

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
2017-2018
Mission Grant Outreach Awards

*welcoming everybody, everybody, everybody
to invite, connect, equip, and send*



INTRODUCTION

St. Augustine's Christian Outreach Commission Mission Grant Award Program and Winners for 2017

Every year St. Augustine's Christian Outreach Commission makes grants to worthy community and other organizations that perform God's work in helping those who need support whether for family assistance, mental health, homelessness, delivery of food, or for the provision of another valuable community service. St. Augustine's Christian Outreach Commission is here to support and provide the funds to help these organizations do their good works in the community. St. Augustine's Christian Outreach Commission awards financial grants for this purpose.

To receive a Mission Grant an organization must have a connection, a relationship, or more formally a "Champion" with St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. A Champion is a member of St. Augustine's who has a relationship with a recipient organization and is responsible for completing the application on behalf of that group and shepherding it through the application process. St. Augustine's Mission Grant Application can be found on our website (www.staschurch.org/mission-grant-outreach).

During St. Augustine's 2017 Mission Grant award cycle, the Christian Outreach Commission provided St. Augustine's Mission Grants to eleven different organizations and one Syrian refugee family. The grants totaled \$26, 525. The maximum grant was \$5,000 and the average grant was \$2,235.

This brochure is a testament to the organizations that received a St. Augustine's Christian Outreach Commission Mission Grant in 2017 and their valuable work to improve the quality of life in our communities. They are 1) A Just Harvest Soup Kitchen; 2) The Al Radi Family; 3) American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; 4) Bread for the World Institute; 5) Cathedral Counseling Center; 6) El Hogar De Amor Y Esperanza; 7) Family Promise; 8) Girl Scout Troop 40834; 9) Legal Assistance Foundation; 10) Meals at Home; 11) Open Communities; and 12) St. Cyprian Food Pantry.

The 2018 Mission Grant cycle will begin in January, with the deadline for submitting new applications March 31, 2018. Members of the Christian Outreach Commission look forward to receiving many new applications from new Champions for the Mission Grant Program.

Members of the Christian Outreach Commission believe strongly in the power of collaboration between the church and congregation to continue to support St. Augustine's community programs by volunteering valuable time, energy, vitality and resources for the common good. Thank you for your continuing involvement and support.

Sincerely,

The Christian Outreach Commission

A JUST HARVEST

Organization Contact Information:

Reverend, Dr. Marilyn Pagán Banks, Executive Director

P.O. Box 608033, Chicago, IL 60626

www.ajustharvest.org

Community Kitchen

7649 N. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60626

Amount granted: \$5,000

Champions: Mary Whiteley and Jerry Todd

Champion Contact Information: rowsswim@comcast.net, jerrytodo@comcast.net

Work of the Organization: The mission of A Just Harvest (AJH) is to fight poverty and hunger in the Rogers Park and greater Chicago Area by providing nutritious meals daily, while cultivating community economic development and community organizing across racial, cultural and socioeconomic lines in order to create a more just society. AJH impacts lives through three primary service areas: 1) Feeding the hungry – the Community Kitchen provides free meals 365 days per year to an average of 170 people per night. St. Augustine's has been a key partner since 1987. Volunteers from St. A's, headed by Mary Whiteley, purchase the food for one meal per month then plate and serve it the 4th Monday. Food service volunteers from St. Augustine's Church are John Whiteley, Martha Jacobson, Mary Jacobson, Peter Sandstrom, James Bonamici, Nick Bonamici and David Price. 2) Economic Development – The Genesis Project marshals community assets and outside resources to create jobs and social enterprises that benefit Rogers Park residents. An example is the program in urban agriculture, A Just

Harvest Hoop Garden where some 50-75 students are expected to learn to plant and grow fresh garden vegetables that are served at the Community Kitchen and are distributed within the community. In addition AJH offers healthy eating and food prep classes and participates in the Produce Mobile that distributes fresh fruit and vegetables from May–October in the neighborhood. 3) Advocacy and Community Organizing – Northside P.O.W.E.R. (People Organized to Work, Educate and Restore) trains leaders and organizes communities to win public policies that alleviate poverty and hunger and to create a more just economy.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Jerry's right – this is one of the best volunteer opportunities for St. A's parishioners. Volunteers serve dinner the 4th Monday of the month – 5:00-7:00pm. Other opportunities include: monthly shopping for the food; financial support; opportunities to help clean the kitchen; advocacy; donate supplies (aluminum pans, other kitchen items asked for on the website).

