

# CJM Connection

The bi-monthly newsletter of Criminal Justice Ministry St. Louis

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## CJM & MISSOURI CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATES

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, which hampered our efforts, Criminal Justice Ministry had a successful year in 2020, continuing to provide housing, case management, rental assistance, counseling, and direct services (IDs, birth certificates, hygiene supplies, etc.) to our clients. In December, our volunteers revived the Makin' It Work program through virtual instruction at the Transition Center in St. Louis, and have already had two cohorts successfully complete the course online. In 2020, CJM programs supported:

- 303 direct services clients
- 66 Release to Rent clients

The new Malta Mobile Ministry launched in December and is partnering with CJM. The van and volunteer drivers have already helped us to deliver furniture and set up an apartment for a new client. We are glad to be a partner in this new ministry of the St. Louis Area Order of Malta.



While we celebrate the hard work of our staff and the success of our clients, we also reflect on why our services are needed, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to see the Corrections Officers receive priority status for vaccinations, but regret that inmates were not given the same status. Two of our housing clients were recently featured in an interview regarding COVID-19 in Missouri prisons: "[Missouri Prison Staff Offered COVID Vaccine Soon, But Most Inmates Have To Wait.](#)"

## WELCOME NEW BOARD & STAFF



2021 brought several exciting changes to our Board of Directors and Staff. We welcome new board member Michael Griswold of Ascension Investment Management, and a change in Board leadership:

- Jon Dobson, Chair
- Cathy Ross, Vice-Chair
- Sr. Nancy Murphy, Secretary

**Keisha White** has also joined us as our new Development and Events Coordinator and **Gary Wolken** has shifted to the role of Grant Specialist.

We are currently hiring to replace Gary in his former role as Housing Coordinator. Applicants are encouraged to email [apply@cjmstlouis.org](mailto:apply@cjmstlouis.org).

## REMARKABLE WOMAN

Toni Jordan, our Let's Start and Women's Support Coordinator, has been nominated for the Remarkable Women Award, sponsored by Channels 2 & 11! Her interview will air in March and will be shared in our next newsletter.



## UPCOMING SPEAKING EVENTS

**Feb 23** - St. Anselm Social Justice Committee

**Feb 26, 9am-12 pm** - [Soulfisher Employer Panel](#) w/ Brandon Reid

**Feb 26, 3pm-5 pm** - As part of the Lenten series [Following in the Footsteps of Christ](#) at the WashU Catholic Student Center, Thomas P. Casey, Deacon Andrew Daus, & Fr. John Vogler will speak on our call to accompany those who are incarcerated

**Mar 13, 10am-11am** - [Justice Beat Talk Show](#)

**Mar 16, 6:30pm-8pm** - "Timely Topics" at the St. John United Church of Christ Justice & Wellness Committee

Follow us on social media for updates and video links.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

✉ [info@cjmstlouis.org](mailto:info@cjmstlouis.org)

🌐 [www.cjmstlouis.org](http://www.cjmstlouis.org)

🐦 [@CJM\\_STL](https://twitter.com/CJM_STL)

📘 [facebook.com/CJMSTL](https://facebook.com/CJMSTL)

🌐 [linkedin.com/company/criminal-justice-ministry](https://linkedin.com/company/criminal-justice-ministry)

## GET INVOLVED

### Pen Pal Program

CJM is in need of Pen Pals! This volunteer service allows you to get involved from the comfort of your own home and provides recipients with a connection to the outside community. More information on expectations and procedures will be provided to interested parties. Contact information is listed below.

### Bible Study

We will be starting a virtual weekly Bible Study for our R2R clients, focused on non-denominational spirituality and reflection. We are seeking community members interested in helping to facilitate our discussions. More information about the program will be posted on our social media.

*If interested, please complete the volunteer application on our website <https://www.cjmstlouis.org/volunteer> or contact Victoria Pettit at [victoriap@cjmstlouis.org](mailto:victoriap@cjmstlouis.org)*

## SAVE THE DATE

On May 6, the St. Louis Community Foundation is hosting its annual Give STL Day fundraising drive for the St. Louis region and its nonprofits. Early giving begins April 5.



You don't have to wait until Give STL Day. You can support our work today on our website:

[DONATE](#)