



St. Clare's Ministries

A Diocesan Institution and
A Jubilee Ministry Center of the
Episcopal Diocese of Colorado
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Report of St. Clare's Ministries to the 135th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado – October 13-15, 2022.

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.

St. Clare's Ministries operates every Tuesday evening at the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary to offer spiritual nourishment, food, and clothing to the homeless and working poor of the Baker neighborhood in Denver, Colorado. The ministry is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board for 2022 includes John Putnam, Chair of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, (resigned May 2, 2022); Melissa Beach, Secretary of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church; Michael Wise, Treasurer of Calvary Episcopal Church; Liz Wolfert, Managing Director of St. John's Cathedral; Stephanie Bryant of Christ's Episcopal Church (CR); Nathan Farr of Christ Episcopal Church (Denver); Rev. Nadine Pope of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church; Susan Hall of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church; Mark Molello of Christ the King Episcopal Church; and Beverly Thomas of the Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary (resigned August 1, 2022).

Executive Summary: This ministry has evolved over the past 40+ years from handing out sandwiches in the Parish Hall to serving a full hot multi-course meal, preceded by a church service. In the fall of 2009, the ministry incorporated as a nonprofit under Colorado State Statutes. Many Episcopal parishes in Colorado support the ministry financially and with volunteers.

2020-2021 Covid-19: St. Clare's Ministries was open every Tuesday evening in 2020, 2021 and 2022. We did not miss a Tuesday evening meal during the two years of Covid-19. When Covid-19 hit Denver in mid-March 2020, St. Clare's had to comply with the guidelines issued regarding large group gatherings, buffet style meal services, social distancing and wearing masks. St. Clare's was declared an essential business for feeding the homeless and working poor of the Baker neighborhood. St. Clare's went back to its roots and started handing out free to go hot meals, toiletries, underwear, socks, clothing, blankets and sleeping

bags outside of the church. Initially, because most of our volunteers are over 65 years young, we had to stop the regular volunteer rotations from the churches and go with fewer younger volunteers and staff members. Through the end of August 2022 St. Clare's has served 2,784 meals by 427 volunteers in 1,326 hours.

St. Clare's has a Managing Director who runs the week-to-week coordination of volunteers from the fourteen churches that rotate through the ministry. She also greets and manages our guests each week. The church volunteer rotation was streamlined during the early months of 2021. Starting in April 2021, our over 65 vaccinated volunteers started to rotate back into the weekly rotation. St. Clare's Ministry has a policy of no alcohol, no drugs, and no weapons to make our ministry as safe and friendly as possible. In April 2022, St. Clare's Ministries returned to the parish hall for our food services and clothing closet. Our church services are still on hiatus because of Covid-19.

CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES: The homeless population is growing in metro Denver, in part due to Covid-19. One of our continued challenges during 2022 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 along with all the other belongings of our guests as they are taken away and never returned. St. Clare's Ministries has teamed up with Empower Field at Mile High to obtain donations of clothing and other needed items for our guests. We have teamed up with Sleep Tight Colorado to provide sleeping bags for our guests. We have teamed up with Coats for Colorado, Dependable Cleaners to provide coats for our guests during the winter months. 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.

For 2022, St. Clare's Ministries applied for and received grants from seven different organizations, 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 2022.

Managing Director Elizabeth (Liz) Wolfert has been with us since November 2020 and is doing a great job of managing the ministry. The Managing Director works with our volunteer Board of Directors in managing St. Clare's Ministries in 2022 in the weekly operations with our incredibly talented volunteers from all the participating churches in the High Plains Region and Front Range Region. The Managing Director and Board of Directors is working with the Diocese coronavirus pandemic guidelines to bring our ministry back inside the old church building and parish hall. The Board of Directors decide to return to the parish hall for the meal service and clothing closet in April 2022.

Our roster of excellent volunteer cooks plan, shop for 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 in 2022. 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. The cooks have been cooking hot meals for all the Tuesdays in 2022. 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 with to go handouts of toiletries, underwear, socks, clothing, coats, hats, gloves, shoes, blankets and sleeping bags.

