

# 2021

# Annual Report

CHESTER COMMUNITY  
COALITION



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# CHESTER COMMUNITY COALITION

## OUR MISSION & VISION

### MISSION

To heal the psychological and emotional impact of homicides and reduce trauma-related reactive violence in the City of Chester, PA.

### VISION

Provide compassionate counseling services and related activities to children and adults within Chester City who have been negatively impacted by violence to promote healing, peace and safety within their families, surrounding community, and the entire City of Chester and surrounding Delaware County area.

### OUR CULTURE

Chester Community Coalition expects to achieve its vision by adhering to three core values: compassion, accountability and respect.



*It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit... You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.*

-Mahatma Ghandi

# A Culture of Life

IMAM HANEEF MAHDI, ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR



We are almost at the end of another challenging year of 2021.

Gratefully, vaccinations have been developed to prevent thousands of Americans from succumbing to Covid-19. The advisory board of the Chester Community Coalition is committed to the citizens of the beloved city of Chester. Our mission is "To heal the psychological and emotional impact of homicides and reduce trauma-reactive violence in the city of Chester, PA."

We want to promote a culture of life that will have human compassion and forgiveness laid as a foundation. Peace and safety is what we ultimately want in our neighborhoods.

The CCC has a great team ready to go to work to cultivate healing in those

affected by violence. Violence affects our whole society. One lost soul to violence is too many.

Healing and repair is necessary.

We need your help as well. In the coming year, CCC will be reaching out to you. We want you to join this movement to repair our lives. To change the climate and season in our community. Read our annual report with anticipation of becoming a member, donor and supporter.

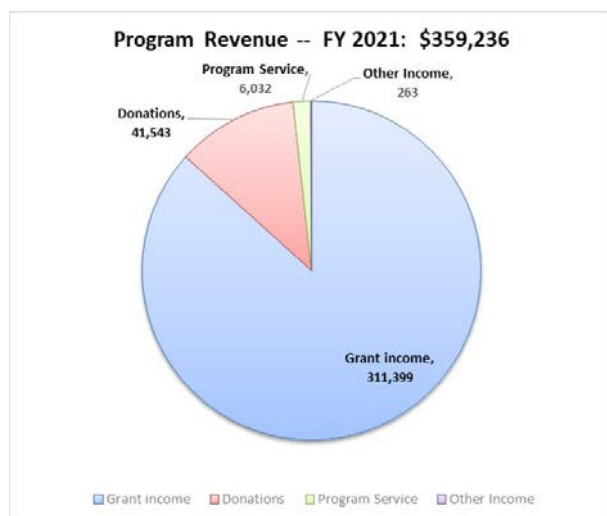
Almost two years ago before the COVID pandemic, I joined my friends, Rabbi Jeremy Gerber of Congregation Ohev Shalom and Father Timothy Gavin of Episcopal Academy, in offering prayers for the historic Induction Ceremony of 5 Judges to the Court of Common Pleas 32nd Judicial District. I prayed that our Creator bless our homes, schools, houses of worship, children, parents, neighborhoods, first responders, leaders, police and firefighters. Bless and protect our constitution, democracy and freedom.

I ask our Creator to bless and protect the Chester Community Coalition with continued growth and success.

Please enjoy our Annual Report.

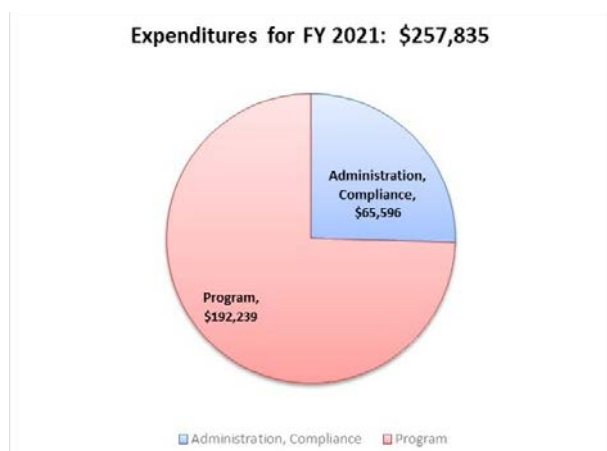
# Finance Report

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES



### OVERVIEW

The pie charts show breakdowns of revenues and expenditures.



### FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2021

The table below shows Chester Community Coalition financials from Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021), compared to FY 2020.

Looking at the Expenses pie chart, administrative expenses include insurance, financial reporting to comply with state and IRS rules, auditing, payroll and HR and time spent on grant applications..

Chester Community Coalition Financials: FY 2021 and 2020			
	FY 2021	FY 2020	
Carried over from prior year	39,942	31,613	
Revenues	359,236	206,538	
Total Available Funds	399,178	238,151	
Salaries	161,223	125,593	
Benefits	31,505	25,901	
Non-compensation expenditures	65,107	46,715	
Total Expenditures	257,835	198,209	
Ending Net Assets (incl Paycheck Protection Plan)	141,343	39,942	
Paycheck Protection Plan Included (amount to be forgiven)	31,361	14,405	
Ending Net Assets after PPP forgiven	172,705	54,347	

~12%

Donations make up a small part of our budget. We hope to grow these this year to create more secure funding.

1

Our first virtual conference, *Best practices in hospital-linked violence intervention: The Challenges for Delaware County*, was held in May

68%

Increase in funds from FY2020



# A Culture of Service

## SR. MARIJANE HRESKO, THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA



The Sisters of St. Francis, located in Aston, PA, engage in a variety of ministries. These include education, health care, social services and spiritual and pastoral care. The sisters' desire to educate children brought them to Chester in 1918 as teachers at Resurrection School. In 2009, the sisters along with volunteers opened a hospitality center, Anna's Place, for the residents of Chester.

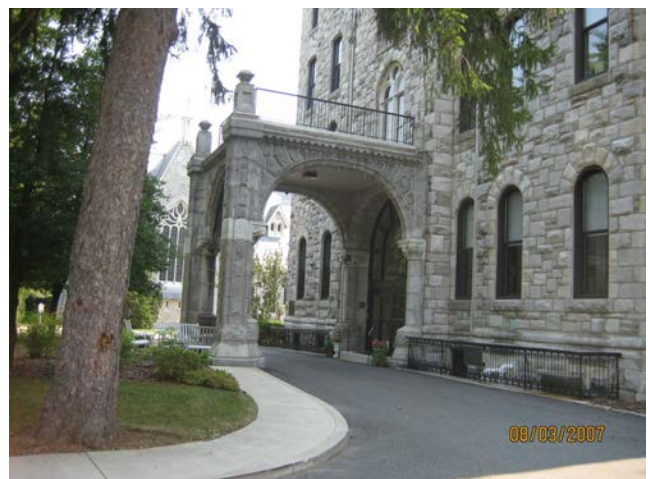
Being in geographical proximity to the motherhouse of the sisters, Chester has always been close to the heart of many sisters. This care and interest on the part of the sisters and their lay counterparts led to the awarding of the Common Spirit Grant and founding of the Chester Community Coalition.

To better understand the history of the grant, one can briefly review the sisters' involvement in health care.

The sisters were founded in 1855 and were immediately involved in the care of the sick when a smallpox epidemic

broke out in 1858 in Philadelphia. Although the sisters were not trained nurses, they cared for patients in their convent and in the patients' homes. The epidemic flourished and the need for a larger facility was obvious. In 1860 the sisters established their first hospital, St. Mary, (later Neumann Senior Housing) in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia.

As the need for health care increased, the sisters gradually established hospitals on both the east and west coasts of the United States. The number of hospitals sponsored by the sisters in 1981 was fourteen and at this time the hospitals were formed into the Franciscan Health System. This was a response to the economic and social changes occurring in the health care market. Many stand-alone medical facilities struggled to compete in the health care market.





In 1996, Franciscan Health System together with two other national health care systems, The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati and Catholic Health Corporation, formed Catholic Health Initiatives.

