



St. Clare's Ministries

A Diocesan Institution and
A Jubilee Ministry Center
of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado
126 West 2nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80223
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Report of St. Clare's Ministries to the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado – October 7-9, 2021.

Our Mission: St. Clare's Ministries offers short-term respite from the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, and the separation we feel from God and each other. With God's help, St. Clare's is an open, welcoming, and diverse community that provides physical and spiritual nourishment, clothing, and other support to our guests and volunteers in need.

St. Clare's Ministries operates every Tuesday evening at the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary to offer spiritual nourishment, food, and clothing to the homeless and working poor of the Baker neighborhood in Denver, Colorado. The ministry is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board for 2021 includes John Putnam, Chair of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church; Kristin Howland, Secretary of St. Luke's Episcopal Church; Michael Wise, Treasurer of Calvary Episcopal Church; Liz Wolfert, Managing Director of St. John's Cathedral; Stephanie Bryant of Christ's Episcopal Church (CR); Nathan Farr of Christ Episcopal Church (Denver); Shelley Hitt of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church; Rev. Bill Kindel, at large member; Mark Molello of Christ the King Episcopal Church; and Patty Moosbrugger of the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary.

Executive Summary: This ministry has evolved over the past 30 years from handing out sandwiches in the Parish Hall to serving a full hot meal, preceded by a church service. In the fall of 2009, the ministry incorporated as a nonprofit under Colorado State Statutes. Many Episcopal parishes in Colorado support the ministry financially. St. Clare's is a Jubilee Ministry and Diocesan Institution.

2020-2021 Covid-19: St. Clare's Ministries has been open every Tuesday evening in 2020 and 2021. When Covid-19 hit Denver in mid-March 2020, St. Clare's had to comply with the guidelines issued regarding large group gatherings, buffet style meal services, social distancing and wearing masks. St. Clare's was declared an essential business for feeding the homeless and working poor of the Baker neighborhood. St. Clare's went back to its roots and started handing out to go hot meals, to go toiletries, underwear, socks, clothing, blankets and sleeping bags outside of the church. Initially, because most of our volunteers are over 65 years young, we had to stop the regular volunteer rotations from the churches and go with fewer younger volunteers and staff

members. Through the end of August 2021 St. Clare's has served 3,144 meals by 310 volunteers in 902 hours.

St. Clare's has a Managing Director who runs the week-to-week coordination of volunteers from the fourteen churches that rotate through the ministry. She also greets and manages our guests each week. The church volunteer rotation was streamlined during the early months of 2021. Starting in April 2021, our over 65 vaccinated volunteers started to rotate back into the weekly rotation. St. Clare's Ministry has a policy of no alcohol, no drugs, and no weapons to make our ministry as safe and friendly as possible. Since we operated outside all of 2021, we acquired two propane gas heaters to help keep our volunteers and guests warm during the cold nights. We anticipate purchasing an additional propane gas heater and some canopies for the upcoming winter nights.

CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES: One of our continued challenges during 2021 is the sweeps of the homeless population by the Denver Police Department. Per a recent report by Denver Homeless Out Loud when the sweep happens, the top three items lost are clothing, tents, and sleeping bags/blankets along with all the other belongings of our guests as they 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 have teamed up with Sleep Tight Colorado to provide sleeping bags for our guests. We have teamed up with Coats for Colorado, Dependable Cleaners and Channel 7 to provide coats for our guests during the winter months. 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.

For 2021, St. Clare's Ministries applied for and received grants from seven different organizations, including High Plains Region, Front Range Region, Christ Episcopal Church (Denver), St. John's Cathedral, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Colorado Episcopal Foundation and Oakes Home Trust. In June 2021, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado awarded St. Clare's Ministries a grant of \$5,000 from the funds received from The Episcopal Church Pandemic Grant to the Diocese. The Standing Committee divided most of that grant funds to the feeding ministries in the Diocese. Our Board of Directors are working on the framework of our annual fundraiser for the fall of 2021.

Managing Director Elizabeth (Liz) Wolfert has been with us since November 2020 and is doing a great job of managing the ministry. Deacon Pam Stewart retired from St. Clare's Ministries in mid-May 2021 and moved away from the metro area. She was the Bishop's representative to our Board of Directors and Deacon for The Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary and has been greatly missed. The Managing Director works with our volunteer Board of Directors in managing St. Clare's Ministries in 2021 in the weekly operations with our incredibly talented volunteers from all the participating churches in the High Plains Region and Front Range Region. The Managing Director and Board of Directors is working with the Diocese coronavirus pandemic guidelines to bring our ministry back inside the old church building and parish hall. The Delta variant

has put those plans on hold. Mercy Ministries trained our Board of Directors on trauma responses as they apply to our ministry in late July 2021.