Champion's faith Statement: While thinking about A Just Harvest Food Kitchen and how it relates to my faith, I recalled the joy that I experienced serving food to the people coming in to A Just Harvest for a very good evening meal, of bussing tables and having a wonderful time serving with Mary Whiteley, Mary Jacobson, Peter Sandstrom, Jim Bonamici and others. I recall the 130-150 meals that we served to those most in need in our community and the gratitude and thankfulness that was shared among us all. I recalled my baptismal vows where I committed to do good works serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is the Christian thing to do and it leaves me with a very good feeling. *-Jerry Todd*



AL RADI FAMILY

Organization Contact Information:

Al Radi Family
Lyons Street, Evanston, IL
Amount granted: \$3,000

From Pemble-DeVryer Fund per Christian Outreach Commission and Vestry

Champion Name: Linda Laatsch and David Carley

Champion Contact Information: llaatsch@gmail.com, dwcарley@gmail.com

Work of the Organization: The Al Radis are a nuclear family from Syria including 2 parents and 7 children, aged 3 to 12 years. They arrived in Evanston in July of 2016 after four years at a refugee camp in Jordan. They were fully 'vetted' by multiple organizations including the Department of Homeland Security and granted formal status as political refugees. Assistance from Refugee One—their initial resettlement organization in the United States—was strictly limited to a six month period and terminated February 1, 2017. The Al Radis live in Morton Grove and continue to assimilate and make progress toward independence. Six children attend Morton Grove public schools. The youngest attends pre-school in a Federal Head Start program. Mr. Al Radi has gained full time employment, but his current income is insufficient to cover all of the family's basic living expenses. The requested grant would give them enough money to cover the rent and utilities through the year; enabling Mr. Al Radi to gain employment experience, strengthen his English skills and, hopefully, advance to a higher paying job within the year. Mrs. Al Radi is currently looking for part-time work in the mornings while her youngest is in preschool.



of COC and vestry. Concurrently contributions from the parish at large were sought. There was a very good response so that the Refugee Family Fund, administered by our church accountant, was sufficient to pay rent and to purchase other supports including Skokie pool passes. Unfortunately the family lost their home to a fire in September 2017. Through the generosity of the community they are again furnished with clothing, beds and furniture, and they no longer need any household items. The family rents a home in Morton Grove. Financial gifts can be made to St. Augustine's Church with Refugee Family Fund designated. The Al Radi family is deeply grateful for the help they receive.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Continue to provide emotional support for Linda and Dave as they mentor the Al Radi family. Collect and prepare boxed goods for Refugee One Box Drives and financial support.
UPDATE: \$3000 was disbursed from the Pemble-DeVryer Fund and placed in the Refugee Family Fund to pay rent for the Al Radi family by a decision

Champion's faith Statement: "For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, you shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in your land." (Deuteronomy 15:11) We are in a difficult time within our country and refugees are especially vulnerable to political whims and discrimination. Governmental agencies have limited resources to support new refugees. We are involved with a family who continues to have financial needs due to the costly nature of housing. They are engaged in all levels of the Morton Grove school system and the mosque in Morton Grove. We believe this is an opportunity to support a family in our community and possibly prevent homelessness from non-payment of rent. Additionally, this is a way to reach out to individuals who have come to our area with a hope of a new, safe and profitable life.
-Linda Laatsch and David Carley

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

Organization Contact Information:

Anne K. Lynn, President, American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

aklynn@afedj.org

25 Old King's Hwy No., Suite 13, Darien, CT 06820

Amount granted: \$300.

Champion Name: Sue Carlson

Champion Contact Information: sdsue@sbcglobal.net



"We can do something. We can help in concrete, important ways to educate and provide compassionate healthcare now."

Work of the Organization: The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) is dedicated to building peace from the ground up by financially supporting education and healthcare available to all in the Holy Land and raising awareness in the United States. AFEDJ was founded in 1988 as an independent, nonpolitical 501(c)(3) organization. As a partner to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, AFEDJ is devoted to respect, human dignity, and the inherent value of each person. AFEDJ supports 14 schools, 2 hospitals, and 30+ institutions for persons with disabilities. These institutions — in Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria — are owned and operated by the Diocese of Jerusalem. Through them, the Diocese is living the Gospel in the place where it was written. Respect for differences and tolerance are core values that are an integral part of each interaction. The Medical and Health Care fund, in particular, was targeted for our donation because of the strong commitment to treatment for all patients regardless of faith tradition. \$300 will pay for 10 medical visits for those unable to pay for services.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Become an AFEDJ Missioner: Missioners are AFEDJ's local presence. They offer a way to educate parishes and other local groups about the work of the Diocese. Their activities may include: Pray for the Diocese of Jerusalem; Continue to foster an individual or a congregational partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and with the humanitarian organizations of the Diocese. This might

include working with an Outreach Committee, Children's Ministries, Episcopal Church Women or other groups.

