

LIVING FAITH, CHANGING LIVES, MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ONE PERSON AT A TIME

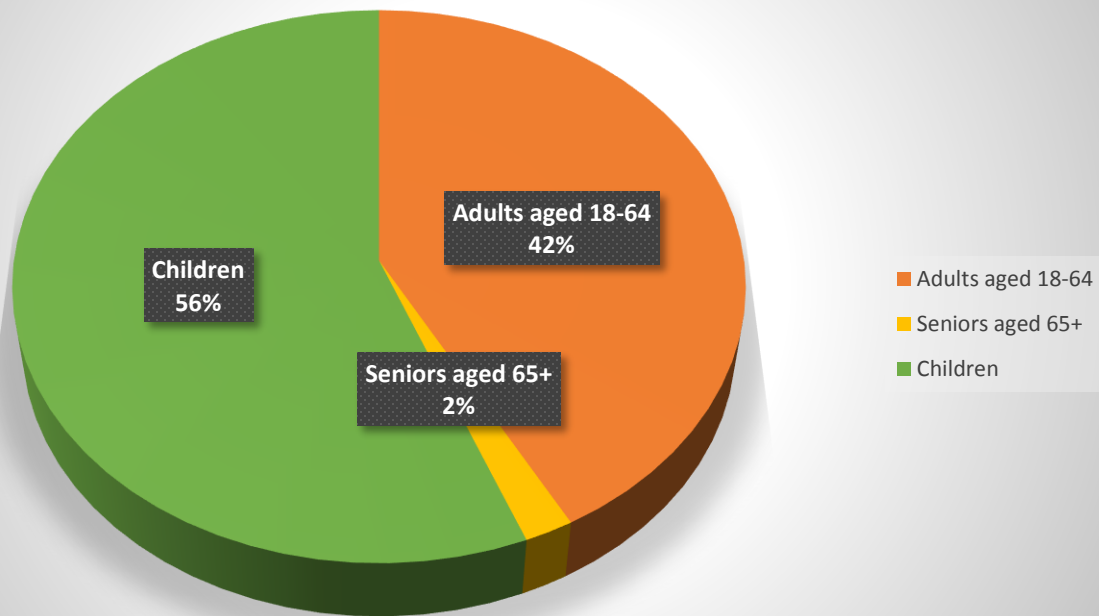
QUARTERLY REPORT FROM SJV'S SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRIES DECEMBER, 2015 – FEBRUARY, 2016

SJV's Social Service Ministries Department, through its Emergency Assistance Ministry, provides food, clothes, financial, and other types of assistance to those in need. Working in conjunction with the Food Pantry, Joseph's Coat Resale Shop, our Employment Ministry, other ministries within Social Services, and partnering with ministries such as Memorial Assistance Ministries and Catholic Charities, our volunteer interviewers meet with those in our neighborhood who are facing financial crises. These difficulties are often due to unemployment, low income, rising medical costs, higher food prices, or unforeseen family crises. Acting on their commitment to the Corporal Works of Mercy and through the donations of our very generous parishioners, the volunteers are able to compassionately respond to the needs of our clients and help them overcome the "bumps in the road."

The interviews for assistance are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Assistance is available to those in need who live within our service area: zip codes 77043, 77055, 77077 and 77079. Expectant women who are enrolled in the Gabriel Project are also eligible for these services. We currently have six experienced and trained volunteers plus our staff who interview the families for assistance.

Due to the Christmas holidays, December was the busiest month of the year for our Emergency Assistance Ministry. During the month of December, our volunteers saw a record number of individuals in need of assistance. Although December is typically our busiest month of the year, January and February are generally our slowest. **We had 335 emergency service visits, assisting a total of 1,322 individuals in this past quarter.** Although the individuals interviewed for assistance were adults, this report is designed to show the makeup of the families assisted. As such, the majority of those assisted through visits to our office were children (56%), and only 2% of them were 65 years of age or older. This is consistent with the Houston Food Bank's report that children account for approximately 47% of the people who receive assistance from them, and that on any given day, one in four children in Harris County does not have consistent access to enough nutritious food.

