

“Poverty calls us to sow hope.”



St. Francis
community services



annual report 2016



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Recently, I was sitting with a man named David, who came to our office seeking help. He was thin and worn. His mother, he said, had died just hours ago in Chattanooga, and he wanted bus fare to attend her funeral. He also needed food for his 6-year-old daughter.

David did not remember me, but I recognized him from past years of working with homeless people. I knew he did not have a mother in Tennessee nor a daughter. He was making up a story that, he hoped, would inspire me to assist him.

Little did he know that we would help anyway! Why assist someone who is not telling the truth at the moment? Because we know desperate people are not at their best. Because we know mental illness distorts their reality. Because we know God loves David as much as He loves us, and that David's dignity as a human person transcends his current situation.

The goal is to help David appropriately while establishing a trusting relationship that leads to transformational change. This is a specialty of St. Francis Community Services – taking time, while respecting cultures and personal histories, to help people take charge of their destiny.

Your support is indispensable in this ministry. We humbly thank you for your donations, prayers and encouragement. In the spirit of St. Francis, with your help, we will continue to be instruments of peace for years to come.

Karen Wallensak

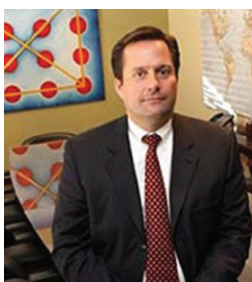
Pope Francis, in his first encyclical as Holy Father, wrote that "The Lord has taken the initiative, He has loved us first (1 Jn4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast."

St. Francis Community Services boldly takes the initiative to serve those who are desperately marginalized and chronically poor – people often dismissed as outcasts, who are the least among our brothers and sisters, but who always seem to have the most important life lessons to teach us.

This FY2016 Annual Report chronicles our efforts. We hope it will inform and inspire you.

In the coming year, we will continue to deepen our relationships with the poor and disaffected whom we serve; with the broader community and region where our programs are carried out; with our funders; with our volunteers and donors; and ultimately with Jesus Christ, who calls each of us to love our neighbors without condition.

We deeply appreciate the support of people like you, who stand with us, unafraid, "at the crossroads" where compassion meets need. On behalf of all we serve, thank you!



Kenneth Schmitt
Board President

[Signature]



8,438

were assisted with housing issues



1,465

area youth served



88.5%

of clients live below the poverty level

345

received health services



St. Francis
community services

406

elders were helped through social support services

1,952

individuals were provided with legal aid

2015
BY THE
NUMBERS

279

veterans were assisted with legal issues and advocacy



98%

SFCS scored a 98% satisfaction rating among clients



123

received bilingual counseling for a total of 1,144 sessions



12,629

St. Francis Community Services directly served 12,629 clients in need

Sowing Hope With Our Neighbors In Need

Overcoming Obstacles

In December 2015, historic flooding rocked greater St. Louis region, including Eureka, Pacific, Fenton, and Arnold. Described as a "500 year flood," 12 inches of rain fell in three days, displacing thousands of families and businesses.

In the weeks after the flood, St. Francis case managers worked at seven Multi-Agency Resource Centers managed by Catholic Charities, The United Way of Greater St. Louis, and American Red Cross. Nearly 800 households came seeking assistance at these centers held in St. Louis, Jefferson, and Franklin counties.

Soon, the waters subsided, the centers completed their valuable outreach efforts, and the national media coverage moved on to other stories. But for the thousands of displaced individuals in our community, life continued to be on hold. This is when our work began. St. Francis was assigned to provide skilled case management to these families. We assisted over 300 households, while providing more than \$118,000 in assistance for flood recovery.

In some cases, helping flood survivors is quick and straightforward. Wanda came to St. Francis case manager, Maureen, out of options. The trailer she rented had been destroyed in the flood. After staying in a hotel for months, she exhausted all of the wages she earned at her part-time job. Wanda submitted a request to FEMA for aid, but was denied because she didn't understand the application well and didn't realize she could appeal their decision. With Maureen's help and one phone call, an appeal letter went to FEMA and Wanda was approved for \$5,000 in aid. She is now back to renting an affordable space, working, and enjoying life.

