



COMMUNITY REPORT

FY 2023



St. Francis
community services

A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CATHOLIC  CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

St. Francis Community Services



St. Francis Community Services, as an extension of Catholic Charities, embodies the mission of bringing healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need through a compassionate and caring presence. Our purpose is to walk alongside our vulnerable neighbors, creating opportunities, fostering resilience, and advocating for justice.

Our commitment remains unwavering in strengthening communities by supporting and empowering families, regardless of their composition. We serve a diverse range of families, including those in St. Louis City and North St. Louis County who face poverty and seek ways out through programs like Pathways to Progress. We also serve our Latino and Haitian neighbors through various immigrant services including Youth programs, Adult education workshops, Mental Health support, Legal Aid, and others. We support Vietnamese seniors' health and well-being as well as work with veterans on issues impacting their lives which many times is related to homelessness. Despite their different backgrounds, a common thread unites them: the need for support to navigate complex situations and improve their lives.

Looking ahead, SFCS is dedicated to enhancing family well-being, extending its impact to the broader community. We have opportunities to serve new people in new ways and expand our geographical reach by leveraging our expertise in long-term case management, cultural competency, community activation, and legal services, which prepares us to meet the evolving needs of our community.”

— John Schulte, Executive Director, St. Francis Community Services

St. Francis Community Services operates a variety of programs. One of which is the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry (CLAM). CLAM focuses on helping underserved populations through family and guardianship law, veterans advocacy, immigration law, housing crisis cases, and municipal court cases. We serve people that other organizations will not. Our clients are at 150% of the poverty level or less (e.g. a family of 4 that makes less than \$39,000) and most of them have no money to pay for legal representation.

Many of the people we serve are fighting against obstacles that most of us cannot even imagine. The clients served by our talented, expert attorneys and specialized support staff are seeking safety, justice, and protection through the court system, so that they may live a stable and healthy life. One couple came to us after their daughter passed away, asking SFCS to help them obtain guardianship of their grandchildren. Our attorney walked with the family through that dark period in their life, ensuring

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Helping individuals and families become sustainable by working with them over time through mentorship and training to develop the tools to overcome barriers to success and to foster the skills necessary for a more secure and satisfying future.

that the children could stay out of foster care and remain at home with their grandparents, where they belonged.

Our Legal Assistance Ministry has provided free legal aid in the St. Louis area for more than 35 years. Annually, the program handles about 1,300 cases. We are also inexpressibly grateful to our team of volunteer attorneys who collaborate with us to represent clients, expanding legal services to our neighbors in need.

Client Success Story

Angela- Wrap-around Case Management

“Angela” and her Pathways to Progress case manager identified that one of her biggest barriers to a better job was outstanding warrants for minor traffic offenses, which were preventing her from driving. She was limited to jobs that she could access using public transportation, which took hours out of every day and made it harder for her to work on her other goals.



An attorney on staff at St. Francis Community Services helped Angela resolve numerous municipal court matters so she could finally obtain legal driving privileges.

Our attorney also discovered that her unscrupulous landlord had obtained an unfair eviction judgment against her. The attorney took her case to court,

where the judgment was overturned. The judge agreed to seal Angela’s record. Now, Angela can rent a better apartment in a safer neighborhood for her and her children without future landlords seeing an eviction on her record.

Volunteer Numbers

	# of	Hours
CLAM	18	3,526
Immigration Services	80	1,550
Pathways	0	0
Board	21	891.75
Total	119	5,968

Value (\$343 - Attorney, \$28 Other Vol/Intern)

CLAM ProBono value of volunteers = \$1,140,125

Partnerships



Contact

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