



### **2018-2019 End of Year SOS Impact Report**

<b>Total Number of Agencies</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Focus Areas</b>	<b>Number of Agencies</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>\$176,000</b>	<b>Arts and Culture</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Education</b>	<b>3</b>
		<b>Environment</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Health</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Social Services</b>	<b>7</b>

### **Education**

#### ***GlobalHack, Inc. – \$20,000 – est. 2013 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the grant is to support salaries and benefits for camp facilitators and fund a part-time 2018 Summer Camp Director for GlobalHack.

##### **Goals**

- Hire a part-time Summer Camp Director to aid camp operations and improve camper experience.
- 400 middle/high school youth will participate in Summer Camp (50/week for eight weeks).
- Of the 400 campers, 200 will receive full scholarships, inclusive of transportation when needed.
- Campers will achieve 70% proficiency on specific measured learning objectives.
- At least 60% of the campers will leave camp with the intention of continuing to learn coding.

##### **Outcomes**

- The Summer Camp Director position was filled for 2018 summer camp.
- 94% (377/400) Summer Camp openings were filled in 2018.
- Full, need-based scholarships were provided to 200 campers, inclusive of transportation.
- 65% (23/36) of learning objectives reached 70% proficiency and 31% (11/36) achieved at least 50% proficiency.
- 60% (226/377) of campers rated themselves a “4” or higher indicating their intention to continue to learn to code.

## **Challenges/Concerns**

High school students tend to have more competition for their time in the summer, such as summer jobs, internships or seasonal extracurricular activities. Camp costs are also an additional expense for parents once their children are old enough to care for themselves during the day. The Summer Camp scholarship fund helps address this challenge. Repeat attendance was limited due to camp offering the same curriculum and courses year to year so additional site and locations were added to recruit from a wider area in 2019 and enrolled 407 kids.

Summer Camp aims to inspire participants to continue their learning beyond the week-long program. For participants with computer access at home, there are many free education opportunities online. For middle school students, GlobalHack encourages their schools' participation in one of GlobalHack's other school-based youth programs. GlobalHack is currently investigating how to continue this pipeline through high school, such that participants could then enter higher education programs or other options like LaunchCode apprenticeships.

## **Highlights**

Funding from SOS in 2018 made the Summer Camp less reliant on full-time staff support across the organization. The SOS grant facilitated Summer Camp growth, strengthening of the curriculum and the Camp's internal evaluations of its success and challenges, as well as increasing community awareness. Continuity in camp operations and camper experience was facilitated with the return of the part time Summer Camp Director and the curriculum was revamped for 2019 to ensure proficiency of all objectives at 70%.

## ***HomeWorks! – \$20,000 – est. 2007 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2017 and 2018***

### **Purpose**

Grant funds will be used to support program implementation costs including teacher home visits, family dinners, transportation and interpreters, teacher training, educational materials for home and summer learning events.

### **Goals**

- Recruit and engage 50% of lead teachers with 75% rating the overall quality of the home visit training as excellent/ very good and 80% rating the training as very effective after completing a home visit.
- Sponsor at least one family dinner or one school-wide event at all of participating schools with a 30% attendance of families invited; 75% of parents will “strongly agree” that the family dinner made them feel welcomed and more connected to their child’s school and see the benefits of receiving a home visit.
- 40% of students targeted for participation will receive home visits with 80% of teachers reporting that visits strengthened relationships with their students’ families and 80% of parents reporting that home visits were extremely helpful/very helpful.
- At least 50% of teachers will share the perception that home visits contributed to improvements in students’ school performance, school attendance, classroom behavior, and homework completion.
- 50% of parents participating in classroom-based sessions will “strongly agree” that they were more likely to engage in parenting skills to increase student achievement.

### **Outcomes**

- 69.6% (211/303) of lead teachers participated in the program with 95% (288/303) rated the overall quality of training excellent or very good and 98% (299/303) rated the training as very effective or somewhat effective in preparing staff to conduct home visits with families.

- HomeWorks! sponsored at least one family dinner or one school-wide event at all of the participating schools with 76% (362/477) of visited parents who also attended family dinners “strongly agreed” a family dinner made them feel welcomed and more connected to their child’s school and 65% (310/477) saw the benefits of receiving a home visit.
- 36.5% of students targeted for participation have received home visits. A total of 1,714 students received home visits with 86% of teachers reporting that visits strengthened their relationships with their students’ families and 91% (1560/1714) parents reporting home visits as extremely/very helpful in building a positive relationship with their child’s teacher.
- Teachers’ perceptions of home visits contributing to improvement in student performance: 69% in social/emotional wellbeing; 66% in academic performance; 56% in classroom behavior; 47% in homework completion; and 44% in attendance and tardiness.
- 75% (395/526) of parents participating in classroom-based teacher learning team meetings rated them as “excellent”.

