

Ascension Partnership in Ministry Awards

2018-2019



Ascension



New Major Grants

1. **Sacred Heart Health System/Children's Home Society, Greater Pensacola Area Telehealth Counseling Connections, Pensacola, Florida**

(\$100,000 over two years/First year \$50,000 – Second year \$50,000)

Contact: Amy Barron, Director, Mission Integration

Endorsement: John Halstead, Mission Integration / Tracie Loftis, CMIO

Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) continues to grow a statewide telehealth network (tele-counseling and tele-psychiatry) that will increase the accessibility of behavioral and mental health care to families. The focus of this proposal is to expand services to children and youth and their families through a partnership with Sacred Heart Health System. Florida ranks 41st in access to mental health care for youth. Children in Florida who receive Medicaid typically have to wait several months to receive an appointment with a psychiatrist – a critically important part of treatment for kids who are suffering. The proposed program will be initiated in the Northwest Florida area. During the first six months of the project, two Counselors will focus on outreach to community members through presentations and distribution of materials, educating health care professionals, and developing new collaborative relationships. An important component of this program is to integrate care allowing Counselors and Physicians to be able to communicate and coordinate the patient's care. As a health care delivery modality, telehealth overcomes barriers to in-office care such as lack of transportation, stigma, provider shortages, and scheduling conflicts. CHS telehealth counseling and psychiatry can level the odds for clients who have made a decision to seek treatment for behavioral health issues but who find themselves unable to go, or would prefer not to go to a traditional office-based practice.

2. **Ascension Via Christi, Behavioral Health Service Expansion, Wichita, Kansas**

(\$100,000 over two years/First year \$50,000 – Second year \$50,000)

Contact: Lynette Murphy, Director of Development

Endorsement: Peg Tichacek, Chief Mission Integration Officer

Ascension Via Christi, Behavioral Health Service Expansion will help the people in south central Kansas with untreated mental health issues and substance abuse disorders. Ascension Via Christi with existing collaborative is a newly formed partnership with the local school district to expand existing daytime behavioral health Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) to evening sessions and offer education to professionals in the local public schools about suicide prevention and other mental health issues. This program will provide in-depth treatment for patients with severe symptoms, sometimes either just before or just after psychiatric hospitalization. While providing the opportunity for patients to return home in the evening, the program offers medication management, group therapy, a focus on helping patients learn healthy life-coping skills, wellness and symptom-awareness education, communication skills and goal-setting strategies. The new evening model would be held from 5 – 8:30 pm three days a week, with a meal provided.



Ongoing Established Programs

- 1. Annunciation House, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, El Paso, Texas (\$25,000 Second Year of Funding / received \$25,000 in 2017 and was invited back to reapply for a second year of funding in 2018)**

Contact: Sister Ida R. Berresheim, CSJ, CSJ Applicant & Immigrant Advocate

Endorsement: Sister Maureen Freeman, CSJ

Annunciation House assists the poor in migration with every type of needed service for those who are in need of shelter and other services. Annunciation House will provide food, clothing, health care, shelter, direction to legal assistance and education to refugees. These poor persons in migration pass through and/or are assigned for a period to one of the sheltering houses on their way to a safe stay with a relative or sponsor in the U.S.

- 2. Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance (ABHHA), Lake County Expansion for Homeless/LGBTQ Safe Space, Chicago, IL. (\$25,000 one year grant / invited back to reapply for a second year funding in 2019)**

Contact: Cheryl Potts, Executive Director

Endorsement: Stan Kedzior, Director of Mission Integration

This project will expand ABHHA's ministry in Lake County, an area north of Chicago with scarce resources to serve high-risk populations including chronically homeless adults living with HIV and other chronic diseases, and LGBTQ individuals. Through this multi-pronged approach, ABHHA will double existing supportive community housing, provide psychosocial support and educational groups for community housing residents; and sponsor a "safe space" for LGBTQ youth and adults, offering support groups and linkage to housing, jobs, and behavioral health services. The project will respond to housing crisis faced by homeless adults who are living with HIV, substance use and mental illness.