Other cases are more complex, like the Wilsons, who owned a small home they had inherited. They received government assistance and support from local charities to make ends meet. When the Meramec River flooded their house, they also lost pets, furniture, and personal belongings. They received a small amount of financial support from FEMA and tried to repair the home themselves, but it was not enough to complete the work. St. Francis case managers Maureen and Dolores worked with the couple for months to seek other financial assistance. Our case managers were able to secure more than \$3,000 from a group of community providers who help with unmet needs for flood victims. In addition to money for the remaining construction materials, we were able to arrange for a volunteer group to help with the labor and bring the Wilsons home again.

\$118,000+ in flood recovery assistance

Services to the immigrant community at SFCS' Southside Center are seeing remarkable growth. These include its mental health counseling, youth programs, the Vietnamese health clinic, and case management to families. In September, Southside moved into a new, larger space in the former school building at St. John the Baptist Parish, in order to accommodate its flourishing programs.



Recognizing Strengths

Sara enrolled her son, Jorge in our youth program because he was beginning to have behavior issues and his grades were slipping. From the beginning he made it clear he didn't want to attend, and it was his goal to be kicked out of our program. After great difficulties breaking through to him, our teachers noticed that he enjoyed taking on responsibilities.

The more they began to engage him by asking him to help with the program, the more he began offering to assistance without question, demonstrating a sense of kindness and patience far beyond his years. Most importantly, he began to make great strides in school and at home. Today, Jorge is one of the most active members of the youth program and is bringing home the best school grades his mother has ever seen from him. **Read Jorge's full story at www.sfcstl.org/jorge**

Achieving a Better Tomorrow

One day Steven was in the courthouse searching for help. His previous wife—the mother of his young daughter—had left their child home alone that day, disappearing on a binge. At the time, Steven could only see his daughter one night per week under the custody agreement and even paid child support. He knew that she was not being taken care of and was in a dangerous environment. While in the courthouse, he met one of the attorneys from our legal assistance ministry. We filed a temporary restraining order against the previous wife and were able to get him temporary custody due to the extreme situation.

When the case proceeded to trial, we helped him win sole legal custody of his daughter and removed his burden of child support payments. Beyond the steps of the courthouse, we were able to help him apply for Medicaid and enroll his daughter in her new elementary school. Thanks to the work from our dedicated staff, Steven is reunited with his daughter and she is thriving in a safe and secure household.



This past year, staff attorneys at SFCS' Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry provided direct legal representation to more than 1,900 individuals in the areas of family law, immigration, housing, veterans advocacy, and municipal law. They continue to receive urgent referrals on a daily basis from all over the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Do You Know About Tax Credits?

St. Francis Community Services can offer 50% State Tax Credits for donations of \$1,000 or more from businesses or individuals with business income through the Neighborhood Assistance Program. These credits reduce your Missouri state tax burden by \$500 for every \$1,000 donated, in addition to normal tax deductions.

How it works – example based on a donor in the 28% tax bracket:

Donation Amount:	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
Missouri Tax Credit (50% of gift)	500	1,250	2,500	5,000
Federal Income Tax Deduction (28%)	280	700	1,400	2,800
State Income Tax Deduction (6%)	60	150	300	600
Total Savings	840	2,100	4,200	8,400
Your estimated out-of-pocket cost:	\$160	\$400	\$800	\$1,600

Email Owen at ogriffith@ccstl.org for more information. Please contact us before you make a donation to reserve your tax credit.

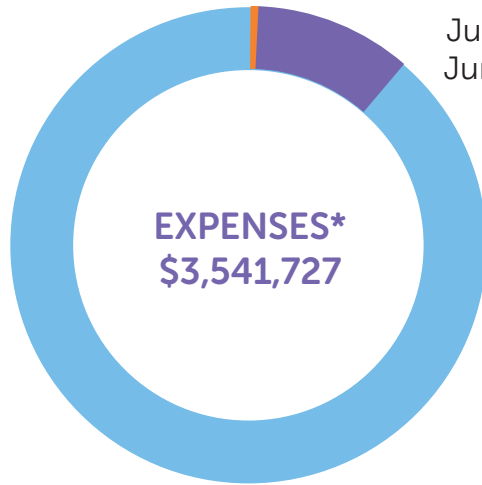


Support Our Mission

At St. Francis Community Services, we work hard to make sure your donations go toward serving our clients in need. In the last fiscal year, 89% of our funds were spent on programs — a figure in which we take a lot of pride. During this Year of Mercy, we hope you will join in our good work with a gift to our organization.