### **Challenges/Concerns**

This year, the main obstacle to teacher home visits was program messaging. For the 2019-2020 school year, HomeWorks! is clarifying messaging to schools that first visits can occur throughout the school year. They have also standardized the communication tools that program leaders use with site coordinators and principals to ensure program-wide consistency and program leaders will visit with teachers one-on-one to reinforce program messaging.

Over the past year, HomeWorks! has worked to better understand the factors that contribute to program fidelity and have learned just how difficult it is for schools to implement the two visit/two family dinner model, especially for the high-need and new schools. In the 2018-2019 school year, a more flexible model was implemented allowing schools to choose the program components that worked for them. For the 2019-2020 school year, the model has been further refined to require three program components: one home visit, one family dinner, and one additional component such as a parent teacher learning team meeting and/or an additional home visit. Evaluation efforts will continue to further understand the relationship between school capacity and program fidelity.

### **Highlights**

Home Works! had a successful year of building, learning, and growing. In the 2018-2019 school year, 6,751 students, families, and teachers were impacted by HomeWorks! in 23 participating schools.

“In the beginning, I thought the visit was just to be nosey and that the teachers just wanted to see what my house looks like. I learned, though, that the teachers really care. Ms. Hurd told me what she could do to help my daughter to do better in school. As a result, my daughter’s GPA went from 0.9 to 3.5, all because of home visits.” – Ms. Alexander, HOME WORKS! Parent, Vashon High, SLPS

## ***Lift for Life Gym – \$10,000 – est. 1988 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

### **Purpose**

SOS funds will be used to support the Lift for Life Gym (The Gym) Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds (HBHM) program staffing, daily transportation for youth members, program equipment, supplies and fees.

## Goals

A total of 440 young people ages 8-18 will participate in HBHM programming at three locations in North St. Louis City. Programming includes: sports/fitness; evening café; tutoring; satellite; life skills/nutrition; college, career, mentoring; job shadowing/internships; and summer camp all of which work to achieve the following short-term, research-based outcomes:

- Higher grade point averages and standardized test scores; few suspensions and expulsions; improved social development.
- Positive social interactions and relationships.
- Higher confidence and reduced behavioral problems.
- Long-term gains in skills to identify attain and retain a career.
- Increased social capital (positive bonds with people and institutions) to build members' support network and sense of belonging within their environment.
- An increased understanding of the importance that good nutrition and regular physical activity play in achieving lifelong success.

## Outcomes

A total of 397 (reaching 90% of the goal of 440) young people ages 8-18 participated in HBHM programming. Pre-tests were given in the fall and post-tests in the spring, with 40 matching participants doing both pre/post-tests. Matching pre/post-tests results were evaluated by Hello Insight (an outside evaluation organization) to help evaluate and improve social impact. Outcome percentages below are rounded.

- 75% of members made gains in Academic Self-Efficacy (personal belief in one's ability).
- 75% of members made gains in Social Skills (positive interactions and relationships).
- 75% of members made gains in Positive Identity (higher confidence and reduced behavioral problems).
- 50% of members made gains in Contribution (skills to identify, attain and retain a career).
- 25% of members made gains in Social Capital to build their support network and sense of belonging within their environment.

Staff observation and assessment reflected an increase by youth in understanding good nutrition and regular physical activity to achieve lifelong success.

## Challenges/Concerns

The biggest challenge for The Gym remains the transient nature of so many of their members' lives. While The Gym is proud of the gains made over the course of the year, the poverty-related challenges they face prevent some of them from making even more progress.

The evaluation report detailed strategies to assist The Gym in helping members achieve the objectives: create opportunities to engage with people who are different from themselves; strengthen peer-to-peer relationships through team-building; build choices into programming; challenge youth to try on new roles and responsibilities; ensure recognition for working hard.

