

SAINT FRANCIS MINISTRIES

# Hi Lites

FALL 2018

NEW NAME  
SAME MISSION  
PG 4



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## Our Mission

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

Saint Francis Ministries publishes the Hi-Lites newsletter four times a year. To receive future copies of Hi-Lites, subscribe online at [saintfrancisministries/newsroom.org](http://saintfrancisministries/newsroom.org)

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# A Message From Fr. Bobby

## SAINT FRANCIS EMBRACES A NEW STAGE OF MINISTRY



**The Very Reverend  
Robert Nelson Smith**

*Dean, President, and CEO*

Big changes are afoot at Saint Francis. Exciting changes. Beginning with the obvious, you can see that Hi-Lites has a different design, which we hope supports our expanded mission and our new name: Saint Francis Ministries.

This ministry has evolved a lot over the last seven decades. Founded as The Saint Francis Boys' Home, we changed our name to The Saint Francis Academy, then to Saint Francis Community Services as our array of programs and services grew.

Saint Francis today, however, is much different from just a few years ago. We've gone global as we work to provide healing and hope to children and families who live beyond our backyard. We are a ministry rooted in the Episcopal tradition, which means we serve God's people wherever we see need, whenever we are able.

That means we continue to serve and care for survivors of human trafficking, refugees from oppression and persecution, and Central American families and children struggling to cope with poverty and violence. We're also developing programs to further help heal and nurture those we've always served – at-risk and traumatized children and families.

In this issue, you'll learn about some of those new programs, like Secure Care, Cheshire, Migration Ministries, and our inspiring new space, Saint Francis at The Mount. You'll meet The Rev. Susanne Methven, who leads Clover House, and our Foster Family of the Year, Gabriel and Christa Downey. You'll hear of Angela Smith's appointment to the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on World Mission. As Saint Francis' vice president of international ministries, Angela has a unique perspective on our ministry's work in relation to the wider Church. All these stories remind us how much the success of our mission depends on smart, compassionate people who never fail to see promise amidst brokenness.

Finally, you'll read more about our new brand and its reception at the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in July (hint: it went over very well).

This is a milestone year for Saint Francis, and our mission remains - to provide healing and hope to children and families. That mission guides us. Yes, we are now Saint Francis Ministries, but we have always been a ministry dedicated to serving those living on the margins and struggling with physical, emotional, or spiritual pain. Our new name affirms that heritage.

Thank you for traveling this road with us. I look forward to this next leg of our journey together in the service of God's people.

You remain ever in my prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Bobby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

# Saint Francis Announces New Name, New Brand



## Saint Francis MINISTRIES



The Rev. Robert Mize Jr. founded a ministry more than 70 years ago that he called “Saint Francis Boys’ Home”. Over the years, as that ministry grew and evolved, the name changed first to “The Saint Francis Academy” and then to “Saint Francis Community Services”. Today, Fr. Bob’s legacy ministers to much more than wayward boys. Saint Francis now serves more people in many more places, providing a host of programs and services to both boys and girls dealing with trauma, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, survivors of sex trafficking, refugees from violence and oppression, and marginalized families and children in Central America. A new name was needed to reflect a new mission, and that name is “Saint Francis Ministries”.

“The term ‘community services’ no longer does justice to the vast array of support and resources we offer children and families in the United States and beyond,” said The Rev. Robert N. Smith, dean and CEO. “Yes, we provide services to our communities, but we’re much more. We’re expanding our reach beyond Kansas and the other states we serve to include other parts of the U.S. and the world.”

The new brand features a new representation. The mark imagines the inclusiveness of a circle with a central dove, long associated with the ministry of Saint Francis. The dove is like an arrow, directing those in need to Saint Francis.

“Despite these changes in our name and trademark, our mission remains the same,” said Fr. Smith. “Our new brand, Saint Francis Ministries, conveys more clearly who we are today: an organization that does what needs to be done. We pray, then we get our hands dirty. We protect and nurture spirit, mind, and body. In doing so, we transform lives in ways some believe impossible. Fundamentally, our mission will always be to provide healing and hope to children; it is the essence of our soul as an organization.”

# Mission

Providing healing and hope to children and families.

# Vision

Saint Francis will be recognized nationally and internationally for transforming lives and systems in ways others believe impossible.