AGE OF PERSONS HELPED DEC. 2015 - FEB. 2016



Of the 335 visits, 34 of them were expectant mothers who belong to our Gabriel Project! The number of expectant mothers whom we've seen through the Gabriel Project has increased in the last year or two. The severity of problems that these expectant mothers face has also escalated in the last few years. So far this year, we have assisted Gabriel Project mothers with the following problems: domestic violence, sexual abuse, teen pregnancies, mental illness, homelessness, etc. Most of the Gabriel Project mothers are not married and receive little to no support from their families. We owe so much of the success of the program to our Gabriel Project volunteer coordinator, Dee Twomey. Dee and her team of Angels meet with the expectant mothers in crisis pregnancies and provide them with practical and spiritual support, referring them to resources as needed, guiding, and mentoring them through their pregnancies. We assist Gabriel Project mothers with baby items as needed and available, and each mother receives a layette filled with baby supplies, including diapers, bottles, and baby clothing. Without the assistance from the Gabriel Project and our amazing Angels, these mothers might not choose life for their babies.

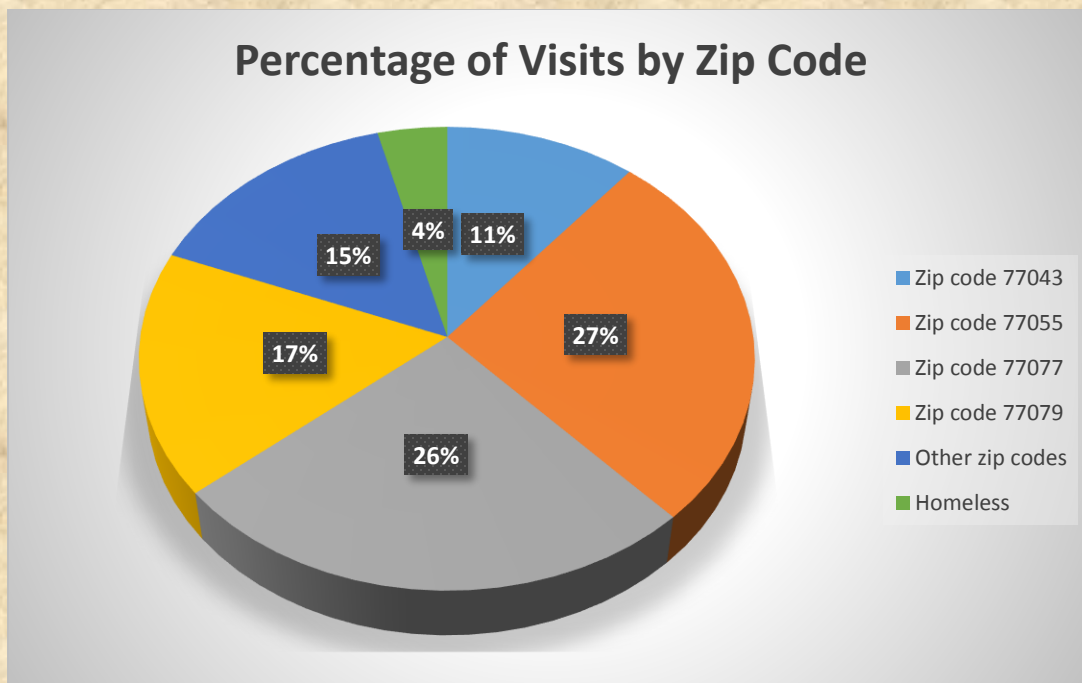
Families in need were assisted with either food, clothes, financial assistance for utilities or rent, or a combination of these:

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED	
Food	282 families
Clothes	126 families
Financial Assistance	38 families
Other (transportation, gold card, résumé, referrals to other ministries)	53 families

Through the Food Pantry, 407 bags of food were distributed, and 443 individuals received assistance with clothes through Joseph's Coat Resale Shop. We also assisted 12 homeless individuals with our Hope Bags.

Among the "other" types of assistance provided through the Social Services' Emergency Assistance Ministry, it's important to mention the referrals to other ministries. Through partnerships with Catholic Charities and Memorial Assistance Ministries we are able to facilitate counseling services for the families we assist, as well as opportunities to increase self-sufficiency.

Regarding the place of residence for those we assist, the majority of them came from the zip code 77055 in the Spring Branch area. The remaining 14% of those we assist are Gabriel Project clients who come from all over the Houston area:



Our Joseph's Coat volunteers served 443 individuals with clothing over this past quarter. Plus, they earned almost \$40,000 for our Social Service ministries during these past three months. We have over 100 volunteers who serve in Joseph's Coat in a variety of ways—as cashiers, sorters, pricers, managers, etc. All of the proceeds from Joseph's Coat benefit our Social Service ministries, so their work (along with the many donations we receive) allowed us to be able to serve the more than 1,300 individuals in need this past quarter.