## Highlights

Receiving the grant from SOS has been a wonderful "seal of approval" and has helped The Gym gain other donations. Program Manager Reggie Moore shared this story: "Jay'Mar is fairly new to The Gym but has made great strides in his time here with us. Jay'Mar is an 8 year old whose mother couldn't wait for him to turn 9 so she could sign him up for The Gym. He was struggling in school and also struggling to make friends. The staff saw this

and set him up with a tutor who would help continue work in his school's curriculum on a one on one basis. They also noticed that he'd taken a liking to weightlifting so they started sending him to practice with the weightlifting team. In no time at all Jay'Mar was back on track in the classroom. He is very well known around The Gym for his short stature and ability to lift at a high level. Before coming to The Gym you could catch him sitting on the sideline but now he is in the life of The Gym. He still has a long way to go but the way he's going now he'll definitely get to where he needs to be."

## Health

### ***iFM Community Medicine – \$14,000 – est. 1999 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

#### **Purpose**

iFM provides free on-site vaccinations and basic acute and primary care during the school year to recent immigrant and refugee children, who attend grades K-8 at Nahed Chapman New American Academy, located in St. Louis City. The school provides two transitional years before students enter a traditional Missouri public school. The grant will enable iFM to hire a second nurse practitioner one half-day a week during school, to meet increased attendance, purchase some basic medical supplies, and support the existing medical oversight provided by an MD/DO.

#### **Goals**

To promote health equity for recent refugees and immigrants:

- 200 children will be served at the NCNAA clinic during the 2018-2019 school year.
- 300 clinic visits will provide needed vaccines and primary health care at no cost to students or families.
- Numbers of children served and vaccinations provided will be electronically documented in the iFM Practice Fusion System and in the MO Vaccines for Children database to avoid potential duplication for other medical providers.

#### **Outcomes**

- 87.5% (175/200) of children were served.
- 124% (371/300) of clinic visits have been conducted.
- The medical supplies purchased in the first 6 months improved the efficiency of services and helped distribute almost 1,000 vaccinations.
- Serving few patients over a great number of visits enabled their second nurse practitioner to provide more comprehensive medical services, such as school physicals, sports physicals and acute care services.
- All services provided were documented in iFM's EMR/electronic medical records as well as Missouri State's Vaccines for Children/VFC database and medical oversight provided.

#### **Challenges/Concerns**

The extreme changes in federal immigration policy have resulted in the lowest number of immigrants entering the United States in the last 30-40 years. As a result, NCNAA's enrollment has continued to drop over the last two years, to an average of about 250 students. The "silver lining" is iFM's ability to provide more services and more comprehensive services to the smaller population of enrolled children.

As a result of the estimated 90,000 children in Missouri who have been cut from Medicaid, iFM has seen an increase in uninsured patients. The iFM Nurse Practitioner often acts as the sole medical provider for some of these children. The increase in quantity and quality medical visits is especially significant and demonstrates the value of the ongoing continuation of a full day clinic.

## Highlights

Continuation of a full day of clinic, throughout the school year and even through the summer school, at no charge to students or their families has been provided due to SOS grant funding. The SOS grant also helped them eliminate debt – at the end of fiscal year 6/30/19 they are in a positive net equity situation. Storytelling capabilities have grown and iFM now has a tab on their website devoted to their clinics and they maintain a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. iFM indicated that having an outside group like SOS support and believe in their mission has meant the world to them.

## Social Services

### ***Annie's Hope - \$17,500 – est. 1998 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2010, 2012, 2017 and 2018***

#### **Purpose**

Annie's Hope provides a six-week in-school grief support program to disadvantaged students and trains school staff to provide future grief support. The \$17,500 SOS grant is being used to pay staff salaries (\$12,500), supplies (\$3000) and occupancy fees (\$2000).

#### **Goals**

- Provide an in-school grief support program that would reach a minimum of 200 students during 2018-2019 school year.
- 75% of students will respond affirmatively to the question of whether being in the group was helpful.
- A minimum of two coping skills will be introduced and practiced during each program.
- A minimum of 25 school staff will be trained to facilitate future school-based groups and at least one school staff member is asked to participate in all 6-week sessions.
- 60% of students who experienced falling grades will report improvement in academic scores.
- Students will have a support network of peers who understand their pain at school. Post-program evaluations ask "Do you feel you fit in with other members of the group?" Affirmative responses indicate students feel a sense of belonging.
- Before the project began, they expected to facilitate 30-35 groups in 25-30 schools during the 2018-2019 school year. Schools may have more than one group based on need.

