

From the Director: Lessons Learned Along the Journey

- Poverty does not rob you of human decency;
- Children say the funniest things
- Every child deserves to be loved, clothed, fed, educated and nourished to grow
- Family comes in many different forms and does not just include people you share a blood line with
- Fixing broken sidewalks makes a world of difference
- Children do not see in color
- People in poverty don't think they are poor
- Poverty does not equate to not work hard;
- A garden's growth can inspire the growth of a community
- A mural can be the foundation of creative positive movement
- The world is a beautiful place, with beautiful people and we are all neighbors regardless of where our home is located

The definition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a group of courageous vibrant women, wrapped in a cloak of Christian beauty, forging

ahead to make a difference in the world – and encouraging us to run alongside them. With their visionary leadership, we are creating awareness for the needs of our neighbors, developing successful, sustainable programs and generating positive change in the City of Erie.

Along the journey we have seen original seeds that were planted grow into the most glorious blossoms. Children are graduating high school, art is being infused into communities, crime is reducing, neighborhoods are showing signs of reinvestment, gardens are providing food for families and businesses are expanding.

And every step of the way, we are learning wonderful lessons as we walk the journey with our neighbors.

We look forward to continuing our journey thanks to your support. The seeds you have helped us sow are making a difference. Thank you for your faith in our work. As we continue to evolve, we are blessed to call you neighbor.

Rosmari Graham

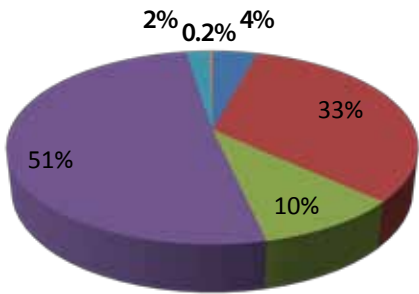
Rosmari Graham  
Executive Director

Editor's Note: As many know, Rose Graham is now working with Edinboro University as the director of grants and new programs. We thank Rose for her visionary leadership and the growth we've experienced these past years under her guidance, and wish her the very best as she tackles her new role. In August, Heather May Caspar joined the SSJNN as our new executive director. Welcome, Heather!

SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
SUPPORT		
Grants, contributions, donations	\$	620,720
REVENUE		
Fundraising		69,918
Rental income		30,875
Gain on sale of assets		1,000
Interest income		762
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	102,555
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$	723,275
EXPENSES		
Program services		608,683
Management and general		32,327
Fundraising		15,140
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	656,150

Funding Sources

- Rental Income (\$30,875)
- Grants (\$235,261)
- Fundraising (\$69,918)
- Contributions (\$369,304)
- Non-cash Donations (\$16,155)
- Investment Income (\$1,762)



Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network  
425 West 18th Street  
Erie, PA 16502



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Our Mission:

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.

You Can Have a Hand in the Mission:

**VOLUNTEER** your time and talent individually or with a group you belong to - with our youth programs, soup kitchen, gardens, office duties, events, committees, clean-ups, & much more.

**DONATE** hygiene & household products, non-perishable food items, snacks for children's programs, paper products for the soup kitchen, art supplies, used bicycles & parts.

**CONTRIBUTE** by using the envelope enclosed for your convenience, on our website, or consider making long term financial plans for SSJNN and the vital neighbors and neighborhoods it serves in the city.

**ATTEND** the 11th Annual Guess That Tune Gala on Saturday, April 29th, 2017 at the Bayfront Convention Center

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Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Continue to plant seeds of trust and faith. They will bear great fruit.

In the basement of our building each year before the thaw, seeds are started and tended to. Teen garden workers like DeShawn, at left, work with volunteer garden coaches like Gary, on right, to sow the seeds then plant and nurture them in the gardens through the spring, summer, and fall.



Little Italy Neighborhood and  
Administrative Office:  
425 West 18th Street, Erie PA 16502  
814-454-7814

East Side Neighborhood Office:  
504 East 27th Street, Erie PA 16504  
814-870-9020

Find us online at: WWW.SSJNN.ORG or Facebook & Twitter at: SSJNN





5,000 *hot meals* were served at our weekly soup kitchen at St. Paul Center to families, the homeless, elderly, working poor and more.



