

## St. John's Community Care 2020 Impact Report

*Empowering elders and their families, protecting dignity and independence since 1985.*

As an outreach ministry of St. John UCC, St. John's Community Care has been the leader in aging and dementia care support services and resources in our community since 1985. We refocused our mission in late 2019 due to closing our non-medical Home Services Program because competition from national franchise operations made it impossible to hire enough staff to assure its financial viability. Our mission continues to be ***to make a positive difference in the lives of people challenged by aging or disabilities. We accomplish this by providing dependable and compassionate support through direct care, advocacy, education, and outreach to individuals living in the Metro-East community. We live the vision of Christ and His love for all people through our actions and words.***

We long ago recognized the challenges created for both individuals and their families by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. While we do not limit our ministries to those with dementia or cognitive impairment, the majority of the families who reach out to us are dealing with a loved one with memory loss or impaired judgement.

Community Care offers the only **Adult Day Centers** in Madison County which care for adults with dementia or other physical or intellectual impairments. Thanks to a variety of payment sources (State of Illinois, Veterans Administration, respite care funding by AgeSmart Community Resources and the Alzheimer's Association, and the ability to offer partial scholarships funded by donations), all caregiving families can access this care. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to suspend this care for more than 7 months in 2020. Staff added Zoom activities and phone calls and helped arrange in-home care as needed to support them through this time, but that did not truly replace the care we provide in person.

Individuals in the early stages of memory loss or dementia do not yet need the care provided in our Adult Day Centers but often experience anxiety and depression as they struggle to cope with their devastating diagnosis. **Brain Wave** classes help them understand their condition, relate to others in comparable situations, and plan for their futures. Attending Brain Wave results in reduced depression and anxiety. This is the only resource available to them in Metro-East. Brain Wave is partially funded by RRF Foundation for Aging and Madison County Mental Health Board.

**Supporting Family Caregivers** is essential to enable them to continue their loving care, often 24 hours a day, except when using our Adult Day Center. In addition to our monthly **Support Groups**, we offer **Savvy Caregiver and Stress Busting classes** to help caregivers develop and implement strategies to strengthen their caregiving and improve the lives of both the individual with dementia and other family members. Grants allow us to provide these classes free of charge.

**Memory Cafes** address social isolation for individuals with memory loss and their care partners. We moved the three monthly in-person sessions to Zoom in the spring. While those sessions were well-received, they did not reach as many couples. We look forward to resuming in-person sessions but expect to continue virtual sessions for those who have trouble traveling. Cafes give individuals with dementia and their care partners an opportunity to enjoy activities and fellowship in a setting which accepts dementia-related behaviors. These are free of charge thanks to AgeSmart grant.

Community Care is blessed to be able to leverage staff expertise and other resources to help the families who come to us live their best possible lives. Through our ministries, we make God's love real.

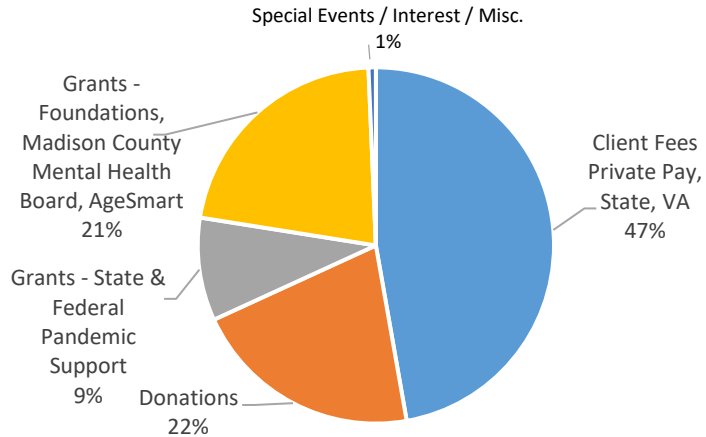
### **Individuals Served in 2020**

Adult Day Program	81	Support Group Attendees	53
Hours of Care	13,075	Savvy Caregiver Attendees	
Brain Wave attendees		Busting Stress Attendees	
Medical Equipment Loans	295	Memory Café Attendees	42

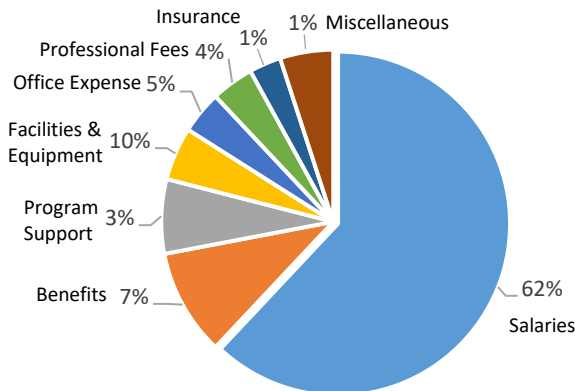
**We are proud to count the congregation of St. John UCC as a vital stakeholder as we continue to bring God's compassion and love to those in our midst dealing with challenges which too often come with aging. Members of the Healing Community Board play a vital role in managing this increasingly complex ministry.**

January – December 2020  
 Total Revenue = \$102,3545.35      Total Expense = \$924,570.26

Operating Revenue



Operating Expense



**St. John’s Healing Community Board - 2020**

- Carla Gain, President
- Norb Kniepp, Vice President
- Mary Ellen Daech, Secretary
- Barbara Kusmierczak, Treasurer
- Jim Achenbach
- Joyce Biegert
- Barb Johnston
- Megan Kocs, Olin Board Fellow
- Debi Ralston
- Pam Waltermire
- Melanie Whitworth
- Kim Wimmerstedt
- Larry Wood

NOTE: Figures are preliminary. Revenue includes a bequest and grants available due to the pandemic. Payroll Protection Program loan is NOT included as revenue as the SBA has not yet approved the application for loan forgiveness.

**Ministries to the Congregation**

Additional congregational ministries to neighbors challenged by aging, illness, and disability include **Meals on Wheels**, which is a community organization utilizing volunteer teams from a coalition of churches. Ten volunteers from St. John UCC delivered meals for four weeks, serving 25 meals each week. **Evening Circle** prepared and delivered 30 bags of Christmas goodies to members of the congregation who are unable to attend worship regularly due to physical limitations.

**Collinsville Faith in Action**

This wonderful interfaith ministry established by St. John’s Community Care is a separate organization but relates to St. John UCC through a management agreement which gives them access to support and mentoring by St. John’s Community Care. St. John UCC is one of the signatories on FIA’s incorporation filing. Faith in Action purchased the building at 233 North Seminary from the church in 2019. Thanks to Bonnie Farrington for representing our church on the FIA Advisory Board again in 2020. Lisa Brennan is Executive Director.

FIA’s mission is to provide free transportation to local seniors and permanently disabled neighbors through the involvement of volunteers from many churches, including St. John UCC. They are having to limit the number of rides they can schedule due to the limited number of volunteers willing and able to accept assignments during the pandemic. (Please consider becoming a volunteer for them. You can pick your days and times.) The Answers on Aging program, now staffed by Nancy Pettijohn, helped more than 1,000 seniors evaluate and access benefits like Medicare Part D. Answers on Aging also helps seniors at locations in Granite City, Venice, Fairmont City, Troy, and Highland. The Elder Connection social outings were suspended due to the pandemic.