

SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES

HILITES

SPRING/SUMMER 2017
ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 **New Team Members**
- 5 **CEEP Impact**
- 6 **Heal Through Creativity**
- 9 **China Exchange**
- 10 **Foster Family of the Year**
- 12 **New Inroads for Treating Trauma**
- 13 **Let Us Pray for You!**
- 14 **Connecting Through Story**
- 15 **New Foundation Website**
- 15 **Bridgeway Receives Honor**



**ART PROGRAM
MAKING A BIG IMPACT**

Pg. 8



OUR MISSION

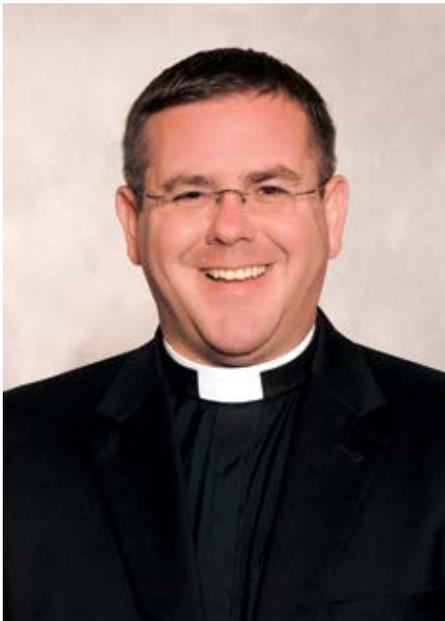
Saint Francis, providing healing
and hope to children and families.

Saint Francis Community Services publishes the Hi-Lites newsletter four times a year.
To receive future copies of Hi-Lites, subscribe online at
st-francis.org/newsroom

All materials in this publication are the property of their authors and may not be reprinted
without the author's written permission, unless otherwise indicated.

© 2017 Saint Francis Community Services

A MESSAGE FROM FR. BOBBY



The Very Reverend,
Robert Nelson Smith
.....
Dean, President, and CEO

At Saint Francis, we talk a lot about hope, renewal, second chances. It is language also familiar to the Church, especially during the Easter season when both the message of nature and the message of Easter proclaim the promise of new life. So, it seems appropriate that our Spring issue of Hi-Lites should share stories about people working their way through trauma and hardship to find transformation and wholeness on the other side. That kind of healing occurs through connection – with God, each other, and our deepest selves.

Some children make those connections through art. In our cover story, you'll meet Erika Poling, our art therapist at Salina West who's helping young people heal from trauma by expressing their feelings through art. By connecting with art, hurting youth find validity in their own voice.

You'll also meet Ambrosio and Patsy Balderas, our 2016 Foster Family of the Year. They make sure every youth in their home learns the value of education and hard work, while teaching them the skills they need to live on their own. Through tenacity and love, they're helping transform the lives of young people in Juvenile Justice Foster Care.

We'll also talk about KAPP, a federally-funded research project designed to improve results for children trying to heal from trauma. Saint Francis is at the forefront of this effort and is already using practices learned through the study to help hurting youth.

In this issue, we'll also introduce The Saint Francis Foundation website, which has exciting new features designed to empower donors and make giving easy. And we'll tell you about our recent visit to the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes conference to introduce Saint Francis and The Foundation to a wider network of friends and supporters.

Finally, you'll notice this issue contains our 2015-2016 Annual Report. In it, you'll see how Saint Francis Community Services continues to strengthen and expand existing relationships, while forming new friendships with community partners and persons in need. We're providing healing and hope through connections – with individuals, churches, communities, and I hope, with you. By connecting with Saint Francis, you become a force for hope, renewal, and second chances. You help those who need it most to find their way through trauma and pain to new life.

Thank you for your friendship. Please continue to pray for Saint Francis and the children and families we serve in this transformative ministry.

May God abundantly bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bobby". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



JOAN SCHWAN

Executive Director of Saint Francis Community Services' foster care program in Nebraska

Joan Schwan is the new executive director of Saint Francis Community Services' foster care program in Nebraska, which serves more than 90 children in 55 foster homes throughout the state. A licensed, practicing therapist for the last 12 years, Joan has specialized in trauma, abuse, neglect, foster care, adoption, and attachment issues. Prior to going into private practice, she worked for 15 years in child welfare for the State of Nebraska. She also founded a mission outreach to mobile home communities in Grand Island, which continues to serve at-risk children more than 15 years later.

