



LOCK UP IS OPENING UP

PROGRAMS ARE BACK!!

**Clayton, MECC, Farmington
and Potosi are open to volunteers**

City Justice Center requires a 2-day training; the staff also needs a lot of love and patience as they reopen programs.

Having already connected with their women's unit, I can tell you it is worth it.

TCSTL- needs regular bible study and men's prayer groups with a focused-on sobriety. Open computer labs, night classes and journaling.

If you are interested in any of these
Contact Lylan@cjmstlouis.org
314-887-1071

STAY CONNECTED

As we're continuing to evolve our volunteer programming, stay connected and check out the latest opportunities with CJM. The blurb to the right further details program statuses, but a full listing and sign-up form for current positions can be found [here](#).

CLEANING TIPS FROM MWH



Mission welcome home is a unique volunteer experience that combines both service and community. Deep Clean and stage R2R client apartments with friends and parish members or bring a meal to a new R2R client.

The beautiful part about cleaning with so many volunteers is learning tips and tricks from each other. So naturally, we just had to share this new favorite cleaning hack.

Baking Soda and Hydrogen Peroxide.

While some people will use this on their teeth (I don't recommend this) This natural and safe cleaner is extremely impressive when it comes to combating the nastiest grime stuck on stains. I have found the best method is to make a paste directly on the stain you are working on.

Fast oven cleaning.

Pile the baking soda on the center of the worst stain. Then pour fresh hydrogen peroxide over the stain to create a paste and spread across the area you want to clean. Then allow it to sit for 15 to 30 minutes depending on how bad the stain has been sitting. Then take a brush or an SOS pad and move in circular motions to remove the stuck on grime.

We have now used this on several neglected oven and even, bath tubs that had pink mold. Do you crave a fun easy going volunteer experience. Like to clean? Are you a HomeChef? Email Lyla Lylan@cjmstlouis.org

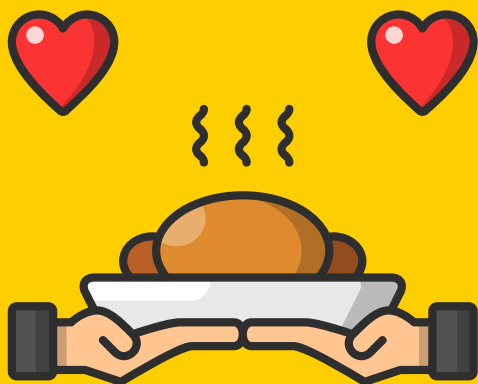
PROGRAM, EVENT, AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

TOGETHER



**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED PEOPLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
IN FACT, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.” ~ MARGARET MEAD**

The VIP (Volunteers In Prison) program was created to unite and support Catholic or CJM volunteers serving in one of 17 institutions. Currently, CJM is working to connect with every institutional volunteer and gather information about their service. If you know of anyone serving in this capacity, please reach out to Lylan@cjmstlouis.org or call 314-887-1071. Meetings are currently held via Zoom May, 1st. Time to be decided.



Potluck Lunches are Back!

March 6th at Saint Vicent De Paul.

Break Bread with your CJM neighbors

Share your favorite meals, eat laugh and connect with clients.
Meet a new friend and celebrate community.

To sign up click [here](#)



Celebrate Earth Day with Us

Dutchtown SPRING FLING

April 22nd and April 23rd morning

Bring your gardening tools and join in on the fun at
4200 Block at Virginia Ave sign up [here](#)

Events

April 22nd and April 23rd Dutchtown Spring Fling

May 1st - First VIP Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM

May 6th from 1 to 3 Potluck Lunch with Clients

June 1st 6 to 9 CJM's Recognition

June 19th Volunteer Continued Education

August 8th Volunteer and Client Appreciation

SAVE THE DATE

CJM RECOGNITION DINNER

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

When I was in prison, you visited me-

Matthew 25: 36

**Driving Home From Potosi:
a reflection by Tom Cummins**

In May, 2001, I began the privilege of serving as a lay Catholic chaplain to offenders in the lockdown units at the Potosi Correctional Center. I approached the volunteer assignment with some humility and a whole lot of trepidation. But what I would like to share are my thoughts driving home from my first day of visits.

I had never seen a human being locked in a box before that morning of May 2. And what echoed in my mind was what Jesus says in Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me." In my incarnational theology, am I encountering the Real Presence locked in that room, that cell? In my parish church, and in all the other parish churches I have attended, there is also a place where we have "locked up" the Real Presence: the tabernacle. Ornate, artistic, full of symbols, tabernacles are prominent on the altars in our worship space. Consecrated hosts, the Body of Christ, are kept there safe and secure.

Is, then, the locked prison cell or room I approach a rude tabernacle? My heart tells me no; it's much more. We believe that in the consecrated host the Body of Christ is sacramentally present under the appearance of bread. But there is something most profound when the Body of Christ is under the appearance of a human being; a human being who suffers and speaks of that suffering; a human being who hopes and prays and asks you to share in a discussion of those hopes and prayers; a human being looking through the mere slit of a window in the adjacent door and asking if he can talk with you next. Yes, the Real Presence on the other side of the locked door in Potosi is a presence here and now, alone now, suffering now, a child of God in the flesh, an embodiment of the Word. What a privilege to approach that altar.

We in Criminal Justice Ministry are called to be a Christ-like presence for those who are incarcerated, to show another way of being, to reveal an unconditional love, to be a non-critical, non-judgmental listener to the cries of the afflicted. The dialectical tension in this ministry is that Christ is working both sides of the locked door. Each of us, the offender and the minister, is a mediator of God's dwelling within us, within the conversation, within the dynamics of the setting, within the entire criminal justice system. And all of this is being played out within Jesus' command in John 15:12 "love one another, as I have loved you."

My ministry at Potosi has just begun. I hope and pray for two things: that I don't become intimidated by the persistent context of oppression, and that I don't become callous to the stories and the individual cases. It will take prayer and God's grace to avoid these two traps, either of which could render me ineffective as an instrument of God's work in building the reign.

T. W. Cummins, June 24, 2001

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Tom Cummins has been volunteering with CJM for nearly 20 years. He took a short break when the world shut down and started again recently ministering to Potosi inside Death Row and the Special Needs Unit. Tom shared these beautiful words with me to inspire others to visit our justice-involved neighbors. As I reflect on this Last Holy week, I think about our Savior's incarceration and the time he asked us to visit him.

May Your Easter be filled with Love.

Have a story you want to share? Questions? Concerns? Please email us! Lylan@cjmstlouis.org