Champion's faith Statement: At a time in the Middle East when incredible stress is being put upon all viable institutions in the area and when refugees, especially Muslim refugees, are in such terrible distress, it seems incumbent on Americans to support functioning institutions in probably one of the safest areas there— Israel. And for Episcopalians, it seems crucially important to support the inclusive medical, and also educational, facilities that do not discriminate against the "other". Christian presence in the Holy Land is declining for many reasons, partially because of the difficulty that Palestinians, many of whom are Christian, experience in living in the walled-off West Bank and Gaza. The importance of the hospitals run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is first that they do not discriminate and are open to serving all, but particularly, as reported by our rector in her recent trip to the Holy Land, because they welcome Muslim women who come to them pregnant out of wedlock. If these women were to continue their pregnancy in their own communities, they would most likely be killed. Such "honor" killings are still prominent in the region. Therefore, because of my felt connection to the Holy Land, having made pilgrimage there some years ago, and because I honor the Episcopal/Christian witness that this organization makes in the midst of some of the most difficult, warring places in the world, I believe we should support AFEDJ's presence in the land of Jesus' birth.

-Sue Carlson

BREAD FOR THE WORLD INSTITUTE

Organization Contact Information:

Reverend Nancy Neal
Interim Director for Church Relations, Bread for the World Institute
425 3rd Street, S.W., Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20024
www.bread.org

Amount granted: \$200

Champion Name: Julia Joehl

Champion Contact Information: jujoehl@sbcglobal.net

Work of the Organization: Bread for the World Institute is a religiously focused lobbying and educational organization that urges our nation's decision makers to end hunger in our country and around the world. Bread for the World Institute equips people to write personal letters and emails, meet with their members of Congress, and to work with others to end hunger. Each year, BFWI organizes hundreds of thousands of voices to push for real, systemic change that helps hungry people. Recently, Bread for the World churches and individual members have worked to advance policies that extended tax credits that have helped 13 million low-income working families, increased funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Head Start, increased poverty-focused development assistance by \$1.1 billion and realized a \$10 million increase in funding for global nutrition programs, and made US foreign assistance more accountable and transparent.

Now, attention is directed to a new goal: ending hunger by the year 2030. This goal is as audacious as it sounds, but the World Bank, the United Nations and many other respected organizations and experts believe it is possible if critical steps are taken now to lay the foundation. To that end, this year BFWI is focusing on the federal budget process and defending vital programs that help hungry people that are now under attack. A key measure of success for us this year will be how well those programs are funded by the fiscal year 2018 federal budget. Much of that work is done by organizing local churches to put pressure on their senators and members of Congress to make our nation's laws fairer and more compassionate.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Advocate and educate – hold an offering of letters event that supports congregation members to write to their congressional



SNAP recipients can use their EBT-debit cards to shop for food at farmers markets, thanks to wireless technology provided to farmers markets by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
(BFWI – Hunger Report)

representatives; request and distribute literature from Bread for the World Institute at your church, to your friends and in your community; financial support.

Champion's faith Statement: St. Augustine's has supported Bread for the World for many years by sending a small donation as members of this organization. BFWI is an effective advocate for ending hunger and hunger-related problems locally, nationally and internationally. It was begun by Christian clergy who saw that by becoming a "collective voice" to end hunger they could have a greater impact in supporting programs and legislation aimed to relieve suffering caused by famine, poverty and food insecurity. At St. Augustine's we have benefited from their educational literature and participated in offerings of letters to Congress in support of anti hunger legislation. In Deuteronomy 15:7-11, we are reminded, "...do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor". I recommend we continue to support the work of Bread for the World Institute through our membership and suggest a \$200 donation. -*Julia Joehl*

CATHEDRAL COUNSELING CENTER

Organization Contact Information:

Maureen R. Kelly, LCSW, Executive Director
50 E. Washington, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60602
info@cathedralcounseling.org, www.cathedralcounseling.org

Amount granted: \$3,500.

Champion Name: Linda Walker

Champion Contact Information: lwakeen@aol.com

Work of the Organization: Cathedral Counseling Center helps people make sense of their lives during difficult times through professional, affordable mental health services. Started as an outreach program of St. James Cathedral in 1974, we exist today as a private, independent 501(c)3, that provides care without regard to religious affiliation, race, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. Cathedral serves the working poor and middle class with access to quality treatment, including onsite psychiatric evaluations and medication management. In 2016, we served nearly 1,100 people in 20,808 hours of reduced-fee therapy. The slow economic recovery continues to burden our community: limited job prospects, depleted savings, and increased demands in the workplace. These pressures take a psychological and emotional toll on individuals and families, making them vulnerable to anxiety or depression, or to destructive behaviors such as domestic violence, alcohol or drug addiction. Cathedral's clients come from all walks of life, but have one need in common; they are struggling to obtain support for mental illness – illness that causes pain as real and intense as physical pain. These individuals do not qualify for public programs, and are unable to afford private practice care that can be \$150 or more per session. They may be unemployed, under-employed, or lacking health insurance coverage. Fifty-seven percent of our clients have household incomes of under \$30,000, with 23% under \$10,000. Without a

resource like Cathedral, many of the people we serve could not afford care. Thanks to our unique program model, we can provide professional treatment averaging just \$39 per session.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: St. A's parishioners are encouraged to join the board or assist with fundraisers.