"I'm excited to continue my service to children and families in my new capacity as executive director," says Joan. "As a foster parent and therapist, I know the need for more services to children and families, especially in rural areas. I'm looking forward to developing them through Saint Francis."



THE REV. CHAS MARKS

Senior Advisor for Community and Church Relations for The Saint Francis Foundation

Fr. Chas Marks lives in the Kansas City area, where he serves as senior advisor for community and church relations for The Saint Francis Foundation. In addition to his work with The Foundation, he also serves as priest-in-charge at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri, while teaching courses in social ministry at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in Topeka, Kansas. Prior to coming to St. Augustine's, Fr. Chas served as associate rector at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, also in KCMO. Before his ordination, he managed homeless and runaway youth programs for Synergy Services.

"I'm really excited to join the team at The Saint Francis Foundation," says Fr. Chas. "I look forward to connecting more people in the Kansas City area to the good work done by Saint Francis Community Services."



SUSAN HENRY

Chief Financial Officer

Susan Henry joined Saint Francis in February as chief financial officer. She has over 30 years of experience in financial reporting, accounting, government contracting, auditing, risk management, dispute resolution, and financial recovery. Prior to joining Saint Francis, Susan served as a financial executive and consultant in Chicago, specializing in conflict resolution. She served as past advisor and adjunct instructor at Northwestern University, and has written articles and presented to organizations on complex accounting and financial topics. Susan has also provided consulting services to several charities throughout the country, including serving as an interim financial advisor to a children's service provider in Chicago. She currently serves on the Leadership Council for Mercy Home for Boys & Girls in Chicago.

"Before coming to Saint Francis, I had the good fortune to experience many unique assignments as a financial consultant and accountant," says Susan. "Joining Saint Francis is a wonderful opportunity for me to share these experiences with an organization devoted to the children and families we serve. I am honored to be here."

SAINT FRANCIS MAKES SPLASH AT CEEP CONFERENCE



From left, Fr. David Hodges, Judge John Pera, and Fr. Bobby Smith prepare to share the work of Saint Francis with the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes during the organization's annual meeting in February.



Fr. Bobby Smith addresses CEEP attendees at the National Cathedral.

More than 600 persons gathered in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., last February to learn about Saint Francis Community Services (SFCS), The Saint Francis Foundation, and their shared ministry of service to children, youth, and families. Saint Francis was the lead sponsor at this year's conference of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP), a national network of lay and clergy leaders dedicated to stewardship in the service of Christian witness and social justice within the Church.

The CEEP conference gave Saint Francis an opportunity to introduce attendees to the broad array of programs and services SFCS provides in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Mississippi, Texas, and El Salvador. The Saint Francis Foundation supports SFCS in its mission and ministry.

"It was an important event, because it enabled us to raise our profile among Episcopalians from parishes

around the country and to increase awareness about our work," said The Rev. David Hodges, Foundation president. "We were able to make new contacts and engage with people whom we hope will become long-term partners."

As lead sponsor, Saint Francis opened the event with a presentation by The Very Rev. Robert N. Smith, dean, president, and CEO of Saint Francis Community Services, and The Honorable John Pera, who was sent to Saint Francis Boys' Home in 1964 and now serves on the SFCS Board of Directors.

"I am here today not because Saint Francis asked me," said Judge Pera. "I am here today because Saint Francis changed me. As it changes others."

Judge Pera then debuted the video "Pray, Then Get Your Hands Dirty," which highlights Saint Francis programs that serve the poor, the marginalized, and victims of trauma.

Continued to page 13



Fr. David Hodges greets conference attendees.

Art Therapy

HELPS HEAL THROUGH CREATIVITY

Everyone has tears. It's one of the first things you notice. The pencil drawing shows an adolescent girl, bisected down the middle - an "outside half" and an "inside half." The outside half smiles, the inside frowns. And surrounding her, a family in distress. Some try to console her, while others seem confused or distraught. They're all crying.

