



2016 Annual Report



On the Fourth of July we decided to have a cookout. People of the 7th Avenue community gathered with volunteers to grill hot dogs and have an old fashioned picnic complete with watermelon supplied by one of our partners, Fresh Market. Over 50 guests and volunteers shared food and fellowship.

Joseph's Center is about relationships

We made 1005 new ones in 2016

Our Mission

Provide support services and resources for people seeking assistance

Build relationships to assist people in moving toward self-sufficiency

Nurture spiritual needs of both those being served and those serving

SHOWERS IN 2016:

1602



Sandi works part time as a waitress at a local restaurant for minimum wage. Because of an unpredictable work schedule, she is struggling to save money so she can rent an apartment when one becomes available. She sleeps in her car and needs to shower and change before work. She regularly stops by Joseph's Center to get a shower before her shift or to relax and visit with friends after work. Sometimes we see her ironing her uniform.

***"BEING HOMELESS IS BAD ENOUGH,
BUT IF YOU CAN'T SHOWER AND BE
CLEAN, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE NOT
HUMAN."***

TERRI P.

LOADS OF LAUNDRY IN 2016:

1573

The first day the Center was open, Bruce was waiting outside to take a shower and wash his clothes.

He told us he had made some bad decisions, was homeless, and was leaving the next day to enter a work program for recovering addicts in Greenville. He wanted to start out with clean clothes and looking like he had not slept under a bridge – which he did.

We told him we would pray for him and he thanked us with tears in his eyes.



Overheard by volunteers in the laundry room:

- "LAST NIGHT'S RAIN SOAKED ALL MY CLOTHES AND I HAVE TO GET THEM DRY OR THEY WILL MOLD."
- "I NEED TO WASH MY CLOTHES FOR MY JOB INTERVIEW TOMORROW."
- "I WILL NOT GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW UNLESS I CAN GO IN CLEAN CLOTHES. THE OTHER KIDS MAKE FUN OF ME."

STORAGE UNITS USED IN 2016:

22



VOLUNTEER ROYAL CORBIN

Mike came into the Joseph's Center with four large trash bags. "I can only carry one of these bags. Can I put the other ones here?"

The host got him a storage location and Mike began sorting his belongings. He brought out an urn. "This contains my wife's ashes. Can I keep it here; I can't take it with me." "Yes you can," replied the host.

Several weeks later, Mike returned saying he had a place to stay and he wanted to get his things. Before he left, he asked if he could have a plate, fork and knife. His new place only had a microwave. "Absolutely. We are so happy for you," said the host.

VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2016:

6523

Here is what our volunteers say:

- "Before I worked at Joseph's Center, homeless people were just poor people I saw on the street. I didn't understand homelessness."
- "Now, when I walk down Main Street and see homeless people, I know their names. I know their stories. We are friends."
- "I was worried about volunteering but I found that most of our guests come in with a smile. Almost every time I'm there, a guest thanks me for being there for them."
- "Over coffee, I ask about their housing situation, their job search and we celebrate."



"JOSEPH'S CENTER GIVES ME HOPE."

SHARDAY

"THIS IS HOME TO ME."

MICHAEL

From the Board Chairperson

In March 2015, we trained volunteers and opened our doors in faith. And people came: families from the community, men and women who live out-of-doors, young people, people looking for a job, a shower, a cup of coffee. Volunteers were there to greet them, to listen to them, to share stories and memories. Our goal has always been to provide a safe place for people, those with homes, those seeking homes, and those without homes.

2016, our second year of operation, was full of challenges and opportunities:

- We changed the entrance to the facility, allowing an outside gathering place for guests
- We hosted our first service provider day where 18 organizations came and offered information to over 50 people who attended
- We held our second annual garage sale which raised \$13,139 for the Center
- We provided space for staff from the Free Clinics to serve our guests

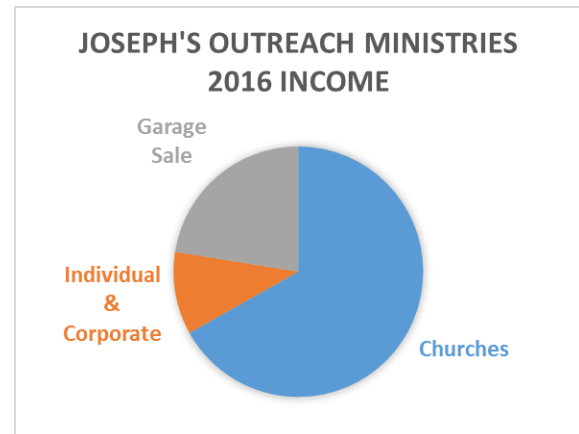
We are grateful for the 223 people who have volunteered in various capacities over the year: signing people in, giving out soap and towels for showers, overseeing laundry, making coffee and tea, washing used towels, cleaning the building and listening.

In the coming year, we hope to upgrade the laundry facilities, host more service providers, add more volunteers and expand our fund raising.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the community which allowed us to serve 1005 individuals.

Austin Watson

Financial Status (Cash only)



TOTAL INCOME	\$ 58,507
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 31,892
CASH RESERVES	\$ 26,615



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