



Criminal Justice Ministry
P.O. Box 15160
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“To Serve, Not to Judge”

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Criminal Justice Ministry ANNUAL REPORT 2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

Despite COVID-19 related service suspension, in Fiscal Year 2021 our housing programs met a comparable level of client needs as in years past. Our FIRST Services client base remained low throughout the fiscal year due to a decline in referrals, although many of our programs were able to pivot to online platforms. As many of our in-person services were modified to maintain safety for our staff and clients, the use of Zoom and other technology provided a way for clients to participate in support groups, classes, and other online spaces where they could connect with our staff, volunteers, and their peers. FY 2021 also brought in new leadership and staff, as well as new additions to our Board of Directors and their officers.

332 FIRST SERVICES
CLIENTS

Total number of clients served across all FIRST Services programs including Direct Services, Let's Start, Dress Out, and Homelessness Prevention

154 HOUSING PROGRAM
CLIENTS

Total number of clients served across all four Release to Rent Housing Programs





Dear Friend of CJM,

We are grateful to share our annual report for Fiscal Year 2021. Thank you for helping us to serve and empower the most marginalized during a challenging year. Your support changes lives and builds healthier and stronger communities as we welcome the formerly incarcerated back and empower them to lead productive lives.

FY 2021 started with a new Executive Director and reopening after temporary COVID-19 shutdowns. While some housing clients were waiting to move in, we saw referrals for all services drop due to the many disruptions within the justice system and among social service agencies caused by COVID-19. Staff and volunteers had to quickly adapt to new ways to safely meet client needs, and to master new tools like Zoom to work from home and provide services virtually.

During the year, our volunteers and staff were mostly unable to physically be present to minister to those inside prisons and jails. This, while the incarcerated experienced the high risk of contracting COVID-19 within their confined settings, encountered higher rates of social isolation with visitations and services suspended, and saw disruptions in their release plans due to COVID-19 safety measures.

Our clients on the outside, the formerly incarcerated, experienced the loss of jobs, closure of most in-person support programs and services, and a high incidence of COVID-19 in their communities. CJM offered group meetings, classes, and case management online, but comfort with technology and teleservices or, lack of access to technology, were significant limitations. We were fortunate to have funders provide support to help with access to technology.

Thanks to the generous response of supporters and relief through the Payroll Protection Program, CJM maintained full staffing, expanded rent and utility support, and offered new virtual programming. CJM's results in FY 2021 reflect our staff and volunteer's response to Jesus' example to honor the dignity of those marginalized in our society. We have deep gratitude for our staff, volunteers, and donors for their dedication to the mission, which allowed CJM to respond to hardship during an unprecedented year.

As we progress through FY 2022, we continue to navigate COVID-19, the scarcity of housing, and increasing costs that have followed the pandemic. The need for our services remains high as the number of individuals returning from incarceration and the barriers they face have not declined. We continue to advocate for them and seek ways to ensure they have access to stable housing, mental health services and employment. We hope you will continue to support our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Dobson', written over a light blue circular background.

Jon Dobson
Board Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas P Casey', written over a light blue circular background.

Thomas P Casey
Executive Director

TESTIMONIALS

RELEASE TO RENT CLIENT

Roosevelt, who entered the R2R Vets program in August of 2019, states that he was taken aback by the level of assistance CJM provided, not just through the basic necessities that are provided to help clients get established, but through the offering of support groups and referrals to other services, such as dental and medical treatment. Roosevelt says CJM staff eased the reentry process by maintaining high levels of contact with partners, including his parole officer and others who provided him necessary services. Since entering programming, Roosevelt has completed his parole sentence, started working at the VA, and is proud to say that he does not need to live paycheck to paycheck because of the "good foundation all the way around" that his case managers established.

RELEASE TO RENT WOMEN'S PROGRAM CLIENT

After struggling with addiction and unstable relationships, Brandey chose sobriety in December 2020. She has been a CJM client for the past seven months, both through Let's Start support groups and the women's housing program. Since entering into programming, Brandey has maintained her sobriety, obtained steady employment and accessed stable housing through CJM. She has been able to rebuild her family relationships and is on the path to management at her place of employment. She comments, "Ms. Toni is very awesome. This program is really trying to help women coming from prison or struggling with addiction."

FIRST SERVICES CLIENT

As a long-time CJM office volunteer, Sister Sharon Rose was able to connect her CJM pen pal to FIRST Services programming upon his release. Demonstrating CJM's commitment to addressing the unique needs of each client, our FIRST Services liaison helped him obtain bus tickets to return home to his family in Arizona and customized the standard Welcome Backpack of hygiene supplies with a book of crossword puzzles to prepare for the 36-hour journey.