"Creating art is a vulnerable process," says Erika Poling. "But it enables a person to externalize what's happening inside. That's one of the benefits of art therapy, it makes it easier to share, to talk about experiences. Kids connect with each other because they can look at a picture and say, 'Oh, I've felt that way, too.'"

As Saint Francis Community Services' first art therapist, Poling is helping young people at Salina West discover value in their own voice so they can use that voice to heal from trauma through creative self-expression.

Her studio on the Saint Francis Salina West campus looks like any other artist's studio. Poling sits surrounded by paints and clays, paper and canvas. Shelves filled with assorted tools and media line the walls, and resting on the table before her are drawings and sculptures created by

youth receiving treatment at Salina West. Less than a year ago, Poling arrived in Salina from Chicago, where she had worked as an art therapist for Thresholds, a community-based recovery services provider for persons with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Since then, she's built an art therapy program for Saint Francis, virtually from scratch.

"This was an old gardening building that wasn't being used much," she says. "I walked in and said, 'This is it. It's ideal for what I need to do.' And Saint Francis made it happen. They took everything out and turned it into an art studio."

Now, she provides art therapy for about 40 kids a week, four at a time. When she's not leading a session, she's assessing each new arrival to determine their therapeutic needs and group placement.

"I need to know where they are developmentally, what trauma they've experienced, and how open they are to talking about it," she says. "We work in small groups (four to a group) because we have lots of stuff on the table, lots of conversation. I want them to trust each other and feel safe opening up."

Poling became an art therapist because it combined her love



of art with her desire to help others through counseling. She describes her work as "half art, half psychology." Art therapists use art and creativity to help clients with mental health issues explore their feelings and learn to process trauma, manage behavior, reduce anxiety, build self-esteem, and other goals. Poling earned her M.A. in Art Therapy and a license in clinical professional counseling in Illinois, so she works closely with other treatment team therapists at Salina West.

"It's not just arts and crafts," she says. "Nor, is it an activities group. We work from a trauma-informed care model, understanding that trauma causes hyper-arousal and fear. It reduces the capacity to regulate feelings, make attachments, focus attention, and deal with change. So, whether I'm working with individuals, groups, or families, we're dealing with those issues. I ask the kids to give and receive positive

"ART, MUSIC, AND DANCING ARE GOOD WAYS TO EXPRESS FEELINGS. ART IS A PLACE I GO TO HELP GET MY FEELINGS OUT WITHOUT HAVING TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT I CAN STILL SHOW OTHERS THEY ARE NOT ALONE."

- 16-year-old girl struggling with depression



"ART THERAPY IS FUN, AND IT HELPS CALM ME DOWN."

- 18-year-old boy with PTSD

feedback. So they can build trust, we talk a lot about confidentiality. They learn that what happens in the group, stays in the group. And we don't judge."

Sometimes progress happens organically. Other times, it occurs in response to a prompt or objective posed by Poling. But she can see healing begin through a young person's art, an opening up, a ray of light where there had been shadow.

"On one level, there's the developmental progress in which a child realizes he's learned a new skill, and is proud of himself. Emotionally, he's made progress when he's actually gained insight through art he's made. I'll start with a reflection on the piece, and we'll explore his feelings about it. Using metaphors and symbolism, we move the story along.

"For example, let's say he's depressed and draws himself as an animal lying down in a cave. Knowing that he struggles with depression and loneliness, and intuiting that the cave likely represents those feelings, I might ask him what it's like for the animal to be in the cave and what it needs to do to get out. He might answer that the animal needs a light or a friend. That response opens a door through which we can begin to discuss how the animal's needs might be similar to his own. The metaphor of the animal in the cave creates a layer of safety and distance that allows the child to access his feelings."

Because young people at Salina West deal with a variety of traumas and behavioral issues, Poling must match the right type of art project to each group.

"Most kids are naturally creative, but you'd be surprised how much trauma can affect their ability to work with even small challenges.