1,550 *walk-in neighbors* were provided assistance by Sister Phyllis Hilbert and the volunteer receptionists, including 315 families serviced with diapers.



More than 600 *neighbors* came together for National Night Out with the neighborhood watch groups and local law enforcement.



93 *youth* went on great experiential trips, including: a week long stay at Camp Notre Dame, trip to the zoo, sporting events, theatre and dance events, and a media and design camp at Edinboro University.



271 *volunteers* contributed 9,323 hours of time & talent, with a total dollar value of \$280,175. This does not include the countless hours contributed by hundreds of volunteers from groups such as schools and churches.



Many *neighborhood events*, advisory committee meetings and neighborhood watch meetings were held throughout the year.



34 *people* received affordable housing and participated in the Genesis home ownership program that includes mentoring in budgeting, home maintenance and much more.



SSJNN served 311 *unduplicated youth* last year in individualized and small group programs, including: art, basketball, chorus, cooking, folk art, gardening, tutoring, mentoring, Pedal Mettle (earn-a-bike), sewing and story time.

# Growth requires faith in the journey

*Each number represents a seed of hope, the nurturing of staff, volunteers and supporters, and unwavering eyes on a mission to serve our neighbors.*



13 *facade improvement projects* were completed in Little Italy on 6 businesses and 7 residences, totaling \$74,449.25. \$50,000 of those face-lifts were funded by generous SSJNN tax credit donors.

Implementation of the Federal Byrne Criminal Justice Grant began in Little Italy. Some of its components include increased code enforcement, police presence (via foot, bicycle & a mobile precinct unit), surveillance, a youth outreach worker, and collaboration with other organizations, businesses and residents.



7 *teens* from Little Italy worked and learned in the gardens this year, and 2 of them sold produce at the farmers' market. 10 *farmers* participated in the market, now in its fifth year. It continues to grow each year and more than \$5,000 *SNAP, WIC and Senior vouchers* were redeemed and matched this season as incentives for neighbors to purchase fresh and healthy food.

Urban art was installed, including bike racks, a mural and "Step Into Poetry" (poetry on the stairs). The poetry project, directed by Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, was funded in part by Erie Arts & Culture, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network and an anonymous donor. Artist Joe Gallagher illustrated the poems on the east side.



SSJNN now has 4 *beautiful and thriving community gardens*, plus one urban orchard. More than 60 *neighbors* grew produce in the gardens this year, and countless more individuals and groups and enjoyed their beauty, bounty and place for education and congregation.



12 *large neighborhood clean-up events* were completed. In the Eastside Multicultural Community more than 15 tons of illegally dumped items were removed. Some of the areas focused on were alleyways, complete parcels, properties of elderly residents and main traffic corridors.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!** Marjorie Adams, SSJ, Mary F. Adiutori Enterprises, Mary Anne Albaugh, MD & Dennis Borczon, MD, All Saints Parish, Violet Allison, Amazon Smile, American Hollow Boring Co., American Refining Group Inc., Nancy A. Andersen, Mary C. McCarthy, Mary Anderson, Elsie Arnold, Mary Anne Ashworth, Pete Austin, Frank & Julie Baganski Jr., Edward Bajorek, Jean Baptiste, SSJ, Barber National Institute, Susan Barry, Bill & Barb Barthelmes, Diane Baumgardner, L. K. Baumgardner, Bay City Gardeners, Virginia Bello, Berry Plastics Corp., Bianchi Honda & Jason Porreco, Marie Celeste Bindseil, SSJ, Thad Birch, William C. Bloomstine, Mike, Julie & Chris Boam, Bon Ton Stores Inc., Richard C. Boyle, John & Karen Bozza, Elizabeth J. 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We sincerely apologize for any errors. Please alert us to corrections by contacting JoAnne Sprickman: 814-454-7814 or jsprickman@ssjnn.org. THANK YOU!*