# Values

## QUALITY

We deliver services at the highest levels of excellence, in a manner that exceeds traditional standards, provided in a transparent, timely, and reliable way by highly qualified, kind, and respectful staff.

## RESPECT AND DIGNITY

We provide care that supports and reflects an understanding of a person, regardless of differences. This extends to our staff, clients, and the communities we serve.

## INNOVATION

We meet a changing environment by developing more effective solutions through the lens of evaluating current and past practices, and continuous improvement using creative invention, promising practices, and evidence-based research.

## EMPOWERMENT

We take ownership of our work, exercise decision making to achieve goals, and maximize quality of services with shared accountability and responsibility.



## Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, union;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life;

Amen



# Saint Francis at The Mount



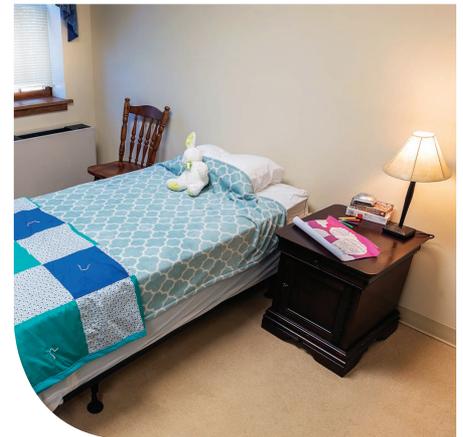
Saint Francis Ministries has partnered with the Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ) to enhance and expand the Episcopal nonprofit's array of services to at-risk children and families living in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Saint Francis recently completed an agreement with the CSJ to lease Mount St. Mary's, the order's former Wichita convent, and has renovated the 68,000-square-foot structure to accommodate administrative offices and space for its independent living, mental health, and refugee resettlement programs. Head Start has also sublet space in the building from Saint Francis.

The building and operations at 3730 E. Lincoln will be known as Saint Francis at The Mount.

Sisters with the Congregation first arrived in Wichita in December 1899 at the invitation of the local bishop to staff the diocese's parochial schools. They moved into their new convent three months later. Today, the CSJ sponsors Dear Neighbor Ministries, which provides short-term financial, educational, and housing services to residents of the Hilltop community of Wichita. The Congregation's StepStone program provides transitional housing and supportive services to survivors of

domestic violence. It was their shared commitment to the most vulnerable and at-risk that made a partnership with Saint Francis both possible and desirable.

"We are delighted that Saint Francis is coming to share our home," said Sr. Margaret Nugent, director of community life and services. "Their mission is like our own in that we promote the common good and encourage people to better themselves and their lives. The work of Saint Francis is familiar to us, we appreciate that the building will be used to help others in need."



*A bed awaits a teenager who will go through the life skills training.*



*Head Start has plenty of space and toys for kids ages newborn to five.*

Although none of the Sisters still reside in the convent, they remain nearby. About 70 have recently moved into a newly-built living center at the south end of the older building. That proximity, along with their teaching and nursing skills, makes those who want to volunteer especially qualified. As a result, some of the Sisters will have the opportunity to serve as volunteers or mentors to Saint Francis youth.

Saint Francis plans to complete a three-phase transition to The Mount by 2021. Phase I, which is already underway, will provide housing, job training, life skills training, parenting

classes, and high school or GED support for 20 youth ages 16 and older preparing to age out of foster care. Head Start serves children ranging in age from newborn to five years old. Saint Francis Migration Ministries has also relocated to The Mount, as have Saint Francis Ministries' administrative offices previously housed at 4415 E. Harry.

Phase II will establish outpatient behavioral healthcare, psychiatric, and telemedicine services at The Mount, while Phase III will open housing for homeless teens and young adults who have aged out of foster care and who lack social supports.

"Many of these new programs would not be possible without the generosity of the Sisters of St. Joseph in providing affordable space," said Trish Bryant, Saint Francis vice president of children and family services. "The Mount is a sacred space that has seen more than a century of prayer. You can sense the peace that permeates the building. I have no doubt that those prayers and the support of the Sisters will help the children and families we serve find the healing they need to transform their lives."

# Saint Francis begins services in Gulfport



Saint Francis has expanded its ministry to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Mississippi through the acquisition of the Cheshire Program in Gulfport. Saint Francis Bridgeway already provides supervised independent living and supported employment services in Picayune, and now those same services will be provided in Gulfport through Saint Francis Cheshire. Saint Francis assumed operations on August 1.