Art Wish List

\$20 will buy canvas packs

\$20 will buy sculpting clay packs

\$20 will buy acrylic paint jugs
(currently need 8)

\$40 will buy a paper cutter

\$60 will buy therapeutic sketch books
for all youth in the program

\$100 will buy clay for a kiln

\$900 will buy a kiln

Learn more by calling
800-898-4896 **To make a
gift, please visit
TheSaintFrancisFoundation.org**

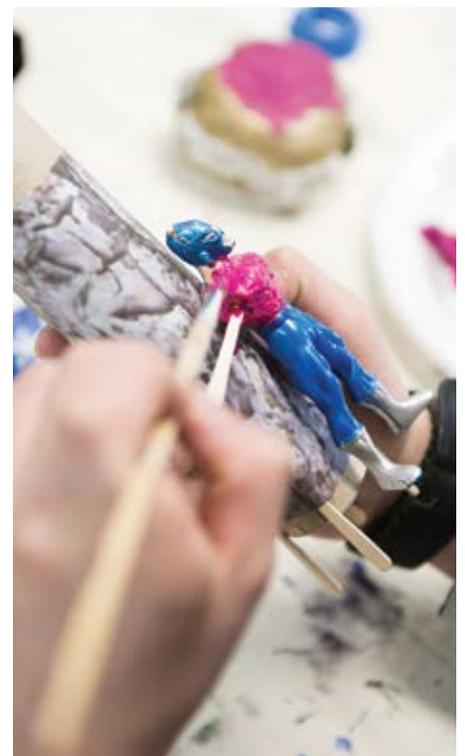


I have to take that into account when selecting projects for a particular group. For instance, some children here have histories of self-injury, and using scissors might be a trigger for them. Touching clay can feel like touching flesh, so clay work might be a trigger for children with sexual trauma. They have to know they're safe here, that they're respected."

"That's why I value respect so much. I remind them that the smallest glance might give another child the impression that they're not okay, or that their art is not okay. We talk a lot about how each person's art is their creation. It's part of their soul and tells their story. That's why we don't judge - because we don't know that other person's story."

I THINK ART THERAPY HAS HELPED ME GET THROUGH THE HARD TIMES BY HELPING ME LEARN TO COPE. I REMEMBER BEING DEPRESSED AND SKIPPING SCHOOL, BUT AFTER GOING TO ART THERAPY, I CAME BACK TO THE UNIT AND FELT BETTER ABOUT MYSELF."

- 16-year-old boy with bipolar disorder



SAINT FRANCIS SENDS ANOTHER FELLOW TO CHINA



Jiang Yi, Save the Children, and Kevin Carrico, Saint Francis Community Services, served as exchange Fellows as part of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations Professional Fellows Program.

Saint Francis sent Kevin Carrico, vice president of legal services, to China in April as part of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations Professional Fellows Program. Carrico was the second Saint Francis employee to take part in the U.S. State Department sponsored program. The Fellowship provides for a two-way exchange of emerging leaders from China, Mongolia, and the United States in the areas of environment, philanthropy, legal aid, and community building. All expenses are paid by the National Committee.

During his two-week visit, Carrico traveled to Beijing and Chengdu, where he spent time with

Chinese social workers, school administrators, and about 60 municipal prosecutors in the areas of child welfare and legal services.

“The welfare of children is a common interest and concern to both the United States and China,” said Carrico. “This experience helped me understand that while we may live in different geographic areas, there are some things that make us all the same. Every hour of every day in China, I saw people doing the same things I do in Kansas. Every aspect of my communications in China was central to the mission, vision, and values of Saint Francis because we share the goal of improving the lives of children and families. There is no

better way to do that than through people-to-people exchanges of information.”

In May, Saint Francis hosted its third Fellow from China. Jiang Yi, who goes by “Brooke,” serves as child protection & justice senior project officer for Save the Children in Kunming. Save the Children’s China program serves children in the areas of education, health and early development, child protection, and child rights governance.

During her visit, Brooke visited Saint Francis offices around the state, meeting with social workers and staff working in foster care, family preservation, adoption, and mission engagement.

She said she felt blessed to have been sent to Kansas.

“Kansas and large parts of China share an agrarian culture, so I see lots of similarities,” she said. “The people are so kind, and everyone I’ve met has been so welcoming and friendly.”

2016 FOSTER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

.....
AMBROSIO AND
PATSY BALDERAS



2016 FOSTER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

GARDEN CITY COUPLE FOSTERS WITH TENACITY AND TOUGH LOVE

They have just two rules: You must go to school, and you must work. If you do those two things, you can stay. If you don't, you must go. It's as simple as that. The other stuff – your age, ethnicity, legal troubles, past mistakes – doesn't matter. Follow those two rules and you'll have a

fighting chance. Follow those rules, and Ambrosio and Patsy Balderas will have your back for as long as you need them.

