

CJM Connection

The bi-monthly newsletter of Criminal Justice Ministry St. Louis

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Dear Friends of CJM,

We want to express our gratitude to all who support our mission. Whether you donated food, clothing and hygiene items, visited or wrote letters to the incarcerated, gave your time in our office, supported one of our events, worked on one of our buildings, or provided financial support, you joined with us to follow Jesus' example of honoring the dignity of those marginalized in our society.

This has been an extraordinary year for CJM and those we serve. Just like you, we had to make hard decisions to limit our activities in order to protect each other. Our access to visit and bring services to inmates has been cut off or extremely limited since March. COVID-19 has had a terrible impact on jails and prisons across the country, including here in Missouri where the Department of Corrections reported at least 4 staff and 30 inmates have died due to COVID.

Our work continues, despite the restrictions. While our office is open, we are not seeing clients at First Services. Our Let's Start support groups and healthy relationships groups still serve 25 to 40 women in their online sessions. Since June, we have provided 18 people with assistance to prevent eviction or loss of utilities, and helped 17 people move into housing through assistance with deposits and their first month's rent. Although our office was closed during the stay-at-home order, over 470 individuals still received emergency services in the form of bus passes, backpacks with hygiene supplies, obtaining vital papers, or work boots and uniforms. Over 93 formerly incarcerated individuals were served through our Release-to-Rent programs, wherein we placed them in an apartment and assisted them to obtain work, achieve financial stability, and reintegrate into society.

Please click [here](#) to learn about Ronnie Axel, a recent graduate of our Release to Rent program, and to hear his words of appreciation for CJM helping him return to society.

During this time of challenges, we are especially grateful for those who make it possible for our work to continue because you recognize the benefits to society of our success, and you may also respond to the moral calling to serve the marginalized. Our Christmas wish for you, and our world, is health and safety.

With gratitude and best wishes,
The Staff of CJM

Cookie Drive

We will not have our annual cookie parties at the Farmington and Potosi Correctional Institutions, instead we will drop off cookies.

Speical request for sugar cookies

Call us: (314)652-8062 ext. 111 or email us: danelled@cjmstlouis.org to arrange a time for you to drop off your donation.

Please drop off your freshly baked cookies in a non-aluminum container by **Friday, December 11.**

1104 S. Jefferson Ave.,
St. Louis, MO 63104

Thank you!

GIVING TUESDAY

Together
we give.



Donate Here

December 1, 2020

To learn more, please click [here](#).

Giving Opportunities

- Gift cards for "virtual holiday" event for clients
 - In lieu of our in-person holiday dinner event please contribute a gift card or toward the purchase of a card.
 - We will not host a pot-luck holiday meal for our clients and staff, instead we hope to provide our clients with gift cards to have a special meal on their own, with your help.
- NAP Credits
 - CJM has Neighborhood Assistance Program credits for 2020. It is not too late to obtain credits if you need them.
 - Contact Tom Casey at tomc@cjmstlouis.org for more information.
- If you would like to contribute a year end gift, please click [here](#).

Join Our Team

CJM is recruiting for two positions. Please share these positions with anyone you know who may be qualified.

- Grant Specialist
 - To apply, please click [here](#).
- Development and Events Coordinator
 - To apply, please click [here](#).

Volunteer Newsletter

Please click [here](#) to view the Fall/Winter 2020 Volunteer newsletter.

In memoriam of Mr. Albert McNorton Jr.

It is with great sadness that CJM informs of the untimely passing of Mr. Albert McNorton Jr. from a heart attack on November 20, 2020. Mr. McNorton was a veteran and a client in CJM's Release to Rent Veterans (R2R) program. He entered the program in November 2019 shortly after his release from a Missouri correctional facility. Despite his history of being in-and-out of facilities for substance use, Mr. McNorton demonstrated grit and determination to turn his life around. Doug Evans, CJM Case Manager, describes Mr. McNorton as "soft-spoken, personable, compassionate and caring, very friendly, and an ideal client," and says, "we will miss him as a client and as a human being."

Mr. McNorton was ready to successfully complete the R2R program. He was making connections with his family but did not try to rebuild family relationships until he was successfully established independently. He loved his family so much. Mr. McNorton was doing everything he could to get his life together, not just for himself, but for his family as well. Mr. McNorton lived a great life while in the R2R program and was a mentor to a new client in the program. Mr. McNorton was sober the whole year and was saving up money to buy himself a car. He was on the path of successfully establishing himself independently, giving back to the community, and being an upstanding citizen of society. Mr. McNorton will be buried at Jefferson Barracks. We will miss Mr. McNorton, and we extend our sincerest condolences to his family.