**2018 Report of Saint Francis Center to the 132nd Annual Convention**

**of the Diocese of Colorado—October 3-5, 2019**

*The mission of Saint Francis Center is to reveal God's love for humanity by providing a safe place*

*for people who are homeless in Metro Denver to meet their basic needs for day-to-day survival*

*while offering them assistance to transition out of homelessness.*

**Executive Summary**

Looking back on 2018, the work that was accomplished centered on the concepts of ***plan & provide***. The Center continues to grow and evolve to much more than a day shelter. The Center embarked on a 3 year strategic plan process, including input from our guests, the greater community, staff, volunteers and services partners. We are planning for all our major program areas: housing, employment, outreach, and day shelter. The plan forwarded three main goals: provider of choice, employer of choice, and funding stability/growth. The provider of choice goal requires that we be considered the “go to” helper to those experiencing homelessness. The employer of choice goal asks that St. Francis Center is an employer of the highest caliber and a destination of choice for human services employment.

The Center also continues to listen to the people being served and made great strides to incorporate trauma informed practices into the daily service model. Being trauma informed provides our organization the capacity to meet our guests in the best place to move them forward and away from the challenges of homelessness. All of the work accomplished in 2018 was made more complex by the political environment around Denver’s mayoral race and the ramifications of Initiative 300. Denver voters overwhelmingly opposed a push by Denver Homeless Out Loud to allow people to occupy public spaces in response to Denver’s affordable housing crisis. The Center opposed the initiative on humanitarian grounds knowing the effects of living outside on people’s mental health. The tension of this battle was felt by guests, volunteers and staff alike. Looking ahead to 2020, St. Francis Center will be celebrating our 37th anniversary of service to the Denver community and will be hoping to develop more affordable housing.

*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 14,500 encounters with homeless men and women, and connected many with shelter and emergency services.

**Actual Outcomes:**

* We provided shelter to 10,351 different guests, serving a daily average of 742 different people.
* Our outreach team had 7,836 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 health clinic will provide high quality healthcare services to more than 1,100 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.
* More than 90,000 units of clothing would be distributed.

**Actual Outcomes:**

* Employment Services served close to 2,020 different individuals and helped place people in 453 full-time jobs.
* The health clinic served 1,023 different guests, who visited the clinic over 2,000 times.
* Social Services staff served over 2,999 different individuals and provided over 5,340 different services.
* Guests visited the clothing room over 16,000 times, resulting in over 90,000 units of clothing being distributed.

*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 69 units of housing.
* 90% of those receiving case management support will remain housed.

**Actual Outcomes:**

* St. Francis Center helped 346 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.

1. **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 allow us to keep a full schedule of hours and program services available to meet what continues to be a growing need in the Denver Metro area. Efforts are also underway to increase essential service area (showers, clothing, mail, and storage) access by utilizing additional volunteer resources. 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 |
| Catholic Worker Soup Kitchen | Provides a meal twice a week for guests |
| 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. The Downtown Denver Partnership provides funding for street outreach, and Denver County’s workforce center system provides access to job listings. 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. SC 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

St. Francis Center currently utilizes 15,000 square feet of space at 1630 E. 14th Ave. for our Employment Services program, having occupied the building for the previous 10 years. The building is owned by the Methodist Conference, who earlier this year, approached St. Francis Center about purchasing the building.

Since April of 2019, St. Francis Center team has been meeting with representatives from City Council, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Warren Village, Denver’s Community Planning and Development Office and neighbors to talk through the proposed acquisition of the Warren United Methodist Church.

St. Francis Center is proposing a rehabilitation of the Church to allow for approximately 42 units of supportive housing for very low income individuals with a priority for people who are working or are ready to work. The program will help individuals on the path to self-sufficiency. Residents will pay no more than 30% of their income for rent. Each resident would have an individual bedroom, with a single bed, small desk, microwave, refrigerator and closet or storage space. Bathrooms, laundry and living/kitchen areas would be communal. The Center is hoping to acquire financing from public and private sources and hopes to close on the property by the end of 2019. Construction of the project would happen in 2020 with a move-in date of late 2020.