"I don't care what you did in your past," says Patsy. "I'm not proud of it, but I also did a lot of stupid things

when I was a kid. Everybody deserves a new beginning. I don't need to know what you did to get here, but I can tell you where you're going from this point on."

In 2009, the Garden City, Kansas, couple lived through the most boring,

depressing six months of their 35-year marriage. Both their sons had grown and gone, along with two nephews they'd helped raise. What once had been a noisy, vibrant house filled with boisterous neighborhood teens, fell quiet. Ambrosio and Patsy spent many evenings staring at each other across the room in silence.

One day, Ambrosio rushed into the house brandishing a newspaper clipping. Excited, he said to Patsy, "They're giving kids away, and they're going to give us some."

"I looked at the article and said, 'You know it doesn't really work that way, right?' He said, 'You just call them. They're going to give us some kids.'"

The story was about Juvenile Justice Foster Care (JJFC), a special kind of foster care for young people who've made poor decisions. Youth in JJFC are in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) for engaging in illegal activities and behaviors. Working with KDOC, the courts, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, and Saint Francis Community Services, Juvenile Justice foster parents give young people ages 10-22 a chance to turn their lives around. Foster parents like Patsy and Ambrosio are specially trained to provide the structure, guidance, and skills that troubled youth need to get back on a productive path. It's a difficult job, and it takes tenacity to do it well.

"Most of the kids we place with them won't be going back home to reintegrate," said Vanessa Roybal, JJFC program manager. "They're typically kids who are going to age out and then live on their own. Patsy and Ambrosio do an excellent job of preparing kids for life by teaching them job skills and pushing them to get their education. Patsy makes it clear from the beginning that

education is their first priority, then working, and then getting out on their own. Their home is our most successful with that age group."

"I tell them they can work for money or they can work for free," says Patsy. "They can do community service or get a job. If they don't have a job, we'll find one for them. Either way, they're working."

"...there's nothing like seeing a kid walk down that aisle to get that diploma. If that's the only reason I do this, it's worth every minute."

— Patsy Balderas

For some, that has meant employment at the Tyson Foods plant in Garden City, where Patsy and Ambrosio both work full-time. Patsy is a superintendent at the plant and has helped 11 of their foster kids get jobs there once they aged out. Seven still work there. And Ambrosio knows virtually every restaurant manager in town.

"I started by going into Burger King and telling the manager that we take care of teenagers, and asked if he had any openings," says Ambrosio. "He said 'Bring me all you have.' Now, all the restaurant managers know me by name. I've asked them to call me if they have trouble with any of the kids so we can try to work it out. And they do. They let me know."

He also teaches them life skills like how to properly sweep a floor, wash dishes, clean house, use tools, and cook on a budget. Their kids learn

through instruction and by example. They soon learn that Patsy and Ambrosio are on their side, and that they will settle for nothing less than each kid's success. Working with Roybal and her staff of two JJFC case coordinators, Patsy helps foster youth find a place to rent and get the documentation they need to live independently. She says it's surprising how many kids in JJFC don't have a birth certificate, social security number, or photo ID. She makes sure they've paid their debts and learned to budget their money.

"We've been lucky," says Patsy. "By the time they leave, I'd say at least 50 percent of our kids have paid their fines and saved enough money to go out on their own. They're not perfect, they make mistakes. But you can say the same about any kid. They become like our own, and we celebrate their success. Most of ours have also graduated from high school. Let me tell you, there's nothing like seeing a kid walk down that aisle to get that diploma. If that's the only reason I do this, it's worth every minute."

KAPP TRAINING IS A HUGE SUCCESS

SAINT FRANCIS SEEING GOOD RESULTS

Every child that enters foster care has experienced at least one trauma, and that's the trauma of being removed from their family and placed in a foster home. Unfortunately, many of these same children have had other experiences just as frightening and often more damaging. Developing treatments that work so children can learn to cope, heal, and grow into well-adjusted, happy adults was the impetus for KAPP, the Kansas Assessment Permanency Project.

