Bishop Anderson House

Annual Newsletter • December 1, 2019

What is your passion?

That's the theme we decided for our 2019 end-of-year newsletter this year. As I sat with the board of trustees this summer at a retreat reviewing our 2016-2019 strategic plan we had much to celebrate at what all we had accomplished: a full-time chaplain in the trauma and ICU units at Stroger Hospital of Cook County; a part-time chaplain for our Teddy Bear Ministry funded through a donor to our capital campaign; a part-time chaplain at Project Connect, the inpatient HIV+ unit at Stroger; an associate executive director who takes ideas and is able to make them a reality; and many contract employees that work for us on an as-needed basis doing everything from helping us maintain our website and formatting the newsletter you now have in your hands to photography and videography.

I hope you enjoy hearing about our passion and it connects with yours,

Tommy

A Passion for Education

Tommy Rogers, Executive Director

One of the things that quickly emerged from our retreat was each area of the strategic plan – Education, Chaplaincy, and Spirituality and Wellness moved forward in great strides when staff members were taking up leadership and driving these initiatives forward. For example, anyone who spends much time with me knows that my passion is education, so I have been the primary staff person involved with revising the curriculum of the Spiritual Care Visitor Training program (SCVT), moving to a hybrid format. Beginning with a one day retreat the training is followed by students completing the rest of the program with online modules that are supplemented by monthly "chat with a chaplain" videoconference meetings to ask questions or to get consultation on a visit that was hard or didn't go as they planned.

My other passion is Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) so it has been very rewarding to work in partnership with Rush to take CPE to the community these last three years helping students get better at the art of spiritual care, to learn leadership skills, and to lead change in organizational systems. We've seen students from our SCVT go on and pursue CPE, attend seminary, and then become board certified chaplains. We've also seen students discern a call to ministry and pursue ordination in their faith tradition. One of my great joys is to be at an event and for someone to come up and tell me they are an alum of our Spiritual Care Visitor Training program or for a former student in the CPE program to drop me an e-mail and tell me what they are up to: sending pictures of a seminary graduation, an ordination, the birth of a new child, or life taking them in a surprising and unexpected direction and how CPE prepared them to manage the transition.

At the end of the day, I feel that is what we are called to be and do at Bishop Anderson House – be agents of transformation. Whether that be coming alongside a patient and their family at the bedside in the hospital with our chaplains; going out into the community and conducting workshops on Advance Directives or other areas where healthcare and spirituality intersect; or leading self-care events for healthcare staff to help them reduce stress and get back in touch with their calling and vocation as healers.

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In Moments of Silence

Micheal Smith, Chaplain

So much of the difficult work of chaplaincy requires a chaplain to navigate the space and time that is silence. Abiding and honoring the silence and respecting that a spoken word or words, no matter how well-intended, can tread upon the sacred. This may surprise many persons who understandably believe that a chaplain's years of biblical study, countless theological reflections and numerous clinical pastoral education units have equipped us to be able to response with spoken words that will address any and all persons in emotional and spiritual distress. Yet, more times than not, effective chaplaincy can only be undertaken once a chaplain becomes comfortable with the silence that is present or evolves between him or herself and the care recipient, wherein both can avail of the time to process what has been said and to move forward thoughtfully.

But closer to the thought that silence can be sacred, I also believe that there are moments wherein there are no words which can effectively engage a moment. Recently I was paged to provide spiritual care to a large family who had gathered in the hospital because two family members were victims of gun violence. Within the span of two hours one family member had died from his injuries while the other family member remained in critical condition in the operating room. In the midst of the family's grief and distress there was one family member (the mother of the young man in the operating room and aunt of the deceased victim) who flawlessly moved from one family member to the next providing strength and comfort, while responding to the phone calls from other concerned family members and friends. Further, while yet still awaiting word of her son's condition after his surgery, she chose to support and accompany her sister and nieces to the morgue to view her nephew. After she stood with each family at the viewing window, she turned and we faced each other. And in that moment, there was silence. She embodied a pillar of strength in the face of adversity. Yet, neither she nor I had words that could convey or address the pain and sorrow that was present for herself or her family. And in that silence I was led by the Holy Spirit to simply extend my arms as she accepted a place to cry and be supported. My recollection is that the embrace, mixed with tears, anguish and mourning, lasted several minutes until she whispered "I will be ok"; but in that space and time of silence, spiritual care and comfort was provided.

"Walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in every person"

Audrey French, MD, Director of the Inpatient HIV Service at Stroger

I'm a Quaker and we believe that there's that 'of God' in every person. Having this belief calls us to acknowledge the divinity in everyone and calls us to try to speak to that spark of the Holy which is contained in everyone. A corollary of this belief is that we each have access to Truth with a capital T, when you acknowledge someone's infinite worth, you acknowledge their wisdom and the tools they have to begin to solve some of their problems.

Chaplains not only provide profound comfort but they empower people to take charge of their care and make choices that lead to better health.

The founder of Quakerism, George Fox said "Walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in every person." I believe that this is what the chaplains from Bishop Anderson House do for our HIV patients at Stroger and the CORE Center each day.

I'm the Director of the Inpatient HIV Service at Stroger and we are so blessed to have chaplains as part of our team. People are admitted to our ward for new diagnoses of HIV, opportunistic infections, or because mental health or substance abuse have kept them from taking care of their HIV. Often they are scared, angry and confused, often they are traumatized by the diagnosis and perhaps the stigma and abuse they have suffered because of the diagnosis. These emotions sometimes get in the way of trust and hearing what we providers have to say – both good things, like the fact that HIV is treatable and many people can live a normal life, and bad things, like the news of a difficult diagnosis or our uncertainty or a painful procedure that may be necessary to figure out what's going on. By offering a compassionate ear, offering to pray with people, and answering that of God in each of them, Chaplains not only provide profound comfort but they empower people to take charge of their care and make choices that lead to better health.

Speaking to some of our inpatients we hear that the Chaplains are a consistent and available comforting presence across multiple hospitalizations, that having the chaplain pray with patients and their families helps begin to heal some family rifts and misunderstandings in the most stressful of times, that patients who have no friends or families are particularly grateful for visits and prayers, that the chaplains work hard to get people with no resources Bibles in English and Spanish, that discussing a new HIV diagnosis or new cancer diagnosis with the chaplain allows them to feel some hope and just a little less overwhelmed.

Once we had a young man on the service who was dying and his dearest wish was to get home to Honduras to see his parents and die at home. Chaplain Jim performed some magic and found a donor who was willing to provide $900 for his trip. This gift had an enormous impact on this man and his family and the medical team- my interns and residents couldn't believe someone would be so kind to a stranger. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to get to Honduras but his family was profoundly touched by that gift in the midst of tragedy. This is a demonstration of the lengths the Chaplains go for our patients, and the gift Bishop Anderson House has given us is immeasurable.

MTP
Think
TXA!
CODE CALL
PRESS FOR HELP

Spiritual care is a vital component of health care and people should not be denied spiritual care simply because they are poor.

A Vital Component

Jim Croegaert, Chaplain

In a recent staff retreat, Tommy asked, in his provocateur mode, "Why should we concern ourselves with providing chaplains at Stroger?" My answer was: "Because spiritual care is a vital component of health care and people should not be denied spiritual care simply because they are poor." Since May, 2016, some two years after retiring from Resurrection Medical Center where I led our spiritual services department for sixteen years, I have been serving as a professional healthcare chaplain for Bishop Anderson House, functioning as part of the Project Connect team at the CORE Center, visiting patients at Stroger Hospital who have HIV/AIDS as a part of their diagnosis. I have had the opportunity of providing that spiritual care component to people who would not otherwise have had it, communicating the message to patients that what they were experiencing mattered, but more, that they mattered as people created in the divine image; that it was appropriate to call on God if they wished, and to invoke faith in whatever form it might take for them.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve. My role with BAH will conclude at the end of this year. Though my role was a part-time one, it was filled with many human encounters whose outcomes I cannot determine. I know I have been impacted by meeting many patients I would never have met, with backgrounds very different from mine. Being part of the BAH team and also the CORE's Project Connect team, building relationships with staff at Stroger – medical staff, security guards, environmental workers, cafeteria workers, etc. – have all enriched me. I will have more time now to focus on my other passion – music, especially songwriting – and finish a recording that needs more attention. But I am grateful for the experience I have had at Stroger and CORE, and being part of the Bishop Anderson House family – thank you!

Where there's passion, there's passio

Josh Daniel, Chaplain at Comer Children's Hospital at University of Chicago Medicine

I'm writing this from my office in Comer Children's Hospital at University of Chicago Medicine, where I recently started working as a staff chaplain. Three autumns ago—three!—I attended Bishop Anderson House's Lay Chaplaincy Training at my church. I had just decided to stop pursuing the career I had dedicated the past decade-plus of my life to, and I came to the training curious and open-minded, but really just expecting to find something that might—might!—tide me over until I figured out what I wanted to do with my life next. What happened next seems like a fairy-tale: BAH's training led to a CPE internship (at Northwestern), which led to a CPE residency (also at Northwestern), which came to an end the day before University of Chicago medicine called to offer me this job. Incredible!