Perspective of a homeless person in Denver, CO:

I just walked across town to get to 2nd Avenue and Acoma Street on a late Tuesday afternoon. I will now head west on 2nd Avenue under the big trees to the little church, Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary in the historic Baker neighborhood. As a homeless person, I will rest on the lawn under the trees until they open the red doors to let us into the courtyard and the plastic patio chairs to rest under a canopy until they open at 4:30PM. At the appointed time St. Clare's Ministries, opens the doors and the volunteer greeter puts my name on a list to visit the clothing closet downstairs. While I wait for the clothing closet, I head upstairs in the parish hall and receive a plate full of free food from a volunteer in the kitchen and I find a seat at one of the six tables in the hall. They have self-serve drinks to go with the meal. After I have eaten my multi-course hot meal, I get called to go downstairs to the clothing closet in the basement of the parish hall. I go down the two flights of stairs and am greeted by a volunteer who gives me a mask to wear and a plastic bag to shop with. I go to the back of the hall and pick out free one of each type of clothing, (jeans, shirts, sweatshirts, coats, shoes, hats, etc.) I go to the toiletries closet and get new underwear, a toiletry bag, new socks, a towel, and sign up for a blanket. Sleeping bags are available starting in September for the winter. With my shopping done for a change of clean clothes and a full stomach, they offer seconds on the meal, I rest in the courtyard and visit with my friends until they close at 6:30 PM and we must leave until next Tuesday.

2022 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; Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary, Denver; St. Philip and St. James Episcopal Church, Denver; St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Centennial; The Church of the Holy Redeemer, Denver.

2021 Operating Results: Donations from churches: \$2,210; Donations from individuals and entities: \$7,930; Grants: \$47,260; Miscellaneous Income: \$4,418; Total Revenue: \$61,818. Expenses: Groceries: \$6,867; Clothing Closet; \$29,103; Other Direct Expenses: \$16,942; General and Indirect Expenses: \$3,660; Total Expenses: \$56,572; Donation to St. Peter and St. Mary: \$1,700 Surplus: \$3,546. St. Clare's Ministries operated with volunteers serving the food and clothing, volunteer clergy, in kind food donations and clothing donations in 2021.

2022 YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY

Programs and Services: January-August 2022:

Supper available every Tuesday, 52 weeks a year, during the pandemic and after. Number of meals served: 2,874, on pace for to serve over 4,200 meals in 2022.

Number of volunteers: 427, on pace for over 680 volunteers in 2022.

Number of volunteer hours: 1,326, on pace for over 2,000 volunteer hours in 2022.

Value of volunteer hours at \$30.31 per hour = \$40,191, on pace for over \$60,286 in 2022.

Value of clergy volunteer services: \$600. For 2022, the church service is on hiatus due to Covid-19.

Cost per meal served: \$1.95

Average meal cost per Tuesday: \$343 with direct costs included.

Average clothing closet cost per Tuesday: \$771 with direct costs included.

2021-2022 Winter Months: 157 blankets and 225 sleeping bags for a total of 382 distributed.

2022 through July 31, 2022: 81 blankets and 139 sleeping bags for a total of 220 distributed, these numbers are included in the 2021-2022 Winter numbers.

Cost per Tuesday for program services: \$1,223.

Cost per Tuesday for all expenses: \$1,320.

(Inflation and lack of clothing donations during the Covid years has caused an increase in program costs.)

Percentage of all expenses paid for program services: 92%

Program services include the meal services, clothing closet and church service (on hiatus due to Covid-19).

Summary of St. Clare's Ministries accomplishments:

Additional perspective on the good work that St. Clare's Ministries has done in the historic Baker neighborhood for the homeless and working poor. From 2012 to August 2022, 10,912 volunteers from many churches have served 71,231 free hot multi-course meals in 27,987 volunteer hours. That is over 6,600 free meals a year for 10 and half years. From 2017 to July 2022 St. Clare's Ministries has handed out free 1,284 blankets and 984 sleeping bags to the homeless of the Baker neighborhood. That is over 220 free blankets and 175 free sleeping bags a year for five and a half years. In 2022, St. Clare's Ministries is building back up

its guest population after being outside because of the Covid-19 pandemic for two years.

Photos of the St. Clare's Community facilities before guests arrive: