

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Mercy, as defined by Jesuit Father Jim Keenan, SJ, is "entering into the chaos of another."

The past year has brought bountiful opportunities for St. Francis Community Services to bear witness to this description of mercy. Chaos has come in many forms, man-made and natural. Flooding and tornados destroyed homes and upended the lives of hundreds in our region. Poverty, domestic violence, and mental illness plagued families. Unrest, crime, violence, and hostility toward immigrant neighbors promoted fear and anxiety in our community.

SFCS responded with mercy by offering services that build hope, healing, and harmony. Our Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry represented abused women, children, veterans, and immigrants in the civil court system, seeking justice for all. Immigrants at our Southside location found comfort and support through bilingual therapy, case management, and youth activities. In "Pathways to Progress," case managers guided families as they worked to leave poverty. And with the support of our disaster team, those who lost homes, jobs, or belongings in floods or storms started the path to recovery.

Your support makes it possible for our dedicated staff and volunteers to calm the chaos in the lives of our clients and bear witness to the mercy practiced and taught by Jesus Christ. On behalf of those we serve, thank you!



Kenneth Schmitt
Board President



Karen WallensakExecutive Director

Karen Wallensak

2016 BY THE NUMBERS



SFCS directly served

3,940

clients in need.



SFCS programs scored a

96.7%

satisfaction rating among clients.



70.4%

of SFCS clients were living below the poverty level.

WHAT A YEAR!

_____ JULY 2016

Our annual four-week Summer Day Camp was held at Southside Center. More than 50 children enrolled in this year's camp, participating in safe, fun and educational activities, including field trips to Grant's Farm, the Zoo, City Museum, the YMCA pool, and more.

——— AUGUST 2016

SFCS administrative staff moved with Catholic Charities to 4445 Lindell, next to the Cathedral Basilica, providing additional offices for staff and room for our continued growth.

SEPTEMBER 2016

Southside Center moved into a renovated space in the former high school building at St. John the Baptist Parish to provide a permanent home to its growing youth, mental health, and social service programs for immigrants.

— OCTOBER 2016

SFCS-CLAM staff attorney, Hannah Sullivan, was awarded a prestigious "Spirit of Justice Award" from the Saint Louis Bar Foundation for her service to clients. She has worked with immigrants and refugees at our Legal Assistance Ministry site for the past decade.

— NOVEMBER 2016

The Padberg family was honored by the SFCS Board of Directors for their decade-long support to the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry and commitment to equal access to justice for the poor and marginalized.

— DECEMBER 2016

Area churches, schools, businesses, and individuals came together to adopt 170 economically disadvantaged families in Southside Center's annual Christmas Adopt-a-Family program. Students at SLUH and Nerinx Hall helped to lead these efforts, adopting a spectacular 38 and 24 families, respectively.

_____ JANUARY 2017

SFCS staff worked with partner organizations to host 15 "Know Your Rights" sessions and nine "Power of Attorney" workshops at various community locales during the first six months of 2017. These outreach efforts helped more than 700 immigrant families with education and preparedness.

—— FEBRUARY 2017

Students at Rosati-Kain High School worked to raise \$3,200 for programs at SFCS through their annual "ROAR Week" that emphasizes learning and philanthropy surrounding issues of social justice.

- MARCH 2017

The Tilles Foundation approved a second year of grant funding—more than \$112,000—for the youth program at Southside Center. This generous, two-year grant has allowed us to grow the program from 55 children to 150 (and counting!).

____ APRIL 2017

SFCS collaborated with Catholic Charities to mobilize following the devastating Perry County tornado, and again 30 days later when flooding destroyed homes across the region. Our case managers continue to work long-term with affected families to help restore their lives.

— MAY 2017

The Legal Assistance Ministry hosted its annual "Stand Up! for Women Veterans" event at Saint Louis University. This event helps empower local female veterans by connecting them with important services and opportunities in the community.