Cheshire is a community living program providing supervised and shared supported living and life skills to 20 adults with IDD. Both Bridgeway and Cheshire offer varying levels of support and assistance, such as personal care, transportation, budgeting, shopping, and health monitoring.

"We're already certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to provide living support and employment services to people with IDD, which fits well with the needs at Cheshire," said Jason Kirkland, Saint Francis' Mississippi director of operations. "Our Bridgeway programs in Picayune are an excellent model for providing living services, as well as job skills training and placement. Adding a job skills component will be a

significant enhancement to Cheshire's services and is a win-win for the residents, the Gulfport community, and the state."

Bridgeway's supported employment program provides training and ongoing supervision and coaching to the employee, at no cost to the employer. Currently, 23 businesses in Picayune employ Bridgeway residents, and Kirkland hopes to replicate that success in Gulfport.

"Saint Francis is honored to further its mission in Mississippi with the addition of the Cheshire Program," said The Very Rev. Robert N. Smith, dean and CEO of Saint Francis. "We have long been recognized nationally and internationally for transforming lives and systems in ways others believe impossible. Our partnerships with area employers in Picayune have demonstrably enriched the lives of the residents by providing meaningful, valued jobs in the workforce, and I look forward to extending those partnerships into the Gulfport area."

**Gulfport employers or persons with IDD interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact Kirkland at 601-749-4848 or [Jason.Kirkland@saintfrancisministries.org](mailto:Jason.Kirkland@saintfrancisministries.org).**



Want to support Cheshire residents in their effort to live with dignity and independence?

**\$30 per month/\$360 per year**

Sponsors recreational activities for one resident for a year so they can interact socially with others, build friendships, and gain acceptance within the community.

**\$50 per year**

Sponsors a resident on their birthday and holidays by giving them a special celebration.

**\$100 per year**

Pays for transportation costs for one resident for a year so they retain their job and maintain independence.

**\$200 per year**

Sponsors social activities like cookouts, crawfish boils, parties, and other events for Cheshire residents.

To make a gift, please visit [SaintFrancisMinistries.org](http://SaintFrancisMinistries.org)

# Secure Care Launched to Serve Chronic Runaways

Saint Francis began operation in September of an 18-bed secure facility in Wichita for juveniles determined to be chronic runaways. Licensed by the State of Kansas and located at the Sedgwick County Juvenile Detention Center, the secure care area has two wings with nine beds each, one for girls and one for boys.

The 5,000-square-foot facility features a communal recreation area, dining hall, and classrooms where youth ages 12-18 can continue their schoolwork under the instruction of ORION Education and Training, a USD 259 subcontractor. A staff of 25 Saint Francis employees, including social workers and behavioral technicians, supervises the youth 24-7. A clinical director and registered nurse are also on staff during the day.

Since all the children at the facility have experienced some sort of trauma, the program integrates trauma informed care for youth in residence. Staff are trained to understand the effects of trauma on brain development; how trauma affects behavior, mental, and physical health; and how to develop crisis, safety, and behavioral support plans for children and families. The program is also unique in that it addresses the mental, physical, and spiritual needs of youth at the facility.

"Kansas has increasing need for foster families and therapeutic treatment options for children in foster care,



especially those who have chronic runaway behaviors," said Trish Bryant, vice president for children and family services. "The Sedgwick County Department of Juvenile Programs reached out to Saint Francis with an offer of available space in their facility. We're excited to take this program from concept to reality, and we appreciate Sedgwick County's support."

A judge determines if a youth needs to go to Secure Care, usually because the child repeatedly runs away from foster home placements. Youth are typically sent for an initial 60-day stay, but two 60-day extensions are possible if the court determines it to be necessary.

"The courts have been asking for more foster care capacity in safe settings like this," Bryant said.

"Saint Francis has designed this program around a clinical model of trauma-informed care and will include individual, group, and family therapies. The whole idea is to give kids a safe environment where they can acquire healthy living skills. They will get the behavioral therapy they need so they can recognize and control their own emotions."

"Many of these young people have experienced extensive trauma, and some are survivors of heinous human trafficking," added The Very Rev. Robert N. Smith, dean, president, and CEO. "Saint Francis' model has the potential to vastly improve outcomes for these children and to strengthen juvenile justice programming in general. That's why we've structured a nurturing environment where kids don't have to feel criminalized or further traumatized."

