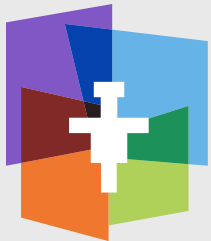




St. Francis  
community services

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**St. Francis**  
community services

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."**



# Message from our Leadership

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.

*Karen Wallensak*

**Karen Wallensak**, Executive Director

*Marina A. Cahill*

**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



# LEGAL ASSISTANCE: EQUALIZING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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.

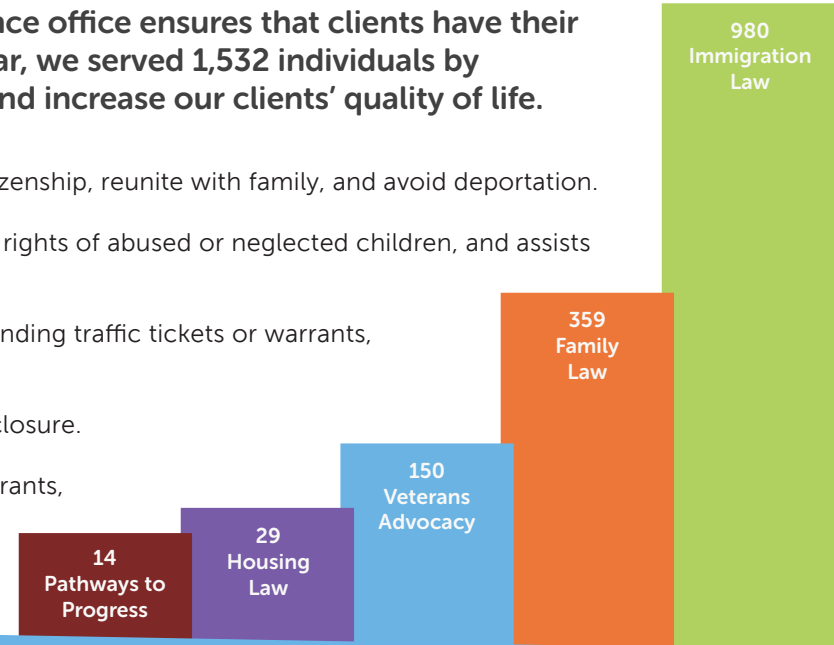
Our **Immigration Law Department** assists immigrants as they seek asylum, gain citizenship, reunite with family, and avoid deportation.

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.



# IMMIGRANT SERVICES: ENSURING IMMIGRANTS FEEL AT HOME

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.

# PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS:

## ADVOCATING FOR FAMILIES

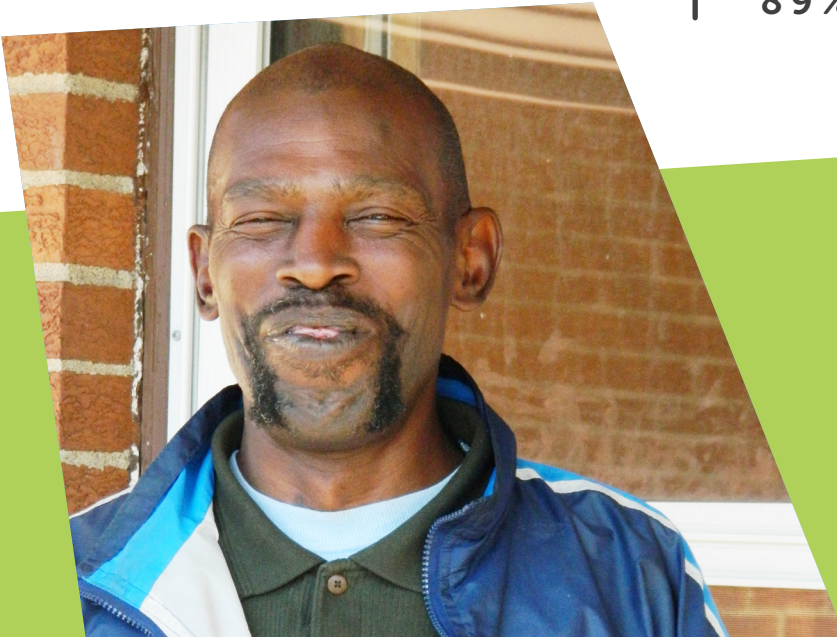
Our intensive case management program, Pathways to Progress, provides integrated support to families in North St. Louis county who are working to leave grinding generational poverty. Offered in partnership with Catholic Charities, this program provides individualized case management and legal services, in addition to direct connection to community resources.

**56 FAMILIES**

**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  
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Legal Support Services Group  
Loretto Sisters  
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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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Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities

The Brown Sisters Foundation  
Union Pacific Foundation  
Wish You Well Foundation

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## 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

**\$2,605,529**

## EXPENSES

84% Programming

16% Management + Fundraising

**\$2,520,701**

\*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!

INDIVIDUALS GIVING \$100 AND OVER, JULY 1, 2018 TO JUNE 30, 2019

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SAVE THE DATE!



ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES GALA

JUNE 20th, 2020