#### **Outcomes**

- 178 students (89% of the goal of 200) completed the 6 week course.
- 97% (173/178) of students responded affirmatively that the group was helpful.
- Students learned three or more age appropriate coping skills and included techniques such as: drawing, journaling, meditating, counting, pillow punching, talking to a trusted person, deep breathing, tearing paper, running and yoga.
- 29 school personnel received the training during the 2018-2019 school year, exceeding the goal of 25.
- 64% of students who indicated falling grades were an issue prior to the small group experience, reported improvement at the post-program evaluation.
- 94% (168/178) of students feel they now fit in with members of the group.
- Staff and volunteers facilitated 23 groups in 22 schools during the 2018-2019 school year.

#### **Challenges/Concerns**

Continued issues with the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) Board have prevented some of the community's most at-

risk students from receiving free grief support services. After several delays the Board rejected the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), required between SLPS and Annie's Hope, without explanation and in spite of endorsements from 12 school counselors and nurses.

### **Highlights**

Annie's Hope reports they were honored to receive the SOS grant and further, they leveraged their selection by SOS to acquire another \$10,700 in grants from new funders. Student feedback about their involvement in group includes: "It helped me to stay strong. We got to tell our stories and become friends"; and "I find myself crying a lot less, I'm not as anxious, I have good coping strategies. I felt safe and comfortable, I felt like I wasn't alone". One school staff stated: "I've seen a sense of relief in some who have not talked about their loss before. I've noticed a sense of trust between the group members".

## ***Bravely (formerly Magdelene St. Louis) – \$20,000 – est. 2011 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

### **Purpose**

The mission of Bravely is to empower women to live free from abuse, addiction and sexual exploitation. Wear Bravely is a retail environment that provides job readiness and life skills training tailored to the unique needs of trauma survivors. Grant funds will be used to support the salary of the Manager of Wear Bravely, pay additional residents who participate in Wear Bravely events, and a small portion of the Executive Director's salary.

### **Goals**

- At all times, one senior resident or residential program graduate will be employed part-time as the Wear Bravely Manager.
- A minimum of four additional residents will participate in Wear Bravely events throughout the year.
- Wear Bravely Manager will create a discernment plan for future career options informed by the Strong Interest Inventory with assistance from a master-level counseling intern.
- Wear Bravely Manager will be employable and prepared to support herself after the program ends as measured by a hard and soft-skill assessment by the Executive Director and intern.
- Wear Bravely Manager and a minimum of four additional women will participate in training opportunities with community partners and local businesses with topics such as retail strategies, customer service and tracking customer data.

### **Outcomes**

- The Wear Bravely Manager position was filled by one senior resident of the Bravely residential program in 2019.
- One additional resident participated in a Wear Bravely event at a church in 2019.
- The Wear Bravely Manager created a discernment plan using the Strong Interest Inventory assisted by the master's-level counseling intern.
- The Wear Bravely Manager was highly employable and prepared to support herself. Hard and soft-skill assessments were completed by the Executive Director and master's-level counseling intern using an interview checklist, a standardized pre-employment test, job performance reviews and weekly career counseling.
- Bravely is currently collaborating with staff at J. Jill West County Mall to create an opportunity for their managers to share retail and customer service strategies with Bravely residents.

### **Challenges/Concerns**

The most significant challenge has been the overall operation of Wear Bravely. They've carried an excess of merchandise in their inventory since its start up. They've worked diligently to reduce the inventory because of the drain to the organization but were left with a random assortment of merchandise that didn't lend itself to sales events. They are working on redesigning their business model by moving to pre-ordered, limited-edition merchandise sales to create more predictable income, expenses and workload.

Due to the need to focus extensively on healing and recovery, the Bravely program doesn't allow women to work during their first six months of the program. As a result, no woman enrolled in the program was eligible to take on the Wear Bravely manager role in May 2019 when the previous manager found fulltime employment and graduated from the program.

### **Highlights**

The Manager of Wear Bravely moved on to a full-time job in the community, May of 2019 and continues to maintain sobriety. She completed the two-year program and now lives in a graduate apartment. An Inaugural Bravely Awards Luncheon was held that honored four individuals who have strengthened the St. Louis community by bringing attention to social justice issues – including the violence, addiction and sexual exploitation experienced by the woman of Bravely. They raised \$10,000 with a sold-out crowd of nearly 200 guests. In early 2019 Wear Bravely received a grant from the J. Jill Compassion Fund which has led to an ongoing relationship. Receiving SOS funding has provided leverage with other funding sources and we have shared our gratitude by acknowledging SOS's support with donors at all levels.