A five-year federally funded research project, KAPP aims to improve trauma treatment results for children in protective services. Trauma Specialist Pamela Cornwell is among several clinical professionals representing Saint Francis Community Services on the KAPP Steering Committee, which also includes partners from the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, two Kansas state agencies, and another private contractor.

"Our goal is to develop standard tools for assessing trauma and for treating trauma," said Cornwell. "Before, we didn't do a trauma assessment. We asked about family history, and we knew the circumstances that brought the child into care, but we didn't have a standard screening process."

Now, Saint Francis staff uses a range of screening tools to assess every child entering care. A summary of the results then provides case managers, support workers, intake workers, and supervisors with "Practice Tips" for case plans.



Staff are also using a team approach - Trauma Systems Therapy (TST) - to craft case plans and treatment strategies for children dealing with trauma.

"We're beginning to see children making much quicker progress," said Cornwell. "And we can respond to crises much faster when kids struggle with anxiety and stress. Once the crisis passes, we look at what happened and determine how to get back on track."

"We're also finding that our intake assessments often confirm what caseworkers already suspected, which is nice when they go to court. They have evidence to support their recommendations."

With two years left in the KAPP project, there is still lots of data collection and analysis to go do. But preliminary results have been encouraging enough that Saint Francis has made intake assessments and TST a standard part of care.

"We will build this into everything we do," said Cornwell. "We're still figuring exactly how to do that, but it's pretty clear to everybody that this is a good approach for us."

To make it sustainable, Cornwell is teaching staff to serve as in-house trainers. At some point, too, Saint Francis will have to look at funding once the grant ends.

"We all want the best for our children, but the best is expensive," said Cornwell. "We'll need to find ways to pay for it, because these children deserve a chance for a happy, healthy life."

Her colleagues and Saint Francis leadership believe it's worth the effort.

"Children will always have the trauma history," said Cornwell. "But we can help them manage it better. We can teach them coping skills that help them overcome the pain of their past. We can give them hope for a brighter future."

GOT PRAYER?

SAINT FRANCIS CAN HELP

These days, it's easy to wonder, "Where is God in all of this?" We live in uncertain times, and it's natural to feel overwhelmed, worried, or uneasy. But life has always been precarious, the future unpredictable. God remains our anchor in turbulent seas.

As a person, you are important to God. As our partner in protecting children, you are important to Saint Francis. We are grateful for your friendship and want to support you – as you support us. That's why we'd like to pray for you.

As a ministry, Saint Francis places great confidence in the power of prayer to lift us up when life gets

difficult. We've seen firsthand its power to heal and transform lives. With that in mind, we've added a prayer request feature to our website.

We hope you'll feel free to request prayers for yourself or your loved ones. Use it whenever you need help coping with life or the challenges it sends your way – anytime you need spiritual strength.

No matter what issues you're struggling with, know that someone



is praying for you. Also know that your request is a sacred trust and will always be strictly confidential.



To ask for prayers, visit www.st-francis.org and click on "prayer".

MAKING A SPLASH AT CEEP

Continued from page 5

In his own remarks, Fr. Bobby Smith said, "I am increasingly convinced that the issues impacting the children and families we serve is the result of cyclical poverty that robs generations of economic opportunity that leads to despair, increasing levels of violence, and substance abuse. It is a vicious cycle – a cycle that requires us to have faith in what is possible, a willingness to speak truth to power, and an unflinching commitment to taking actions that make transformation possible."

"Our work takes faith. It takes understanding power systems and in the end, it makes things possible that

others say are impossible. At Saint Francis, we pray, we stand up and we get to work."

Angela Smith, director of mission engagement, and Melanie Miller Garrett, director of Clover House, also hosted a "lunch and learn" event at the conference, sharing Saint Francis' holistic approach to fighting both the root causes of human sex trafficking and its traumatic effects on children. Through programs like Clover House, adolescent girls receive residential, restorative care to help them heal and build new lives.

"We received an enthusiastic response to our opening



presentation, to the 'lunch and learn', and to our informational booth," said Fr. Hodges. "The overall experience exceeded our expectations."



Watch the video showed at CEEP - "Pray, Then Get Your Hands Dirty" – at TheSaintFrancisFoundation.org.