Champion's faith Statement: I am a Champion for Cathedral Counseling Center because it directly fulfills the ministry I chose to follow when I first set out to be a clinical social worker in 1996. At that time, I had returned relatively recently to my Episcopal roots after a long absence, and was searching for a way to make meaning out of many personal losses. Being a social worker, and a psychotherapist, has given me a privileged and sacred opportunity to share with people in some of their most painful and vulnerable moments. While my work, and the work of CCC, is not faith-based, it is grounded in the tenets of Christ's teaching to love and serve my neighbor. At CCC, I put in long hours for small remuneration, but this is what allows our organization to serve the hundreds of clients who otherwise would likely not receive any mental health service at all. I was drawn to CCC because of its origins at St. James Cathedral, and because it is a supported agency of Episcopal Charities. CCC was started by an Episcopal priest who was also a social worker. He saw the need for

affordable mental health services. From that seed has grown a very large tree! Our Episcopalian roots make this organization one I am especially proud to Champion. It took eight years for me to acquire the experience needed to become a therapist here. This gives you an idea of the quality of service we provide.
-Linda Walker



EL HOGAR DE AMOR Y ESPERANZA

The Home of Love and Hope

Organization Contact Information:

Liz Kitchen, Executive Director, Candy Beckwith, Donations Coordinator

info@elhogar.org, www.elhogar.org

El Hogar Ministries, Inc., 21 Cummings Park Drive, Suite 238, Woburn, MA 01801

Amount granted: \$2,000

Champion Name: Julia Joehl

Champion Contact Information: jujoehl@sbcglobal.net

Work of the Organization: For the last 30 years St. Augustine's has agreed to sponsor partial tuition for one student at a time through their high school graduations at this small school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with a mission to provide a loving home and education to some of the country's most needy children. The school/home serves 250 children on a budget of \$1.5 million. 88% of the funds received from contributors goes directly into programming for the children. St. Augustine's has provided a partial scholarship of \$1,500 (of the \$5,400/per pupil tuition) for Reina Gomez Sevilla. She is an excellent student who will graduate in November 2018. Our church's relationship with El Hogar began after parishioners Dee and Bill Doughty reported to the parish following their volunteer experience at the school in 1985. Over the years various parishioners with Spanish language skills have written to the students, youth groups have exchanged letters and cards and we have sent small gifts and a collection of sports equipment (organized by a youth group). El Hogar is a project of the Episcopal Diocese in Honduras. **UPDATE:** We received a letter following the COC funding meeting that explained Reina had decided to leave El Hogar to return to live with her father. Therefore, the COC commissioners agreed to award the funds that had been allocated as a donation to El Hogar as there is always a need for funds. Our commitment to Reina is completed but El Hogar, as are other agencies, is welcome to submit a grant application in the future.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Members of St. Augustine's might choose to sponsor or partially sponsor a student. This might be a great family ministry or one for a youth or other church group; collect and send needed items to the school, financial donations, prayer for the staff and students of El Hogar.



Consider joining a mission team to visit the school and help with projects there. Great information about El Hogar is available on their website: www.elhogar.org. There's also a good video at: <https://youtu.be/ehaQSgKRZ30>

Champion's faith Statement: I believe that anyone who chooses to be a person of faith has a responsibility to be vigilant and to actively respond to injustice, to help those who are in need or are oppressed and to be a steward of God's creation. Part of this responsibility is to actively include others in these endeavors. Our choices and actions can take many forms. And our collective efforts as St. Augustine's church reflect our response to the many scriptural references of our call. One of the most straightforward is found in Luke 3: 11, "whoever has two coats must share with **anyone** who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Outreach at St. Augustine's has traditionally served the needy locally, nationally and internationally. I believe the work of El Hogar responds to God's call to help those who are oppressed and to equip them for a more productive life in God's kingdom. This is consistent with my view of our responsibility as Christian people of faith. *-Julia Joehl*

FAMILY PROMISE - Chicago North Shore

Organization Contact Information:

Ms. Tracy L. McKeithen, M.A., Network Director
1417 Hinman, Evanston, IL 60201

tracy@fpcnorthshore.org

Family Promise Board of Directors Office
P.O. Box 484, Glencoe, IL 60022

info@fpcnorthshore.org, www.fpcnorthshore.org

Amount granted: \$4,000.