The intent of this larger and stronger organization was to strengthen community health for the future. Their goal was to develop and nurture a national health ministry sponsored and governed by an equal religious-lay partnership, to transform health care delivery and foster vibrant new ministries across the nation to create healthier communities.

In 2017, with a \$2.5 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Catholic Health Initiatives created a new standard of primary care that incorporated attention to the basic human needs of people served. Catholic Health Initiatives Mission and Ministry Fund matched the foundation's \$2.5 million grant. Already in 2008, Catholic Health Initiatives introduced the United against Violence Initiative, the first of its kind to be sponsored by a national nonprofit health system.

As part of this initiative, Catholic Health Initiatives provided funding and support to help CHI local operations create and expand violence prevention programs in the communities they served.

In 2019, Common Spirit Health System was created by the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health Systems as a single ministry. The Mission and Ministry Fund, a CHI initiative was retained. From this fund in 2018 a three year grant of over \$400 thousand was awarded and enabled the founding of Chester Community Coalition. The Sisters of St. Francis in their continued relationship in health care with Common Spirit were able to share this opportunity to serve the Chester residents in providing funds for violence prevention.

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# HIGHLIGHTS

*"Therapy helped me to socialize better, and you all related to us well and are transparent. I feel at home here."*

- Client exit feedback

2

## Full-time staff

Increased from 1 for the last 2 years!  
Providing full-time case management and violence prevention

54%

## Growth in clients served

Reached through partnerships, individual and group therapy, outreach and case management

97

## Participants

In workshops and presentations on trauma-informed best practices



## We organized a violence prevention coalition!

This coalition promotes a public health and prevention-based approach to violence. Members represent the areas of public health, law, gun violence prevention, group intervention, victim support services, and youth development.

Since starting in March of 2021, the Chester Violence Prevention Coalition has begun discussing a coordinated response to gun violence in the City. The goodwill and dedication of the participants is evident in the consistent attendance we've experienced and we are excited to see what we are able to develop together to move violence prevention forward in the City of Chester!





# SURVIVING COVID-19

We are excited to have seen four years of providing services in Chester since our founding! We have experienced tremendous growth while working steadily to respond to the needs presented by families and organizations grappling with the effects of gun violence in the City. Our work, as with everyone, was severely challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, we survived and managed to find ways to grow in this time.

We were seeing strengthening uptake of our services just before the pandemic, with the best group recruitment we had ever had. All this came to a halt in March 2020 that continued throughout the summer.

Unsure of our next steps, we kept a virtual space open weekly for drop in support and reached out to past clients and registrants for direction on how to move forward.

Based on client feedback, we tried in-person groups in the fall and spring. Attendance was inconsistent, even with very limited participation in line with COVID-19 precautions. Despite these challenges, we increased by half the number of people we served the previous year!

## *How did we do this?*

We shifted from a focus on in-house groups and in-person services to individual and/or remote services. We also continued to focus on strengthening our partnerships with other local organizations.

Our work this year centered around individual therapy, case management, and partner groups, in response to community need/demand. Our partners include the Crozer-Chester Medical Center (CCMC), our local hospital and trauma center, the Boys and Girls Club of Chester (BGCC) and the Chester Upland School of the Arts (CUSA).





Partnership with the BGCC and CUSA, allowed us to support youth from K-12th grade. Providing safe spaces to talk about their experiences with COVID, lockdowns, shootings, and grief. We were also able to provide trauma-informed yoga to teens, so they could experience a mindfulness practice as another way to process their experiences.

