

FISCAL YEAR
2020
ANNUAL REPORT



**COMMITMENT TO
OUR COMMUNITY**



At Clare House, case managers like Mercy help women and children find safety and permanent stability.

Committed to our community, rising to every challenge

Fiscal Year 2020 brought great challenges to our community. With you by our side, Catholic Social Services stepped up to the challenges and took action. We did all we could to help our neighbors in need. Thanks to your support, these difficult problems gave way to creative solutions and concrete actions. Together, we rose to every challenge, committed to our community.

The year brought state budget cuts, a pandemic, rising hunger insecurity, economic uncertainty, and a growing population of

people experiencing homelessness. Despite all this, we met the need and found solutions. We banded together, striving to make sure no child, adult, or elder was forgotten. With your support, we served thousands of neighbors, distributed more than 10,000 pounds of food, housed more than 900 people, and lifted our community. With you by our side, Catholic Social Services remained a beacon of hope and support for our city and our neighbors no matter what challenges arose.

We are proud to share our Fiscal Year 2020 report with you. And we look forward to working together during Fiscal Year 2021, serving our neighbors, and strengthening our community, prepared for whatever challenges may arise, ready to make a lasting difference.

Thank you for all you do,



Lisa DH Aquino
Lisa DH Aquino, MHS
Chief Executive Officer



Mark Fineman
Mark Fineman, PE
Board Chair

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Your commitment held, even in the hardest of times

Fiscal Year 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. At the beginning of the year, many were facing loss of income, food insecurity, and an uncertain future. Then the pandemic arrived, and those problems loomed even larger.

And yet, even in the hardest of times, you came through for our clients – your neighbors. While many nonprofits and organizations lost support as people hunkered down, your donations to Catholic Social Services surged: you gave more than \$171,000 to our COVID relief fund alone in just three months. Your unwavering support allowed us to meet the growing needs in Anchorage.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Your commitment to our community, especially in these hard times, saves lives.

OUR MISSION

**WE COMPASSIONATELY
SERVE THE POOR
AND THOSE IN
NEED, STRENGTHEN
INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES, AND
ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL
JUSTICE.**



You kept Clare House open

At the beginning of FY20 in August 2019, we were faced with tough decisions due to state budget cuts. Clare House was going to have to be shut down during the day. We received hundreds of volunteer applications and so many of you turned out to help keep Clare House open. It's only thanks to you that we were able to keep our doors open. Thank you!



At Brother Francis Shelter, staff assist clients through case management and resource and referral.



Saint Francis House provided meals for **9,500 people**, half of whom were children and elders



Homeless Family Services housed **370 households: 900 individuals**



Family Disability Services provided **32,853 hours** of direct care to **54 people**



Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services worked with **398 refugees** and helped **39 refugees** find new jobs



Clare House gave shelter to **245 women** and **children**



Brother Francis Shelter sheltered **2,365 men and women** and served them **62,125 meals**



Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services provided more than **400 home studies**

www.cssalaska.org
info@cssalaska.org
907.222.7300
@CSSalaska

Adapting to change, meeting the needs with Grow Local, Give Local

Every summer, resettled refugees develop their business skills and earn extra income by growing and selling produce through FIG, our refugee-run farming co-op at Grow North Farm. But when COVID arrived in March, produce sales were limited. Refugee entrepreneurs were some of the many people across the nation who lost income in a particularly uncertain time.

To support RAIS clients and the refugee community, we launched the Grow Local, Give Local campaign, where donors like you purchased fresh produce from

FIG gardeners to then be donated to St. Francis House food pantry. Giving to this campaign meant your donations went twice as far—providing income for refugees and healthy, locally-grown food for hungry families at the same time.

We set a goal to buy \$5,000 of produce from our FIG gardeners, and you exceeded it! Keenan Plate, our Refugee Agriculture Program Coordinator, said your donations to Grow Local, Give Local turned a tough year into one of our best: “The Grow Local, Give Local campaign was essential in helping Grow North Farm have its

highest sales ever! Farmers were proud to put their skills towards producing food for people in need, and you supported the farmers by purchasing the fruits of their labor. This kind of mutual aid strengthens communities.”