SAINT FRANCIS STAFF CONNECT WITH KIDS THROUGH STORY



Since launching in October, “Story Time” volunteers have read more than 600 hours of stories to young people receiving residential treatment at Saint Francis’ Salina West campus. Created by the Mission Engagement Team, “Story Time” helps children develop a love of reading while giving Saint Francis staff a way to connect with them in positive and meaningful ways. About 30 staff currently participate as “guest readers” at least one hour a month.

Each 30-60 minute “Story Time” session takes place in the Reading and Renewal Room at the residential treatment facility. Added as part of the PAGES reading program, the R & R Room is stocked with donated new books and comfortable furniture where young people can curl up with



a good book as they try to heal from trauma and other mental health issues.

Any Saint Francis employee can volunteer to be a guest reader. And any pre-adolescent and teen on campus can participate.

“It’s been a unique experience,” said Lindsey Decker, associate director of donor relations. “Escaping into a different world, even for a few minutes, can be powerful

for both the reader and the children listening.”

“Too often we get caught up in the busy work of our jobs and lose sight of why we’re here,” said Jennifer Wilson, development assistant. “I’ve been a guest reader a handful of times for girls at the youth residential center, and it’s been very positive. Spending time with the youth we serve helps reignite that sense of mission.”

FOUNDATION WEBSITE

MAKES GIVING EASY



The Saint Francis Foundation unveiled a new website in March designed to make contributing as convenient as possible for donors and volunteers who want to support their favorite programs. Working with the Wichita marketing firm, Greteman Group, Foundation staff put together a website that gives

supporters multiple ways to help sustain the Saint Francis mission.

“It was important that we provide an honest look into the needs of Saint Francis Community Services and then make it easy for someone to give financially,” said Marty Kramer, Foundation director of development. “We did that by highlighting the specific needs of each program and then simply saying how much it costs to meet that need. When a visitor to the site clicks on a program, a list of giving opportunities appears. In a very real way, donors can get a sense of how their dollars will help a child or family by seeing exactly how their contribution will be used.”

Kramer added that the website will continue to grow and evolve as the Foundation works to match the needs of Saint Francis with the passions of donors.



Want to try it out for yourself?

Visit www.thesaintfrancisfoundation.org

BRIDGEWAY HONORED

KIRKLAND ACCEPTS AWARD IN D.C.

Jason Kirkland, director of operations for Mississippi programs, traveled to Washington, D.C., in March to receive a national award on behalf of Bridgeway Apartments. Earlier this year, Bridgeway was named a 2016 Community of Quality national award winner by the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA).

A Saint Francis program, Bridgeway Apartments provides supervised living, supported employment, and job discovery services to adults ages 18 and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Picayune, Mississippi, and throughout Pearl River County.

NAHMA judges award entrants on how well they manage the physical, financial, and social conditions of their properties, while helping their residents achieve the highest possible quality of life.

Bridgeway won in the category of “Exemplary Development for Residents with Special Needs.”

“It’s a big honor to be listed in the same category with other excellent facilities across the country,” said Kirkland. “We knew we did amazing work here, but to be honored nationally is a big step for us. It’s a testament to the excellent support we receive from Saint Francis and to the hard work our staff does to

ensure our residents have every opportunity to lead independent and fulfilling lives.”



Kris Cook, NAHMA executive director, presents Bridgeway’s Jason Kirkland with the Community of Quality award during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in March.



Saint Francis Community Services®

Serving Children and Families Since 1945

509 E. Elm Street
P.O. Box 1340
Salina, KS 67402-1340

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SALINA, KS
PERMIT #41

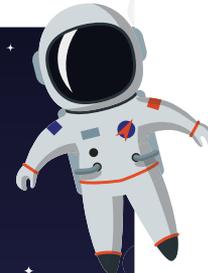


KidzKamp

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Three days of summer fun
provided free to children
(8-12) in foster care

JULY 28-30



At KidzKamp, children:

- Learn, run, swim, play, and laugh.
- Reunite with friends and siblings.
- Take a breather from stress and worry.
- Get to be kids!

Your gift ensures that every child who wants to attend KidzKamp can.

Visit

www.TheSaintFrancisFoundation.org
to learn how.

Help make this summer the best one ever for a child in foster care.

