



## *St. Clare's Ministries*

A Diocesan Institution and  
A Jubilee Ministry Center of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Colorado  
126 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Denver, CO 80223  
303-722-8781

### **Report of St. Clare's Ministries to the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado – October 5-7, 2023.**

**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.

#### **Executive Summary:**

St. Clare's Ministries operates in the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary every Tuesday evening 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Ten Episcopal Churches from the High Plains and Front Range Regions rotate volunteers once a month to cook, serve meals, and operate the clothing closet. Through August 2023, 524 volunteers have served 1,652 hours to serve 3,895 meals, averaging 111 meals and 53 guests to our clothing closet on a Tuesday evening. Since 2012, 11,657 volunteers have given 30,353 hours of their time to serve 76,717 meals to meet the needs of the homeless of Denver.

St. Clare's Ministries originated in the 1970's handing out sandwiches to those who asked for assistance. It grew to become the main outreach program of St. Peter and St. Mary, until the church could no longer support the ministry by itself. Other Episcopal churches from the two regions around Denver were recruited to help feed and clothe the homeless one night a week. In 2009, St. Clare's Ministries, a Jubilee Ministry, was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation and a Diocesan Institution.

St. Clare's clothing closet costs have increased in 2023 because of the demand for our services. In the seven months of 2023 our clothing closet has seen 1,588 visits by guests to access free clothes, toiletries, sleeping bags, blankets, and tarps during the cold months. Our member churches donate items from their parishioners, and we augment those donations by purchasing additional items from discount and thrift stores. During 2023 we received free coats from Coats for Colorado, free sleeping bags from Sleep Tight Colorado and lost and found items from Empower Field at Mile High. For the winter of 2022-2023, which was long,

cold and wet, St. Clare's Ministries gave out 293 blankets and 205 sleeping bags through June 2023. Our numbers for the upcoming winter are expected to be higher as another long, cold winter is expected.

### **Challenges and Successes:**

On July 17, 2023, new Denver Mayor Michael Johnston made an emergency declaration regarding the homeless population in Denver. On January 30, 2023, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative counted 9,065 homeless people in the Denver Region, a 31.7% increase over 2022. Since January 2020 homelessness has spiked 48.5% in the Denver Region. The need is great, and St. Clare's Ministries is doing what it can to offer short-term respite from the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, and the separation we feel from God and each other.

One of our continued challenges during 2023 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. St. Clare's Ministries has teamed up with Empower Field at Mile High, Sleep Tight Colorado, Coats for Colorado, and Dependable Cleaners to obtain donations of sleeping bags, coats, clothing, and other needed items for our guests. 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.

St. Clare's Ministries applied for and received grants from eight different organizations in 2023, including High Plains Region, Front Range Region, Christ Episcopal Church (Denver), St. John's Cathedral, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Colorado Episcopal Foundation, Anschutz Family Foundation and Oakes Home Trust. Our Board of Directors are working on the framework of our annual fundraiser for the fall of 2023.

Managing Director Elizabeth (Liz) Wolfert served with us from November 2020 through August 2023, when she stepped down to attend Iliff School of Theology in preparation for the priesthood. The Board of Directors hired Patrick Wilson to serve as our new Managing Director effective August 15, 2023. The Managing Director oversees the weekly operations with our incredibly talented volunteers from the ten participating churches in the High Plains Region and Front Range Region.

Our roster of excellent volunteer cooks plan and prepare the delicious, nutritious, and innovative menus. We have cooking teams from St. John's Cathedral, Christ the King and two from Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary. 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. 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 the church basement to help our guests find toiletries, underwear, socks, clothing, coats, hats, gloves, shoes, blankets and sleeping bags.

**2023 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. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Aurora; and Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary, Denver.

**2022 Operating Results:** Donations from churches: \$1,460; Donations from individuals and entities: \$11,466; Grants: \$45,840; Fundraising: \$11,724; Miscellaneous Income: \$400; Total Revenue: \$70,871. Expenses: Groceries: \$8,544; Clothing Closet: \$38,628; Other Direct Expenses: \$22,751; General and Indirect Expenses: \$5,668; Total Expenses: \$75,592; Deficit: \$(4,721). St. Clare's Ministries operated with volunteers serving the food and clothing, volunteer clergy, in kind food donations and clothing donations in 2022.

## **2023 YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY**

### **Programs and Services: January-August 2023:**

- Meals served (52 weeks of the year): 3,895, on pace for to serve over 5,800 meals in 2023
- Volunteers: 524, on pace for over 780 volunteers in 2023
- Volunteer hours: 1,652, on pace for over 2,400 volunteer hours
- Value of volunteer hours at: \$52,073, on pace for over \$78,100 in 2023 (valued at \$31.51 per hour)
- Cost per meal served: \$1.98
- Average meal cost per Tuesday (direct costs included): \$432
- Average clothing closet cost per Tuesday (direct costs included): \$1,178
- 165 blankets and 118 sleeping bags for a total of 283 distributed through June 2023. These numbers are included in the 2022-2023 Winter numbers.
- Cost per Tuesday for program services: \$1,741
- Cost per Tuesday for all expenses: \$1,873
- Percentage of all expenses paid for program services: 92.92%
- Program services include the meal services, clothing closet and church service (on hiatus due to Covid-19).

The volunteer Board of Directors for 2023 includes:  
Nathan Farr (Christ Episcopal Church - Denver), Chair  
Melissa Beach (St. Martin's in the Field - Aurora), Secretary  
Michael Wise (Calvary Church - Golden), Treasurer  
Patrick Wilson (St. Stephens - Aurora), Managing Director  
Stephanie Bryant (Christ's Episcopal Church - Castle Rock)  
Rev. Nadine Pope (Good Shepherd Episcopal Church - Centennial)

Susan Hall (Good Shepherd Episcopal Church - Centennial)  
Jazz Krebs (Good Shepherd Episcopal Church - Centennial)  
Mark Molello (Christ the King Episcopal Church – Arvada)

As always, St. Clare's is extremely appreciative of the kind support of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. Please contact us with any questions or requests for information.

Faithfully yours,

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**St. Clare's Ministries, at St. Peter and St. Mary Episcopal Church**