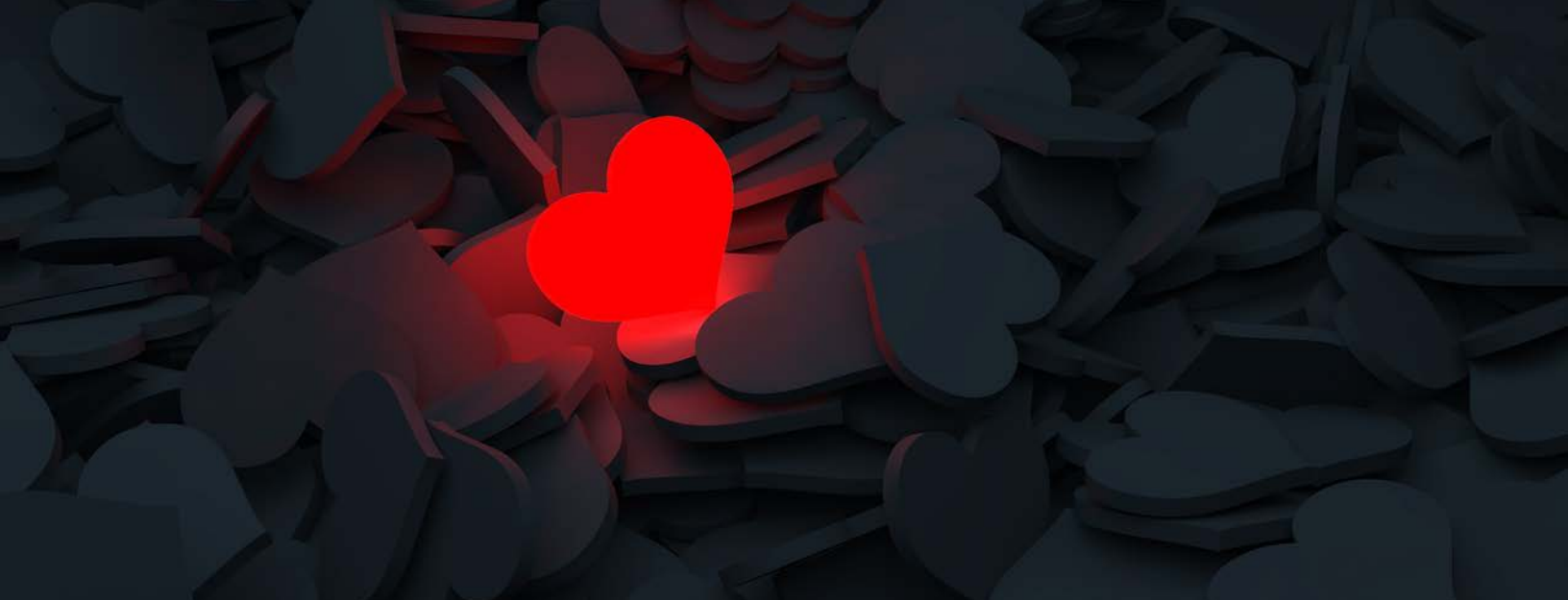
We launched a hospital-linked violence intervention program this year in partnership with Crozer Chester Medical Center and Chester Peace Initiative. Funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), this partnership allowed us to hire two full-time staff members to support gunshot wound survivors after their injury with provide case management, safety assessments, and therapy. The goal of this intervention is to aid healing, prevent reinjury and reduce justice system involvement.

Capacity-building continues to be an opportunity for growth at CCC. We are grateful to have hired a full-time Violence Intervention therapist to support the hospital linked violence intervention program (HVIP).

Case management has grown significantly. In the previous year, we served 11 clients through interns from Widener University School for Social Work. This year, with a full-time case manager, we were able to serve 35.

Our therapist will also lead teen Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Chester and Chester Charter Scholars Academy. All 10th and 11th grade students will learn skills to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we recognize all the opportunities we have had to learn and grow this past year. Being able to continue to provide grief and survivor support to those in need is the reason we exist. We are grateful for the trust and confidence placed in us by Chester residents and by community partners making referrals or opening their doors to us. We strive to continue to be worthy of that trust and provide great quality of care.



All of our work-- therapy, case management, outreach, yoga, and trainings are provided free of cost to our community, but they take a lot of resources to deliver. We could not continue to provide these services without the support of our funders, individual donors, and neighbors in Chester.

Because of you, people have been able to find comfort and support when they needed it. Because of you, people were connected to resources like housing, food, and employment. And, because of you, we are seeing a decrease in gun violence in Chester.

You are a tremendous part of the healing work taking place.

Thank you.







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