**"The whole idea is to give kids a safe environment"**

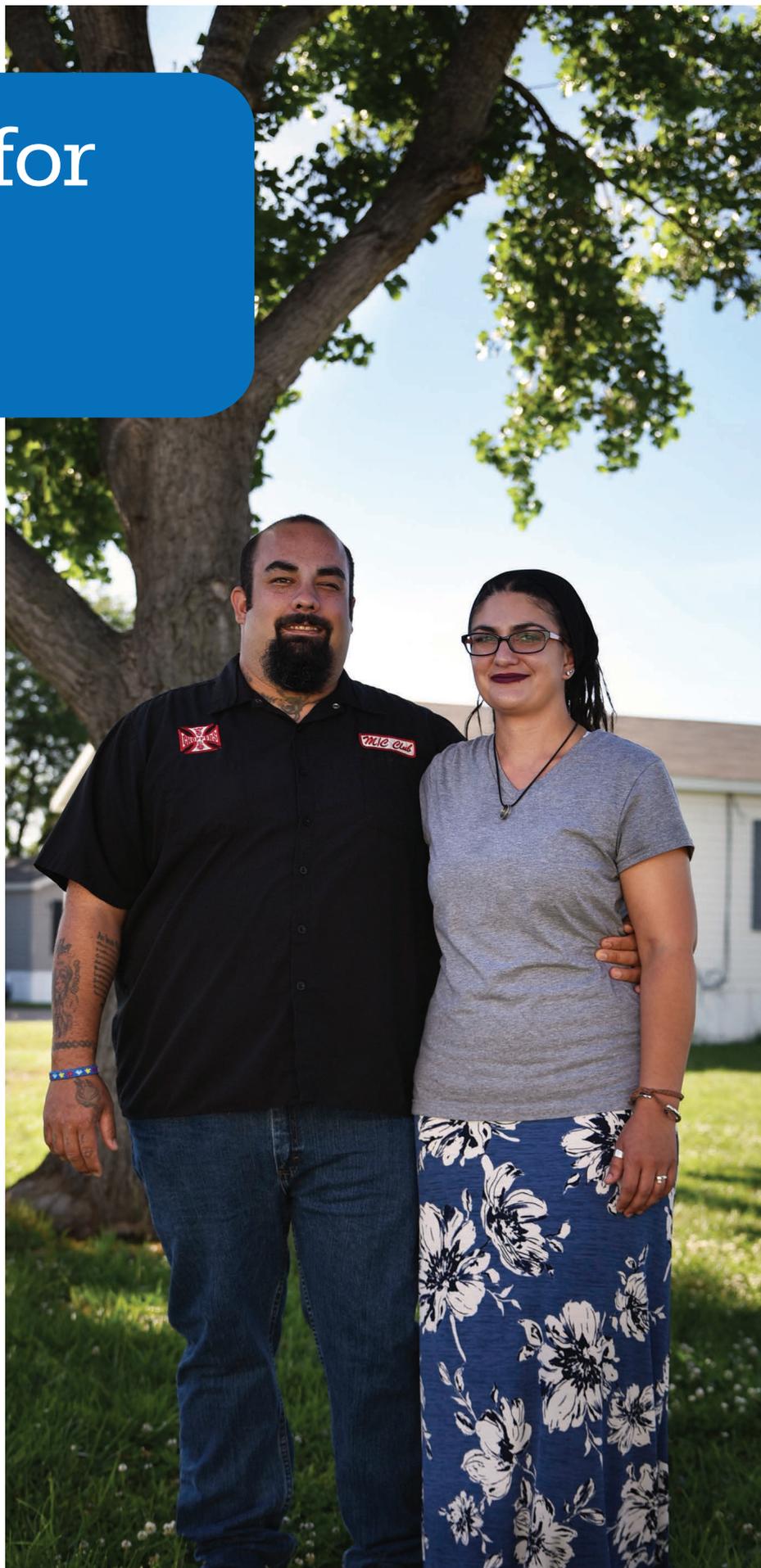
# A place for 'Bubby'

## TAKING ONE DAY AT A TIME

*The following story is about Saint Francis foster parents Gabriel and Christa Downey. Shortly after Saint Francis announced that they had been named our 2017 Foster Family of the Year, we shared it on social media, where it quickly became one of our most popular stories. Once you read it, you'll see why.*

Gabriel Downey didn't know what to do. He'd never been around a child with such severe autism. How was he supposed to relate to the boy when he didn't even know how to communicate with him? So, Gabriel spent the first three days just observing, keeping his distance until he could get a handle on it. On the fourth day, he got a phone call.

