



50 YEARS OF SERVICE

St. Mary's Center

*A Community of Hope,
Healing & Justice*



Welcome Home

This summer our Seniors partnered with the Attitudinal Healing Connection's Center for ArtEsteem to create a welcome mural for the St. Mary's Center Community Center. In collaboration with local artist Jack Leamy, the Seniors painted three neighboring panels. Each panel represents a mandala pattern exploring the Seniors' firsthand experiences with hope, healing, and justice. The mural turned out beautifully and is on display for all Community members when they enter the Community Center. ●



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends of St. Mary's Center:

**50th Anniversary Gala
Saturday,
June 10, 2023**



*Board Chair Romi Hall (right)
and Executive Director
Sharon Cornu.*

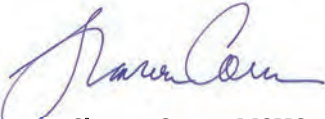
This Annual Report closes out not just another year, but an important milestone – St. Mary's Center's fiftieth year of serving Sunday Dinners and our West Oakland community. In 2023, we will celebrate five decades of service as a community of hope, healing and justice for Seniors and Preschool Families.

Please plan to join us on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at the Greek Ascension Cathedral in Oakland for our Golden Jubilee Gala to celebrate 50 years of Sunday dinners, services to Seniors, and early childhood education for preschool children.

Contact us at (510) 923-9600 x223 or sharoncornu@stmaryscenter.org to share your St. Mary's Center story or set a date to visit.

In preparation for this milestone, the Board conducted a strategic planning process and set ambitious goals for 2023 – 2025 and the next fifty years. Our vision 2025 strategic plan shows how we will meet our continuing mission, and the increasing need we see in our community every day. We remain true to the founding spirit of St. Mary's Center as we draw the connection from charity to impact to social change.


Romi Hall, MPH
Board Chair


Sharon Cornu, MSHS
Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE

After three years of rescheduling due to the pandemic, we are excited to announce that St. Mary's Center's Annual Gala will return in person on June 10, 2023. For the past 30 years, St. Mary's Center has held an annual Gala to celebrate our work and partnerships. Our Gala is our primary event to help fund St. Mary's Center programs.

VISION 2025 FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

VISION

St. Mary's Center envisions a future where Seniors and Preschool Families in West Oakland enjoy housing security, health, and well-being in a thriving community they help to create.

MISSION

St. Mary's Center is a community of hope, healing and justice dedicated to improving the well-being of Seniors and Preschool Families in West Oakland by meeting basic needs for food, housing, and social connection. We build on a strong foundation of direct service provision with participant-led advocacy that amplifies the voices of people directly impacted by hunger, homelessness, and inequity, to create a more just and caring society.

—Adopted May 17, 2022

In 2023 St. Mary's Center will celebrate 50 years of serving the community. St. Mary's Center began serving Sunday Dinners in 1973 as a response to West Oakland Senior residents' need for meals on Sundays, when neighborhood stores and restaurants were closed. ●

ADDING UP 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

	Sunday Dinners Prepared & Served	48,000
	Nights of Shelter	69,000
	Nights of Transitional Housing	102,000
	Preschool Graduates	1,200
	Volunteer Shifts	30,000
	Interns	1,000
	Lives Touched	Priceless

June 10, 2023 50th Anniversary Gala

The Gala brings together more than 300 of our most loyal supporters from throughout the East Bay area to celebrate the vital work of St. Mary's Center and to raise funds for our important programming. We look forward to renewing this tradition with our community members once again on June 10.

Preschool: Head Start / Preschool State grant

Since August 2021 St. Mary's Center has been partnering with The Unity Council, a Social Equity Development Corporation based in Fruitvale, to bring Head Start services to our preschool families. The Head Start program provides dental, vision, and hearing screenings as well as mental health consultations for both the students and their families. A California state grant of \$249,999 will begin repairs to our preschool classrooms and playground, starting with a roof replacement, electrical, and accessibility upgrades. We are working on funding to complete repairs and explore expanding to provide toddler childcare.

The California State Preschool Program of the California Department of Education supports preschools to facilitate the transition for children aged 3-4 to kindergarten, with a special focus on literacy, numbers, social development, and health. Thanks to this support, St. Mary's can provide a quality education to children and provide healthy meals for our kids. In addition, this funding allows St. Mary's to serve low-income working parents who do not have the funds to enroll their children in other preschool programs. St. Mary's Center is grateful for the continued support of the California Department of Education and the impact this funding has had on our preschool students and their families. ●



A California state grant of \$249,999 will begin repairs to our preschool classrooms and playground, starting with a roof replacement, electrical, and accessibility upgrades.