When COVID created new challenges, you helped us find fresh, innovative solutions. We can’t thank you enough for providing thousands of dollars of income to our refugee friends and thousands of pounds of healthy food to families in need.

Helping our community through a hard year

Over the years, Ada has done it all. She’s been a cleaner, a business owner, a social worker, and even taught cruise ship passengers about Alaska Native culture and history, all on top of raising her children. But when a doctor told Ada she had congestive heart failure 4 years ago, she realized she just couldn’t work as hard as she used to. Most years, Ada’s husband commercial fishes in Bristol Bay, which gives them enough income to make it through the year. Because of the pandemic, they lost that seasonal income too. When Ada injured

her ankle and needed surgery, the uncertainties of the year compounded, and they both found themselves needing a helping hand.

Brother Francis Shelter’s Medical Respite program gave Ada a place to safely recover from surgery until she can get back on her feet. “Being in Respite was a blessing,” Ada said. Now that she is walking again, Ada and her husband both work in the shelter’s in-house program, volunteering each day to help run the place. Her husband

works with food service, serving breakfast and lunch to other guests. Ada keeps the shelter clean and sanitized, tidying up and safeguarding against COVID.

Guests at Brother Francis Shelter come from all walks of life. Your generous support helps people like Ada and her husband endure life’s unexpected challenges and get back on their feet, back to regular life. Thank you for your commitment to our community and for making Anchorage a healthier, safer environment.

At FIG, a sub-program of Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services, refugees like Cherry grow and sell produce to earn supplemental income.





Activities like painting and gardening help guests recover from past trauma and build the foundation for permanent stability.

Helping guests heal from injury and trauma

John is a master carpenter with an easy smile and generous spirit. “I do it all, forms to finish,” he explained. Since moving to Alaska in 2003, he worked on houses, bed-and-breakfasts, even an assisted living center. But when John developed a potentially life-threatening condition, he needed treatment and a helping hand. Through your support, John was able to recover safely and privately in Medical Respite with access to the care he needed. John valued his stay in Medical Respite, which provided a safe and peaceful environment for him to recover. “I really liked it in there. I could rest up, oil paint, whatever I needed,” he said. Brother Francis Shelter and Medical Respite provide Trauma-Informed

Care, meaning that, we care for all aspects of guests’ wellness. Life events like serious injury, abuse, and homelessness are all traumatic experiences, which can negatively impact mental health and decision-making down the road. To help guests deal with trauma, BFS and Medical Respite staff encourage peaceful, creative activities like puzzles, gardening, yoga, and for John, oil painting. During his time in Medical Respite, he’s been teaching himself from a couple Bob Ross books on oil painting. He’s quite good, too. One of his paintings hangs in BFS director Dave Rittenberg’s office: a personal gift.

