management**

Bilingual case management assists immigrants as they enroll kids in school, locate health care, pay an electric bill, and access benefits in an unfamiliar language.

- 464 received bilingual case coordination.
- 112 received health-related case management.

**Bilingual Youth Program**

Our Bilingual Youth Program increases access to art, music, and sports for children of immigrants, in addition to offering homework assistance.

- 143 children of immigrants enrolled in the Bilingual Youth Program.
- 100% of kids enrolled in tutoring advanced an academic level within the school year.
BILINGUAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Offering the only mental health department in the region focused solely on Spanish-speakers, our bilingual therapists offer counseling that is linguistically and culturally competent and eliminates the need for interpreters.

We served 77 children and 45 adults in a total of 1,395 counseling sessions.

75% of children and 88% of adults experienced an improvement in their symptoms.

VIETNAMESE HEALTH CLINIC & ELDERS GROUP

Our health clinic ensures Vietnamese elders receive affordable primary care and have the knowledge to manage chronic health conditions, while a social group helps reduce isolation.

We provided interpretation services for 524 medical sessions.

92.9% of clients maintained independent living.

Jeremy: A Client Story

Jeremy is an intelligent and caring 16-year-old, who arrived in the U.S. as an unaccompanied minor and was in the process of seeking asylum. During counseling this client went through many challenges, including becoming homeless, having a serious medical diagnosis, and balancing multiple jobs while attending school. He would note in session he has a profound sense of hopelessness, wondering if there was any purpose in continuing his court case.

Little by little, he began to regain a sense of purpose. After a year of therapy, he successfully decreased all his symptoms. He was proud not only of making these changes, but of overcoming all the obstacles placed in his path.
Our intensive case management program, Pathways to Progress, provides integrated support to families in North St. Louis county who are working to leave grinding generational poverty. Offered in partnership with Catholic Charities, this program provides individualized case management and legal services, in addition to direct connection to community resources.

90% improved their education or job training skills
86% of clients improved their ability to meet financial obligations
89% of children increased their school engagement

Thomas: A Client Story

Thomas was homeless and out of work for most of his adult life. He enrolled in our Pathways to Progress after being shot in an attempted robbery for his last dollars. With the help of his Member Advisor, he worked on his job skills, sought out many resources to provide him stability, and ultimately he began to feel more connected to his community. Three years later, Thomas has a steady job and his first apartment. He is proud to be paying his own bills and is more hopeful about the future. Thomas was part of Pathways’ first graduating class, sharing the excitement of the evening with his sisters and their children.
Thank you to our Supporters!

Groups Giving $100 and Over, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Organizations, Groups & Churches
- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Catholic Charities of St. Louis
- Catholic Charities USA
- Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Hands That Serve
- Heartland Alliance
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (New Melle)
- Legal Support Services Group
- Loretto Sisters
- Mary Queen of Peace Parish
- Mineral Area Memorial Post 5741
- Network For Good
- Sacred Heart Parish
- Saint Louis Mental Health Board
- Saint Louis University
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon
- St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund
- The Kaufman Fund
- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- Ursuline Sisters
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

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- ASC Foundation
- Berges Family Foundation
- Dana Brown Charitable Trust
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- Norman J. Stupp Foundation - Commerce Bank, Trustee
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- Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
- The Brown Sisters Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation
- Wish You Well Foundation

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- Pfizer Matching Gifts Program
- Ponder-Bates Law Firm, LLC
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- PwC
- Reinsurance Group of America
- Rosen and Associates
- Sandberg, Phoenix & Von Gontard, PC
- Scholastic Testing Service, Inc.
- Simmons Hanly Conroy, LLC
- The Simon Law Firm, PC
- US Legal Solutions, LLC

Income* July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
- 27% Contributions
- 22% Foundations
- 21% Catholic Charities of St. Louis
- 16% Archdiocese of St. Louis
- 7% United Way
- 6% Government
- 1% Fees/Services/Other

Expenses
- 84% Programming
- 16% Management + Fundraising

*Excludes grants dedicated to purchases of capitalized assets & revenues received for services provided in the previous fiscal year.

Unaudited financial statements as of June 30, 2019

Financials
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

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seeds of HOPE

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES GALA

JUNE 20th, 2020

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St. Louis, MO 63108
314-932-3300

B. LEGAL ASSISTANCE
100 North Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-977-3993

C. IMMIGRANT SERVICES
4222 Delor St.
St. Louis, MO 63116
314-773-6100

D. PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS
10235 Ashbrook Drive
St. Louis, MO 63137
314-269-5055

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