2022
Leadership
Academy #2
Graduates

Leadership Academy

Following the successful launch of the 2021 Leadership Academy program, St. Mary's Center held its second session of Leadership Academy workshops this summer for thirteen Seniors with lived experience of homelessness and poverty. From June to August 2022 these participants gathered once a week to critically analyze the root causes of homelessness by discussing the intersection of housing, class, and race. Leadership Academy participants learned how to influence budget priorities, how to impact policymaking and direct resources toward effective solutions and designed their own policy proposal to prioritize Alameda County's Home Together 2026 plan.

Though our second session of the Leadership Academy ended in August, the work has not stopped there. On October 6, the LA2 graduates held a policy forum with District 3 Supervisorial candidates Rebecca Kaplan and Lena Tam where the Seniors shared their policy proposal and asked hard questions.

Here are the Leadership Academy's top ten priorities for reducing homelessness and improving services to protect the dignity and well-being of people, especially Seniors:

THE TOP TEN POLICIES FOR PEOPLE LIVING CURBSIDE

1. Better Sanitation Services
2. Better Hygiene Services
3. Better Mental Health Services
4. Creative Land and Building Use
5. Centralize Information and Create a Regional Resource Guide
6. Create Workforce Development & Career Pathways for Persons Experiencing Homelessness
7. Raise Income Limit on Government Benefits
8. Create a County and Statewide Universal Affordable Housing Application
9. Create a Retrievable Online Storage of Important Documents
10. Create a Mentoring and Peer Support Program for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

A third cohort of Leadership Academy Seniors will form early in 2023. ●



“WeConnect” Bridges Digital Divide

St. Mary's Center has a long tradition of offering Seniors opportunities and professional development. Our WeConnect program is a launching point for both participation in Community Center activities and advocacy. WeConnect helps Seniors stay connected with friends, family, services and community through donated computer equipment, accessories, and affordable Wi-Fi services. Social isolation and difficulty accessing online services can impact our health and quality of life. ●

True to our Mission

Client Story: J.R.

St. Mary's Center Clinical Director Letteria Fletcher met J.R. after he had been exited from a medical facility and was living in an underpass in West Oakland. After about a month of persistent outreach, Director Fletcher was able to place him into a skilled nursing facility where he is currently undergoing physical therapy.

Before Letteria met him, J.R. underwent surgery in which toes on both of his feet were amputated. Despite facing difficult circumstances, J.R. is full of good spirit and hope. He is on track to return to Closer to Home once he completes his physical therapy where he will be living until his permanent housing is secured. J.R. feels thankful to St. Mary's Center and excited to finally have a place to call his own, "I love St. Mary's to death. They have really helped me. I have faith that everything is going to be all right." ●



"I love St. Mary's to death. They have really helped me. I have faith that everything is going to be all right."



Shelter, transitional and permanent housing under discussion

St. Mary's Center Board of Directors discussed the future of shelter operations at its December 2022 meeting. St. Mary's Center began operating winter shelter in the 1990s at a location on 22nd and San Pablo Av., and from 2008 to 2020 at our current location at 32nd and San Pablo Av. Our Shelter was supported by City and County funding, as well as a dedicated group of volunteers who prepared and served home-cooked meals on 150 nights each winter.

"Great work was done in our Shelter to help Seniors recover, find housing and create a caring, compassionate community," said Sr. Marilyn Medau, former food director and current Board member. "St. Mary's Center can be proud of this work and the lives affected."

Under order of the health officer, Shelter closed in April 2020, and the agency has not received an all-clear to operate again. "During this period of required closure, we have had an opportunity to take a look at different models and opportunities for supporting homeless Seniors on the path to becoming permanently housed," said Executive Director Sharon Cornu. "The availability of hotel vouchers has meant that Seniors have had more privacy and security coming off the streets and preparing for transitional and permanent housing."

Recent evaluations have shown that St. Mary's Center has increased the number of Seniors permanently housed in the past two years, due to the availability of new Senior housing as well as rental vouchers. "It is easier for a Senior to focus on the work they need to do to become housed, like addressing medical needs, income, documentation, in an individual space," said Clinical Director Letteria Fletcher, "But sometimes it is more difficult to remain in contact with clients, and our case managers struggle to find somewhere to refer Seniors."

The Board discussed evaluating future Shelter options that would maintain health standards for fragile Seniors, support them in accessing case management and housing navigation, and operate sustainably. "We will continue to monitor need in the

community, best practices, and options for providing services to people in urgent need," said Board chair Romi Hall. "We are true to our mission as a community of hope, healing and justice, and meeting continuing needs in new ways. We will continue to update our community on important issues like this."

Resuming Recovery Groups

Our Seeking Safety sessions resumed in November with staff and peers leading the twice a week substance abuse and trauma counseling sessions. Many Seniors who come to St. Mary's Center have experienced trauma that requires mental health services. Seeking Safety is an evidence-based recovery model to help people attain safety from trauma and substance abuse through counseling.