Start-Up Programs

1. Providence Hospital, Washington, D.C., Super Utilizing Patient Navigation (\$50,000 one year grant / invited back to reapply for a second year funding in 2019)

Contact: Dionne Soares, Clinical Director My Health GPS

Endorsement: Sr. Ellen Reilly, DC, Chief Mission Integration Officer

Providence identified a significant trend in a review of their Emergency Care Center (ECC). It was evidenced that 34% of emergency department (ED) visits were attributed to “super-utilizer” patients. Super-utilizer patients are those with documentation of five or more ED visits within a one-year period. The patients that fit this profile tend to be Medicaid beneficiaries who are identified as “vulnerable” or “at-risk” patients. These patients fit one or more of the following criteria: 1) three or more chronic co-morbidities (hypertension, diabetes, asthma, obesity, etc.); 2) significant social determinants (housing, transportation, food, etc.); and 3) behavioral health co-morbidities (depression, drug abuse, bipolar disorder, etc.). From the data collected, Providence extrapolated that the majority of the population has little or no follow up and/or primary care provider (PCP) thus leading to the increased utilization of the ECC for often what could be deemed a primary care medical concerns. With this information, it would be beneficial to the patient population to have a patient outreach navigator whose function would be to assist and navigate the patients by facilitating coordination of services for follow-up. The duties and responsibilities of this navigator would include but not limited to: 1) connect the patient with their established PCP or help identify a new PCP; 2) identify community resources that will reduce barriers; 3) connect patient with a social worker to provide a needs assessment; and 4) connect eligible patients with the on-site care coordination program, MyHealthGPS.

2. St. Vincent’s Foundation of Alabama, Inc., Prevention through Intervention: A Community’s Response of CHF and COPD patients (\$25,000 one year grant / invited back to reapply for a second year funding in 2019)

Contact: Susan Sellers, President, St. Vincent’s Foundation

Endorsement: Wayne Carmello-Harper, Chief Mission Integration Officer, St. Vincent’s Health System

This project will address both the need to connect patients to primary care, and the need for an increase in self-management and care for cardiovascular patients, by piloting an innovative partnership between Birmingham Fire and Rescue (BFR), Ascension St. Vincent’s Health System (STVHS), and Christ Health Center (CHC). The model seeks to combine two cost-effect methods that have each proven separately to be successful with the target population in an effort to improve health outcomes for CHF/COPD patients:

(1) Texting interventions have been shown to improve medication adherence and reduce health disparities through the use of readily accessible technology, and (2) Home visits by community paramedics have been shown to reduce unnecessary use of emergency services and transports to emergency departments. Referrals to the program will come from inpatient case management, ED case managers/medical staff and STVHS Urgent Care, or STVHS social work team will refer patients from texting program.

International Programs

1. Training for Health Personnel, Daughters of Charity, Caribbean Province, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, (\$10,000 One Time Award)

Contact: Sister Elania Josefina Almánzar Flores, DC, Provincial Project Coordinator

Endorsement: Sister Servia Tulia Garcia Martinez, Visitatrix, Carribbean Province

The Training for Health Personnel program will help the people in Santo Domingo by implementing training and preparation for health care workers who serve or will serve in areas catering to marginalized populations. The Sisters believe this project will change the lives of the health care workers and the people receiving the direct care. Improved skill sets and knowledge will result in better health for patients. It is the responsibility of the Dominican State to meet these educational needs; however, they lack the resources and conditions to address this advancement in healthcare. The project goal is for a total of 1,230 health personnel to be trained over a three-year timeframe, thereby reaching 18,332 beneficiaries.

2. Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, Provision of Borehold (\$10,000 One Time Award)

Contact: Sr. Philomena Okwu, DC, Project Coordinator

Endorsement: Sr. Gloria Aniabonam, DC

The funding will be used for the drilling of borehold in the clinic at Drobonso in Ghana to provide portable drinking water for the patients that will access our facility as well as provide good drinking water for the villagers around there. The entire district with a population of about 35,000 does not have potable water. The people rely solely on streams and sometimes stagnant water for drinking and other household uses. This project will provide portable water to serve those who will access the clinic and will serve close to six thousand inhabitants around their environs with drinking water.

3. Integrated Community Health Programs, Concern America, Guatemala and Colombia (\$10,000 One Time Award)

Contact: John Straw, Executive Director

Endorsement: Sister Sandra Williams, CSJ

Concern America's "Integrated Community Health Programs, Colombia and Guatemala" build long-term health and sanitation system in impoverished rural communities through the training and accompaniment of community health workers. This successful model, known as Health Promoter Practitioners (HPPs), builds health and sanitation systems by training local community members whose resulting depth of knowledge, skills, and ability to provide health care is comparable to the work of nurse practitioners in the U.S. The innovative nature of C/A's HPP model is that it addresses the root cause of poor health care in isolated, impoverished regions by engaging the most valuable resource in every village: THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

4. Community Development: Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative (VFHI), Savanne Perdue, Haiti, near the border of the Dominican Republic (\$10,000 One Time Award)

Contact and Endorsement: Sister Margaret Marie Clifford, DC, Advancement Coordinator

The Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative (VFHI) Community Developer position will assist with outreach programs that include marketing, administrative, and support activities in a collaborative team centric environment. This will include planning and implementing the VFHI's strategic plan for community outreach programs. The strategic plan focuses upon economic development through human development program that collaborate for agricultural programs.

