

**REPORT OF ST. RAPHAEL'S PLACE
TO THE 128TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF COLORADO—OCTOBER 1-3, 2015.**

The vision of St. Raphael's Place is to extend the family home as a Christian community where children will be loved, nurtured and encouraged to learn through play.

The mission of St. Raphael's Place is to

- minister to families with young children;
- nurture the whole child as a gift from God;
- nurture lasting relationships between St. Raphael's Episcopal Church and children's families as a means of Christian support;
- provide St. Raphael's Episcopal Church opportunities to strengthen its partnership with the local community; and
- be a resource for St. Raphael's Episcopal Church's congregational growth.

The Board and Staff Members are all parishioners of St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, Security.

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| President | The Rev. Christopher A. Johnson, D.Min. |
| Vice President | Sheri McGrew |
| Secretary | Irene Kornelly |
| Treasurer | Ella Nuss |
| Director | Debbie Johnson |
| Assistant Director | Sarah Anderson |

Executive Summary

St. Raphael's Place was incorporated as a Colorado nonprofit corporation with the State of Colorado in March of 2015. St. Raphael's Place will provide affordable childcare that is distinctively Episcopal for 15 children during its initial startup phase that will begin early 2016. The property used to introduce this program has been purchased by St. Raphael's Episcopal Church with the funding support of the Colorado Episcopal Foundation. The property is being rezoned with a Commercial Community designation and extensive renovations are being made that will bring the property into compliance with state, local and canonical guidelines as industry best practices are adopted by educators committed to the nurture of preschool age children in a Christian learning environment.

The Report Follows

In March of 2015, St. Raphael's Place was incorporated in the State of Colorado as a nonprofit corporation that is an institution of the diocese. St. Raphael's Place is a congregation's response to an identified community need. Beginning early 2016, St. Raphael's Place will provide quality affordable childcare for 15 pre-school age children. As a ministry opportunity, this action will provide a much needed interface between parishioners and local families with young children. Our goal will be to begin building a relationship with the children and their families as they come to St. Raphael's Place. The ministry of St. Raphael's Place will provide a foundation for a ministry for children that will go far beyond childcare. When these children graduate out of

preschool, the families will be part of an Episcopalian church family where they can be a part of a community and find mentors throughout their lives.

The property acquired to support this program provides more than 300 linear feet of Main Street visibility for the congregation that was not previously available. Financing for the purchase was made possible through the Colorado Episcopal Foundation. Development work during 2015 has included gutting the existing 1330 square foot building and clearing the adjoining 12,000 square foot vacant lot. The property has been surveyed and the rezoning process (from residential to commercial community status) is underway with anticipated approval from the Board of County Commissioners in October. Privacy fencing, a new playground and the renovation of the building will be completed this year. In the near future a building addition will be made expanding the capacity of the facility to accommodate 32 preschool age children. Most all of the property development will be performed by professional tradespeople connected with St. Raphael's and the support of numerous volunteers from the congregation.

Program and staff development plans have been overseen by the Director and Assistant Director to assure compliance with State and local regulations, church canons, and industry best practices. The Advisory Committee is comprised of educators who are committed to providing children with a learning environment that will not only include the typical reading and numbers skills, but also the learning of values important to instill in children at an early age. Honesty, respect, self-reliance, self-discipline, and moderation as well as dependability, love, kindness, friendliness, and fairness are values that will be taught to the children. Age appropriate daily Episcopal liturgy and Godly play will be incorporated into the schedule.

A total of \$25,000 has been pledged towards planned development costs amounting to approximately \$50,000. The remaining expenses are budgeted to be covered by special capital improvement resources held in trust by the congregation. So far, during the past year contributions amounting to \$18,675 have been raised, while \$12,350 has been invested in development expenditures. A \$1,493 Jubilee Ministry grant has just been received to support the capitalization of program resources needed. At the end of the day, we are anticipating that investment capital needed to fund the redevelopment of this property acquisition and to assure compliance with regulatory requirements will be met so that we can open our doors early next year.