Champion Name: Kathy Gander and Julia Joehl

Champion Contact Information: kcgander@gmail.com; jujoehl@sbcglobal.net

Work of the Organization: Family Promise Chicago North Shore (FPCNS) is the only organization in the Evanston-North Shore area to provide emergency shelter, meals and supportive services to families that are homeless while keeping the family unit intact. The goal is to provide the guest families with a supported pathway to self-sufficiency while helping the parents focus on finding employment and giving them guidance to create a plan for returning to permanent housing. By utilizing existing community resources such as local congregations for nighttime accommodations with meals and a host of community volunteers the program is cost effective. While not a “religious organization” FPCNS consists of a network of some 28 churches and synagogues that rotate hosting families on a weekly basis. FPCNS is the local affiliate of the national organization, Family Promise. Entry to the program is selective and once accepted, the families are held to high expectations of progress and established rules. There is one full time staff, the network director, who manages the program, other staff, and the network of congregations while providing direct service to the guest families. There are two part-time staff who assist the director with office management and some direct client services as well. There are two part-time drivers. Children generally attend Evanston Public Schools or daycare while parents are working. Parents not yet employed are counseled at the Day Center to help them with job search and readiness skills, financial management classes, access to public benefits and other skills they need to become self sufficient. From January, 2017 to October, 2017 **9** families were housed (35 people; 12 adults, 23 children) thanks to their hard work, the steady hands of the FPCNS staff and the support of volunteers!

Opportunities for St. Augustine’s members to become involved: St. A’s hosts FP guests 3 weeks per year requiring many volunteers- [watch for](#)

[announcements to sign up](#). Opportunities to volunteer at the Day Center are listed on the website. Financial gifts made to St. Augustine’s (Special Fund Family Promise) or by shopping at the Not So Silent Auction fundraiser fund our hosting expenses.



Champion’s faith Statement:

The ministry of Family Promise is consistent with our beliefs as stated in our Baptismal Covenant, “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?” In 2010 the decision to become part of the FP network was based on the expressed desires of our congregation to engage in a ministry that served those in need, was local and would offer hands-on opportunities for a range of parishioners to engage in service. For the past four years we have partnered with St. Elisabeth’s, Glencoe, to host guest families. That we are able to support families on their road to independence is a blessing all around. But another important piece of the ministry is the chance we have to learn from our guests, as we share meals and fellowship, important lessons about struggle, justice, opportunity and inequality. It is not possible to close one’s eyes to disparities among us once we have had them opened. -Kathy Gander and Julia Joehl

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 40834

Organization Contact Information:

troop40834@gmail.com

Amount granted: \$525

Funded through Rector Discretionary Fund and Individual Christian Outreach Commissioner Donations

Champion Name: Heidel Graham and Linnea Mason

Champion Contact Information:

2740 Lincoln Lane, Wilmette, IL 60091

Heidel's e-mail: scouts@mason-graham.com, troop40834@gmail.com

Work of the Organization: Our troop aims to assist people in need through the completion of our Girl Scout Silver Award Project. Our project provided a five-day, summer program in the fine arts for the children of Sunset Village, a manufactured housing development in Glenview. We offered a two-day theatre program and one day each of 2-D art, 3-D art, and dance. Your grant will provide us with the funds to obtain supplies such as brushes, paper, clay, watercolor paint and props. Our program will provide five afternoons of supervised activity to thirty children per session.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Heidel Graham, our troop leader, is a member of St. Augustine's Church. Linnea, her daughter, is also a member. We hope that members of the church will involve themselves by donating their time, artistic abilities, and art supplies to our cause.

Champion's faith Statement:

Linnea: The church teaches that we should love our fellow man. This project is a way for us to take care of others and put those teachings into action. We can provide an opportunity to children who would not have gotten this experience anywhere else.

Heidel: I believe that God gives everyone a different gift. In sharing that gift with others, we honor God and do his work in our community. The girls all realize that they have been blessed with a wide range of artistic skills and many opportunities to cultivate those skills. Two of the girls volunteer as academic tutors in the inner city. I think their firsthand experiences of poverty, racism, and the absence of the opportunities they take for granted have had a profound effect on them. As a result, the girls feel a sincere responsibility to share the gifts they have received by creating those opportunities for other kids. To fulfill their Silver Award requirements, the girls really only need to do one afternoon of

activities. But, in their experience, a summer camp is at least a week long and it has truly never occurred to any of the girls to do less than that. In fact, there has been talk of doing two weeks. As their leader, I am in the luxurious position of trying to curb their enthusiasm!



Our troop is comprised of girls from Christian, Jewish, and Hindu religious traditions. All of these faiths teach about the importance of community participation, generosity, and sharing. Whichever face of God looks down on these girls' endeavors, I think those values are being exercised and celebrated in this project. For me, it is experiences like this that serve to strengthen my faith, both in man and in God.

-Linnea Mason and Heidel Graham

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

of Metropolitan Chicago

Organization Contact Information:

Diane White, Executive Director, dwhite@lafchicago.org
Katherine Shank, Director, kshank@lafchicago.org
120 S. LaSalle, 9th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603

Amount granted: \$3,500.

