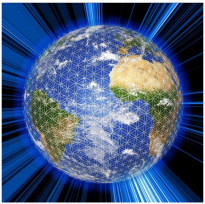


2021 Report



Hands joined in service can renew humanity.

Hands That Serve is a non-profit organization with a mission dedicated to providing concrete help and financial support to those in need. This support is dependent upon local businesses and individuals who want to give back to their community and ensure a brighter future for St. Louis.



This world needs more people like you! People who care about others and actually do something about it. Hands That Serve has been able to expand our services to those in need because of your consistent generosity over these past 19 years. Your commitment to the poor of our community truly renews my faith in humanity. We honor your kindness by using your funding to feed, house, educate and nurture those in need.

The Good Lord willing and the Covid don't rise, we can have a fundraiser this Spring. Many of you have begun to send monthly tithes through your electronic bank transactions or PayPal. This steady income keeps all of our services available to people who rely on them.

FOOD: Cheeseburgers continue to be our first line of defense against extreme poverty. Hands That Serve has been instrumental in feeding the homeless at St. Vincent DePaul every Friday and Saturday as well as keeping the food pantry at LifeWise well stocked. We have expanded our reach to many food pantries in the area during this Covid crisis. We also support GMCKS's international feeding program to address global hunger.

EDUCATION: A follow up on St.Vincent volunteer, Gabriel. Hands That Serve supported Gabriel as he finished his teaching degree and graduated from Harris Stowe University. He is successfully working as a 7th grade Science teacher in the Ferguson Florissant school district.

Our Annual \$10,000 Scholarship to Marian Middle School continues to ensure superior education for young girls who otherwise might slip through the cracks. The girls chances of success are greatly increased at this fine school.

The LifeWise staff reports that their Annual \$10,000 HTS Scholarship is helping 4 great students. **H.A.** and **J.B.** are doing well in their respective programs of Criminology and Healthcare Management.



LifeWise has found 2 more college ready students for us to sponsor. The LifeWise Academy Staff has supported and will continue to support these students throughout High School and College. These young men and women have met our Scholarship expectations and inspired us with their hard work.

Z.F is pursuing a degree in Anesthesiology at SLU. & **G.K.** is working towards degree in Biology-Dermatology at Grinnell College. All 4 students report that the team at LifeWise and the HTS Scholarship has encouraged them to succeed and give back to their community.



SHELTER:

As the region struggled in 2021 to recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many low-income families found themselves on the cusp of losing their home, despite regaining employment.

Thanks to your generous support, Hands That Serve's funding enabled St. Francis Community Services to calm families' fears and work productively with landlords and lenders. In most cases, SFCS arranged a settlement that allowed families to stay in their home. When an agreement could not be achieved, SFCS tapped Hands That Serve funds to relocate families in a planned and orderly way, avoiding the experience of having a sheriff arrive to put their belongings on the street.

Specifically, in 2021, SFCS assisted **27** families – including 39 adults and 53 children – using **\$18,404.47** in Hands That Serve contributions. Another \$10,000 is pledged in cases where landlord negotiations are being finalized.

All of these families not only benefited from their new-found housing security, but received other services as well. SFCS staff work with clients to create a realistic household budget, repair their credit, reduce their debt, clear up legal issues, understand tenant rights and responsibilities, and tap into other community resources that contribute to their well-being (such as health care, counseling, child care, job training and more).

Just a few of the stories:

Client #1:

Luis is a 67-year-old man who fled Cuba and eventually settled in St. Louis. With only a sixth grade education, he makes a meager income as a day laborer. Years of painting and laying floors has left him with a variety of health issues. Luis' roommate – the breadwinner of the household – died two years ago. Because of COVID, Luis in 2021 was unable to work stable hours and fell behind on his rent. With Hands that Serve funds, SFCS was able to erase the debt and give Luis a fresh start. Luis and his landlord maintain a positive relationship and are working together to ensure that Luis can continue living in his home.

Client #2:

Lorraine is a single mother of four boys, ranging in age from 5 to 15. During the pandemic, her children had to attend school virtually and she was forced to quit her job. She received unemployment compensation for some time, but that finally ran its course. The family's \$680 monthly allotment for food stamps was their only source of income for several months. Lorraine was able to return to work but could not make up the debt she owed to her landlord. Funds from Hands That Serve got the family back on its feet, ensuring they could stay in their home while Lorraine rebuilds their savings.

Client #3:

At the time Kierra came in touch with SFCS, she was living with her two children in an overcrowded apartment that she shared with her mother. She longed to raise her young boys in a place they could call their own. Having only a high school education, Kierra worked on an assembly line, but lost that job during the COVID-19 pandemic. She drifted to a job in a restaurant and then became a cashier in a Circle K gas station. Suffering from anxiety and depression, she was downcast about her future. Then Kierra joined SFCS' Pathways to Progress program, and she began to chip away at her problems under the guidance of a case manager. Kierra finally found an apartment that she could afford in north St. Louis city. With funds from Hands That Serve covering the deposit and first month's rent, she and her boys moved into their new home in September 2021.

Client #4:

Steven is a military veteran who took in his seven grandchildren when his daughter died. He works full-time and is determined to raise his grandchildren to the best of his ability. But with eight mouths to feed, even the slightest bump in the road can throw plans off course. Steven briefly lost hours at work during the pandemic and fell behind in his rent. His landlord ultimately decided to pursue eviction in court. Just one week prior to the court date of December 15, 2021, SFCS attorneys intervened. They used funds from Hands That Serve to negotiate a settlement with the landlord and prevent the eviction. The family was able to spend Christmas in their home free of worry – their greatest gift of all.

We are so proud of the good works that HTS is able to support in the St. Louis community and for the wonderful organizations that can do even more thanks to the generosity of our benefactors. We look forward to helping more people in the years to come. Please like us on Facebook and Instagram and spread the word.

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