Of course, what this fairy-take rendition lacks is what happened inside of these events: tapping into a passion with BAH (shout out to Tommy!), stoking that passion at Northwestern and now tending it at Comer. There are too many tales to tell, too many transformative insights and self-realizations, too many universe-warping patient and colleague encounters, that to start speaking of them would feel like diminishing them and the passion they sustain. And of course, where there's passion, there's passio—suffering. I remember feeling acutely out of place throughout most of the BAH training. I remember feeling the odd man out throughout my internship. And I still feel the shadow of self-doubt that accumulated during my residency, wondering if I'd ever get a job in chaplaincy. Now, the good news is not (only) that I got a job. The good news is that chaplaincy is what it is, that it's built to metabolize our own negative experiences—even our own negative experiences with chaplaincy itself!—for the good of those we serve.

Five years ago, I couldn't imagine being a chaplain. Now, I can't imagine ever wanting to do anything else. Thanks be to God.

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Making a Difference

Rose Cicero, Chaplain

I was originally drawn to Bishop Anderson House by the Spiritual Care Visitors Training program. Then, through Community-based CPE, I continued to learn about the many ways Bishop Anderson House is a provider of quality spiritual and emotional care. I have a deep desire to bring support, healing and comfort to those in most need. My passion for this work originates from my own life changing experience as a young child. Through the kindness and sacrifice of one woman, I received the love and hope that nourished my soul. As I grew, her efforts were affirmed by other strong women who enkindled in me a passionate desire to live a life of service. I know that one person can make a tremendous difference in the lives of others, especially in the lives of children. I hope through my work at Bishop Anderson House, I can continue to give that gift that was so freely given to me.

Compassion is My Passion

Ann Ryba, Associate Executive Director

I have the immensely rewarding task of watching the deeply compassionate and hard-working health care providers at the CORE Center emerge from "Breathe Deep Day" sessions with broad smiles, hearty thank yous and requests for more of the same. We are rejuvenating and restoring their spirits with yoga, deep muscle relaxation, aromatherapy and healthy snacks at these events; allowing them to recharge and be more effective for those in their care. Bishop Anderson House is a charging station for them to refuel their compassion.

Compassion is visibly entrenched in the ethos of the CORE Center, and we have recently been asked to provide similar self-care sessions for clients aged 60+ who have been living with HIV+ diagnoses for many years. Laurie

Bishop Anderson House is a charging station for them to refuel their compassion.

Michaels led our introductory offering to the group; walking 50 clients through deep muscle relaxation. My heart swelled with compassion as I watched a room full of people who have lived extraordinarily challenging lives close their eyes, listen deeply to the instructions, and fall into a trance of relaxation. In seeing their transformation, my compassion was refueled, and I have the inspiration to continue fostering the spirit of care in all that we do.

Financial Giving Development

Churches: We are blessed with the support of several churches that allocate grants from Mission and Outreach funds. Many thanks to Christ Church, Winnetka; Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest; Redeemer Lutheran, Hinsdale; St. Augustine's, Wilmette; St. Chrysostom's Church, Chicago; St. James the Less, Northfield; St. Michael's, Barrington.

Individuals: Individual giving is at the core of support for Bishop Anderson House. These donations are for general operating expenses and come from direct mail and online giving. Fundraisers: We host 2 fundraisers each year; this giving is also primarily from individuals.

SCVT: In 2019 we held 3 sessions of training; this reflects tuition and fees.

Foundations: Foundational donations include grants from Gift of Hope and Episcopal Charities.

Memorials: It is always an honor when a family names us to receive gifts in honor of their loved one.

Investment Income: Thanks to many benefactors to our Capital Campaigns and wise investment strategies by William Blair, our endowment provides significant income each year. We take a 5% annual draw of the past 12 trailing quarters

Space in Kind: Our 50 year old Trust Agreement with Rush ensures that we have office space in perpetuity. On our end, we supply faculty and supervision (Tommy Rogers) for Rush based CPE, provide chaplaincy, host and provide support for workshops and gatherings of Rush Department of Religion and Health.

