

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION
Report to Diocesan Convention
November 2024

Overview/Mission

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) was founded by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in 1954, and our mission is “providing support, hope, and healing to children in the juvenile justice system.” ECM provides services in juvenile detention centers in St. Louis City and County to support the spiritual, emotional, and mental wellbeing of the children held there. ECM employs chaplains who support the children through non-denominational pastoral care and a ministry of presence. Chaplains come from a variety of Christian denominations and are trained to meet the needs of the children, regardless of the child’s religious background. All interactions with chaplains are strictly voluntary, and no attempt is made to change a child’s basic faith orientation.

Children detained in St. Louis juvenile detention facilities range in age from 11 to 17, with an average age of 15. The majority are African American/Black males, and approximately 10% are female. Children certified as adults and placed into the adult justice system remain in the juvenile detention center while they await trial.

ECM services include:

- Non-denominational pastoral care, one-on-one conversations, a calm, and a caring presence
- Ecumenical chapel services, bible study, faith-based discussion groups
- Words of Wisdom (WoW) Talk Cafés – a program designed to cultivate emotional intelligence in youth through peer-to-peer conversations guided by our chaplains
- Monthly birthday parties hosted by Episcopal parishes and other community groups
- Goodie bags and presents for holidays like Easter and Christmas

Successes & Challenges

Episcopal City Mission received a grant from the St. Louis County Children’s Services Fund to provide Words of Wisdom (WoW) Talk Cafés to children in the St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center. ECM chaplains who work in the County Detention Center received training in leading WoW Talk Cafés, and so far, two five-week sessions have been held. The program aims to improve the emotional intelligence of children in five key areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship management, and responsible decision-making. The current grant for WoW Talk Cafés only applies to St. Louis County, but we hope to expand the program into St. Louis City as well.

This spring, the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center re-opened to volunteers, allowing ECM to resume hosting in-person monthly birthday parties. Our birthday parties have been a core part of ECM’s ministry for decades, and they allow the children to feel special and celebrated. Since the resumption of in-person volunteering, the children have enjoyed interacting with ECM volunteers and playing party games.

This winter, the board began a new strategic planning process and approved it in August. Committee members met with an external consultant to create a vision for what ECM will look like over the next five years. Board members, advisory council members, chaplains, and detention center staff were interviewed on their experiences and opinions on ECM as part of the process so that feedback from all groups could be incorporated into the new plan. Some of our new goals include expanded services to youth and more robust outcome tracking.

ECM implemented several technology upgrades this spring and summer:

- We received an in-kind donation from World Wide Technology of several laptops and computer monitors. These new laptops give the organization more flexibility in respect to location and access to files.
- ECM acquired new email addresses which allows branding to be more consistent across the organization. All ECM staff now have an @ecitymission.org email address.
- ECM upgraded to a new, cloud-based donor database platform. The new platform allows us to access and edit our database more easily. We will also be able to coordinate all of our events and fundraisers through this single platform going forward.
- We migrated to a new payroll processing system in August. Our payroll data is now cloud-based, and hours can be entered more efficiently. With this change, ECM is now able to spend more time on programming and fundraising rather than admin.

Events and Fundraising

We are grateful to everyone who attended ECM events and/or donated this year.

- Moment in Time Gala: Last year's Moment in Time Gala was sold out for the first time ever. The event was held on October 19th at the Forest Park Golf Clubhouse, and it raised over \$100,000. Guests enjoyed dinner, a live auction, and a keynote address from Dr. Gerald Early.
- Holiday Gift Wrapping Party: Our gift-wrapping party happened on December 18th at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Volunteers from our partner parishes wrapped presents to distribute to the children in the detention centers.
- Annual Meeting: ECM's Annual Meeting was held on February 29th at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. New board members were elected, and the 2024 budget was approved.
- Give STL Day: On May 9th, ECM received \$1,700 from 19 donors through the online GiveSTL event.
- Rockwell Society Reception: On May 16th, some of our most generous donors joined us at the LiUNA Event Center to socialize and hear about the work that ECM is doing. Speakers included Executive Director Nathan Ivy, Board Chair Mary Ann Moore, and Bishop Deon Johnson.

Funding

ECM funding primarily comes from individual donors and congregations. We also receive funding from the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and various grants and funds. We are deeply grateful to everyone who have financially supported Episcopal City Mission.

Staff

ECM's current staff includes:

- Executive Director – Nathan Ivy
- 3 Chaplains - The Rev. Kevin Aldridge, The Rev. Deborah Burris, and Minister Norman Malloyd Jr
- Office Manager – Leslie Nickerson
- Erin Pickergill In-kind donation of staff time from the Diocese

Board

The responsibility of the Board is to support ECM's goals, plan for its future, and be an ambassador of its mission to the wider community. Members serve three-year terms, meet every other month, and support our events and fundraisers. The Right Reverend Deon Johnson is President (ex officio); Mary Ann Moore serves as Chair, Joshua Schafer as Treasurer, and Elizabeth Hines as Secretary. This year, two new members were elected to the Board: Harry Moppins, and The Very Rev. Shug Goodlow. Other members

are Steve Alagna, The Rev. Tom Albinson, Donna Baudendistel, Steve Crock, Lisa Gould, Tim Grosch, Elizabeth Hines, Leanne Rahe, and Pam Stanfield.

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