

Providing Hope & Healing for Children in the Juvenile Justice System

NEWSLETTER November 2017



Touching Lives with Hope and Healing

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) held its 14th annual Moment in Time (MIT) Gala on October 12th at Greenbriar Hills Country Club in

Kirkwood, MO. Attendees were entertained by pianist, Roy Pennington, during the opening reception. Immediately following, guests enjoyed a delicious dinner topped off with tasty mini-desserts! The Rt. Rev. G. Wayne Smith spoke after dinner, providing inspirational words about the work of ECM's chaplains in the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Rick Gaines, our keynote speaker, began his presentation by talking about his work in St. Louis County's 21st Judicial Circuit, where he was appointed the Chief Juvenile Officer (CJO) in March of 2017. Prior to this appointment, Rick worked for 30 years in various positions in Missouri's 13th Judicial Circuit Court, which includes Boone and Callaway counties.

Rick spoke about the changes taking place nationwide in how juveniles are handled in today's Family Courts. In an effort to ensure that youth are not inappropriately or unnecessarily detained in secure detention, the St. Louis County Family Court is involved in a national and statewide project entitled the *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative* (JDAI).



Rick Gaines

As part of JDAI, the Court is committed to working collaboratively with community members and stakeholders to improve long term outcomes for youth. More intentional focus is placed on detention admissions decisions, case processing procedures, the availability and utilization of alternatives to secure detention, conditions of confinement, and using graduated responses to address probation violations. These efforts assist in reducing racial, ethnic, and gender disparities within the system.

ECM is honored to be part of the JDAI Collaborative Team. Beth Goad, our executive director, is serving on the Conditions of Confinement Committee as a community stakeholder.



ECM introduced its newly updated video at MIT! The video now includes all three of our chaplains, along with shots of the new county detention center in Clayton. You can watch the video on the homepage of our website, ecitymission.org.

In addition, take a moment and look at the new bio videos of the chaplains which you can access by clicking on the *Who We Are* tab and then *Chaplains & Staff*.



Elizabeth (Beth) Goad, Executive Director Angela Breeher, Development Assistant

CHAPLAINS The Rev. Kevin Aldridge The Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker Mr. Jeff Fabbiano

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2017 HAPPENINGS

ECM has been blessed in 2017 with several new endeavors that help us spread our mission and promote our work. Some of these are:

- Launched a new ECM website that better represents what ECM does and the children we serve. Please take a look at ecitymission.org.
- Revised the ECM video to include our current chaplains and video of the new St. Louis County Detention Center, which was introduced at the 2017 Moment in Time, and is posted on our new website. Also take a look at the new "bio videos" of our chaplains under the *About Us* tab.
- Contracted with a Grant Writer to assist in grant applications and research new grant opportunities. So far, we have been able to apply to more foundations and will find out the results in late December!



Happy 12th Birthday to

SUMMER CELEBRATION

The 2017 Summer Celebration was held on Friday, June 23rd at Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood. Once again, it was a family-friendly fundraiser, but this year it was a 12th Birthday Celebration for Summer Celebration.

The event was designed to honor the 12th year for Summer Celebration and to replicate ECM's monthly Birthday Parties at the County and City Detention Centers. Once a month, ECM volunteers from sponsoring churches gather on a Friday night to celebrate birthdays of the youth we serve. Like the birthday parties, Summer Celebration this year included the food and games provided to the youth! Attendees enjoyed:

- Pizza
- Birthday Cake
- Ted Drewes Custard
- Bingo

Bingo game winners were provided candy and gift selections as prizes. In addition, attendees were provided several great silent auction items, such as Cardinals baseball tickets.



ECM hopes attendees this year enjoyed the new theme and will join us and others at the 2018 Summer Celebration for great food and bingo!

ECM SERVING MORE YOUTH IN NEW PLACES

ECM continues to explore ways to serve more children in the juvenile justice system. While still serving children in the St. Louis City and County Detention Centers, our chaplains are now serving youth in Missouri Hills, a Missouri Division of Youth Services facility, and adult-certified juveniles being held in the St. Louis City and County Justice Centers.

There are hundreds of children committed to Missouri DYS facilities. Many of the children in DYS already have relationships with ECM chaplains due to their time at the St. Louis City and County Detention Centers. Providing chaplains to the children in DYS facilities fits within our mission and we are currently providing two chaplains to work with one group of boys (Chaplain Kevin) and one group of girls (Chaplain Dietra) at Missouri Hills, a DYS facility that currently houses about 70 young men and women.

Already this year, ECM has provided hip hop concerts at the Detention Centers and Missouri Hills. The next concert will be held in December as part of our holiday celebration for the children we serve!



Please continue to pray for the youth we currently serve and those we hope to serve in the near future.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Missouri Hills campus of the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) is located

in Fort Belle Fontaine County Park, which is part of the St. Louis County park system and is 305.6 acres in size. This county park is bordered by the Missouri River, Coldwater Creek and the Missouri Hills Campus.

Please help Episcopal City Mission continue one of our greatest traditions

ECM believes that children in the juvenile justice system should know the magic of the holiday season. With your help, ECM wants to make sure that all the youth we serve have at least one gift to unwrap. This year we hope to provide about 100 children in detention and DYS with gifts!

The message they receive is the true gift: someone cares about them and believes they can change their life paths.

Please see the back cover of this newsletter for how you can help!

MATCHING __GIFTS

Does your employer match your donations to organizations like ours?

You can double your impact by using your employer's donation matching program!

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

ECM makes sure that the children in detention receive at least one wrapped gift during the holidays.

The message these children receive from the Holiday Gift Program is that someone cares about them and believes they can change the path of their lives.

You are invited to help us wrap gifts for the children!

Monday, December 18

11:00 am to 1:30 pm Emmanuel Episcopal Church

A light lunch is provided. Please RSVP 314.436.3545 or ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com

Holiday Wish List for the Youth in Detention

★GIFT CARDS

Amazon Target Walmart

Dick's Sporting Goods

★GAMES

Sorry

Monopoly Connect 4

UN0

High Quality Chess Sets

100 to 500 Piece Jigsaw Puzzles * ACTIVITY BOOKS

Word Search Books
(No Sudoku or Crossword)

Coloring Books and Crayons

Composition Notebooks

★ OTHER

Individually Wrapped Candy

(No Lollipops or Gum)

PG-13 or Younger DVDs

Large Bottles of Shampoo



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