Bishop Anderson House

October 2018 - September 2019

Income

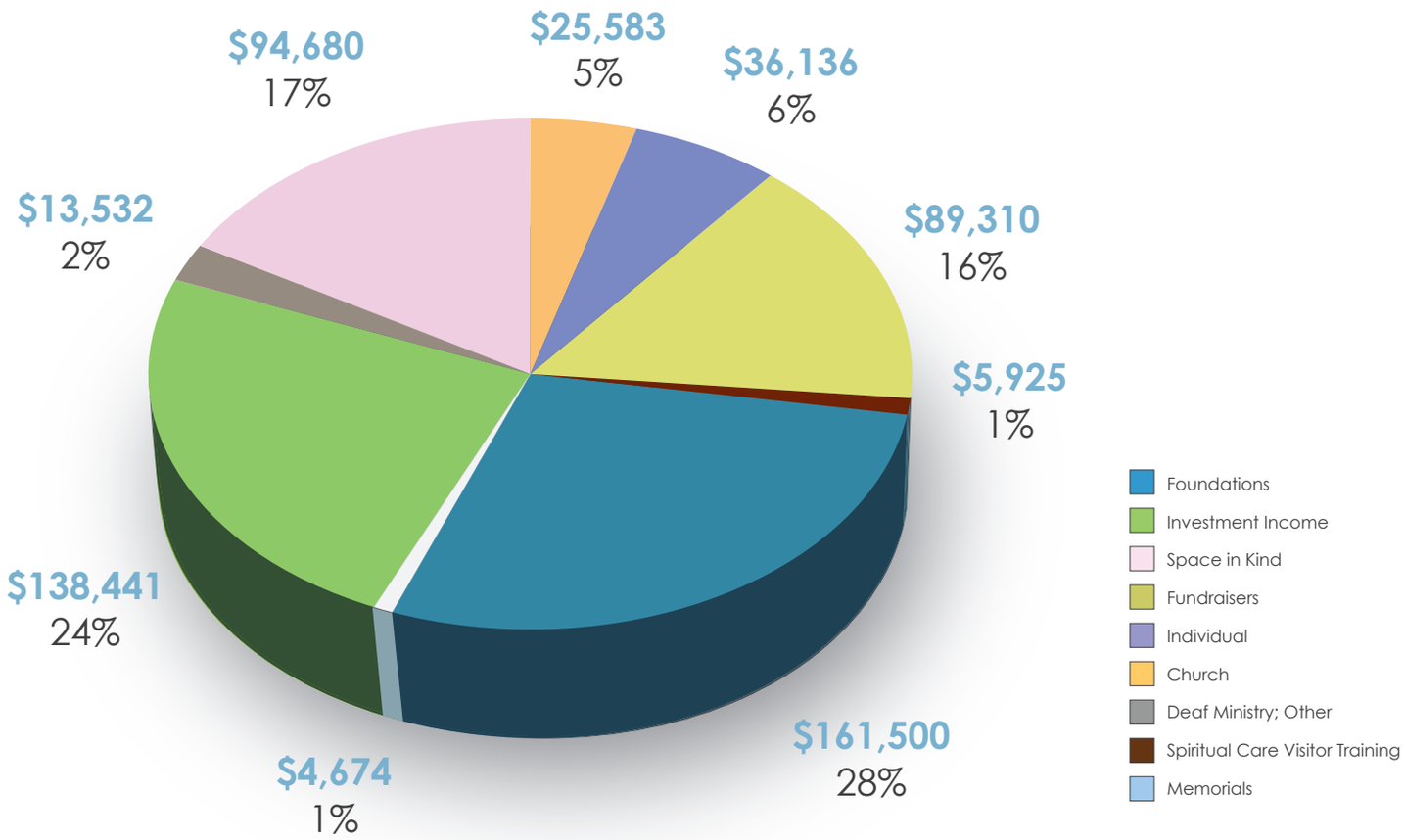
	Oct 2018 - Sep 2019
Foundations	$ 161,500
Investment Income	$ 138,441
Space in Kind	$ 94,680
Fundraisers	$ 89,310
Individual	$ 36,136
Church	$ 25,583
Deaf Ministry; Other	$ 13,532
Spiritual Care Visitor Training	$ 5,925
Memorials	$ 4,674
Total Income	**$ 569,781**

Did you know?

Bishop Anderson House detailed financials and audits are on our website under "About Us" then "Annual Reports, Audits, & Financials" so you can be secure your gift is being well utilized.