"It was my mom, telling me my aunt had passed away," he said. "My aunt was like a second mother to me. After the call, I went into the living room and sat down and began to tell Christa. I started crying. Then ... I don't know why ... but he must have picked up on how upset I was. Bubby just sat on my lap and put his head on my chest, like he was trying to tell me everything was going to be okay."



The experience still chokes up the tough-looking, tattooed Gabriel. For Christa, his wife, it was just one more thing to love about the new 15-year-old boy in their home.

Licensed as a foster family since 2016, Christa and Gabriel decided to try fostering after getting to know the foster parents – and eventual adoptive parents – of Gabriel's great-niece. Initially, they planned to provide only respite and emergency care which they did for a while – until they heard about a special boy.

Between the two of them, Christa and Gabriel have three biological children, two of whom have high-functioning autism. That, and the fact that Christa is an elementary school special needs para educator, made their home seem a logical place for "Bubby."

"A friend of mine who works at the school with me also works at Saint Francis," said Christa. "She said, 'You need to ask about this boy. No one else is able to keep him.'"

For Gabriel and Christa, though, there was never any question. They knew that there was hope.

"He was nonverbal with severe special needs," said Christa, "and he had slept in eight different homes in two weeks. Autistic children need structure, so he didn't have a place where he felt safe. Unfortunately, when people can't handle kids like him, the child often ends up in an institution. We feared that might be the next step for him, and for us, that was not an option."

Still, at first they wondered what they'd gotten themselves into. Gabriel says the boy came into the house "like a whirlwind, a tornado of him."

Although, he had autism like their other children, his was much more severe. Gradually, though, he settled down. As the Downey family patiently applied structure and routine, he began to feel more secure. Now, he's happy and acts as though he's always been a member of the family.

"I did, however, notice that when I called him by his name, he wouldn't always respond," said Gabriel. "I'd always called my brother 'Bubba' growing up, so I thought I'd try the same with him. But I didn't want to confuse the two, so instead of calling him 'Bubba' like my brother, I started calling him 'Bubby.' He seemed to respond well to that and still does. Even his biological siblings call him Bubby now."

Bubby sees his biological siblings often because Christa and Gabriel have forged a strong, supportive relationship with his mother. They all visit the Downey home in Park City, Kansas, often – for cook-outs on holidays and other special events. She's a single mother with four other children, all with high functioning autism. It's a full-time job taking care of them herself. Christa and Gabriel have told her they'd like to adopt Bubby, and she has agreed.

"For her to be the best mom she can be and focus on her other four children, she knows this is a good

option," said Christa. "With Bubby, she's 'Mommy Number 1' and I'm 'Mommy Number 2,' and we intend to stay connected with her."

So, Bubby now has a permanent home and lots of people in his life who care about him. He's a testament to what love can do for the human person. Christa says her Saint Francis caseworkers like to half-jokingly ask, "Is this the same child?"

"It really has been a great experience," said Gabriel. "You just have to remember to have understanding and patience with special needs kids. They're going to have their moments, but you need to realize that what they're doing makes sense to them at the time. There are fun days and there are challenging days, but overall it's deeply rewarding."

"Take one day at a time," added Christa. "Don't try to imagine how things will be in six months. You can't plan for that. You have to focus on the next five minutes. Deal with what's going on right now. Special needs kids will sometimes push you away because they don't have control over anything else. It's not that they don't love you, they just don't want your help right now. But I promise you, if you do help them, if you take care of them, you will grow to love them. Every day is something new."

# 'No Place Like Home ... Make Yours'

## KANSAS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL HOLDS CONFERENCE

Nearly 100 young people gathered in Lindsborg, Kansas, in July for the Kansas Youth Advisory Council's (KYAC) annual Summer Youth Conference, "No Place Like Home ... Make Yours". Hosted this year at Bethany College, the conference is for current youth in foster care, as well as those who have "aged out" and are receiving Independent Living services.

An initiative of the Kansas Department for Children and Families, KYAC empowers youth to advise and offer recommendations to state officials about the child welfare system, while also teaching teens the skills they'll need to function as self-sufficient, capable adults.

