A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We will never pass this way again. That is what we hope for the year 2020. It was a year of great suffering and fear. For SFC, it was that, and it was a witnessing to generosity, compassion, and care for one another. As COVID-19 cases began to rise in March and as more protections were put in place, SFC did not close its doors. Our guests needed and depended on us.

Throughout those many months our guests continued to rely on us and to thank us.

Our staff has been in the forefront during these months, offering heroic service. Some have contracted COVID-19, went home to recover, and then returned and continued to serve. We sent our volunteers home in March, with some returning at the end of 2020. Many members of our SFC family have reached out with supplies, lunches, and money to support our increased needs.

One of the impacts of the epidemic has been the loss of jobs, leading to a loss of income for people to pay their rent or their mortgage. The social services office at SFC has helped numerous people save their housing by helping them to pay their rent for, in some cases, three or four months.

This past year also gave me a deeper understanding of our guest’s lives. Many who experience homelessness are constantly living on the edge of life or death, with fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. I now feel a bit more of their experience.

While this year has been devastating, it has also been a time of great compassion. Everyone who had a home went home to stay safe. Thank you to those who never locked the doors of your hearts and continued to care and minister to our community members without homes.

Tom Luehrs
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2020

Fundraising and Financial Resources

REVENUES

11% Gifts In-Kind
13% Foundations
26% Individuals, Businesses, Churches, and Others

50% Government Grants

90% Day Center, Employment, Housing & Outreach Services

EXPENDITURES

3% G&A
7% Fundraising
12% Foundations
14% Gifts In-Kind

34% Individuals, Businesses, Churches, and Others

40% Government Grants

2019

REVENUES

12% Foundations
14% Gifts In-Kind
34% Individuals, Businesses, Churches, and Others

40% Government Grants

90% Day Center, Employment, Housing & Outreach Services

EXPENDITURES

7% G&A
3% Fundraising
6% G&A

40% Government Grants

As a multi-service organization, St. Francis Center focuses its efforts in four key areas: day shelter to meet immediate, basic needs; permanent, supportive housing and case management; employment services including offering specialized career training to ex-offenders; and outreach to our unhoused community members.

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Despite the risks, over 100 volunteers remained on the front lines during the pandemic, providing refuge for guests in a year of shutdowns. Sixty of these individuals were new volunteers, together contributing nearly 7,000 hours. Although many of our volunteers couldn’t be with us in person, many continued to support in whatever way they could – donating financially, stepping into new virtual volunteer roles, bringing essential items for the guests, and keeping guests and staff in their thoughts and prayers. To each of our volunteers, however you have continued supporting SFC and its guests – thank you for making this work possible.

St. Francis Center provides valuable services that fill a niche in the homeless continuum of care. While there are overnight bed shelters and places that provide meals to people who are homeless, St. Francis Center has daytime hours when resources are most available for those seeking opportunities for self-sufficiency. Details about our four core programs - Employment Services, Day Center Services, Housing Services, and Outreach Services - are found below:

For the past two years, St. Francis Center’s Employment Services Team served 3,447 different people, providing help with state ids, birth certificates, bus tickets, long distance phone calls, local transportation, payee services, and information/referrals.

Participants in the Employment Services program come from St. Francis Center’s Day Center program, drug and alcohol programs, parole and corrections transition services, and other community organizations.

St. Francis Center’s Outreach Program serves people who are experiencing homelessness and congregating in visible areas in Downtown Denver, such as on the E. Colfax corridor, surrounding parks, and hidden campsites not intended for human habitation.

The primary focus for the Outreach Team is to build relationships with those living on the streets, with the goal of honoring one’s humanity, increasing one’s resiliency and capacity to value and believe in oneself, stabilizing medical, mental health, and living situations; Establishing opportunities for substance treatment and employment.

Day Center Services at St. Francis Center offer individuals a compassionate, judgment-free environment to help address immediate needs, such as access to telephones, a mailing address, storage facilities, clothing, showers, and bathroom facilities. These services are often the first step toward connecting individuals with other resources that are available on-site and off-site, including physical and mental health services, housing referrals, job readiness and placement, veterans’ services, and more.

In 2020, 403 different individuals found or retained 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.

Volunteers

St. Francis Center’s Housing Program operates two permanent housing facilities for formerly homeless individuals and families - Cornerstone and Saint Francis Apartments at Cathedral Square - and a seniors’ permanent supportive housing program for 26 individuals 55 years of age or older who have a disabling condition. Beyond helping people physically move into housing, the Housing Program Team provides case management and support to ensure that residents will be successful by connecting them with resources such as healthcare, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

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