August 12, 2020

Ms. Kimberly Hubbs
High Plains Region Administrator
8245 N Sunburst Trail
Parker, CO 80134

Dear Ms. Hubbs and the Members of the Executive Committee:

St. Clare’s Ministries is pleased to provide High Plain Region with this report of our use of your generous program grant of $500 per month for a total of $6,000. The funds were used to support the ministry of providing the spiritual guidance, feeding, and clothing to the homeless and working poor of the Baker Neighborhood in Denver every Tuesday night during the 2020 calendar year.

1. HISTORY

The Bible teaches us to help the weak and feed the poor. The Diocese of Colorado asks us to engage with the needy. St. Clare’s Ministries offer short-term respite from the harsh realities of homelessness and food insecurity through the provision of meals, clothing, personal hygiene and comfort items, blankets, and other support to our community members in need. In addition to these services, we offer a weekly Eucharist preceding the meal, open to all, and led by volunteer clergy from the Region.

St. Clare’s strives not to be the stereotypical “soup kitchen.” We welcome our guests with special amenities such as a bicycle “valet”, seated dining at tables with tablecloths, hot sauce condiments, coffee carafes and ceramic mugs, volunteer wait-staff, occasional musicians as well as second helpings and beverage refills. The guests and volunteers come together in a pre-meal prayer. All diners frequently compliment both food and the friendly uplifting atmosphere. Guests at St. Clare’s receive nourishment for the body and for the soul in spirit; without this wonderful service, many would go to bed hungry. With the refurbished Clothing Closet, our guests can get clean coats, clothes, shoes, toiletries, blankets and sleeping bags.

That method of operation stopped in mid-March 2020 with Covid-19. Most of our many volunteers are high risk elderly people and they had to self-quarantine. St. Clare’s Ministries was declared an essential ministry because we serve the homeless and working poor of the Baker neighborhood of Denver. Our way of serving food was not allowed under the Covid-19 guidelines. Therefore, St. Clare’s Ministries went to go meals handed out in front of the church with fewer
healthy volunteers and staff. We also handed out to go toiletries, underwear, clothes, blankets and sleeping bags. Our church services were not offered after mid-March because of Covid-19.

2. PROGRESS AND RESULTS

As stated in our September 2019 application and as evidenced in the year-to-date summary, we continue to meet our goals of serving dinner every Tuesday, in adequate supply and within budget. Any leftover food is donated to local programs. We serve a large and ethnically diverse population of both men and women and, occasionally, families with children.

The $200 per month “Sponsor a Meal” grant received from High Plain Region for direct meal costs pays for the groceries for the meal on one Tuesday a month for 2020. In 2020 St. Clare’s Ministries was averaging 115 meals a Tuesday through March 2020. Cumulatively, through the end of July 2020 we are averaging 94 meals a Tuesday. Our numbers of meals are down a little from last year. We have quite a few new guests every Tuesday and our numbers of meals are always higher at the end of each month.

The $200 per month “Sponsor the Clothing Closet” grant for coats, clothing, toiletries, blankets and sleeping bags is being used to purchase those items monthly during 2020. During the first seven months of 2020 many churches and individuals have contributed used clothing to our Clothing Closet. The High Plains Region grant money has been used to supplement the clothing donations and purchase new underwear and socks for both men and women and toiletries. St. Clare’s purchases blankets and sleeping bags for the winter months of the year. Our guests greatly appreciate the warmth against the cold nights.

The $100 per month overhead grant partially covers employee compensation, rent and insurance to keep our ministry running on a weekly basis. We have a Managing Director who runs the week to week coordination of volunteers from the 15 churches that rotate through the ministry. They also greet and manages our guests each week. The church volunteer rotation stopped in mid-March because of Covid-19. We have a Security person who helps maintain our policy of no alcohol, no drugs, and no weapons to make our ministry as safe and friendly as possible.

3. CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

One of our challenges during 2020 is the sweeps of the homeless population by the Denver Police Department. When the sweep happens, most of the belongings of our guests are taken away and never returned. St. Clare’s Ministries has teamed up with Empower Field at Mile High to obtain donations of clothing and other needed items for our guests. We are now able to serve our homeless and economically challenged guests in ways that they need on a weekly basis to survive in the real world. With Covid-19 we are handing out to go toiletries, underwear, clothing, blankets and sleeping bags from the front of the church.

Due to Covid-19 St. Clare’s Ministries will not hold our annual in person fundraiser and silent auction in 2020. The Board of Directors decided to do an online “GO FUND ME” fundraiser with a video of what we are currently doing to feed the homeless and working poor in the Baker Neighborhood of Denver. We are trying to raise $10,000 and as of August 12, 2020 we have raised over $3,000. The online fundraiser will be conducted over the next couple of months. The link to
the video is: Go Fund Me page and then https://youtu.be/SR2i49KJlqQ. Please help us feed and clothe the homeless.

Managing Director Anthony Suggs resigned on July 31, 2020 to go to seminary. St. Clare’s Ministries hired Deacon Pam Stewart as an Interim Managing Director in August 2020. The Managing Directors work with our volunteer Board of Directors in managing St. Clare’s Ministries in 2020 in the weekly operations with our incredibly talented volunteers from all the participating churches in the High Plains Region and Front Range Region.

Our roster of excellent volunteer cooks plan, shop for and prepare the delicious, nutritious, and innovative menus. The cooks have changed to go meals after mid-March due to Covid-19. Every week numerous members of various churches and the community, many long-term, come to serve meals and beverages, assist guests, and lend hospitality. These volunteers stopped coming after mid-March due to Covid-19. St. Clare’s provides meaningful faith formation service opportunities to adult and mature youth volunteers. Our volunteers operate the Clothing Closet every week of the year to help our guests find what they need to survive in the real world. The clothing closet was closed after mid-March and we switched to go hand outs in front of the church of toiletries, underwear, clothing, blankets and sleeping bags.

4. YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY

**Programs and Services: January-July 2020:**
Supper available every Tuesday, 52 weeks a year.
Number of meals served: 2,832, on pace for to serve over 4,850 meals in 2020.
Number of volunteers: 345, on pace for over 590 volunteers in 2020.
Number of volunteer hours: 1,009, on pace for over 1,700 volunteer hours in 2020.
Value of volunteer hours at $28.02 per hour = $27,784, on pace for over $47,630 in 2020.
Clothing room open every Tuesday evening through mid-March. Now to go toiletries and clothing handed out every Tuesday.
Cost per meal served: $1.28
Average meal cost per Tuesday: $120.51
Average clothing closet cost per Tuesday: $356.63
2019-2020 Winter Months: 222 blankets and 154 sleeping bags for a total of 376 distributed.
2020 through July 31, 2020: 117 blankets and 90 sleeping bags for a total of 207 distributed, these numbers are included in the 2019-2020 Winter numbers.
Cost per Tuesday for program services: $917.
Cost per Tuesday for all expenses: $967.
Percentage of all expenses paid for program services: 95%
As always, St. Clare’s is extremely appreciative of the kind support provided to our Ministry by the High Plains Region.

Faithfully yours,

*Michael Wise*

Michael Wise,
Treasurer

Enclosures
Photos of the St. Clare’s Community (photos by Fred Mast©)