

2020 Report of Saint Francis Center to the 134th Annual Convention Of the Diocese of Colorado— October 7-9, 2021

The mission of St. Francis Center is to offer refuge and peace for our community members who experience homelessness, helping them meet their basic needs and transition out of homelessness.

Executive Summary

In 2020 St. Francis Center embarked on several new projects as we also learned to adjust to the challenges of staying open for our guests during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on SFC. In an effort to social distance and spread our community as wide as possible, SFC opened an auxiliary shelter space in an adjacent property. From March to mid-July 2020, SFC partnered with the Asterisk Event Center at 1075 Park Avenue West to provide SFC an additional 8,500 square feet. Initially this space was limited to refuge and bathrooms, but became our main day shelter space when renovations began at the day center in June. With the exception of showers, we maintained all our basic service offerings between three locations.

SFC continued to increase its programming through the expansion of its affordable supportive housing foot print. Reconstruction of the historic Warren Methodist Church on 14th and Gilpin began in 2020 and will be developed into 48 affordable work force housing units for men and women ready to transition out of homelessness. This innovative project will create a community of support and stability for guests and clients. SFC anticipates residents moving in to the St. Francis Center Warren Residences in fall of 2021

SFC also finalized the expansion of services at the Day Center, renovation the women's bathroom and showers, as well as the mail and storage area, and expanding the Intake office to provide more space for case management services. The renovations, which also included implementing COVID-19 safety designs was completed in the fall of 2020.

SFC also worked closely with partner agencies to advocate for the funding and development of Safe Outdoor Spaces as one solution to support the high number of people unsheltered in Denver due to the pandemic. The first site received city funding and support in 2020, with SFC designated as the agency that would manage a third site in early 2021.

Goal 1: To provide emergency services to adults who are homeless.

Projected Outcomes:

- Our day shelter will serve more than 750 different men and women a day, with close to 10,000 different people accessing shelter throughout the year.
- The St. Francis Center outreach team will have 7,500 encounters with homeless men and women, and connected many with shelter and emergency services.

Actual Outcomes:

- We provided shelter to 10,483 different guests, serving a daily average of 526 different people.
- Our outreach team had 8,175 encounters with homeless individuals in downtown Denver, helping hundreds access shelter, healthcare and emergency services.

Goal 2: To provide stabilizing services that help men and women end their homelessness.

Projected Outcomes:

- More than 1,200 men and women will receive employment services.
- The Wellness Team will provide high quality healthcare services to more than 500 different guests.
- More than 1,500 different men and women will receive help accessing resources such as birth certificates, bus tickets, transportation, and information/referrals through our Social Services staff.

Actual Outcomes:

- Employment Services served 1,615 different individuals and helped place people in 497 full-time jobs.
- The Wellness Team served 286 different guests, providing 830 different services.
- Social Services staff served 2,469 different individuals and provided over 5,500 different services.

Goal 3: To support men and women after they transition out of homelessness, helping them to continue to remain housed and meet goals for self-sufficiency.

Projected Outcomes:

- St. Francis Center will help 325 different people find or retain housing.
- Case managers will provide intensive support to residents in 120 units of housing.
- 90% of those receiving case management support will remain housed.

Actual Outcomes:

- St. Francis Center helped 403 different individuals find or retain housing.
- Case Managers provided intensive support to residents in 120 units of housing.
- 89% of those who received case management support across all SFC housing programs stayed either in supportive housing or moved on to other permanent housing arrangements.

A. Community Impact:

The Day Center continues to help hundreds of people every day with emergency services and with support to aid the transition out of homelessness. Grant funds helped us to keep a full schedule of hours and program services available, even during peak pandemic months, to meet what continues to be a growing need in the Denver Metro area. Funds also helped us continue to be a key collaborative partner with the Women's Homelessness Initiative to provide access and transportation to overnight shelter for women at area churches.

Collaborations:

St. Francis Center continues to maximize resources by seeking partnerships with outside groups and having those groups provide services on-site. On-site partnerships include:

On-Site Partner	Service
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)	Stout Street Clinic services operate at SFC. CCH also provides a benefits acquisition team at SFC
Mental Health America of Colorado	Provides on-site mental health counseling resources at St. Francis Center
Veterans Administration	Provides on-site services for veterans at SFC
Denver Department of Human Services	Provides on-site benefits acquisition services to guests

In addition, we work with many community partners beyond the shelter walls. We partner with the Women's Homelessness Initiative to provide transportation to and from local churches for overnight overflow shelter for women. We coordinate services with all area shelters through formal meetings and ongoing contacts. SFC also provides leadership to the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative and Denver's Road Home to coordinate with other agencies and reduce the number of people who are homeless in Denver.

B: Future Plans

We are celebrating our 38th anniversary in 2021 and are expecting to continue strong momentum in both private and public support partnerships. With the reconstruction of the Warren church property into the Saint Francis Warren Residences at 14th and Gilpin, we will enter into our next affordable housing offering with more developments pending in the upcoming years. Our staff numbers have grown into the 70's and we are managing the complexities of staff in multiple locations.

St. Francis Center's response to the pandemic has been unprecedented. The Center did not close or substantially modify operations in the face of the public health outbreak. SFC continues to survey the long term implications of post-pandemic operations. As SFC moves forward with future plans, we renew our commitment to meeting and assisting our guests at the intersection of need and hope.