Champion Name: Pamela Shu

Champion Contact Information: pamelashu@sbcglobal.net

Work of the Organization: Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF) serves primarily the Chicago metropolitan area and provides a range of legal services to people in need who are at or below the poverty line. Examples of services provided are: prevention of foreclosures, help with overdue bills, assistance for victims of abuse, housing issues, assistance to children and families, assistance to immigrants and workers, assistance to apply and secure public benefits, other consumer issues. The services are provided by a small team of paid lawyers and a larger number of volunteers, most of whom are lawyers. The staff providing services has been dramatically reduced due to significant decrease in funding in 2011. At that time neighborhood offices were closed and all services and business is conducted in a very busy office located at 120 LaSalle. Pam Shu, retired lawyer, has volunteered at LAF for the past five years.



Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: for lawyers and non lawyers – direct client interaction, grant writing and word processing; financial support.

Champion's faith Statement: I am Pamela Shu and am advocating for a grant from St. Augustine's to support LAF in the full amount of \$5,000. As a parishioner of St. Augustine's Church since 1994, I ended a career as a litigation lawyer and began volunteering in 2012 at LAF. I can attest to the need and value of the work LAF does from my experience of approximately five years at LAF. I have worked there with other volunteers who are lawyers and non-lawyers, many of whom are retirees. My colleagues include a retired Social Security administrator, banker and school principal, as well as retired lawyers. My work has been varied and in areas of providing medical debt relief to over 100 indigent patients, preparing cases for trial, executing advance directives for the elderly, and working at the Woodlawn Free Legal Clinic on Chicago's south side.

When LAF suffered severe funding cuts in 2011, I responded to its dire straits by volunteering to prevent further loss of services to some of our most vulnerable neighbors in the Chicago metropolitan area. As our Christian faith teaches, we are called to help each other and I try to put this teaching into action in various ways. I have found gratifying and tangible benefits in the donations of time and money to LAF that I have made and solicit for its continued operation. One of LAF's guiding principles is "Equal Justice for All", a lofty and achievable goal.

Funding is a continuing source of uncertainty for LAF and volunteers are greatly welcome and needed in various roles, whether legal or non-legal. It cannot be underestimated how important LAF's work is in providing legal services to people living at or below the poverty level. While St. Augustine's provides vitally important support to the needy in many ways with food, shelter, medical services, and other ways, it is essential that the people we help have access to legal services to ensure that they do not lose what they have finally acquired.

LAF provides services to clients who will gain essential recurring relief and support. These benefits and programs extend into the future for many people for the long term. Accordingly, the value of St. A's grant will exceed many times over \$5,000 to provide LAF with the funding that it needs to continue the work without further curtailment. *-Pamela Shu*

MEALS AT HOME

Organization Contact Information:

Debi Genthe, Director
1123 Emerson Suite 213, Evanston, IL 60201

www.mealsathome.org.

Amount granted: \$2,100

Champion Name: Carol Gourley

Champion Contact Information: cbehaus@gmail.com



Work of the Organization: Meals At Home (MAH) has been delivering meals for 48 years to clients who are unable to meet their daily meal requirements. MAH helps about 96% of clients maintain health and avoid premature restrictive and costly institutional placement. Additionally the friendly visits of the volunteers delivering meals are a bright spot in days of the frail, elderly or disabled who might otherwise have limited contact with others and provides a form of wellness check-in as well. Currently meals are provided on an astounding 54 routes. Some recipients pay only .25 per visit. All meals are provided based upon the recipient's income and on a sliding scale and are delivered by 300 volunteers who pay for their own gas. A MAH social worker visits all clients and records the financial data. Each visit has a \$14.00 cost; dietary adjustments are available if needed. Each year around \$180,000 needs to be raised to support the subsidy provided to those who cannot pay the full cost. Support comes from foundations, organizations and government/civic groups, and individual donations. MAH also has an annual fundraiser.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Become a volunteer driver/delivery person– or help form a team of such volunteers from St. Augustine's Church; contribute financially.



Champion's faith Statement: My favorite, after communion prayer, "Having 'fed us with spiritual food . . .'" and to 'send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart. . .'" relates to my faith. In my weekly deliveries I am able to "go out to feed and serve others who hunger. . .'" in actuality, as well as fulfilling a spiritual commitment by helping those in need. *-Carol Gourley*

OPEN COMMUNITIES

Organization Contact Information:

David Luna, Executive Director
Laura Kochevar, Manager of Communications and Development
614 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka, IL 60093

www.opencommunities.org

Amount granted: \$500

Champion Name: Sue Carlson

Champion Contact Information: sdsue@sbcglobal.net

Work of the Organization: Open Communities' mission is to educate, advocate and organize to promote just and inclusive communities in north suburban Chicago.

Main Programs

1. Fair Housing Enforcement & Education
2. Foreclosure Prevention Housing Counseling
3. Homesharing Program
4. Landlord/Tenant Dispute Resolution
5. Immigrant Leadership Development
6. Affordable Housing Advocacy
7. Community Organizing

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: The most important work that volunteers do for O.C., other than Board membership which is always welcome, is to become a fair housing tester. To fulfill their mission to foster integrated and hospitable communities in the northern suburbs of Chicago, Open Communities conducts housing discrimination investigations. It tests for discriminatory real estate practices against these legally protected individuals: Ethnic and Racial Minorities, Disabled, Aging, Elderly or Senior Citizens. It does this by using volunteers who fit any of the above categories and matches them with volunteers who do not fit those categories to determine whether realtors or landlords treat the two groups differently. These volunteers receive fair housing training, a small stipend for each completed test and travel reimbursement. Please see the website for other information on how to help.