_____ JUNE 2017

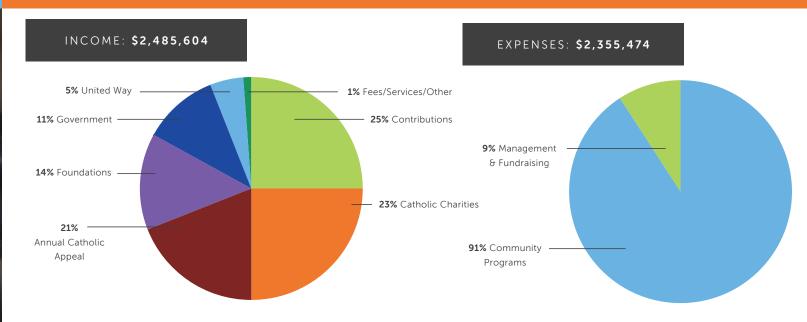
Pilot initiative, "Pathways to Progress," continued to grow, with enrollment climbing past 25 families. Each family works with a staff "member advisor" to remove obstacles and create new pathways toward stability and success.

Santiago, a 10-year-old boy, fled his home in Central America and journeyed to the U.S. to escape both abuse from a relative and threats to his life from narco-traffickers in his town. Our Legal Assistance Ministry took his case, and an attorney helped him through the process of applying for asylum in the U.S. With his sworn statement, evidence of the abuse, and his testimony before an asylum officer, little Santiago was granted asylum. He will not be forced to return to the horrors he faced in his home country.

HE WILL NOT BE FORCED TO RETURN TO THE HORRORS HE FACED IN HIS HOME COUNTRY.

POSITIONING HERSELF FOR AN INCREASINGLY BRIGHT FUTURE

Rene, a single mother, has dreamed of a better future for herself and her young children. After joining the Pathways to Progress program, our case managers helped her enroll in basic adult education courses. She then began volunteering at a local hospital. Her volunteering led to an opportunity to do an in-house training program to be a paid Patient Care Technician. Now, her goal is to pursue additional classes and trainings to advance her career, thus positioning herself for an increasingly bright future.



Unaudited financial statements as of June 30, 2017

SHE HAS
STARTED THE
PROCESS OF
HEALING.

Eleven-year-old Kim was devastated. Without saying goodbye, her father took her younger brother and moved out of state, leaving Kim and her mother alone. Immediately, her schoolwork and relationships began to suffer. With the help of a SFCS bilingual therapist and art therapy activities, Kim has been able to process her feelings of depression, confusion, anger and abandonment. Although she admits she is still sad, she has begun to refocus on her schoolwork, reconnect with peers and start the process of healing.

2016 BY THE NUMBERS -



Programs of SFCS helped

1,226

Hispanic/Latino individuals.



Staff attorneys provided legal aid to

1,707

clients



619

area youth were served through SFCS programs.



Veterans were assisted with legal issues and advocacy in

250

court cases.



159 received bilingual mental health counseling, totaling

1,640

sessions



81

households received long-term, intensive assistance to recover from flood damage.

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SEEDS OF HOPE 2017

St. Francis Community Services hosted its second annual summer gala— Seeds of Hope-on June 17, 2017. This year's event was a huge success, with more than 400 guests gathering at the Ballpark Hilton St. Louis for an inspirational evening. Thanks to an outpouring of support from our event sponsors, local businesses, and many generous members of the community, SFCS raised more than \$90,000 (net) to help sustain and grow our organization's programs.

Special quest of honor, Donald Beimdiek, was presented with this year's Instrument of Peace Award. After an illustrious 49-year career at Armstrong Teasdale, "Mr. B" has dedicated himself during the past five years of his retirement to serving as a volunteer attorney at SFCS's Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry

Thank you to all who supported our work during this second-year event, especially to our event sponsors!







2016 BY THE NUMBERS



Staff attornevs represented clients in

family law cases.



26

families were enrolled in the pilot initiative, Pathways to Progress.



patients received health services at the Vietnamese Clinic.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS! JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

\$25,000 and over

Archdiocese of St. Louis Catholic Charities of St. Louis Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis Saint Louis Mental Health Board St. Louis County Children's Service Fund The Tilles Foundation United Way of Greater St. Louis

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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

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Save the Date



ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES GALA

June 23, 2018 • Clayton Plaza Hotel



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.