Comprised of four Regional Youth Advisory Councils (RYAC) - two for Saint Francis youth in the West and Wichita regions and two for youth in eastern Kansas served by the state's other provider - KYAC empowers young people ages 15-20 by valuing their voice and by giving them the tools they need to succeed as adults and as leaders. More than half of this year's conference attendees were youth served by Saint Francis.

Because RYAC plays such an important role in skill building, Saint Francis' Independent Living program provides oversight and guidance for



*KYAC attendees learn about insurance and health coverage during one of the conference's several independent living workshops.*



*Members of Saint Francis' Independent Living team gathered at the KYAC conference*

the monthly meetings. Independent Living Program Manager Jennifer Walters works with her staff to plan topics and organize monthly meetings for each RYAC. Saint Francis also plays a large role in helping organize the annual KYAC conference. Each year, KYAC youth and staff from across the state gather together the day before the summer conference to begin preparing for the next day's events.

This year's conference featured two keynote motivational speakers, Jared Estes and KJ-52. Estes and his late wife were hit by a drunk driver which fatally injured his wife and left him with severe burns to nearly 50 percent of his body. Estes shared how his resilience and determination helped him deal with the grief of losing his wife and his yearlong struggle to recover from his injuries.

KJ-52 is a singer/rapper who uses song to spread inspirational messages of love and respect to young people.

His presentation included a mini-concert that thrilled the adults as well as the teens.

Other activities included workshops on basic sewing, independent living benefits after custody, military service opportunities, insurance and health coverage, and college readiness. Youth were able to attend workshops that they felt would best suit their interests. High school and college graduates were also recognized.

"Overall, the 2018 KYAC Summer Youth Conference was a huge success; it was not only informative but fun for everyone who attended," said Walters. "Although no youth is required to go, all are encouraged to participate. With such an astonishing turnout, it's easy to see it's a popular event."

Navigating the unfamiliar waters into adulthood can be especially difficult for young people without caring adults to help them with the transition.



*KYAC attendee learning some sewing basics.*



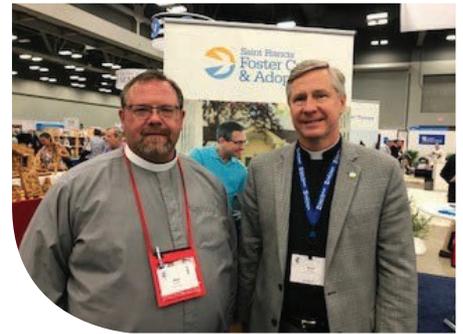
*Conference staff and attendees depart after a full conference.*



*Jared Estes, keynote speaker, presents a certificate to a KYAC Ambassador.*

To learn how you can support kids making this transition, visit [TheSaintFrancisFoundation.org](http://TheSaintFrancisFoundation.org).

# Saint Francis at General Convention



*Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Western Kansas Mark Cowell visits with Chief Development Officer Fr. David Hodges at the Saint Francis Booth.*



*Director of Marketing Vickee Spicer, Sr. Philanthropic Advisor John Hoskins, and Program Manager for International Ministries Maribel Panuco greeting attendees at General Convention.*



Saint Francis unveiled its new name – Saint Francis Ministries (see story on page 4) – this summer during the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Convened triennially, this year’s gathering met in Austin, Texas, July 5-13, to conduct the business of the Church by adopting legislation, amending canons, approving a budget, and setting the missionary, educational, and social priorities of the Episcopal Church.

“Because this meeting only happens every three years, we wanted to take the opportunity to personally build understanding and support with this important stakeholder group,” said The Very Rev. Robert N. Smith, President of Saint Francis Ministries.

“We wanted to share with church leadership how our new name better aligns with our ever-growing diversity of services and locations.”

Staff from Saint Francis Ministries joined more than 100 exhibitors in the Convention’s Exhibition Hall, where they greeted delegates and visitors and shared information about Saint Francis’ mission, programs, and services in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Mississippi, Texas, and Central America.

Among the issues the Convention addressed were several related to the U.S. government’s migration and immigration policies. Angela Smith, Saint Francis’ vice president of international ministries, was one of

those who testified during a social justice hearing on migration. Saint Francis Migration Ministries is the Wichita affiliate of Episcopal Migration Ministries, one of the nine agencies that work with the U.S. State Department to resettle refugees in the United States.