Income

October 2018 - September 2019



A Financial Snapshot

Help us with our goal of $15,000 for year-end giving

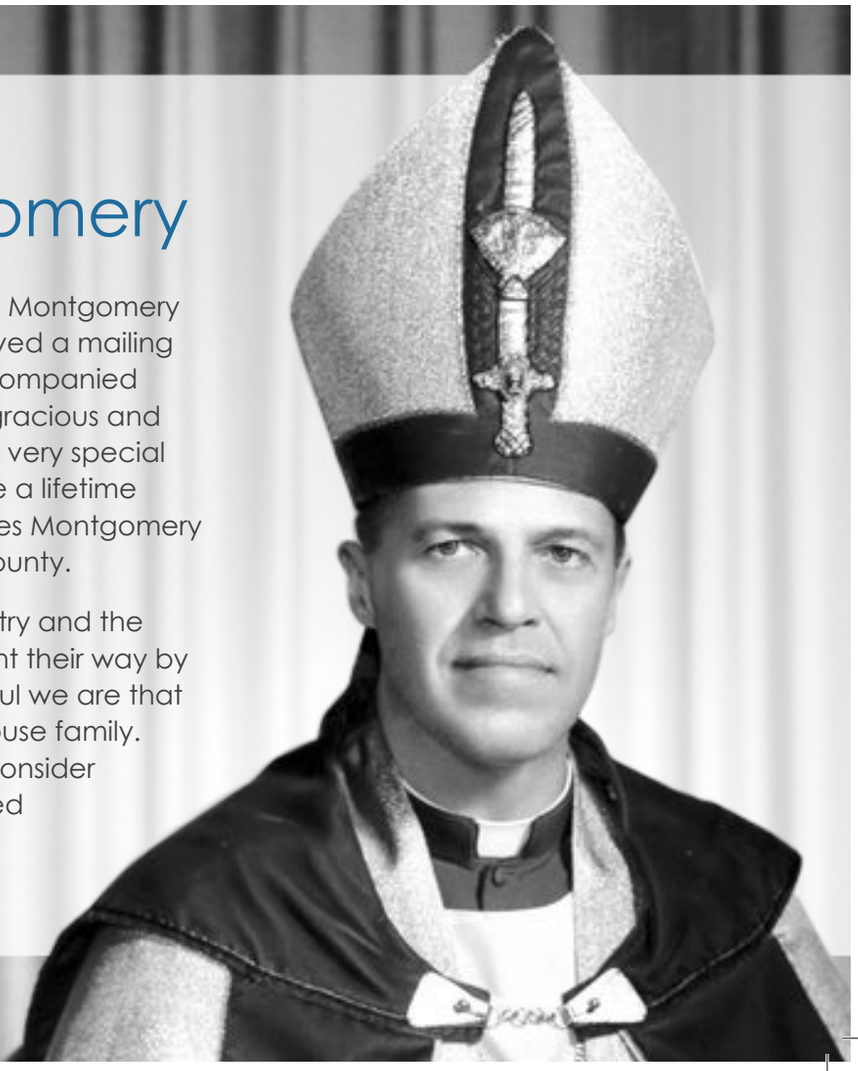
At Bishop Anderson House we are blessed with a cornucopia of benevolence. Long-time donors join with first time givers; churches, corporations and foundations unite for compassionate change; and financial advisors steer our resources soundly. On behalf of those whose lives we touch, we thank each of you who has made a gift in the past 12 months.

But despite the generosity of many, we face a year end gap. Please help us end the year in the black--make a donation today to support the passions you have just read about. Please give generously to provide chaplaincy, education and spirituality & wellness that are truly life giving to people who yearn for solace.

Bishop Anderson House

1653 W. Congress Parkway, JEL 64
Chicago, IL 60612

Bishop James Montgomery

It was just the end of September when Bishop James Montgomery sent a donation to us like he did every time he received a mailing from Bishop Anderson House...donations always accompanied by a hand written note of encouragement, always gracious and generous. Bishop Anderson House owes much to this very special soul--an advocate for us in the tumultuous 70s, made a lifetime trustee in the 80's, and namesake of our Bishop James Montgomery Endowed Chaplaincy at Stroger Hospital of Cook County.

Thousands of people throughout Chicago, the country and the world have been blessed by the thoughtful notes sent their way by The Right Reverend James Montgomery. How grateful we are that he was a part of our life and our Bishop Anderson House family. We would be honored if, in his memory, you would consider a gift to fulfill the Bishop James Montgomery Endowed Chaplaincy at Stroger Hospital of Cook County.