

Community Impact...



2019 REPORT ON COMMUNITY IMPACT

In 1868, Saint John's was founded as an outreach mission of the Episcopal parishes of downtown Milwaukee acknowledging unmet needs in the community. Our mission of service to older adults continues today enhanced by a wide range of community partnerships positively impacting aging and aging services.

Charitable Care

Saint John's person centered culture ensures our residents, regardless of resources, continue to live in their home for the rest of their lives. Financial support from Saint John's is extended to residents, regardless of where they reside on campus, whose personal resources can no longer fully cover their residency costs. In addition to benevolent assistance, Saint John's participates in the Medicaid program, accepting reimbursement rates far below actual costs of care, for enrolled residents living in skilled nursing. Charitable care in 2019 totaled \$526,000.

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Benevolent Support	\$165,000	\$202,000	\$94,000	\$103,000
Medicaid Shortfall	\$361,000	\$657,000	\$418,000	\$409,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	\$526,000	\$859,000	\$512,000	\$512,000

Workforce Development to Serve Older Adults

As the gap between the number of older adults and those working in aging services continues to widen, Saint John's remains steadfast in our commitment to directly and indirectly support the development and education of persons to serve older adults.

Internally, our robust scholarship program, funded from the proceeds of the thriving Thrift Shoppe and the popularity of Pop-Up Sales, supports current employees enrolled in degree and certificate programs. Educational pursuits for the attainment of knowledge in any field qualify, and applicants are not required to continue employment at Saint John's upon completion of their schooling. We believe a positive employment experience will lead our scholars back to us as their careers advance and keep them connected through referrals of family and friends to live, work or volunteer on our campus. In 2019, twelve employees were awarded \$25,000.

Local students fulfilled their course objectives working with Saint John's residents and staff in 2019. Thirty-two RN candidates from MATC completed their clinical rotation with our nurses on Windsor and Stratford. Dodie Novak supervised an intern completing the practicum for Marquette's exercise physiology program; a Mount Mary student studying food and nutrition shadowed our dietician.

Donna Spars continues to co-chair the Advisory Board at James Madison High School Academy of Health Sciences which offers work internships leading to employment in the health sector. Donna and Resident Kent Mayfield mentored students regarding careers in health care and work with older adults.

In 2019, Aged To Perfection was re-imagined. The original format of the semester long evening class held at Saint John's and co-taught by UW-Milwaukee and our residents was labor intensive. Instructor Rachelle Alioto and resident Mary Beth Petersen designed a hybrid course incorporating on-line content, face-to-face student and resident conversations, and classroom sessions to achieve the community experience so highly valued by our residents. Unfortunately, UW-M decided to continue with an online version without any of the human connection so vital to understanding and appreciating the gift of aging. Reluctant to give up on the opportunity to continue to encourage students to choose careers working with older adults by understanding successful aging and experiencing it firsthand, we sought another educational institution with whom to partner. Through Donna Spars' connections, we have now formed a partnership with Alverno which we anticipate will enable the class to resume late 2020 or early 2021.

Support of Dementia Education, Research, and those living with Dementia

Saint John's has a long standing relationship with the Alzheimer's Association. In June we brought awareness to the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in "The Longest Day." The event highlights ways in which everyone can improve their lifestyle to reduce the chance of developing Alzheimer's and offers support for those impacted by or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Additionally, each fall our team, the Saint John's Sparklers, participates in the Annual Alzheimer's Walk which raises funds for research and education.

Saint John's is a site for the monthly gathering of the Alzheimer's Association's local support group, offering a place to talk about care giving challenges and to share a cup of coffee.

Spark! is a cultural arts program using hands-on activities, art exhibits and field trips to art museums to engage persons with dementia and their caregivers in meaningful interactions. In this fifth year of sponsorship, Saint John's welcomed 14 participants, both residents and community members, who engaged monthly with the assistance of staff and volunteers.

New to Saint John's this year is Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) certification for all employees of Windsor, Stratford and Canterbury. Anne Luther, LifeStreams Manager, developed and leads an intensive session on working with individuals with memory loss. Staff are trained to understand communication and behavior, as well as positive approaches to care among other topics.

Support of the Basic Health Needs of Older Adults in the Community

The Board of Saint John's Communities Foundation stewards the Fund for the Visually Impaired which promotes granting opportunities to local agencies with missions to serve older adults with vision challenges. In 2019, three organizations were awarded a total of \$8,500 to continue serving clients in the Milwaukee community:

- ABLE: Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement provides alternative ways to read for people with print-disabilities
- Center for Deaf-Blind Persons provides supportive services to minimize the devastating effects of a combined vision and hearing loss upon individuals and families
- VisionFORWARD serves to empower, educate and enhance the lives of individuals impacted by vision loss through all of life's transitions.

Since the inception of this Fund in 2005, a total of \$121,456 has been awarded to qualifying agencies.

In addition, The Board of Saint John's Communities Social Accountability Committee distributed \$15,700 to the following organizations who serve older adults:

- Eastside Senior Services provides support through visits, transportation and performing seasonal chores
- The Alzheimer's Association conducts research and provides education and emotional support services to families living with dementia
- Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church offers hot meals and a variety of fitness and educational classes

Saint John's Institute on Aging provided additional monies of \$8,440 to fund an evidence-based series of classes for older adults entitled Aging Mastery organized and led by staff from Milwaukee Area Health Education Center.