As the Covid-19 pandemic changed and progressed, St. Clare's began moving back toward its former style of meal service. But it recently became clear that St. Clare's would need to continue to find ways of offering respite even while offering hot meals outside. St. Clare's began offering greater hospitality by moving from a strict grab-and-go style hot meal to offering chairs on the grass for our guests. Now, our guests can take their grab-and-go hot meals and sit outside at a table on the grassy lawn with others. It is St. Clare's plan to continue to offer respite and hospitality in this new way and we will soon offer games for our guests and volunteers to play and relax while they are visiting. Worship in the form of evening prayer is now conducted weekly, outside on the lawn, with music occasionally. The Holy Eucharist is provided when a volunteer priest is available.

Our roster of excellent volunteer cooks plan, shop for and prepare the delicious, nutritious, and innovative menus. We have new cooking teams from St. John's Cathedral and Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary in 2021. The cooking teams from St. Luke's Episcopal Church and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church retired in 2021. We greatly appreciate their years of volunteer service to our ministry. Our guests really enjoyed their hot meals and looked forward to their respective weeks of cooking. The cooks have been cooking to go hot meals for all the Tuesdays in 2021. Every week members of various churches and the community, many long-term, come to serve hot meals and beverages, assist guests, and lend hospitality. St. Clare's provides meaningful faith formation service opportunities to adult and mature youth volunteers. Our volunteers operate the Clothing Closet every week in front of the church to help our guests with to go handouts of toiletries, underwear, clothing, shoes, blankets and sleeping bags. On August 3, 2021, Denver Health Services brought a mobile vaccine van to our parking lot and offered the Covid-19 vaccines to our guests and neighbors.

2021 Supporting Churches: Calvary Episcopal Church, Golden; Christ Episcopal Church, Denver; Christ's Episcopal Church, Castle Rock; Christ the King Episcopal Church, Arvada; Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Centennial; St. James Episcopal Church, Wheat Ridge; St. John's Cathedral, Denver; St. Joseph Episcopal Church, Lakewood; St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Denver; St. Martin in the Field Episcopal Church, Aurora; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lakewood; Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary, Denver; St. Philip and St. James Episcopal Church, Denver; and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Centennial

2020 Operating Results: Donations from churches: \$11,553; Donations from individuals and entities: \$9,637; Grants: \$38,800; Fundraising: \$6,490; Miscellaneous Income: \$922; Total Revenue: \$67,402. Expenses: Groceries: \$6,068; Clothing Closet; \$21,120; Other Direct Expenses: \$19,271; General and Indirect Expenses: \$4,164; Total Expenses: \$50,624; Surplus: \$16,778. St. Clare's Ministries operated with volunteers serving the food and clothing, volunteer clergy, in kind food donations and clothing donations in 2020.

2021 YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY

Programs and Services: January-August 2021:

Supper available every Tuesday, 52 weeks a year, during the pandemic.
Number of meals served: 3,144, on pace for to serve over 4,700 meals in 2021.

Number of volunteers: 310, on pace for over 450 volunteers in 2021.

Number of volunteer hours: 902, on pace for over 1,300 volunteer hours in 2021.

Value of volunteer hours at \$29.50 per hour = \$26,608, on pace for over \$38,800 in 2021.

Value of clergy volunteer services: \$450. Evening prayer started in June 2021.

Cost per meal served: \$1.42

Average meal cost per Tuesday: \$275 with direct costs included.

Average clothing closet cost per Tuesday: \$553 with direct costs included.

2020-2021 Winter Months: 164 blankets and 176 sleeping bags for a total of 340 distributed.

2021 through July 31, 2021: 93 blankets and 93 sleeping bags for a total of 186 distributed, these numbers are included in the 2020-2021 Winter numbers.

Cost per Tuesday for program services: \$914.

Cost per Tuesday for all expenses: \$981.

Percentage of all expenses paid for program services: 93%

Program services include the church services, the meal services and clothing closet.

Photos of the St. Clare's Community (photos by John Putnam)