During her testimony, Smith said the number of refugee resettlements in the U.S. has dropped precipitously during the current Administration, affecting the nation’s moral standing in the world.

“This is not who we are. It is not who we want to be,” she said. “Refugees enrich our communities throughout the United States. They bring joy, and they make us better.”



## The Rev. Susanne Methven

Director of Clover House

*The Rev. Susanne Methven came to Saint Francis two years ago from the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma where she served as associate rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa. She currently serves as Director of Clover House, Saint Francis' restorative, residential home for female adolescent survivors of sex trafficking. Hi-Lites asked Mthr. Susanne about her work with Clover House and how it serves the girls who live there.*

### What is Clover House and your relationship to it?

Clover House is designed to help adolescent female survivors of sex trafficking continue their healing journey by providing space for healthy relationships, services such as education and therapy, and the development of life goals and purposes. We provide a home setting in which we share our own sense of purpose, experiences, strengths and vulnerabilities with those we serve. We are a community of women who learn together and choose to love each other as the best way of becoming fully human. Along the way we are deeply touched by each other.

For the past two years I have lived in the house with these young women.

# Clover House Serves Survivors

I have been able to witness how the ordinary rhythms of living in the context of our Clover House values shape all of us. I continue to live there now as the program's director and serve a wider community including our youth, our staff, others within Saint Francis, and those interested in this work.

### What drew you to this ministry?

It was the work itself and the tagline on the job ad which sought an Episcopal woman priest to "start a conversation with us!" I liked the idea of give and take. This is one of the few occasions in my life when I have felt a strong sense of recognition that this is my calling.

This work is important to me because I believe that healing happens in and through other people. In community with each other and God we are enough and have enough to offer hope and gritty grace as we learn together and are shaped by love.

### Why is it important that Saint Francis be involved in human trafficking as an issue?

Saint Francis was already serving youth who experienced human trafficking before this ministry started. When the need for long-term, in-depth restorative work in a residential setting was identified, Saint Francis committed itself to support youth who wish to change their lives. Why? Because our youth deserve being treated with respect and dignity and because, with the help of so many people who offer their resources, we can make a difference.

### What do you think is the biggest misperception people have about trafficking survivors?

We serve young women in the foster care system in Kansas, and people

are surprised that our own children are impacted by this issue. One misperception is that these are broken people. No, these are youth who have experienced the depths of human evil, who have resilience and strength, and the courage to change and grow with our support.

### How has working with sex trafficking survivors affected you personally?

I have cried and laughed with our youth and everything in between. I have had times when I am so deeply touched by our staff and youth that I am speechless.

Clover House is a gift to me. I am humbled by how people engage with us so generously in this work. I am inspired by those who share their stories. So many pray for us and I rely on those prayers. In my own spiritual life, I am so grateful for all that has been given to me. I have a deeper desire to share my gifts with others for the sake of the One who calls us to love one another and to care for the most vulnerable amongst us.

### What do you find most rewarding about your work?

The most rewarding part of this work is to watch our youth grow and change. The most challenging part is hanging in there with them!

### What would you like the Clover House program to look like 10 years from now?

We are constantly examining how we do this work and changing to meet the needs we discover. My hope is that we continue to learn. We want to serve as a model for how to do this work well so that many others will take on the challenge and joy of serving adolescent survivors of human trafficking.



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P.O. Box 1340  
Salina, KS 67401



## Smith named to Episcopal Church commission



**Angela Smith**  
*Vice President of  
International Ministries*

Angela Smith, vice president of international ministries for Saint Francis, has been appointed to the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on World Mission by Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies. The Commission reviews and evaluates policies, priorities, and strategies for global mission, and makes recommendations to the Episcopal Church's triennial General Convention.

Smith received the appointment in recognition of her gifts, experience, and commitment to the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church. Her six-year term will expire at the close of the 81st General Convention in 2024.

"It is an honor to be chosen to serve the mission and ministry of the Church in this capacity," she said. "I am certain the opportunity to work alongside dynamic leaders of diverse experience and talents will not only deepen my personal connection with the Episcopal Church but also enrich the work I am blessed to lead for Saint Francis."

As vice president of international ministries, Smith leads Saint Francis programs serving immigrants and refugees in the U.S., children and families in Central America, and initiatives to help strengthen systems affecting the well-being of children and families globally.