Champion's faith Statement: St. Augustine's has a long connection with this organization. When I started to attend St. A's in the 80's it had been renting space in the education wing since the 70's. At that time its name was Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs and one of our (COC) members, Jane Bishop, was on the board. I believe that when Gail Schechter came to be its director,

IHCNS was still at St. Augustine's. Sometime later, as it began to grow, it moved up to the Winnetka Community House. Gail retired from IHCNS just last year after 22 years as its Executive Director and it was she under whom I had the privilege to work as one of the Homesharing coordinators. Open Communities is the sole organization in our broader area that focuses on fair housing but it has branched out even further with one of the projects of which Gail is most proud, The Justice Project. It is a grassroots social justice movement to inspire the communities in the northern suburbs of Chicago to be welcoming, inclusive and diverse, and to offer them a framework for doing so. It seems important to me that St. Augustine's continue its commitment to this vital organization in our broader North Shore region, in particular, but not uniquely because of our congregation's recent focus on racial equity and justice and Open Community's focus on helping that happen in the housing stock of our area which still has a long ways to go to becoming equitable and fair. -Sue Carlson



Empowering the Diverse Voice rally
at the Muslim Education Center

ST. CYPRIAN ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

Organization Contact Information:

Joan Billingham , Interim Director
6535 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60634

Amount granted: \$2,000.

Champion Name: Dee and Bill Doughty, Julia Joehl

Champion Contact Information: whndoughty@aol.com, jujoehl@sbcglobal.net

Work of the Organization: St. Cyprian food pantry was originally run by an Episcopal Priest.

Parishioner Dee Doughty was an employee and St. A's has been involved since 1987. The pantry, now ecumenical, served primarily clients in the NW side of Chicago who are considered the working poor. Guests are permitted to come to the pantry once a month and may receive three days of food. Because of generous donations, most of the time guests are able to leave with more. The cliental continues to grow. In order to better serve the clients and to improve the quality of food the grant request was for \$2,500 to purchase a new double door freezer to hold the donated perishable foods and to purchase hams for Easter. St. Augustine's has supported this pantry through grants and with direct donations of non-perishable food that has been collected and delivered by parish members since 1987.

Opportunities for St. Augustine's members to become involved: Sign up to deliver food from the Second Sunday collections. Donate non-perishable food on the Second Sunday of each month (collected under the name tags in the hallway) OR donate cash or a check that helps the pantry purchase bulk quantities from the Greater Chicago Food Depository at a good value.



St. Cyprian Ecumenical Food Pantry Volunteers

Champion's statement: St. Augustine's has a long history with St. Cyprian's Food Pantry going back to 1987 when Dee Doughty worked there as Pantry Coordinator (until 1991). Dee's commitment to food security and anti-hunger continued with her work as resource coordinator for the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation until 1995. Bill shares this quote from Isaiah that relates to his and Dee's faith. Isaiah 59:6-7: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice . . . to share your bread with the hungry . . ." I am happy to champion St. Cyprian's Food Pantry because the good work they do, with limited resources, answers our call to share our bread with the hungry. St. Cyprian's is not large but is out there in the trenches meeting a great need. *-Bill Doughty*

UNFUNDED PROGRAMS

More Organizations Doing Interesting and Worthwhile Work That May Spark Your Passion

Every year the COC has to make tough decisions about which grant applications to fund. This year was no different in that we received applications from organizations that are making a difference in a variety of ways. We are not able to support all of them financially but want to share what they are doing in case there is someone reading this who might just want to know more or might just want to become involved.

Hands to Help Ministries is dedicated to the prevention of homelessness by assisting those who are at risk of losing their homes and those who are homeless. St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner, Chicago, provides office space and drop-in hours for clients on Wednesdays from 11-1. Hands to Help Ministries received \$2,600 from Bryan Cones' discretionary fund before he left St. Augustine's. Prior to coming to St. Augustine's Bryan was in ministry at St. John's. The work done by this ministry includes: an outreach worker, case management, referrals for housing, health care, jobs, benefits, and financial assistance for rent and transportation. Furniture, clothing and food are also occasionally provided. This ministry serves people in zip codes 60641 and 60618 and is in partnership with Six Corners Association to address homelessness. Gayle Nelson, Executive Director
3857 Kostner, Chicago, 60641

Bishop Anderson House provides services in the following three related areas: 1) Chaplaincy/Chaplaincy Training to the sick and injured in Cook County, Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's, and University of Illinois hospitals in Chicago. 2) Training for Lay Chaplain volunteers – available to those wishing to volunteer time as visitors to those who are ill, isolated, elderly, etc. We have had parishioners at St. Augustine's take these valuable classes in the past. 3) Spiritual Wellness and Health Care Worker Recovery – aimed at supporting providers. Jerry visited Bishop Anderson House and was impressed with the services

offered and even the room with Teddy Bears and prayer shawls that are available to distribute to patients and families of those ill or injured who also need chaplaincy support.

