

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION
Report to Diocesan Convention
November 2022

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 lives 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 under the age of 18 years, with an average age of 15-16. The majority of the youth we serve are African American/Black males and about 5% to 10% are females.

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 DYS 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” to court-involved children who live with a parent/guardian or in a residential group home. 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. ECM chaplains were able to provide services by Zoom sessions and phone conversations. Church volunteers assisted with virtual monthly birthday parties and “goody” bags with activity books, candy, snacks, etc.

Challenge – In 2022, ECM was still dealing with some pandemic regulations and staff shortages within the detention centers that affected how ECM provided services. All youth whether in the city or county must be quarantined upon arrival for Covid and released from quarantine after they pass testing for Covid.

- City Detention – Our chaplains can provide services, but primarily in small groups or one-on-one with youths.
- County Detention – Our chaplains can provide services, but primarily in small groups or one-on-one with youths.
- 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.
- Community-based Programming – Our chaplains tried to host a Grief and Loss support group in early 2021 via a Zoom session, but it was not successful. Therefore, we have not been able to conduct these groups through October 2022.

Challenge – In 2022, our church volunteers have not been able to host monthly birthday parties in-person, so they have graciously delivered birthday celebration items outside of the centers. The chaplains and detention staff then distribute the birthday items.

Accomplishment – Even with the challenges associated with scheduling in-person community-based programming, ECM has continued to meet with the County Family Court and have tentatively scheduled a grief and loss group to start in November 2022.

Accomplishment – For the 2022 Moment in Time Virtual Gala, ECM is returning to an in-person gala, which will include a mission moment video. This videotape will be used beyond MIT to communicate ECM's work.

Goals for 2023

1. Community-Based Chaplaincy
 - ECM will continue working with the St. Louis County Family Court staff members to plan programs for “court-involved” children who are living with a parent/guardian or in a residential treatment home.
 - Plans will include ECM chaplains providing group programs and one-on-one pastoral counseling with youth.
2. Fundraising Events
 - Walkathon in Spring – A family-friendly event to be held tentatively at St. Louis University High School's track and soccer stadium. ECM board and volunteers will be working on adding features to the event which will attract more families.
 - Moment in Time Gala in October 2023 – As ECM's largest fundraiser, the Board will need to work with the ECM executive director to grow the event to provide more funds.
3. ECM Chaplaincy Training for Volunteers
 - ECM staff and Board will develop a training program to assist parishes to provide chaplaincy services to juvenile justice involved youth in their communities.
 - Plan is to implement the training in late 2023.

Staff

ECM's staff includes:

- Four chaplains - The Rev. Kevin Aldridge, The Rev. Deborah Burris, Mr. Norman Malloyd, Jr. and The Rev. Clive Samson
- Executive Director – Beth Goad (Retiring in December 2022; Search Committee currently working on hiring replacement.)
- 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. Be sure to “like us” on Facebook (facebook.com/episcopalcitymissionstl).

Contact

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