

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Human Concerns Annual Report for July 2019 – June 2020

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3

The Human Concerns Community (HCC) strives to live out our Catholic values through Catholic social teaching by advocating and providing for people in need in our community and around the world. Ministry leaders and parishioners give of their time, talent and treasure impacting the lives of thousands in need.

This spring, the COVID-19 virus challenged our ability to carry out vital programs to our vulnerable populations. With the generous assistance of many people, we collected funding for JOURNEYS to house the PADS guests for a few weeks in a hotel. We also provided between 30 and 90 dinners every week to the guests staying at the hotels. The Holiday Sharing Easter basket collection was put on hold until we had an opportunity to do a one-day drop off collection. Even though the recipients received their baskets after Easter, they were thrilled with their special gifts.

We continue to be of service to people in need through this continuing pandemic. With a grateful heart to so many who continue to support the Human Concerns Community, I know we will get through this together. Sue Geegan, Director

ASSIST-A-FAMILY Parish donor families, Small Christian Communities and work groups served 535 individuals in need from our Parish, Misión San Juan Diego, & POC at Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter to provide:

- 17,970 Meals
- \$16,910 in Food certificates
- \$13,070 in Merchandise gift cards
- 600 Volunteers hours



Catholic Charities New Hope Program Holy Family contributes \$3,000 toward rent assistance for families served in the Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments Program as well as gifts & meals during holidays. Holy Family and other local Catholic churches have assisted 35 families to date.

CLOTHING DRIVE One 19-foot truckload of clothing was collected in the fall for St. Vincent de Paul. Unfortunately, the spring drive was cancelled due to COVID-19.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE 16 individuals were given referrals and financial support totaling \$5,736.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY This was the 14th year Holy Family parishioners helped build a home in conjunction with 7 other churches. We completed a project on Edison Street in Elgin in September and began a new project on Shuler in Elgin in December. The latest project was a new construction project rather than a rehab. We completed the house in record time and had the house blessing on August 1st. We have begun a third project which is

scheduled for early 2021 completion. There have been more than a dozen HF volunteers who have contributed more than a combined 5,000 hours in support of the Habitat ministry. Holy Family contributes \$5,000 annually to support each build. Carpentersville. We are in the midst of completion of a third home in mid-September. 8 volunteers have given over 5,250 volunteer hours. Holy Family contributes \$5,000 annually to support each build.

HOLIDAY SHARING 534 Christmas gifts, 212 Easter baskets and 119 backpacks filled with school supplies were donated to those in need at Catholic Charities, St. Mary's, PADS, St. Joseph's Home, St. Vincent de Paul, WINGS and Little City.

Job Support Group was one of the first ministries started at Holy Family, encouraging participants to share talents, advice and contacts. Unique to this group are 18 Job Support Advisors available 24/7 to help with the challenges of the job search process. In July 2019, we had one of the best economies in many years with unemployment hitting a record low of 3.5% in December



2019. The next month we were hit with the COVID 19 pandemic and unemployment went to a record of 14.70% in April. Weekly meetings at the church moved to an online platform (Zoom) and we continue with a very robust attendance. A new website was built for our job seekers and added new workshops for the in conjunction with the new Barrington Career Center at no cost. More than 1650 volunteer hours were given, 1791 attendees, hosting 172 for the first time and about 63 people secured jobs.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY - We bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them. We assist the incarcerated in the transition to becoming productive Christians. Inside ministry teams will meet 5-6 times during a 3-month Formation period. Then the teams will host a 4-day Retreat Weekend within a correctional center. Retreats are held twice a year.

LENTEN SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT - This year would have been our 7th formal Lenten Project. Just as God rested on the 7th day, we rested from a formal Lenten Social Justice Project. Instead, we focused on Catholic social teaching and updated the parish on the previous 6 success projects and how our support impacted those programs. Those updates are on our website.

ONE IN LOVE LGBT provides a monthly forum to explore and discuss issues surrounding sexuality, gender and our faith in a safe and loving atmosphere. Faith sharing, speakers, movies, social activities and service are incorporated into the monthly agendas.

OWLS – 55+ Ministry completed its second year of social activities including a wide variety of offerings from outings, live theatre, and speakers on various topics of interest.

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) collaborating with JOURNEYS The Road Home, Holy Family volunteers provided overnight shelter, meals (dinner, breakfast & a sack lunch), clothing, toiletries & fellowship on Sunday evenings. This year was very different due to the abrupt closing of our site due to the pandemic and maintaining the safety of the guests and volunteers. We provided hotel rooms for the guests and continued to provide food to the hotels for the guests once JOURNEYS secured funding on a consistent basis. As of the end of June, Holy Family provided up to 90 dinners on a weekly basis.

PARTNERS IN SERVICE - Holy Family partners with other churches and agencies providing hope and help to those in need. We have given **\$8,500** in total to the following organizations in addition to hands-on and in-kind support:

- Hopeful Beginnings (St. Mary's Services) is a nonprofit adoption agency supporting women experiencing unplanned pregnancy and adoptive families throughout the Chicagoland area.
- **JOURNEYS The Road Home** provides case management, counseling, health and mental health care, laundry services, job support and food to clients who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness.

- **St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly** - Little Sisters of the Poor minister to the economically disadvantaged elderly. Generous parishioners volunteer at the Home helping residents with a variety of tasks including laundry, driving, errands, games, outings and visiting.
- **Viator House Of Hospitality** is an interfaith-based program that provides hope, healing and opportunity to young men (18-23 yrs old) with nowhere to live while pursuing asylum claims in the US immigration system. They attend school, work and save money, utilize mentors and tutors, seek counseling and practice their faith.
- **WINGS** - Women in Need Growing Stronger help women and children facing homelessness due to domestic violence through their 22 transitional housing apartments, homes & Safe House. They provide both help with job and parenting skills and counseling. Many gifts in kind are donated on a regular basis.

SERVING OUR PARISH COMMUNITY A welcoming environment and community connections are fostered through:

- The Hospitality Ministry serves refreshments after weekend Masses and Special Hospitality serves for other events throughout the year.
- Welcome Ministers assist newcomers and registered **92** new families as members of our faith community.

SPECIAL PROJECTS –

- **Lenten Fish Frys** - The Knights of Columbus prepared and served delicious meals over Lent to support Human Concerns ministries and programs. Due to the virus, we were forced to shut down on March 22.
- **Produce Mobile** - Holy Family distributed food given by the Greater Chicago Food Depository to anyone in need once every 5 months in the remote parking lot. Approximately 150 -200 individuals are served each distribution with fresh produce and other food products. The virus did not interrupt our ability to serve those in need as it was held outdoors with social distancing and other safety protocols in place.

Please contact Sue Geegan if you are interested in any of these services or would like to help –

sgeegan@holyfamilyparish.org or 847-907-3443.