LET'S START CLIENT

An attendee of Let's Start support groups for the last three years, Candace first began programming with Let's Start while incarcerated. As a long-time member of these support groups, she says the best thing about these programs is the opportunity to interact with the other women and the shared experiences of the group(s). Toni (CJM's Women Support Coordinator) has helped her obtain stable housing and is assisting her to plan for the future with her children. "(CJM/Let's Start) doesn't want us to set ourselves up for failure."

VOLUNTEER

Joining CJM through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, Tim has been volunteering inside the Transition Center of St. Louis (TCSTL) for over 2 years. He mentors men, assisting them in employment, technology, managing finances, housing and some healthcare. In September Tim returned to weekly in-person service at TCSTL. He reflects on CJM's motto - "to serve, not to judge" - as a foundation for his continued engagement. "Clients and I work together to secure employment that fits their skill set and a starting place! Really exciting when it happens! I enjoy working with the men." He is awaiting approval for a new seminar he designed for residents to support them in a more holistic manner beyond basic daily needs. When asked about his volunteer work with CJM, he says, "I work on the ministry side. I want to engage clients in their transition from prison to civilian life with a plan to succeed economically, socially, psychologically, and spiritually ... and we have plenty of room to grow!"



FIRST Services Liaison Sister Geraldine, SSND (center) with CJM volunteer Sister Sharon Rose (right) and her pen pal as he receives FIRST Services assistance in the form of a Welcome Backpack of hygiene supplies.

Criminal Justice Ministry ANNUAL REPORT 2021

LET'S START

Let's Start provides support to women and their families to assist recovery and reentry. In FY 2021, Let's Start programming focused on virtual Women's Support and Healthy Relationships groups on a weekly basis. Monthly family bus trips to Vandalia Correctional Center were suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.



15-20
REGULAR
ATTENDEES

Long-time attendees of Women's Support & Healthy Relationships Groups. These groups were virtual for all of FY 2021 due to COVID-19.



10
ONE-TIME
ATTENDEES

New women attending the Women's Support & Healthy Relationships Group over Zoom



8
ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT

Women who received additional services such as referral to other community organizations

FIRST SERVICES

The FIRST Services department of CJM offers access to a number of resources to clients who have been released from jails/prisons.

Direct Services Provided include:

- Backpacks of Hygiene Supplies & Clothing
- Birth Certificates
- State IDs
- Bus Passes
- Greyhound Tickets
- Pharmacy Voucher
- Food Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Medical Assistance (referrals)
- Clothing Voucher
- Work Boots



163
DIRECT SERVICES

Addresses immediate needs of the recently released to assist reentry into the community



90
DRESS OUT
PACKAGES

Provides packages of new clothing to inmates prior to their release date



31
HOMELESSNESS
PREVENTIONS

Including assistance to 25 individuals/families with move-in assistance and 16 individuals/families with eviction prevention

VETS 4 PETS

Vets 4 Pets is a CJM program that provides former and current clients of our Veterans program the opportunity to produce and sell hand-made dog treats and scarves. Their goods are sold at local area farmer's markets and provide an extra source of income for the program participants.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Due to COVID-19 suspension of volunteer and ministry services inside prison and jail facilities, many of CJM's volunteer opportunities in FY 2021 consisted of virtual programming. In addition to our long-standing Pen Pal program, we added classes in December for Makin' it Work via Zoom at the Transition Center St. Louis.



81
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

Including new and long-term volunteers



34
PEN PAL
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who correspond by mail with inmates.



2,288.5
VOLUNTEER
HOURS SERVED

Consisting of in-person and virtual prison ministry and other opportunities



11
VOLUNTEER
PROGRAMS

Including the virtual Makin' It Work program, virtual Spiritual Growth sessions for CJM clients, and more

REENTRY HOUSING PROGRAMS

Release To Rent

FY 2021 saw the resumption of intakes for the Release to Rent housing programs, after a temporary pause related to COVID-19 in March of 2020. Although referrals slowed comparable to prior years, the total number of clients remained close to capacity throughout the year. The data below applies to our general Release to Rent program, not a cumulative total for all four housing programs under the R2R umbrella. Release to Rent is a 12-month housing program for clients slated for release from incarceration, serving the needs of those with long-term histories of incarceration (10+ years) and those who experience housing restrictions upon release.



Total clients in the program at June of 2021



Successfully completed the program in FY 2021



Total number of clients who participated in programming in FY 2021, including 34 admissions



Includes clients who did not complete the program

Release to Rent Lite

The R2R Lite program is a shorter-termed (6 months) program designed to assist those who have already reentered the community but need continued housing support.



