



A New Chapter Built on Hope & Healing

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) hosted its first virtual event on October 8 with the theme, "A New Chapter Built on Hope and Healing." As with many things in 2020, the Coronavirus required us to be more creative and go to a virtual format.

Thank you to all of you who registered and attended the VIP Experience and the main Gala event! We are also extremely grateful for our event and auction sponsors, along with those who made donations even if they were unable to attend. Our first virtual event raised over \$70,000!



Brian Owens

The VIP experience held prior to the gala featured the music of Brian Owens, an outstanding local artist, performer, and a young man committed to the youth of St. Louis. He and his colleagues provided beautiful music, along with a song written and performed by a young man mentored by Brian. In addition, Brian shared his experience working with the children and staff at the County Detention Center. He spoke about the importance of ECM's work and encouraged attendees to support ECM's work.

The main gala event started with a warm, live welcome by our mistress of ceremonies, Ann Marie Ruhlin. She guided our attendees through their virtual experience and live auction bidding with auctioneer, Fletcher Lane. Our attendees were able to communicate with everyone and bid on live auction items using the "chat" feature on Zoom, while silent auction items were bid on via a mobile phone application.

Mark Jordan, the ECM Board chair, opened the gala with comments about the vision of ECM and how ECM is preparing for "a new chapter built on hope and healing." He stated the juvenile justice system is evolving, and ECM is evolving with it. The Family Courts now detain fewer youth, while serving others under court supervision in the community. ECM in 2019 moved into community-based chaplaincy where we provide programming such as grief and loss groups to "court-involved" children who are living in the community with parents or in residential homes. The children in the detention centers today are those who are detained for more serious offenses or allegations.



The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

Following Mark's comments, attendees were blessed by an inspirational keynote speech from The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Bishop Deon spoke eloquently using the "starfish on the beach parable" as a comparison to the work done by ECM chaplains with children in the juvenile justice system. The way we can make the best – and probably most profound – change to help humanity, is just with one child (or starfish) at a time. He spoke about his experience working with the national church on the "school to prison pipeline," a process of criminalizing youth that is carried out by disciplinary policies and practices within schools that put students into contact with law enforcement. Bishop Deon stressed his support of ECM and the children we serve.

MIT would not be complete without a story by an ECM chaplain. However, the virtual format provided us the opportunity to provide a mission moment video providing firsthand experiences from chaplains, court volunteers and a detention supervisor. The stories shared the hearts and minds of the children we serve, along with their challenges. We hope these stories help our supporters better understand the children and how ECM chaplains provide support, hope and healing to the children.

Blessings to all of you as we enter the holiday season!



*Episcopal City Mission
2020 Virtual Gala*

A Special Thank You

The planning and implementing of a virtual event could not have been successful without a great deal of creativity and hard work! We must thank the following persons for delivering an entertaining and successful event:

- Mistress of Ceremonies – Ann Marie Ruhlin
- MIT Committee – Angela Breeher, Chaplain Deborah Burris, Beth Goad, Jane Mayfield, and Karen Sharp
- Fundraising consultants at Divine Events – Aaren Muex, Lorna B. Nash, and Morgan Douty

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Donation Options for Supporting ECM

Your contributions allow us to help every child detained or court-involved in the St. Louis Juvenile Justice System who seeks spiritual help. Please consider one of the following donation options:

1. Gifts in Honor or Memory of Friends and Family

- Do you have someone on your holiday list that has everything? If so, please consider donating in honor of that person.
- ECM will send an acknowledgement to the honoree directly or to you for presenting to the honoree.
- The acknowledgement will say: "A generous gift has been given by (donor's name) in your honor to Episcopal City Mission."

2. Matching Gifts

- Does your employer match your donations to organizations like ours?
- If so, you can double your impact by using your employer's donation matching program!

3. Stock Donation

- As the year comes to an end, you may consider donating stock to ECM.
- ECM can accept stock into our US Bank brokerage account.
- Please contact Beth Goad (ECM executive director) at the ECM office: 314-436-3545 or ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com for more information.

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EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION

Providing Hope & Healing for Children
in the Juvenile Justice System

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For everyone's safety, this year's Gift Wrapping Party will not take place. We certainly will miss everyone who participates and all the fun, but we'll be back next year even stronger - God willing!

2020 HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

The Tradition Continues!

Episcopal City Mission believes every child should know the magic of the holiday season, including those in St. Louis' Juvenile Detention Centers. It's especially important this year when the children are allowed NO visitors! With your help, every child in detention will have at least one gift to unwrap. The message they receive is the true gift: They are beloved children of God, someone cares, and there is hope for a better life!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Provide gift cards to purchase what is needed for the children in the juvenile facilities.

★ **TARGET | WALMART | AMAZON | OLD NAVY** ★

Gift cards help us make sure each child receives exactly the same item and allows us to shop holiday sales.

Provide an item for the children:

Playing Cards

Jigsaw Puzzles (100, 200, 500 pieces)

Coloring Books & Crayons (Super Hero & Teen-themed)

Black ONLY Composition Notebooks for Journaling (No spiral/wire binding)

Word Search Books (no wire/spiral binding, no Sudoku, no Crosswords)

Individually Wrapped Candy (No bubble gum or lollipops, please)

Children's-version Bible Trivia

Leave the shopping to us and send a check! No gift is too small, and there's no deadline. Please note "Holiday Gifts" in the memo.

ECM will pick up donations from your church through Thursday, December 10.

This holiday season—share the LOVE and bring HOPE and HEALING to the children in detention!