Additionally, during December, our Social Services Ministry hosted Gift Giving Sunday and our Christmas Program for Emergency Service families. We estimated that more than 7,000 gifts were collected and distributed on Gift Giving Sunday. The gifts went to SJV Emergency Service families as well as 18 participating parishes plus Catholic Charities. Over 90 volunteers helped us distribute the gifts from the altar to each of the parishes.

Within the week following Gift Giving Sunday, SJV Social Services served 89 families and 290 children who were selected for our Christmas Program. We provided each family with a Nativity Cross to hang up on a wall in their home, a generous gift card, 2 presents for each child, a book about the birth of Jesus, a turkey or ham, and a bag of food for Christmas dinner (including all of the side dishes, bread, a dessert, and fresh fruit). We gave out approximately \$8,000 in gift cards, over 500 wrapped gifts, over 80 hams and turkeys, and over 80 bags of groceries. Again, we could not have done this without the assistance of hundreds of volunteers who helped us with all of the many pieces of our Christmas Program.

In addition to our Emergency Services, the Social Service Ministries here at SJV also provide a number of other services to those in need. In January, we enrolled 138 students in our ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. Our students come from all over the world and all walks

of life, but they all share in common a desire to learn English and improve their lives and the lives of their children. We have a total of 10 very committed teachers who volunteer their time twice a week for four hours to their students. The teachers spend even more time preparing for their classes. We also have one experienced volunteer and teacher, Lelia Buerger, who coordinates the ESL program, and several volunteers who substitute for our teachers on a regular basis. Our ESL classes are scheduled to conclude with a graduation ceremony in May.

We delivered hot lunches to all of the homebound and disabled seniors in our Meals on Wheels program every week day during this quarter. That's about 850 meals delivered! This is due to the work of our Meals on Wheels volunteers who often do more than deliver meals to seniors in need. They also check on them, take time to chat with them, and a few of our volunteers even take time every month to organize and play games with them. We have approximately 40 Meals on Wheels volunteers who make this program possible.

We have continued hosting The Gathering Place in these past three months. The Gathering Place provides food, entertainment, interaction, and exercise (both mental and physical) for individuals within our parish who are suffering from memory loss or some form of dementia. At the same time as The Gathering Place, we offer a support group for caregivers. During this past quarter, we have had about 30 participants, plus their caregivers. The Gathering Place is a beautiful ministry that we provide on a monthly basis in collaboration with Interfaith Care Partners for seniors and their loved ones.

In January, SJV completed an additional mission to Eagle Pass on the border of Mexico. We expect to complete a record six missions within this fiscal year. We're also planning for two more missions to Eagle Pass in March as well as a Spring Break mission with our high school students to St. Francis of Assisi here in Houston and a High School Mission to Eagle Pass in the summer.

In addition to all of the work that took place during this last quarter, our Social Service staff and volunteers were also involved in hosting and planning various events including a workshop on Alzheimer's for caregivers in December and a number of Respect Life activities in January. Currently, we're in the midst of planning activities that will take place this Spring 2016 (such as our Walk for Life, Respect Life Movie Night, and Mission Information Night) and even in the next fiscal year (July 2016 through June 2017). Such planning involves tasks such as room scheduling, budgeting, evaluating programs, developing goals, planning calendars, updating the website, and developing newsletters and informational literature, etc. Additionally, our staff and volunteers translated and coordinated the production of the weekly Spanish bulletin (that's 12 issues). Finally, we are involved in the development of several new programs for the next fiscal year as well as a major collaboration with Catholic Charities and several of our neighboring parishes. SJV is also planning to build a Habitat for Humanity home on our own this summer. This will be a major undertaking requiring the assistance of about 250 volunteers. Much more to come in the next issue of Salt & Light on our ambitious plans and new programs for the next fiscal year!

We currently have a total of four full-time staff members in the Social Service department, and we are moving along with ever-increasing efficiency and plans and goals that are bigger and bolder than ever! However, we still wouldn't be able to do everything that we need to do without our

office volunteers. Currently, we have six volunteers who work various shifts. They assist us at the front desk and on projects as needed. We couldn't do it without them!

It is our hope that more than numbers, we are able to convey to you the great work that our parish is able to accomplish through your generous donations. Without them, we would not be able to assist our neighbors in need. Your contributions to the Social Service Ministries through donations and volunteering are marvelous ways to live your faith, change lives, and make a difference!