Friendly Manor Closed

Friendly Manor has been closed since December 2021 due to significant infrastructure issues. All the women who were living in AFM have been placed in permanent housing. St. Mary's Center has applied for state funding for significant repairs and exploring options to continue Friendly Manor's mission.

3135 San Pablo Ave. Update

The 73 homes for Seniors in West Oakland that we are developing in partnership with Satellite Affordable Housing Associates are still moving ahead. These homes will help seniors who are in critical need of affordable housing. When completed, the six-story building will provide 73 studio and one-bedroom units. In the spring of 2021 St. Mary's Center and SAHA approached the California State Legislative for aid on this project. We are pleased to announce that we received \$12 million in support for construction of apartments and offices to serve formerly homeless Seniors. ●

We housed:



33 + clients in permanent housing

24 + in transitional housing, and provided...

492 days of temporary housing for homeless clients

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We are grateful to the many individuals, families, organizations, and municipalities who support the vital work of St. Mary's Center.

Below is a partial list of donors who gave between July 2021 and June 2022.

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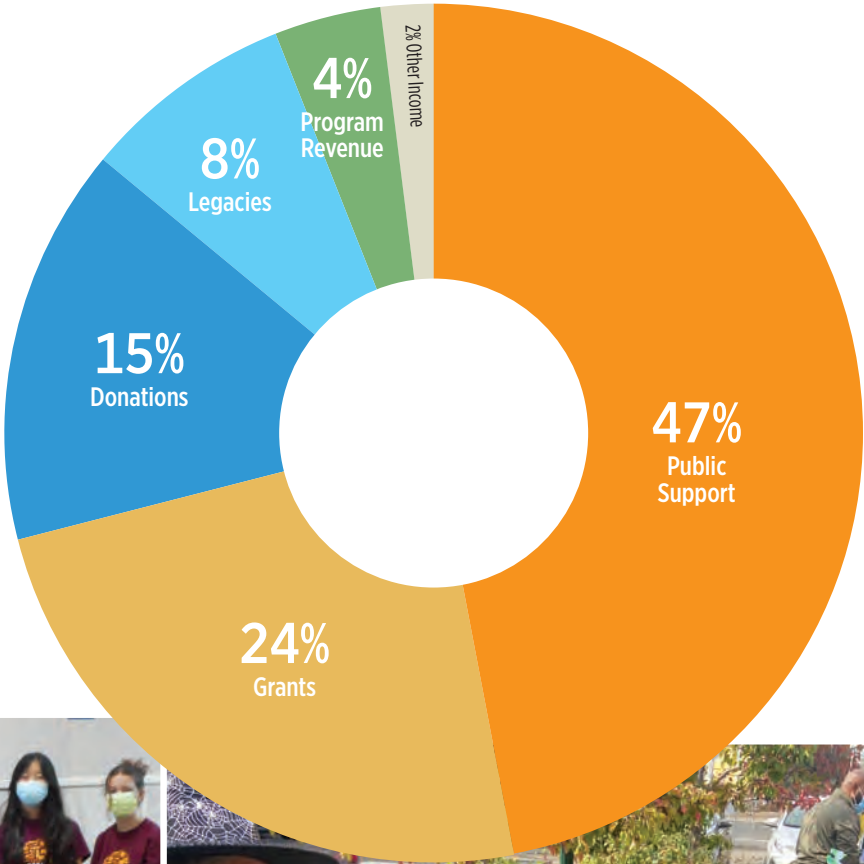
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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Audited Financial Statements are available on our web site.

TOTAL REVENUE: \$4,487,098

Public Support	\$2,134,024
Grants	\$1,059,275
Donations	\$658,934
Legacies	\$341,465
Program Revenue	\$184,724
Other Income	\$108,676





St. Mary's Center

A Community of Hope,
Healing & Justice

St. Mary's Center is a community of hope, healing & justice that serves at-risk seniors and preschoolers in the heart of Oakland.

We strive to improve quality of life through counseling, shelter, nutrition, advocacy and social support.

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CIRCLE OF HOPE

Seniors ages 55+ are the fastest growing segment of the unhoused community, and research by the UCSF Benioff Institute shows that half become homeless for the first time after the age of 50. When you become a "Community of Hope Sustainer" you are helping our Seniors move beyond a world of survival to one that fosters Hope, Healing and Justice. Gifts of all sizes are deeply appreciated. Planned giving can be achieved very simply:

- List St. Mary's Center as the beneficiary of your life insurance, 401K, or IRA.
- Make a specific bequest to St. Mary's Center in your will or estate plan, as a percentage or specific amount.

We are deeply honored to be remembered in such a personal and significant way. Please let us know of your plans so that we can personally thank you and invite you to join our legacy society, the Circle of Hope. Please contact ngaiser@stmaryscenter.org if you have any questions.

To join the Circle of Hope, contact Noah Gaiser at 510.923.9600 x1124 or ngaiser@stmaryscenter.org



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