## ***City Greens Market – \$24,000 – est. 2016 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

### **Purpose**

The grant will revive the mobile vegetable market and underwrite salaries (\$9,000 total) for two interns (one high school and one college student), occupancy and administration. Grant funds will also underwrite mobile market supplies, transportation, marketing and occupancy.

### **Goals**

- Interns will work 8 hrs/wk in the academic year, increasing to 24 hrs/wk in the summer.
- \$2,000 will be made available for City Greens' memberships that can be given to volunteers who help with the mobile market and as incentives for repeat visits to the mobile market.
- Focus on the same 4 neighborhoods that City Greens currently serves, but with greater capacity by bringing mobile market and increasing outreach activities.
- Increase household members to 1,220 and increase younger participants within these households.
- Increase adult volunteers from 10 to 20 and increase high school and college volunteers currently 2 each to 7 each.
- Focus on Youth Impacted by Programming.

### **Outcomes**

- The college intern was injured in January and unable to continue with the program in 2019.
- \$2,000 for memberships was provided to volunteers.
- Mobile market outreach efforts during May-December 2018 created an increase in market visits and new memberships from the targeted neighborhoods. In 2018 the mobile market was taken to the Tiffany

neighborhood twice, two locations in Forest Park Southeast, Cherokee Street 6 times, and once to Hyde Park neighborhood. During 2019 the Community Advisory Board hosted weekly potlucks, fish fry's during Lent, and other outreach activities in a gathering space created at the market.

- During the grant cycle, 324 households signed up for membership at all levels on a sliding scale.
- 100 volunteers have provided in-kind support services to the market year round and during outreach activities: 36 student groups (12 college and 24 middle/high schoolers); 62 adults and youth as project-based volunteers; and 27 volunteers (23 of which are not involved with other projects) help support store operations. Two high school students helped at the store during the grant cycle, as well as 5 college students from SLU and WU who collectively provided over 260 hours of service at the market and with program activities.
- Staff worked with Midtown After-School Club to teach youth about gardening, meeting with approximately 20 youth once or twice a month to teach them how to start seedlings and build a vertical rain barrel garden that housed 27 different plants.

### **Challenges/Concerns**

The intern was unable to continue with the program after January so they were unable to reach out to college students and recruit a paid high school intern for the mobile market as planned. Staff time was used to focus on community-driven projects like the brand new Community Advisory Board (CAB) to increase membership participation and outreach from the store. The CAB is facilitated by a staff member and includes a member of Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE), a local service provider, 4 neighborhood residents and four members of the Midtown Mamas.

### **Highlights**

City Green's Market now collaborates with several local organizations to improve and grow their organization. Guardian Angel Settlement and MCE have been instrumental in bringing in new volunteers. Two new regular volunteers were also recruited with assistance from SOS member, Nina Needleman. Through consultation and direction from the Shalom consultants, City Green's is improving the membership tracking system.

City Green's is creating a business plan and growing their Board of Directors with a NSC Scholarship to build their board leadership capacity through their work with SOS member Nina Needleman. Through the work of the Advisory Board, weekly and monthly gatherings are occurring (weekly potlucks and a fish fry every Friday during Lent); two festivals; a table and benches built for community meeting space; an outdoor produce stand built for use at events on their patio; and a new sign made for the sidewalk. SOS member, Sarah Trulaske, helped produce and fund a 10 minute documentary film of City Greens Market. To see the video, which includes footage of many of the project activities, go to: <https://youtu.be/Mt3Ae4RUF5M>

## ***Crime Victim Advocacy Center – \$10,000 – est. 1972 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

### **Purpose**

CVAC provides free mental health services for victims of homicide and violent crime. The grant will support and expand the CVAC Counseling Program to hire one additional part-time counselor at \$25/hour.

### **Goals**

- Hire one additional part-time counselor.
- The Counseling Program will serve at least 115 victims of crime, 90 adults and 25 children. This will be an increase of at least 50 clients over 2018 figures.
- Counseling service recipients will be able to identify at least two specific coping strategies for dealing with

trauma related to crime.

- Counseling service recipients will demonstrate a reduction in personal trauma symptoms using the PCL 5 PTSD Checklist.
- Counseling service recipients will measure the effectiveness of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) by self-report from victim and the use of the PCL 5 PTSD Checklist.

