

32nd Avenue Jubilee Center 2021 Annual Report to the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado



The Mission of the 32nd Avenue Center is to be welcoming, connecting and offering support to our Northwest Denver community.



The summer issue of the *Colorado Episcopalian* was a difficult yet cathartic article written about the Jubilee Center, its beginning and the history of service, a history that shared the blessings we offered to all who came through our doors, and the blessings that we have received from the countless numbers of individuals and families who have graced our doors. After 21 years of diligent work in Northwest Denver, the 32nd Avenue Jubilee Center is closing its doors the end of December, 2021.

The Jubilee Center has been a constant refuge for those who are among the least, the lost, and the lonely, particularly those who live “in the shadows” and who feel vulnerable on the streets and in our neighborhood which has rapidly gentrified and often does not greet those struggling with food and housing insecurities with loving kindness. Those seeking assistance have received the aid they needed with dignity and the love of Christ. It has been a place where each stranger has become a name, a face, a friend. It has been a place where the youth who were brought to the United States as children could find the financial support to apply for their DACA. Here is an overview:

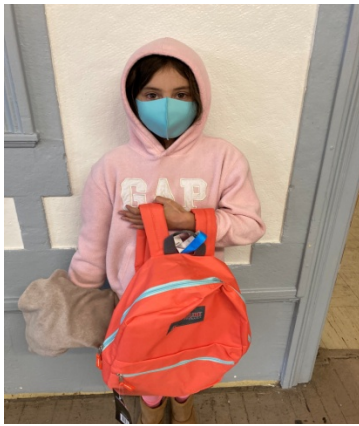
Youth Enrichment Programs:

The hallmark of the Jubilee Center has been the development of a learning environment for youth, particularly those at-risk and those with no educational support system at home. This was a huge challenge during the pandemic, particularly when students were not in the classroom and learning remotely. We found that most of our at-risk students were struggling academically. The support we offered was via any means of technology accessible to students: Zoom, Skype, email, texting and phone calls!

Our summer program (SEEK) was always a positive and productive opportunity to provide educational enrichment for our students. Focusing primarily on academics, the program worked to remediate and bring the students up to grade level before returning to school in the fall. In 2020, we could not hold our summer program. Rather, a weekly distribution of 500 to 600 pounds of food plus educational material and books were provided.



During 2021, our work continued much as it had in 2020 amid the Covid restrictions with an ongoing weekly food distribution and limited tutoring and educational support. We were able to hold our summer camp in a much different way. Dividing the youngster into age groups of not more than 12 children, we hosted six pods during an 8-week modified camp. We resumed learning and summer fun. Each family unit received about 75 pounds of food each week, and the students each received a week's-worth of breakfast and lunch bags of food and milk. At the end of the summer program, each student, plus many other students who could not attend the summer program, were the benefactors of backpacks filled with school supplies and books to take home and add to or start a library!



Immigration Advocacy

With restrictions imposed by the previous administration, our only opportunity to support “Dreamers” was to offer financial assistance for DACA renewals. This offer was accepted by three young people who are trying to get their education while working toward opportunities for themselves and their families and working toward their goal of citizenship. Our relationship with JAMLAC (Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic) and Colorado Catholic Charities helped provide free legal counseling and assistance to the young people we served.

Intake, Emergency and Referral Assistance

The intake desk, with modified application and contact, continues to assist those seeking food, shelter, supplies and fuel. We found that during the pandemic, many of our guests have been living in their cars and in need primarily of gas vouchers and emergency food. We provided referrals for utility and rent assistance, and we have continued our efforts to secure temporary, low income housing while working with clients to secure permanent housing.

Community Healthcare

As Covid restrictions loosened, the Jubilee Center could once again provide transportation vouchers for medical and social service appointments, pay prescription co-pays and send guests to get eye exams and eyeglasses, including those put on a waiting list. Referrals were also made for medical, mental health, and veteran’s services.

Board

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Thanksgivings

I am ever grateful for the support we have been provided by so many that it would be difficult to name everyone. However, I do want to thank the food support provided by the Food Bank of the Rockies, the school supplies and backpacks provided by A Precious Child, and our collaboration with Regis University. Over the years, Regis has provided both school year and summer interns to work with the education programs and support of our outreach efforts. We have also had numerous interns from Metropolitan State University, University of Denver, North High School, Standley Lake High School, and Arube High School. I am so appreciative of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church for their annual donations of Christmas gifts for the children, and the numerous Episcopal congregations, individuals and board members who have provided financial resources to keep our doors open, our programs vital and our opportunities to share God’s love in this little corner of the world. May God bless our next ventures!

The Rev. Jan Pearson, Deacon
 General Manager

