

# Community Impact...



## 2020 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, whose personal resources can no longer fully cover their residency costs, regardless of where they reside on campus. 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 2020 totaled \$413,000, lower than in previous years due to the decreased room availability associated with construction.

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Benevolent Support	\$345,000	\$165,000	\$202,000	\$103,000
Medicaid Shortfall	\$68,000	\$361,000	\$657,000	\$409,000
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>\$413,000</b>	<b>\$526,000</b>	<b>\$512,000</b>	<b>\$512,000</b>

### 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 through our popular Pop-Up Sales and our Etsy site, 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 2020, nine employees were awarded \$22,200.

Local students fulfilled their course objectives working with Saint John's residents and staff in 2020. Sixteen RN candidates from MATC completed a substantial part of their clinical rotation with our nurses in the care neighborhoods. Petros Tewelde, a Saint John's employee and student, completed part of his health care administrator internship at Saint John's.

Donna Spars continued to serve on the Advisory Board and mentor students at James Madison High School, Academy of Health Sciences. The school incorporates hard and soft skills needed in health care careers into student's course work, so they are ready for employment as well as higher education at graduation.

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

Saint John's has a long standing relationship with the Alzheimer's Association. In fall our team, the Saint John's Sparklers, participated in the Annual Alzheimer's Walk which raises funds for research and education. This year, due to the pandemic, we continued to walk, but separately and on a route of our own choosing to continue to raise awareness and funds.

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. Though the group was closed to outside participants in March, we will reopen as soon as feasible.



Saint John's Sparklers: Renée Anderson, Angie Kopf, Barbara Kloman, Anne Luther and Donna Spars.

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 sixth year of sponsorship, Saint John's staff and volunteers welcomed 24 participants from the greater community for in-person events in January and February and continued with monthly virtual events May – December at Saint John's.

## Support 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 2020, three organizations were awarded a total of \$10,000 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.

## 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 a new venue – the Milwaukee Rescue Mission – a shelter and resource center for Milwaukee's homeless. As Saint John's residents transition or organize their closets, they share with this organization whose services are yet more crucial due to the pandemic.

Riverwest Food Pantry was the beneficiary of both food and financial donations this year. Non-perishable food is collected year-round in a bin located in The Bistro. Resident Holger Petersen made innumerable deliveries to Riverwest totaling 601 pounds of food. In addition, a resident suggestion led to a call for financial donations matched by Saint John's in the amount of \$5,000 resulting in a combined contribution of \$16,858 to the pantry to support the greater needs of the community.

The International Institute of Wisconsin assists refugees who seek to establish new households in the Milwaukee area. Resident Susan Ploetz facilitated deliveries of unsold furnishings and furniture from our Pop-Up sales and excess inventory to support their mission.

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Through the generosity of Saint John's residents, the Milwaukee Women's Center received 70 suitcases to benefit women and children in transitional housing situations. We thank resident and volunteer, Judith Miller, who championed this activity throughout the year.

VJS Construction Services and Saint John's staff 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 \$105,261 to support the services needed to keep Milwaukee clients healthy, financially stable and safe. Ambassadors Pat and Allen Rieselbach helped champion the resident effort. We couldn't have done it without them and all the many givers.

And finally, several organizations benefitted from a liquidation of excess inventory that occurred throughout the year. Eastside Senior Services received 9 items such as used walkers, to help older adults remain safely independent in their homes. A local church received 60 chairs for use in their community center. And, the Milwaukee Art Museum was gifted 22 art books for their Research Center.

## FOURTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGING

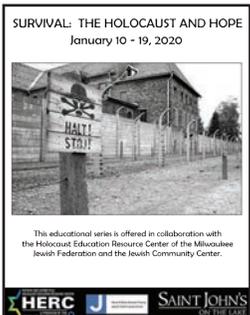
The purpose of this signature event is to advance the study of aging, to explore new understanding and to share collective wisdom. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium On Aging in March featured notable faculty and authors focused on the theme EYES WIDE OPEN: FACING AGE WITH HONESTY, COMPASSION, COURAGE. Its closure was on the heels of the pandemic restrictions and we breathed relief as all was well with the event. The attendees were offered an opportunity to gain a clear-eyed vision for confident aging in changing times – a most timely topic in this season of change to “a new normal.” This forum for learning had wide appeal for those professionals who serve older clients and for residents, board members and staff.



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Chaplain Jana Troutman-Miller and featured presenter, Otis Moss III, M.Div, D.Min.



## SURVIVAL: THE HOLOCAUST AND HOPE

An educational series offered to the greater community in collaboration with the Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) and the Jewish Community Center.



# Institute On Aging

## MISSION STATEMENT



We partner with older adults facing poverty, discrimination and chronic health conditions throughout Milwaukee County through collaborative, community-based and evidence-based opportunities to enrich the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual dimensions of their lives.



## CHALLENGES & NEW OPPORTUNITIES By Donna Spars, Executive Director

By 2020, the Institute had committed to participation in two research studies in a couple of our primary areas of interest – spiritual support and alleviation of social isolation. However, it was recognized the Institute needed to make key decisions about structure including what assistance we could offer partners and how we would select projects in order to build a sustainable framework. We concluded consultants would be beneficial in assisting us with making those decisions. The Consilience Group was selected based on a strong recommendation and alignment of our individual mission statements. Shortly after meeting with Consilience and developing our growth plan, COVID struck rendering most of the near-term plan impossible. As both research studies involved interviewing older adults in person, unlikely for a long period of time, the studies were put on hold.

In addition, an evidence-based wellness series entitled the Aging Mastery Program, funded, and partially taught through the Institute, was suspended. Later in the year sessions were taught virtually and will be repeated in-person when possible.

In September, the founding Advisory Committee was sunset with our gratitude for their commitment to and support of the Institute and with the understanding that a committee was needed comprised of members who were acknowledged experts or had experience working with older adult in communities of color.

As the pandemic continued it became more and more evident that social isolation, already a serious problem, was having a catastrophic impact on the emotional well-being of many people and particularly older adults. Anne Basting, a Milwaukee-based MacArthur fellow recognized for her work with older adults, offered a proposal in conjunction with her organization TimeSlips, to provide a creative individual contact with up to 6,000 older adults. The Institute became a partner providing both funds and resident volunteer time to assist with the contacts.

The pandemic also seriously affected the ability of many community-based organizations to continue to serve their older adult clients. Many needed to lay off employees due to funding cuts or decreased donations and, at the same time, the needs of the individuals they serve have increased. The Institute offered three organizations with whom we had previously partnered an opportunity to complete a brief application for funds to help fulfill the needs of their constituents. All three organizations received grants. The Milwaukee Christian Center used their funds to provide wellness packets containing masks, hand sanitizer, safety information, and home exercise equipment with instructions for their senior Hmong clients to use in maintaining their health.

St. Ann Center for Intergeneration Care, Bucyrus Campus, used their funds to purchase a Nintendo game console to assist clients whose therapy appointments had been canceled to retain range of motion through games like tennis and golf. They also used the funds to celebrate Black History month with a Black history tree and live entertainment. And, they also bought a full set of pots and pans to use in their new cooking classes.

And finally, Eastside Senior Services used their funds to continue with essential services they provide for their 120+ clients including transportation, shopping for clients and assistance with household tasks.

Since January 2021, the Institute has partially funded and will provide hands-on support to several additional projects that address mental health, isolation and trauma. These projects are designed to impact the lives of thousands of people.

We are proud of our partnerships with all of these individuals and organizations who are living their mission statements and providing us with the opportunity to fulfill ours.