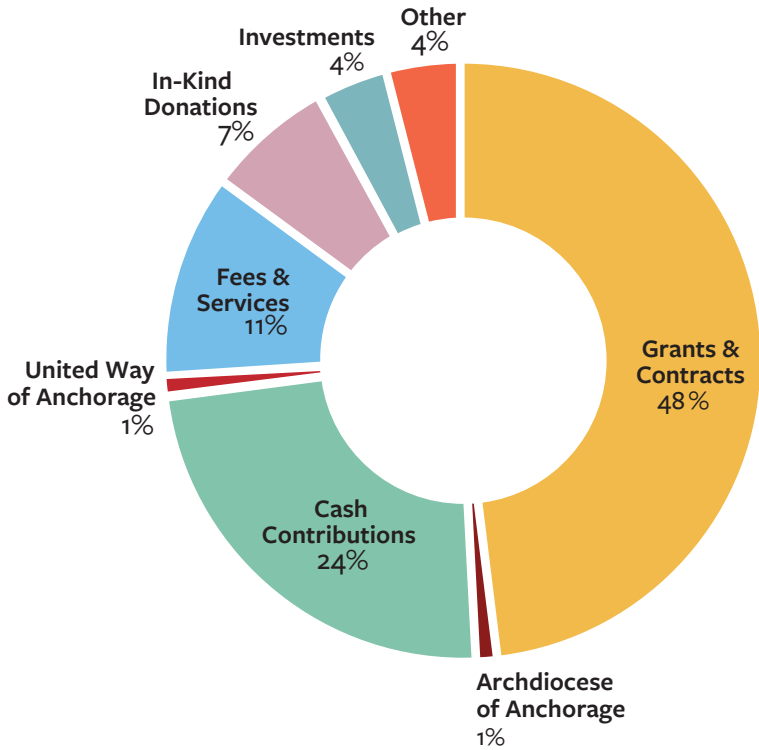
Moving past trauma through calming

activities helps guests build their foundation for permanent stability. Trauma is often a major obstacle to maintaining permanent housing. Whether it’s oil painting, talking with a case manager, or going on a walk, these are the things that prepare clients and guests for a successful journey out of shelter and into housing.

Your support helps people like John get the care they need, to stay healthy and prevent a treatable injury from becoming life-threatening. Because of you, guests receive personalized, dignified care, so they can get back on their feet and on the path to permanent stability.

July 2019 - June 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

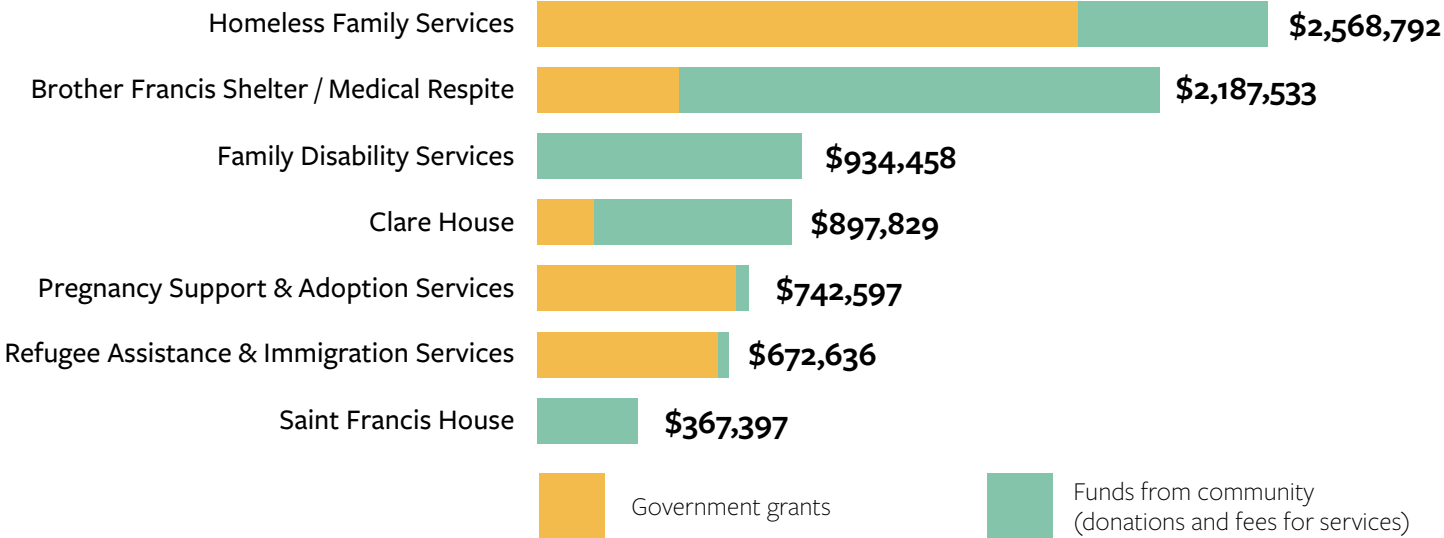
SOURCE OF FUNDS



Revenue:
\$11,891,256

Expenses:
\$11,205,573

USE OF FUNDS (PROGRAM)



Ending Net Assets: \$22,414,755



CSS Alaska is one of the largest social service agencies in Alaska. It was incorporated in 1966 as a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. CSS is the social service arm of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, serving, engaging and employing people of all faiths.

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