#### **Outcomes**

- A part-time male counselor was hired and saw 84 clients during the grant cycle.
- The Counseling Program served 112 victims of crime between January-May 2019 (104 adults and 8 children). For calendar year of 2018, 237 clients were seen (211 adults and 26 children).
- 80% (89/112) of counseling clients were able to identify at least two coping strategies by the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. This percentage is consistent with responses from 2018.
- 75% (84/112) of counseling clients demonstrated a reduction in personal trauma symptoms. This percentage reflects an increase of 25% from 2018.
- The two counselors who are EMDR trained have utilized this practice with five clients in 2019.

#### **Challenges/Concerns**

CVAC is challenged with having enough office space to see clients for sessions and securing long-term funding.

The biggest concern the agency faces at this time is funding. The additional counselor, whose schedule was always full, indicates the need for more counselors for crime victims and the need for counseling services free of charge for those in financial need. Additional funding was not secured so the part-time male counselor was unable to be retained.

#### **Highlights**

Crime Victims Advocacy Center reported they were truly able to serve more clients because of SOS funding.

### ***Home Sweet Home - \$10,000 – est. 2015 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2017 and 2018***

#### **Purpose**

Home Sweet Home (HSH) is a furniture bank partnering with service providers who serve at-risk populations. The \$10,000 grant will partially underwrite the cost of rent for a larger space.

#### **Goals**

- Secure larger furniture bank location.
- 800 families served per grant year (compared to current 600) as result of new larger space and strong demand.
- 25 agencies served (compared to current 15).
- 90% of clients will be more comfortable in their own home.
- 75% of clients will report their home is safer and allows them to move around safely.
- 80% of clients with children feel their children are more focused after having household furnishings.
- 90% of clients report feeling more confident in accomplishing goals after receiving household furnishings.

#### **Outcomes**

- HSH moved into a 13,000 Sq. Ft. space in Brentwood in September 2018.
- Served 670 families (less than expected because of closing the warehouse for a month in making the move to the new location and the 2<sup>nd</sup> truck was only recently purchased which would have allowed more

deliveries).

- Served 15 organizations (2<sup>nd</sup> truck purchased mid-2019 and 27 organizations will be served beginning August 1, 2019).
- 91% (610/670) of clients are more comfortable in their own homes.
- 85% (570/670) clients feel safer in their own homes.
- 94% (630/670) clients feel children are more focused in these households.
- 90% (603/670) clients feel more confident in accomplishing goals.

### **Challenges/Concerns**

The only challenge currently is keeping up with demand, both with organizations reaching out because they need items and the waitlist for people who want to donate.

The only concern they currently have is how to sustain momentum and meet the needs of the community, all while making sure they are being true to their mission (to give dignity to those in our community) in a way that is financially responsible.

### **Highlights**

Home Sweet Home reports zero staff turnover; adding a part-time Community/Outreach Coordinator; and with the recent purchase of a 2<sup>nd</sup> truck adding 2 additional movers. Volunteers continue to increase, including 4 from VISTA and one from MERS Goodwill. Home Sweet Home did a volunteer training for new and veteran volunteers. Commitment of the SOS grant allowed them to secure a sponsorship from a family foundation and one from Centene for their work, each over \$50,000.

## ***The SoulFisher Ministries – \$18,000 – est. 2012 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2015 and 2018***

### **Purpose**

The focus of The SoulFisher Ministries (TSM) is strictly on the homeless population among justice-involved women. TSM uses a holistic approach to reentry that works to encompass all identified needs of women in their program while helping them toward a healthy and meaningful life free from drugs, alcohol and criminal activity.

### **Goals**

SOS funds to provide direct services for two women in the Homeward Bound Program and up to 20 women in the Restored for Success Program.

Homeward Bound Program will provide:

- Mental health treatment services and co-pays for mental health meds
- Funding for documents needed to obtain valid identification (i.e. birth certificate and I.D.)
- Job training and job placement assistance, transportation assistance; i.e. bus pass and/or bus tickets; a cell phone
- Rental deposit (\$500) and full rental payments for six months, 50% rental payments for three months, and 25% rental payments for three months for two women

Restored for Success program will provide:

- Healthcare services that include mental health treatment

- Co-pays for medications
- Financial literacy training
- Career readiness training with job placement assistance
- Resource referrals which are vital to their reentry success

### **Outcomes**

Homeward Bound Program has provided:

- Two women (100% of goal) were enrolled and successfully completed the Homeward Bound program.
- Both women obtained health insurance and access to regular healthcare, a primary care physician, and met regularly with their therapist for mental health needs.
- Both women were provided legal documents needed to obtain employment and to maintain a sense of normalcy by having valid identification; they both gained and maintain employment.
- Application fees, deposits, and on-time monthly rental payments were made on behalf of both women.
- Both women have a personal cell phone, access to case management and transportation assistance, which is vital for their reentry success.

