

2014 Annual Report

St. John's Healing Community Care & St. John's Community Care

2014

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What a joy it is to report another year of caring for God's people, made possible only through the love, support, and dedication of members of our congregation, donors and volunteers. You have enabled us to make life better for many individuals and those who love them. Thank you, on their behalf, for providing this opportunity to show God's love.

2014 Highlights

Our ministries made life easier for hundreds of families in 2014! I recently had a family member comment how touched he was with our generosity. They had encountered an unanticipated financial crisis and did not know how to continue paying for St. John's care for their loved one. Because of generous donations and our practice of granting partial scholarships when circumstances justify it, we were able to make our Adult Day Program affordable for them.

Home Services -- 104 of our neighbors enjoyed the care and companionship of St. John's Caregivers, enabling them to stay safely and comfortably in their own homes. For some, Home Services made it possible to spend the final weeks of their earthly life where they were most comfortable. A few clients needed our help for a few days. Others needed us around the clock every day. Most fell between those two extremes, scheduling regular help two to seven times each week to stay comfortably and safely in their homes. We are blessed to have dependable, compassionate Home Services Caregivers who love caring for others, some of whom have worked with us for 15 or more years. This team made 30,563 hours of difference in lives challenged by age and disability.

Adult Day Program -- Because the Healing Community Board and congregation had the faith to reach out into Edwardsville with a second site, 96 participants spent days filled with laughter and activities while their family caregivers enjoyed a break from caregiving responsibilities. We could not have accommodated them all at one site. For some families, our care allowed them to keep their jobs. For others, knowing their loved one was safe and happy in our hands gave them the opportunity to tackle errands and care for themselves. (It is easy to forget that many of our family caregivers have their own challenges due to aging or illness.)

Family Caregiver Support -- We are blessed with staff who are very knowledgeable about Alzheimer's disease/dementia, family dynamics common in multi-



generational caregiving, community resources, and funding sources for care. They are also compassionate and eager to assist and support families struggling to manage their situations. Literally hundreds of individuals are touched through our support groups, workshops, and care planning consultations.

SIUe students brought energy and ideas to our Adult Day Programs as they volunteered or met class requirements. In 2014 two pre-med students volunteered to gain experience with the types of people they expect to encounter in their practices. Nursing and social work students rotated through and helped with projects. Our **Art Therapy Counseling practicum student** made the greatest impact, helping nonverbal participants express their emotions and generating feelings of creativity and accomplishment for all. We are grateful to the **Madison County Mental Health Board** and **Boeing Employees Community Fund** for helping us fund this practicum and the required supervision by a certified art therapist, who is our own Tracy Ehrhardt Massa.

United Way/Washington University Olin Board Fellow – We participated for the first time in the fall of 2014. This program connects MBA student with United Way agencies to experience board work and to complete a project. Rodney Linch's talents and insights have proved valuable to us.

Major Funders – Grants from **Retirement Research Foundation, The Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, and** a third local foundation which prefers to keep a low profile, plus increased **United Way** and **Madison County Mental Health Board** funding, supported our Adult Day Program expenses throughout the year.

The Siteman Family Foundation surprised us with a \$10,000 grant, which we used to purchase a specialized

computer system for use by our Edwardsville Adult Day Program. Thanks to Eldon and Lois Schoeber for making this gift happen!

Individual donors made gifts from \$5 to \$5,000, which enabled us to offer scholarships, provide family caregiver support without fees, and replace worn furniture. We also received generous donations from **Junior Service Clubs (both Collinsville and Edwardsville/Glen Carbon), and Collinsville Presbyterian Women,** as well as **St. John Men's Fellowship** and **Evening Circle,** who are loyal supporters.

Goals and News for 2015

30th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2015, including a Mystery Dinner Theater event! Strategic planning by the Healing Community Board resulted in the following **2015-2018 goals.**

- ◆ Financial Stability –
4 to 6 month operating Reserve
- ◆ Market Our Services Regionally
- ◆ Stable/Quality In-Home Caregiver Pool
- ◆ Address Need for More Depth in Administrative Support
- ◆ Consider Feasibility of Expanding Services as Resources Allow
- ◆ **UCC Young Adult Service Corps**
– Thanks to St. Peter UCC (Granite City), this program has come to Metro-East. We are fortunate to have Kenna Rago working with us through July 2015.