Second Year Funding:

**1. Ladies of Charity USA, "Mission Market", Kansas City, Missouri
(\$100,000 over two years/First year \$50,000 – Second year \$50,000)**

Contact: Suzanne Johnson, President

Endorsement: Sister Mary Louise Stubbs, DC

Mission Market is a project that LCUSA is developing to provide a platform for people in developing countries to market and sell their products in the United States and other countries. The desire is to work to empower enterprising people from around the world to become self-sufficient in business. The plan is to create a viable online market for the unique goods handmade by people in developing countries where the Daughters of Charity have skill centers. Many products made by artisans in the Daughters of Charity skill centers can be sold through this platform. Retail gift shops such as Ascension Healthcare gift shops, other hospital gift shops, long term care facilities' gift shops, boutiques, thrift shops, special event planners, as well as other businesses, will log on to the online platform and purchase handcrafted artisanal products at affordable prices for resale.

2. Justus Corp Charity Community Mobile Pantry, Justus Corp, Indianapolis, Indiana (\$100,000 over two years/First year \$50,000 – Second year \$50,000)

Contact: Satina Badgett, CEO

Endorsement: Glenn McDonald, Director, Mission Integration

Justus Corp provides needy families and individuals around Marion County, Indiana, who are below the poverty level or are homeless with fresh and non-perishable food, toiletries and household products on a weekly basis. They provide mobile pantry set up, delivery and dietary services for poverty stricken neighborhoods and families, as well as education on what items aid in preventing illness and disease. The aim is to change the scope of food quality for low income families. Justus Corp Pantry's main focus for funding will be to service downtown Indianapolis, Martindale Brightwood, West Indianapolis and the neighborhood surrounding Watkins Park. The focus is on these areas mainly due to the lack of quality fresh produce and meats available, lack of



transportation for most families and lack of quality grocery stores within a five-mile radius. By providing fresh produce, perishable and non-perishable food items to needy families in these areas, it will cut down on families and children going hungry, and limit illness and disease due to poor dietary intakes.

3. St. Lazare House, DePaul USA, Inc., Chicago, Illinois (\$70,000 over two years/First year \$35,000 – Second year \$35,000)

Contact: Peggy Robertson, Director of Foundation Giving

Endorsement: Sr. Jean Maher, DC

St. Lazare House will establish a permanent supportive housing (PSH) program at 2912 Arsenal Street in St. Louis for homeless young adults with mental health disabilities. There are no permanent supportive housing programs that prioritize homeless youth in the City of St. Louis. The St. Lazare House will become a congregate-site apartment building with 15 one-bedroom units and a finished basement with a full kitchen. Permanent supportive housing is an evidence-based best practice and will allow youth to exit homelessness by providing a continuum of housing options and comprehensive services.

Second Year Funding (granted extension)

1. Rutherford Faith Community Wellness Program, Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital (STRH), Murfreesboro, Tennessee (\$100,000 over two years/First year \$50,000 – Second year \$50,000)

Contact: Anne Davis, Director, Saint Thomas Rutherford Foundation

Endorsement: Greg Pope, Vice President, Mission Integration & CMIO, Ministry Market

The goal of this program is to work closely with more than 30 congregations to provide state-of-the-art wellness promotion and health care that embodies physical, psychological, social and spiritual care of individuals. The program is multi-dimensional with three primary components: 1) Faith Community Nurse Involvement 2) Clinically Integrated Coordination of Care, and 3) Congregational Health and Clergy Health Programming. The integration of STRH, Faith Community Nurses (FCN) and clergy health and congregational care support teams will lead to personalized care and better individual and community health outcomes. STRH anticipates reaching approximately 1,000 individuals with STRH congregational nurse navigation; touching 30,000 lives through FCNs, congregation care team support and education; initial commitment of 30 congregations; and initial participation of 80 church and organizational representatives.