



EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION FACT SHEET

“The children need us to be there.”

Who We Are: For over 65 years, the ECM chaplains have been available to listen, console and support the youth detained by the juvenile courts in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Our interactions are always non-sectarian, and the children participate voluntarily in our programs.

Our Mission: To provide support, hope and healing to the children in the juvenile justice system.

Our History: In 1894, we began providing support and comfort to those confined to the St. Louis City public hospitals. In 1954, we organized as the Episcopal City Mission with a focus on troubled young people. Today, ECM continues to provide hope and healing to youth in the juvenile justice system in St. Louis City and County.

What We Provide to Young People in the Juvenile Justice System:

- A ministry of presence through our chaplains who, combined, serve about 72 hours per week in the juvenile facilities. Eating meals with the youth, spending time with them, playing basketball, letting them know someone cares and being there for them if they want to talk is at the heart of a chaplain's service. The chaplains provide a stable and caring relationship of compassion and guidance.
- Individual spiritual guidance, offering faith-based models for living including chapel services, bible study, hip-hop faith concerts, etc.
- The opportunity to have a confidential conversation with an ECM chaplain.
- Discussion groups covering current topics, i.e., gun violence, sex trafficking, grief/loss, etc.
- Self-esteem and healthy-relationship programs.

How Young People Benefit From ECM: Studies show that the more exposure children have to positive, adult role models, the less likely they are to demonstrate at-risk behaviors and negative choices.

Support from juvenile center directors

Kellie Landaker, retired Director, St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center: *“I am extremely grateful for all that ECM does for the kids. The kids and staff at the Juvenile Detention Center absolutely love ECM.”*

Cheryl Campbell, retired Director, St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center: *“ECM programs challenge our residents to reach out and care for others and be able to set goals that will enhance their futures. These kids know that they have someone on their side that cares about them and is not getting paid by the court to be here.”*

Nathan Graves, Court Administrator, St. Louis City Family Courts: *“It is invaluable to have the chaplain be available when a youth has learned bad news or just needs someone to listen to them.”*

Deborah Woodside, retired Director, St. Louis County Delinquency Services: *“Your Board members recognized the direct correlation between the losses these children have experienced and their self-destructive and unlawful behavior, and generously authorized a grief group for them. The children who participated in the group now have the ability to cope with their catastrophic losses and challenging life situations in a healthier and more productive manner.”*

Episcopal City Mission
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