Restored for Success program has provided:

- TSM served 20/20 women (100%) through the Restored for Success program. Each woman created an Individual Action Plan and TSM tracked accomplishments. Each woman's level of motivation/self-esteem increased by at least 50% and has improved their independent living skills.
- Access to healthcare (17/20 women) and mental health treatment (13/20 women)
- Co-pays for medications (18/20 women)
- Financial literacy training (20/20 women) with each woman partnered with a financial mentor to guide them through the process of banking and saving in an effort to gain financial freedom and build assets.
- Career readiness training with job placement assistance (20/20 women) with 87% placed in a job she was qualified and trained to do. The 13% not placed are still pursuing a high school credential.
- Resource referrals which are vital to their reentry success (20/20 women)

### **Challenges/Concerns**

A third woman enrolled in the Homeward Bound Program self-discharged from the program as she relapsed and refused to enter in-patient substance abuse treatment.

### **Highlights**

Receiving the SOS grant has had a tremendous overall organizational impact. Since receiving SOS funding, TSM has received \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice and has been invited to submit grant proposals for We Raise Foundation, Boeing, and Missouri Foundation for Health. SOS's funding, in conjunction with the additional funding they've received has positioned TSM to expand their programs while ensuring they have the capacity to sustain them. TSM is proud to announce that one woman has enrolled in college and is excited about her academic tenure that lies ahead.

***Throwing and Growing Foundation – \$12,500 – est. 2008 - Yrs. SOS Funded: 2018***

## **Purpose**

Funds will be used for staff stipends, supplies, occupancy and other costs to conduct a 7-week character development program for girls 8-18 during summer camp 2018. This program will serve a maximum of 15 girls in the City of St. Louis, targeting the 27th Ward, 5th Ward, and 1st Ward. Targeted areas include, but are not limited to, low income, economically disadvantaged areas, and areas where there is no specific programming for girls (includes special needs clients).

## **Goals**

- Maximum of 15 girls ages 8-18 attend 7-week summer camp.
- Weekly questionnaires to participants in throwing sports techniques, sewing course, book club, etiquette, financial responsibility, gardening, art expression, fitness, personal appearance, and nutritional education sessions.
- Pre- and post-assessments will be administered to measure the extent of change that occurred as the result of physical and educational activities. Outcomes for this program include:
  - 25% increase in physical fitness
  - 15% increase in reading and comprehension
  - 15% increase in confidence, leadership skills
  - 15% increase in overall acceptance of a structured environment geared towards higher self-esteem and learning new skills

## **Outcomes**

- 22 girls attended summer camp exceeding the goal by 7 girls.
- Physical fitness ability and enjoyment increased by 25%. 75% (17 girls) lacked basic physical fitness skills and were not able to complete the pre-test but 100% of the girls were able to complete the fitness post-test and enjoyed physical fitness and developed a positive attitude.
- Reading and comprehension skills improved at a minimum of 15% for 100% of the girls. 100% of the girls showed improvement in behavior and penmanship.
- 50% (11+ girls) increased their confidence to read aloud and their desire to improve their skills.
- 90% (20 girls) learned to thread a needle and sew a button. 100% of the girls were on time (some arrived early), completed the morning routine, learned to use a sewing machine, all of the girls had to do an oral presentation and model their sewing project. For 80% (18 girls) this was the first experience of an oral presentation in front of an adult audience.

## **Challenges/Concerns**

Since the mid-year Throwing and Growing has expanded their facility and now offer more programs for girls. Summer 2019 they increased the number of girls coming to the center by 50% and also had an increase in volunteer staffing.

## **Highlights**

Throwing and growing now offers women's fitness classes two days a week. Average attendance is 10-12. Thanks to several articles from SOS about the foundation they've received more inquires and participation in their current programs. They continue to make a difference in the community and in 2019, six girls from their programs received academic and athletic scholarships to college.