

Report of the Diocesan Jubilee Office to the 230th Annual Diocesan Convention

Jubilee Ministries was created by the 1982 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, resolution A082, to be “a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society.” In order to facilitate this ministry, the 1985 General Convention resolution A106 charged each diocese to appoint a Jubilee Officer who will “become informed on all facets of Jubilee Ministry, serve as a liaison to the Jubilee Ministry Commission, be available as a resource to bishops and congregations and otherwise bring support to further Jubilee Ministries.”

2013 Highlights....”to meet basic needs”

The Diocesan Jubilee Office and many of our 21 Jubilee Ministry Centers continue to respond to the Gospel’s call to “feed the hungry” by eradicating food insecurity and food deserts in various communities in New Jersey. As referenced by the Legal Services of New Jersey, “Food insecurity reached another all-time high in 2011. A sizeable portion of New Jersey Households did not have enough food for all their members in 2011. Data from a three-year period (2009-11) show that 12.3 percent of New Jersey households were food insecure at some point during that period and 4.5 percent had very low food security meaning that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced or their eating pattern disrupted due to lack of resources. This represents a record high for the fifth consecutive year.”

The following grant awards from The Episcopal Church Center were in response to our call to “feed the hungry,” and the alarming domestic poverty statistics nationwide.

- Christ Church – New Brunswick – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00 – ***purchase of nutritional and healthier foods for distribution***
- Church of St. Andrew, Apostle and Martyr – Camden – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00 – ***annual community health forum and fair***
- St. Peter’s Church – Perth Amboy – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00 – ***gardening equipment and supplies***
- St. Peter’s Church – Spotswood – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00 – ***gardening equipment and supplies***
- Trinity Cathedral – Trenton – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00 – ***refrigeration for food pantry***
- Diocesan Initiative - \$1,000.00 - ***to support Jubilee Ministry development plans of the local bishop and the appointed diocesan jubilee officer – gardening workshop** and brochures***

**During this workshop, participants were taught to take an empty plot of land and cultivate it into an area that will produce fresh organic produce and stretch food budgets, while teaching habits of healthier food consumption to our families, parishioners and food pantry guests.

This hands-on workshop illustrated elements of successful faith-based gardening while providing us with the knowledge to teach others a sustainable skill. Those elements included how to:

- Evaluate a potential site
- Learn about soil testing
- Discuss in-ground vs. container or raised bed gardening
- Learn the steps to construct a raised bed
- Develop a seasonal planting plan

The workshop was led by Clara Gregory, and Master Gardeners: Canon Terry Cooper, a member of Trinity Cathedral, and Jim Simon, Urban Agriculture Program Manager for Isles, Inc. Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a Trenton, NJ based community development and environmental organization with a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities,

“.....to build a just society”

Our Diocesan Jubilee Officer (DJO) is a member of the following advocacy groups:

- Fighting Poverty with Faith
- Multi Faith Social Justice Roundtable
- Anti-Poverty Network

We continued our work in 2013 around the following issues: Building Opportunity through Affordable Housing for All, Stopping Gun Violence, The Affordable Care Act, and many more.

Designation of two new Jubilee Ministry Centers

- Trinity Church – Asbury Park, NJ
- St. Augustine’s Church – Asbury Park, NJ

Moving Forward 2014

- Continue to shepherd, when needed, charity and justice ministries through the application, designation and affirmation process.
- Continue to communicate grant and fundraising opportunities to Jubilee Ministries when available.
- Convene regularly scheduled meetings for the purposes of networking, training and sharing best practices with Jubilee Ministries.
- Convene regularly scheduled telephone conversations regarding legislation that impacts the poor and oppressed with Jubilee Ministries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clara Gregory
Diocesan Jubilee Officer

Diocesan Jubilee Office Advisory Team: Keith Adams, Paul Bell, The Revd Cathy Brunson, Deacon, Shawn Fay, The Revd Canon Linda Moeller, The Revd Sharon Sutton, Deacon, Sebastian Vasquez