

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION
Report to Diocesan Convention
November 2021

Mission & Clients Served

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, spiritual programming, and pastoral counseling. ECM is committed to improving the life of economically and socially disadvantaged children through our programs and services.

The chaplains serve both detained and court-involved youth in the St. Louis metropolitan community the age of 18 years of age and under, with an average age of 15-16. The majority of youth we serve are African American/Black males and about 5% to 10% are females. In addition

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 programs 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.

Accomplishments & Challenges

The pandemic since late March 2020 totally revised how the ECM chaplains have been able to serve the youth. In 2020, 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. A few months into the pandemic, ECM chaplains were able to provide services virtually by Zoom sessions and phone conversations, along with church volunteers assisting with virtual monthly birthday parties and “goody” bags with activity books, candy, snacks, etc.

Challenge – In 2021, ECM is still dealing with pandemic regulations and here is how ECM is providing services:

- City Detention – All our services are still being provided virtually via Zoom sessions and telephone calls.
- County Detention – In the spring of 2021, the center opened up for our chaplains to work in person in small groups or one-on-one with the children. There was one two-week period that was closed for quarantine in the Summer.
- County Justice Center – Our chaplains have been able to visit with adult-certified youth in the adult center since they meet with glass windows between them/

Accomplishment - On June 23, Chaplain Deborah planned and hosted a “poetry slam” at County Detention. Social distancing and masks were employed to keep about 18 children and the detention staff safe while all were in the center’s gymnasium. Several children presented their writings, which were well received by all.

Accomplishment – For the 2021 Moment in Time Virtual Gala, ECM was able to videotape a mission moment story using ECM and family court staff, along with ECM volunteers. This videotape will be used beyond MIT to communicate ECM’s work.

Goals for 2022

1. Community-Based Chaplaincy
 - ECM will meet in January 2022 with St. Louis County Family Court staff members to plan programs for “court-involved” children.
 - Plans will include providing group programs and one-on-one pastoral counseling with youth.
2. In-Person Fundraising Events (Depending on Pandemic Regulations)
 - Walkathon in April 2022 – A family-friendly event to be held at St. Louis University High School’s track and soccer stadium.
 - Moment in Time Gala in October 2022 – It is our hope that ECM will be able to go back to an in-person event with the location to be determined.
3. ECM Chaplaincy Training for Volunteers
 - ECM staff and Board will develop training program to assist parishes to provide chaplaincy services to youth in their communities.
 - Plan is to implement the training in 2023.

Staff

ECM’s staff includes:

- Four chaplains - The Rev. Kevin Aldridge, The Rev. Deborah Burriss, Mr. Norman Malloyd, Jr. and The Rev. Clive Samson
- Executive Director – Beth Goad
- Development Administrator – Angela Breeher

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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