Bishop Anderson House is located at 707 Wood, #101, Chicago (on the campus of Rush Annex Building)

Bluebird Cultural Initiative – Parishioner John White has made visits to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota in the summer with youth groups as well as to Standing Rock to stand with the water protectors. John's good friend, Steve Tamayo, started the Bluebird Cultural Initiative. This is a "start up" program that seems promising. COC plans to follow the progress of "bluebird".

Their Mission is to provide meaningful programming to the community that enriches their understanding of the history and cultural traditions of Native American peoples of the Great Plains. They strive to revitalize the past through the arts, in order to energize the future for tribal youth. They are seeking initial funds for their start-up non-profit organization. Bluebird Cultural Initiative incorporated with the State of Nebraska in August of 2016, and received federal tax-exempt status on December 8, 2016. As indicated by the mission written above, they hope to continue providing the meaningful and empowering programming to community youth that the Director, Steve Tamayo, has been providing for decades. The purpose of incorporating as a non-profit is so that they can participate in several annual grant cycles that provide funding for cultural and arts education, and direct more resources toward the Native community in order to encourage economic growth, academic success, drug and suicide prevention, and to strengthen family and community relationships. Bluebird Cultural Initiative has several goals. The long-term "dream" is to develop a series of summer camps for Native and non-Native youth in Nebraska (and elsewhere) to participate in culturally relevant

and traditional education. Their motto is “Revitalizing the Past. Energizing the Future.” Steve and the other leaders believe that in order to help today’s youth thrive, it is important to introduce them to the values and traditions of the past. For Native populations, many of the historic language, song, ceremonies, and traditions are dying out. It is their sincere hope and passion to re-introduce not only the historic cultural activities, but also the relationships that so commonly existed in times gone by. The regular involvement and interaction between elders and children is mutually beneficial and can make a world of difference in the life of a young people seeking to define their identity and identify their journey.

705 Terrace Ave. Bellevue, NE 68005
Website: www.bluebirdculturalinitiative.com
Contact Name: Steve Tamayo
Contact Address: 705 Terrace Ave. Bellevue, NE 68005
E-mail Address: bluebirdculture@gmail.com

Trees That Feed Foundation – Trees That Feed Foundation's (TTF) mission is providing food-bearing trees and processing equipment to reduce hunger, create jobs and improve the environment. The organization's goal is to alleviate hunger in Haiti, Jamaica and other less developed countries throughout the world. TTF aims to see communities in these areas with a sustainable food supply, marketplace for food products, increased job opportunity and an improved, reforested environment. TTF distributes trees to local farmers and communities, provides training and education for tree care, and guides the development of avenues through which farmers can process fruit into flour and products for sale. TTF screens all potential recipients before distributing trees and partners closely with leading agronomy and agro forestry experts to ensure its working model provides a sustainable environmental impact.

The tree that TTF most frequently distributes is breadfruit. One breadfruit tree can live for five to seven decades and feed a family for a lifetime. Since its inception, TTF has planted over 120,000 food-bearing trees, provided 25 kits of fruit processing equipment and cultivated local breadfruit markets to produce and deliver over 12,000 pounds of breadfruit flour. Distributed trees are mostly of breadfruit varieties, but distributions have also included pomegranate, cashew and fig trees. Breadfruit processing equipment kits cost approximately \$2,000 USD. To fund a tree, including delivery and education costs, TTF asks donors for \$15 USD.

Trees That Feed Foundation
Mary McLaughlin
1750 Harding Road, Northfield, IL 60093
E-mail: info@treesthatfeed.org

The New Trier Township Food Pantry- the Pantry is an important service for residents whose incomes do not cover all their needs. Its shelves offer a variety of canned and packaged food, useful paper goods, and toiletry items for all ages. A freezer is stocked with vegetables, meat, poultry, and nutritious frozen dinners. The Food Pantry is open to qualified residents of New Trier Township, which includes the villages of Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, and Glencoe, plus portions of Glenview and Northfield. In order to qualify for assistance, a social worker meets with the individual making the request and determines if they are eligible for assistance. At that time, the social worker can also inform the individual of other assistance programs. Volunteers are needed to sort and shelve food. Food donations are needed to support the pantry and are made by individuals, congregations and civic groups.

Location:
New Trier Township Office
739 Elm St., Winnetka
847-446-8201

SAINT AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1140 Wilmette Avenue | Wilmette, Illinois 60091
T: 847-251-6922 | W: staschurch.org | E: augustine@staschurch.org