Your fully tax-deductible gift can be made with the attached envelope, or online at: sfcstl.org/donate

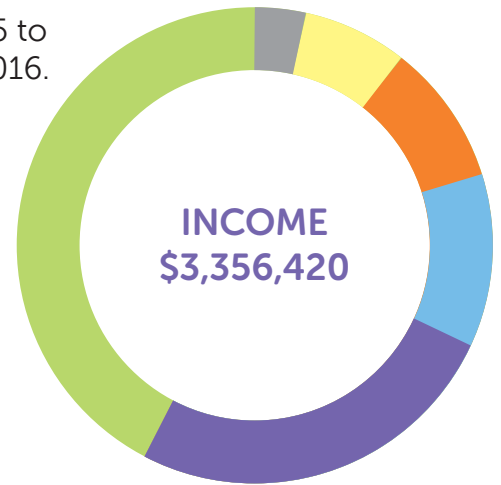
To all of our generous supporters, many thanks and blessings to you!



- 1% Fundraising
- 10% Management and General
- 89% Family and Community Programs

*Excluding expenses due to organizational restructuring
**Unaudited financial statements as of June 30, 2016

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.



- 4% United Way
- 7% Foundations
- 11% Fees/Services
- 16% Contributions
- 24% Government
- 38% Annual Catholic Appeal + Catholic Charities

Seeds of Hope Gala 2016

Seeds of Hope, our very first fund-raising/friend-raising gala, was a huge success. The June event gathered 300 guests and volunteers at the Marriott West, and raised nearly \$70,000 in funds for our agency.

"We exceeded our own expectations in almost all ways," said an enthusiastic **Colleen Bussen**, event chair. With a summertime theme, guests enjoyed cocktails, a silent auction, a flowery "selfies corner," dinner, and a live auction. Highlights of the evening included awards presented to two inspiring individuals:

Msgr. Robert Gettinger was awarded The Instrument of Peace Award for his decades of service to the poor and disenfranchised in St. Louis.

Dr. Patrick Walker was awarded The Symbol of Hope Award. Overcoming challenges in his early life, he became an attorney and a professor at Lindenwood University, where he inspires students to engage in the community and serve others.

Moving stories were shared by **Rhonda Franklin**, who, following the sudden death of her daughter, gained guardianship of her grandchildren with the help of St. Francis' legal services (CLAM), and **Sr. Cecilia Pham**, an immigrant herself, who was inspired to serve God and fellow immigrants during her 12 years of work (and counting!) at St. Francis Community Services.

Emcee **Mike Roberts**, meteorologist, provided a breezy, light-hearted tone to evening.





Thank You To Our Donors

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

\$10,000 and more

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 ASC Foundation
 Catholic Charities of St. Louis
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 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Dale and Patsy Baldes
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Save The Date!

Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry
Providing exceptional legal aid and equal access to justice for the poor and marginalized.

Southside Center
Serving immigrant families throughout the metro area and addressing needs in the diverse Bevo neighborhood.

Long-Term Disaster Recovery
Assisting survivors of natural disaster in returning their lives to normal through long-term case management.

Pathways to Progress
Educating and empowering families in North St. Louis County through long-term case management, asset building, and resource coordination.
(St. Francis acts as lead agency in this Catholic Charities pilot initiative)

Administrative Office
4445 Lindell Blvd.
Saint Louis MO 63108
314-932-3300
www.sfcstl.org

OUR MISSION
Practicing the teachings, compassion and love of Jesus Christ, St. Francis Community Services serves individuals and families in need through community-based, culturally sensitive programs, helping people to recognize their strengths, overcome obstacles, and achieve a better tomorrow.

November 19th, 2016



Bocce Bash

2-5pm
Milo's Tavern
on the Hill
5201 Wilson Ave.
St. Louis, MO

Join us for food, drinks,
and bocce ball
in support of SFCS.
Families welcome!

RSVP:
mrataj@ccstl.org

March 8th, 2017



Sr. Betty Brucker, FSM Memorial Scholarship Presentation

6-8pm
The May Center at
SSM DePaul
12303 DePaul Dr.
Bridgeton, MO

Reflecting on the life and
works of Sr. Betty Brucker
while honoring a
special student.

RSVP:
ogriffith@ccstl.org

June 17th, 2017



Seeds of Hope Gala

6-9pm
Hilton St. Louis
at the Ballpark
1 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO

An unforgettable evening
with fine food and drink,
auctions, awards,
and more.

**Email ogriffith@ccstl.org
for info on tickets and
sponsorships.**



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