Total clients in the program at June of 2021



Successfully completed the program in FY 2021



Total number of clients who participated in programming in FY 2021, including 9 admissions



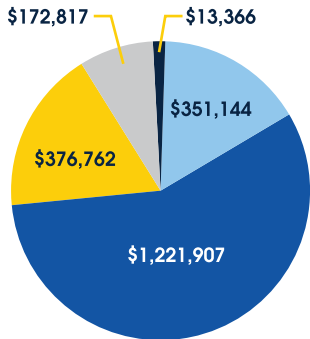
Includes clients who did not complete the program



FINANCIAL DATA*

*Data is representative of pre-audit Revenues and Expenses for Criminal Justice Ministry.

Revenues

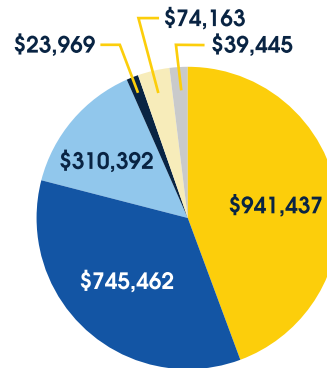


\$2,135,996
YEARLY REVENUE

FY 2021 Revenues came from four primary categories:

- Contributions
- Government Grants & Contracts
- Restricted Grants
- Rental Income
- Other

Expenses



\$2,134,868
YEARLY EXPENSES

FY 2021 Expenses resulted from five primary categories:

- Personnel
- Program
- Occupancy
- Administration
- Misc. Operating



Release to Rent Veterans

The Release to Rent Veterans program serves veterans with a history of criminal justice involvement.

 **29**
IN PROGRAM

Total clients in the program at June of 2021

 **24**
GRADUATIONS

Successfully completed the program in FY 2021

 **63**
TOTAL SERVED

Total number of clients who participated in programming in FY 2021, including 17 admissions

 **25**
EMPLOYED
AT EXIT

Includes clients who did not complete the program

Release to Rent Women's Program

In July 2020, CJM began a new housing program specifically for female clients. In the first year of this program, CJM staff have experienced unique challenges in addressing the needs of this population compared to the populations served by other R2R programs. As this program continues to develop in the future, further restructuring is expected such as relocating staff to maintain on-site presence in the apartment complex to address client needs, and encouraging clients to enroll in additional programming through Let's Start.

 **3**
IN PROGRAM

Total clients in the program at June of 2021

 **1**
GRADUATIONS

Successfully completed the program in FY 2021

 **12**
TOTAL SERVED

Total number of clients who participated in programming in FY 2021, including 12 admissions

 **1**
EMPLOYED
AT EXIT

Includes clients who did not complete the program

PROJECTIONS FOR 2022

In FY 2022, Criminal Justice Ministry is continuing to rebuild programs impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing new strategies to improve the effectiveness of our programs. Plans for FIRST Services include extending the hours of our Direct Services program and continuing outreach to Probation & Parole offices and other referral sources to increase the number of clients whose immediate needs are addressed. Let's Start support group numbers are expected to increase and are planned to return to in-person. Based on facility regulations for visitation, the monthly family bus trips to Vandalia Correctional Center will resume.

For our R2R housing programs, it is expected that R2R and R2R Veterans program numbers will remain steady. In the second year of our Women's Housing Program, CJM staff are working on new initiatives to promote the successful completion of this program, such as increased accessibility of staff members for on-going support. We plan to increase the number of clients in both the R2R Women's program and the R2R Life program. For all four housing programs, it is expected that FY 2022 will lead to improved outcomes for clients and higher retention and graduation rates.

FY 2022 will also include the return of many prison ministry programs as well as events including Trivia and our Annual Recognition Dinner in the Spring.

DONOR & GRANTOR RECOGNITION

We are grateful to all of our supporters. The funders highlighted here contributed over \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2021.

- Affordable Housing Commission of the City of St. Louis
- Archdiocese of St. Louis, Annual Catholic Appeal
- Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of St. Louis' Community Development Administration
- Department of Veterans Affairs, Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program
- Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust
- Eric M. Outlaw - Mangrove Foundation
- Estate of Betty Lemon
- Footwear Unlimited Donor-Advised Fund of the Roman Catholic Ministries of Eastern Missouri
- Jefferson Foundation
- Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis
- Marrilac Mission Fund
- Mission & Ministry Impact
- Missouri Department of Corrections
- Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits
- Missouri Foundation for Health
- Missouri Housing Development Commission, CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant
- Missouri Housing Trust Fund
- Richard and Nancy Arnoldy
- School Sister of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province
- St. Louis Mental Health Board