

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION

Report to Diocesan Convention

November 2019

Overview

The mission of Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is to “provide chaplaincy for the ongoing spiritual needs of all youth in the juvenile justice system by offering support, hope, and healing.” The ECM vision statement is “In the places we serve, we will make a difference in the lives of all the children we serve.”

ECM’s Chaplaincy is a ministry of presence and spiritual nurturing which fits the Diocesan vision of “Making Disciples, Building Congregations, For the Life of the World.” ECM is committed to improving the life of economically and socially disadvantaged children through our programs and services. We believe and have heard from some of the children and many juvenile justice staff members, that contact with a caring adult helps to empower a child to make better decisions.

The chaplains serve both detained and court-involved youth under the age of 17 years of age, with an average age of 15. The majority of the youth we serve are African American/Black males in both the detained and court-involved groups.

Staff

ECM’s staff includes:

- Two chaplains, each serving about 24 hours each per week – The Rev. Kevin Aldridge and The Rev. Deborah Burris.
- Two chaplains hired in January 2020, each serving about 12 hours per week – Mr. Norman Malloyd, Jr. and The Rev. Clive Samson
- Executive Director – Beth Goad
- Development Administrator – Angela Breeher

Facilities Served

ECM’s chaplains serve detained youth in the following juvenile justice facilities:

- St. Louis City and St. Louis County Detention Centers – detainment before adjudication
- Missouri Hills, a Division of Youth Services (DYS) facility run by the state of Missouri – detainment after adjudication where the family court judge believes programming at DHS will make a difference in the youth’s life

Since April 2019, we have worked with the St. Louis Family Court to provide “Community-Based Chaplaincy Programs.” Primarily ECM chaplains have provided Grief and Loss Groups to youths who were referred by their deputy juvenile officers (DJOs).

ECM chaplains are also serving youth that have been certified as adults and are being held at the City and County Justice Centers. Since late summer, our chaplains have been providing pastoral care to two young men.

2020 Coronavirus Restrictions and ECM Response

The pandemic totally revised how the ECM chaplains can serve the youth. In late March, the detention centers were locked down and there were no technology options available for a few months. We were able to drop off some “treat bags” and make a few phone calls with youth in need of care. However, we have been able for many months to do the following at the detention centers:

- Provide Zoom sessions throughout the week for programming with a group or for pastoral care with one youth
- Provide chapel service on Sundays via Zoom
- Organize and provide “virtual” monthly birthday parties with the assistance of our church volunteers
- Distribute “goody” bags often with activity books, candy, snacks, etc.

As for our community-based programming, our chaplains are providing grief and loss groups via Zoom. It is challenging and they are revising their work as needed.

ECM's fundraising continued via grant writing, annual fund letters, and GiveSTLDay. We then decided to plan and implement our first virtual Moment in Time Gala on October 8. We hired a fundraising consultant assist us with all the technology and videography needed. The event was successful and raised over \$70,000 to date.

Thank You

We sincerely thank you for your continued support of Episcopal City Mission and the children we serve.

Read more about ECM's programs and activities at www.ecitymission.org and review ECM's video titled "*Why We Need to be Here*," which is available on the website's home page.

Be sure to "like us" on Facebook (facebook.com/episcopalcitymissionstl).

Contact

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