



August 2021 Ministry Reports

Sarah's . . .an Oasis for Women

- Accepting new residents since May and have four new residents (still a few openings).
- Accepting referrals only from Center for Victims of Torture, International Institute, and Advocates for Human Rights.
- Took down the big plexiglas divider between the resident and staff zones and stopped having a mask mandate but are back to masks and small plexiglas dividers for in-person meetings, given the variant and not all residents are vaccinated either.

St. Mary's Health Clinics

- Covid-19 continues to lurk in our midst, so safety precautions continue in our clinics, limiting appointments to some degree, but allowing for continued virtual appointments. Outreach continues with our partners at Ramsey County, Hennepin Health and M Health Fairview coordinating and assisting with Covid-19 vaccine clinics. Flu vaccine clinics begin in the fall and will be held at various sites in the metro area, targeting especially the Latino population.
- Providing focused education on oral health as a key factor in wellness is underway, an initiative funded in part by a grant from Delta Dental. Pre-education surveys were administered, followed by patients receiving 1:1 education on the importance of good oral health with basic dental supplies provided. A post education will follow in several months to see how/if oral health habits have changed.
- In October, in partnership with St. Kate's, we are holding a day long women's clinic providing medical care with resources available for physical and occupational therapy, dieticians, mammograms and mental health screenings. Services will be provided by SMHC staff, students in various SCU health profession fields, SCU faculty and volunteers.
- Clinic volunteers are needed, particularly Registered Nurses, Physicians and admitting/receptionist personnel. Contact Sue Gehlsen at 651-287-7712 if you know of persons who may be interested and information will be made available.

Learning In Style School

- Due to the renewed threat of COVID-19 mutations, LIS will again offer classes by ZOOM only, until the end of 2021. We will reevaluate the situation monthly and return to in-person classes when safe.
- The building is closed to students, except for registration, testing, and tutoring (all conducted one-on-one, behind Plexiglas dividers). Teachers have the option of working from home or using their designated classroom. LIS hopes to have in-person staff meeting, team planning sessions, and in-service programs.
- The two new initiatives planned for this year, MS Office certification and GED prep classes, have been tabled until January 2022 (trying to be optimistic).
- LIS has been busy connecting our students with available resources for aid with utility and housing expenses. Emergency funds are being used to help those students who do not qualify for government assistance.

St. Joseph Worker Program

- 5 new St. Joseph Workers started in early August.
- They come from Minnesota, Virginia, Guam, and Ohio and are working at SMHC, Sarah's, the Justice Office, Catholic Charities Opportunity Center, and Cornerstone.