...Community Impact

Diversity and Inclusion

The remainder of the distribution from the Social Accountability Committee demonstrated Saint John's commitment to communities of color and the LGBT community:

- MICAH (Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope) toward racial equality and restorative justice in the Milwaukee Public Schools
- America's Black Holocaust Museum for assistance in opening the Museum
- Wisconsin Black Historical Society to support moving to their new headquarters
- Milwaukee Urban League in celebration of their 100 years of service and to contribute to their ongoing mission of a better quality of life for African Americans through equal opportunity in the workplace
- Pridefest Milwaukee sponsorship of this annual festival
- LeadingAge LGBT Inclusion Reception sponsorship at a national conference of non-profit organizations in the retirement living industry.

Paying It Forward

Twice weekly throughout the year, resident Jim Ballard dropped off carloads of boxes and bags full of toiletry items and gently-used clothing at Repairers of the Breach, a daytime shelter and resource center for Milwaukee's homeless. As Saint John's residents move out or organize their closets, there is a lot of love to share with this worthy organization.

The wheels went round-and-round as resident Holger Petersen made regular runs to Riverwest Food Pantry. This agency benefits from the nonperishable food collected in a bin located in Saint John's Bistro. Holger then heads to Cathedral Square Women's Shelter with donated snacks for women and children staying at the facility. Both organizations received more than 1,000 pounds of items last year.

The International Institute of Wisconsin assists refugees who seek to establish new households in the Milwaukee area. Resident Susan Ploetz facilitated deliveries of unsold donated furnishings and furniture from our Thrift Shoppe to support the mission.

If it's Tuesday, you'll find the Knit Wits with their knitting needles and spools of yarn in the corner of the Bistro making hats, mittens and scarves. In 2019, more than 375 items were shared with homeless families of MPS and with subsidized seniors at Arlington Court. Since 2016, the Knit Wits have donated 2,595 hand-made wooly goods. With an average Tuesday attendance of 12 knitters who spend three hours each week, that adds up to 1,872 annual knitting hours. In addition, the sale proceeds of \$675 from their Holiday Boutique Sale were contributed to Saint John's Communities Foundation Employee Scholarship Fund.

VJS Construction Services generously transported used cabinets, countertops and appliances to Habitat for Humanity. These items are repurposed for homes under construction in the inner city for low-income families.

Saint John's is a proud promoter of United Way's Annual Campaign. Residents and employees contributed nearly \$70,000 to support the services needed to keep Milwaukee clients healthy, financially stable, and safe. Ambassadors, Pat & Allen Rieselbach helped champion the resident effort. We couldn't have done it without them or all the many givers.



Institute On Aging

A HELPING HAND FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Saint John's Institute on Aging launched in May 2018 was one of the gifts given by Saint John's to the Milwaukee community in celebration of its 150th Anniversary. The vision statement of the Institute was, "To create lasting solutions to the negative consequences of poverty, discrimination and chronic health conditions among older adults in the wider Milwaukee community." An Advisory Committee was formed including board members Fr. Seth Dietrich, Judy Moon and Stephanie Stein; community leaders Dennis Conta and Pat Ruttum; and employees Renée Anderson, Sybil Bell, John George and Donna Spars. Chaplain Jana Troutman-Miller was invited to join the Committee in 2019. The Advisory Committee meets regularly and is chaired by resident M. Kent Mayfield who created the Institute concept.



The Committee devoted the first six months of operation to a survey of the services available to older adults in the greater Milwaukee community including a search for opportunities for the Institute. Early in 2019, two working groups were formed to develop projects in the areas of spiritual support/social isolation and development/support of unpaid caregivers.

The Spiritual Support work group forwarded two proposals. The Institute is partnering with the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab at Brandeis University on a national study entitled "CHARGE: Chaplaincy and Research in Geriatric Environments." The study is intended to seek out and promote best practices in chaplaincy within organizations serving older adults as well as in the greater community. The Institute has committed half the cost of an initial gathering of potential partner organizations as well as a portion of the cost of the study. The Chaplaincy Innovation Team is in process of finding the partner organization for the initial gathering.

The second proposal forwarded by the Spiritual Support work group was on social isolation. A working proposal to study social isolation in Milwaukee, a first for the community, is in development with the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) at Loyola University in Chicago. CURL partners with organizations, such as the Institute, to conduct research that leads to action-based outcomes.

The Development/Support of Unpaid Caregivers workgroup forwarded and completed a proposal to fund and partially teach an evidence-based series entitled "Aging Mastery" to people living with early stage dementia and their care partners at the Alzheimer's Association in fall 2019. The series is intended to help individuals learn skills to age well despite chronic illnesses. Attendee surveys stated that the material presented was valuable to them. A second series of "Aging Mastery" is planned in 2020 for residents of Westlawn and Victory Gardens, housing authority buildings the latter of which provides housing for veterans.

Toward the end of 2019 we recognized that the Institute and Advisory Committee would benefit from the expertise of consultants who could help the Institute identify and transition into a next phase of growth. Consilience Group, Memphis was hired based on a strong recommendation and synergies between their purpose statement and the Institute's vision. A first meeting was scheduled for early 2020.

In addition, the Committee continued to expand its knowledge of organizations whose constituents represent the Institute's target demographic through lunch/learns at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and the United Community Center with additional meetings planned in 2020.

And finally it was recognized that the Institute needed dedicated staff to move forward. Donna Spars, Vice President of Lifestyle, was named to dedicate half her time to provide leadership for the Institute along with Kent Mayfield as chair of the Advisory Committee. Monika Ahal, Executive Assistant, will provide part-time administrative support to the Institute.